***MoReMED Student Congress***

***VI Edition - 15th and 16th April 2021***

***Introduction Letter***

# Project history and features

The "MoReMED Student Congress", now in its VI Edition, will take place on Thursday 15th and Friday 16th April 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the congress has been converted into a streaming-only event.

The first edition, held in April 2016, welcomed over 500 attendees and there were around 150 synchronisations with the live stream on tv.unimore.it.

Building on these excellent results and on the lessons learned from organising this first event, the Organising Committee branched out further, recording even higher visitor numbers in the subsequent editions: over 1,000 attendees in the Aula Magna and 1,800 synchronisations with the live stream.

The project benefits from support and contributions from the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, especially the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, with its Medical Area Departments and related degree courses. In previous editions, the Congress was also sponsored by the University Hospital of Modena, the City of Modena, the Municipality of Reggio-Emilia, the Province of Modena, the Medical Association, the Emilia-Romagna Region and the Italian Ministry of Health.

# A unique project

The project takes its inspiration from the “Student Congresses” organised by the most prominent Iberian universities and aims to be the first event of its kind in Italy: all completely organised by students, for students.

The "MoReMED Student Congress" continues to be a unique event on the Italian university scene, representing a truly extraordinary opportunity for medical and health care students to gain fundamental experience for their future careers - an opportunity that no other university in Italy is currently able to offer.

# Goals of the Project

The "MoReMED Student Congress" was created after Medicine and Surgery students felt the need to come up with a new educational approach, designed to be complementary to, rather than to replace, the traditional one; this approach aims to use innovative methods to provide students with the skills that are currently lacking in their study programme. There are at least two main goals: one scientific and one educational. On the one hand, promoting scientific research and the tools necessary to carry it out, as well as teaching students how to correctly disseminate scientific findings from a graphic and oratorical point of view. On the other hand, providing students with the opportunity to also share scientific research with their peers, moving beyond being merely *‘users’* of said research; this is achieved through a protected system based on "peer education", able to guarantee a quality and professional project. The goals of the project are further expanded by the fact that presentations are developed on extra-curricular topics (i.e., not those covered in lectures). The Congress therefore allows students to expand on the subjects covered by their degree course, stimulating their interest and training in specific medical fields, encouraging them to reflect critically on issues that are otherwise neglected and providing an incentive for them to develop their skills in terms of independent scientific research, teamwork, presenting and effective communication of scientifically proven information.

# What's new for the VI edition of MoReMED?

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the VI Edition of the MoReMED Student Congress will only be held in streaming. With regard to this new format, the Organising Committee is working hard to ensure that both student exhibitors and attendees can make the most of all the opportunities that this Congress has always guaranteed.

In the VI Edition, work will once again be presented in a ‘Plenary Session' and in a 'Poster Session’ and there will also continue to be interactive workshops. Everything will be organised in a functional way, taking into consideration the new format for the Congress.

In fact, we do not believe that it would be fair to deprive students and the numerous guests of the chance to take part in this initiative which, over the years, has attracted a lot of interest and, today more than ever, represents an opportunity for in-depth study and participation.

The aim of the VI Edition is also to contextualise our field in a world that is radically changing due to the current pandemic. We recognise the important and central role that will be played in the future by the correct sharing of scientific information on digital platforms for the medical profession. In fact, tomorrow’s doctors will have to increasingly communicate with people in a digital and dematerialised way. This implies that they need to be able to adopt and correctly use communication strategies that are suitable for web platforms and online information channels.

# Future objectives

The project aims to represent a permanent and key event in the academic calendar, with the ambition of playing an increasingly important role within Italy’s university scene. This is why the MoReMED Student Congress has grown on a national scale, pursuing the objective of representing an educational revolution in the field of medicine and health care, to the benefit of today's students, tomorrow’s doctors and patients both now and in the future. At the same time, the VI Edition of the MoReMED Student Congress would also like to start paving the way towards creating an international event.

Modena, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| The President of the Organising Committee Giovanni Francesco Baresi  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  | Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery UNIMORE Prof. Giovanni Pellacani   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |