2018 GISM ANNUAL MEETING

APRIL 12-13 2018

Palazzo del Monte Frumentario
Assisi (PG)
The GISM annual meeting will take place in Assisi (Italy) on April 12, and 13, 2018 at Palazzo Frumentario with the support of the University of Perugia, Comune di Assisi, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell’Umbria e delle Marche “Togo Rosati”, Department of Veterinary Medicine of Perugia. Assisi was intentionally selected to give to groups in central Italy an opportunity to showcase their research and to give to the meeting the breathtaking atmosphere of the town.

Along the last years the knowledge on the biological properties of Mesenchymal Stromal Cells (MSCs) has significantly increased being recognized that their capacity to regulate tissue regeneration is also related to paracrine mechanisms mediated by soluble molecules and extracellular vesicles. This produced a remarkable attraction to investigate their therapeutic capacity in many field as documented by more than 500 clinical trials managed worldwide.

In this context, the GISM meeting will cover some of the hottest clinical application of the MSCs. In particular, four sessions will be dedicated to the clinical application in neuropathology, gastroenterology, cardiology and respiratory diseases. Two sessions will focus on key issues and solutions of the clinical application of MSCs and to new technological advancements. Finally, a specific session will be dedicated to the veterinary clinical experience.

All these topics will be presented by world-class speakers with the intent to promote an interactive discussion and eventually to facilitate inter-disciplinary collaborations.

The best three posters will be awarded with the “Young investigator Award” (500 €) to encourage the attendance of the youngest members of our community.

We look forward to meeting you in Assisi.

Yours sincerely,

Augusto Pessina, GISM President
Maura Ferrari, GISM Vice President
Enrico Lucarelli, GISM Secretary
Luisa Pascucci, Local Organizing Committee
14.00  Registration

15.00  Meeting Opening
Augusto Pessina, GISM President
Luisa Pascucci, Local Organizing Committee
Invited Authorities: Franco Moriconi, Rector of the University of Perugia
    Luca Mechelli, Director of the Dpt. of Veterinary Medicine, Perugia
    Silvano Severini, General Director of IZSUM
    Stefania Proietti, Mayor of Assisi

15.30-16.40  SESSION 1: MSCs PERSPECTIVES IN NEUROPATHOLOGY
Chairpersons: Anna Brini, Ivana Ferrero

15.30-15.50  Mesenchymal stromal cells loaded with Paclitaxel as cell-based therapy for glioblastoma
Roberto Pallini, Catholic University, Roma

15.50-16.10  Mesenchymal stromal cells for traumatic brain injury: experimental data and clinical perspectives
Elisa Zanier, Mario Negri Institute, Milano

16.10-16.30  Mesenchymal stem cells in neurodegenerative diseases: immunomodulation and neuroprotection
Katia Mareschi, AOU Città della Salute e della Scienza, Torino

16.30-16.40  Discussion

16.50-18.00  SESSION 2: MSCs IN GASTROENTEROLOGY
Chairpersons: Riccardo Calafiore, Augusto Pessina

16.50-17.10  MSCs for the treatment of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD): the preclinical phase
Maurizio Muraca, University of Padova

17.10-17.30  MSC in immune-mediated intestinal diseases: ready for the clinical use?
Rachele Ciccocioppo, University of Verona

17.30-17.50  Microencapsulated human adult mesenchymal stem cells for the cell therapy of type 1 diabetes mellitus
Riccardo Calafiore, University of Perugia

17.50-18.00  Discussion

18.00-18.30  TECHNOLOGICAL SESSION

18.00-18.10  Cell Factories design: safety as a key factor
Mario Conconi, SIAD Healthcare S.p.A, Italy
18.10-18.20 A validated and customized software platform for Cell Factories
Claudia Ottardi, Gruppo SOL S.p.A., Italy

18.20-18.30 Discussion

18.30-20.00 GISM MEMBERS' ASSEMBLY AND ELECTION OF NEW COUNCIL

20.00 HAPPY HOUR

Friday April 13, 2018

8.50-9.40 LECTIO MAGISTRALIS
MSC: "one" cell, multiple dynamic phenotypes (an adaptive cell or a case of multiple personalities disorder?)
Diego Correa, University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine, USA

9.40-10.50 SESSION 3: MSCs IN CARDIOLOGY
Chairpersons: Laura De Girolamo, Milena Mastrogiacomo

9.40-10.00 Cell-based therapies for myocardial repair and regeneration in ischemic heart disease and heart failure
Rosalinda Madonna, University of Chieti

10.00-10.20 Cardiac mesenchymal cells role in arrhythmogenic cardiomyopathy
Giulio Pompilio, Centro Cardiologico Monzino, Milano

10.20-10.40 Mending broken hearts from within: reactivating endogenous regeneration via the stem cell secretome
Sveva Bollini, University of Genova

10.40-10.50 Discussion

11.00-12.20 SESSION 4: MSCs IN RESPIRATORY DISEASES
Chairpersons: Giulio Alessandri, Enrico Lucarelli

11.00-11.20 The clinical use of regenerative therapy in obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
Luigino Calzetta, University of Roma Tor Vergata

11.20-11.40 Experimental and clinical airway restoration by MSC transplantation
Francesco Petrella, European Institute of Oncology, Milan

11.40-12.00 MSC-based treatment of cystic fibrosis: preclinical studies and challenges ahead
Massimo Conese, University of Foggia

12.00-12.10 Discussion

12.10-12.50 SESSION 5: MSCs PITFALLS AND PERSPECTIVES
Chairpersons: Maurizio Muraca, Maria Luisa Torre

12.10-12.30 Updating clinical trials with MSCs
Umberto Galderisi, Università della Campania
12.30-12.50 The dark and the light side of advanced therapy medicinal products
Guido Pantè, AIFA, Roma (invitato, in attesa di conferma)

12.50-14.30 LUNCH AND POSTER SESSION

14.30-17.00 SESSION 6: MSCs IN VETERINARY MEDICINE
Chairpersons: Maura Ferrari, Luisa Pascucci

14.30-14.50 MSCs in Veterinary Medicine: why and how do they work?
Eleonora Iacono, University of Bologna

14.50-15.10 An update on MSCs-based therapies in Veterinary Medicine, between reality and perspectives
Stefano Grolli, University of Parma

15.10-15.30 MSCs in practice: preparation, distribution, quality controls and regulation
Silvia Dotti, IZSLER, Brescia

Clinical Experiences

15.30-15.45 MSCs in veterinary oncology: a therapy for animals and a model for humans
Offer Zeira, Ospedale Veterinario San Michele, Lodi

15.45-16.00 Can I treat my pet with stem cells? Clinical experiences and related issues
Maurizio Del Bue, Libero professionista, Parma

16.00-16.15 MSCs in horses: an overview on their application in orthopedic injuries
Raffaello Ciampoli, Libero professionista, Siena

16.15-16.30 MSCs in the management of muscular injuries in Bovine patients
Piero Boni, Libero professionista, Perugia

16.30-17.00 Discussion

17.00 GISM HAS GOT TALENTS: YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARDS

CLOSING REMARKS

On April 14th, GISM will offer to participants a FREE guided tour of the three main churches of Assisi (San Francesco, San Rufino and Santa Chiara). The tour will last about 3 hours and will take place in the morning.
ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE: February 15, 2018

The Scientific Committee reserves the right to designate the abstract format (oral or poster). The final acceptance decision is the exclusive right of the Scientific Committee. The Abstracts will be evaluated and scored by a panel of Referees (selected by the Scientific Committee) according to their novelty and significance.

Abstract Submission Instructions
Abstracts must adequately describe the objectives and results. Originality, study quality and completeness of the work will be evaluated. Each abstract must contain the following items:

OBJECTIVE: indicate primary purpose of study.
MATERIALS AND METHODS: description of data sources, subjects, design measurements and data analysis.
RESULTS: summary of the main findings.
CONCLUSION: study’s conclusion and/or implication of the results.

FORMAT
Font: Times New Roman, 12 points font size, single spaced.
Word Limit: 450 words (this must be applied to the main body of the abstract only. Abstract, title and authors are excluded)
References should not be included in the abstract.
Use of standard abbreviations is desirable.
Language: English

Young Investigator Award
GISM will assign 3 “Young Investigator Award” of 500 euros each. In order to be eligible to win, the first author of poster must be younger of 35 on April the 13th 2018.
Posters size: 70 cm wide X 100 cm high.
The awards will be delivered during the Award Ceremony directly to the winner (delegation for collection is not allowed – the possible absence will cause disqualification from the contest). To take part in the contest, please fill the appropriate box in the abstract form.

REGISTRATION FEES (VAT INCLUDED)
ONLY GISM MEMBER WHO HAVE REGULARLY PAID THE 2018 MEMBERSHIP FEE (€ 50) ARE ALLOWED TO ATTEND THE MEETING

Early registration (until March the 3rd, 2018)
- GISM Member € 90,00
- AICC Member € 90,00
- Non-Member € 140,00 (€ 90,00 + € 50,00 mandatory membership fee)
- Young Investigators (under 35 years) € 100,00 (€ 50,00 + € 50,00 mandatory membership fee)
- Veterinary Session Fee (Friday 13 afternoon) € 50,00 (free for GISM members)

Late registration (after March 3rd, 2018)
- GISM Member € 120,00
- AICC Member € 120,00
- Non-Member € 170,00 (€ 120,00 + € 50,00 mandatory membership fee)
- Young Investigators (under 35 years) € 120,00 (€ 70,00 + € 50,00 mandatory membership fee)
- Veterinary Session Fee (Friday 13 afternoon) € 50,00 (free for GISM members)
The registration fee includes the followings: attendance at the 2018 GISM Annual Meeting, conference kit, coffee breaks, lunches.

A special fee of € 50,00 (mandatory membership fee) will be applied to attend the Veterinary Session on Friday 13 (14.30-17.00).

**HOW TO REACH ASSISI**

**BY CAR:**
**Coming from North:** leave the A1 highway at Valdichiana, then go on towards Perugia, cross the city by E45 and go on towards Assisi/Foligno. Exit at Santa Maria degli Angeli/Assisi;

**Coming from South:** leave the A1 highway at Orte, then go on towards Perugia by E45 and exit at Santa Maria degli Angeli/Assisi.

The closest car park is “Giovanni Paolo II”. The daily fee is € 12.00.
**BY TRAIN:**

**Coming from North:** a new high speed train (Turin – Milan –Bologna – Florence-Perugia) will be available by February. At the central station of Perugia, take the regional train to Assisi.

**Coming from South:** take the "Roma - Ancona" train to Foligno, then change to "Foligno - Perugia - Terontola".

At the Assisi train station, named Santa Maria degli Angeli, a coach service leaving every 40 minutes is available. Info: Azienda Perugina della mobilità S.p.A. (APM) Free number 800-512141 – Tel. +39 75 5067894.

**BY PLANE:**

**Aeroporto Internazionale dell'Umbria "San Francesco d'Assisi"** is 12 km far from Assisi. Connection to Assisi is provided by Taxi (Tel. + 39 075 592141) and by bus Line 007 (Umbria Mobilità) Tel. + 39 75 592141.

**International Airport "Leonardo da Vinci" (Rome)** is 235 km far from Assisi. It is connected to Assisi by train and by daily coach service with SULGA company (Tel. + 39 075 5009641. Tel + 39 06 65951).
Born as the ancient hospital of the town of Assisi, one of the earliest throughout Italy, Palazzo del Monte Frumentario was built in 1267 outside the first roman city walls, and on the downhill side of the road that still leads to the Basilica of St. Francis. The entrance of the structure of three floors, overlooks via Fontebella, vicolo degli Esposti and via San Francesco, is introduced by a portico of seven segmental arches, supported by small columns with Byzantine capitals sculpted by venetians stone cutters. The entrance is decorated with frescoes painted by an Umbrian follower of Giotto, which further beyond leads to a huge room decorated with Neo-gothic frescoes and illuminated by a large window overlooking the valley. The title of Monte Frumentario dates back to 1746, when the bishop Ottavio Ringhieri moved the headquarters of Monte Frumentario Barberini, pious institution founded in 1634 by Cardinal Antonio Barberini. Contrary to what took place at Monti di Pietà, at Monte Frumentario loans of wheat and other products of the earth were made. After various destinations of use, always concerning however, activities related to cultural activities and entertainment, from 2010, following an extremely important restoration, the building is used for exhibition venues among the most expressive in Umbria.

Tourist office site: http://www.visit-assisi.it/
The web site provides information about history and culture, monuments, territory, events and hospitality. You can download an accommodation guide at the following link: http://www.visit-assisi.it/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/OPUSCOLO-TARIFFE-ALBERGHI-E-ALTRA-OSPITALITA2017.pdf.
An official application of the municipality for smartphone is available.