



JUNE
8-9,
2023

**First Italian
Conference
on Pediatric
DIPG/DMG 2023:
physio-pathological
insights on ClpP
and beyond**

BARI,
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
- Corso Cavour nr. 2 -

CONFERENCE CHAIR
Prof. Antonio Scilimati



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Dr. Maura Massimino
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Prof. Antonio Ruggiero
Prof. Domenico Tricarico
Dr. Mara Vinci

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About the ITA_DIPG /DMG Conference 2023

The DIPG/DMG 2023 Conference would be a clinical, biological and medicinal chemistry research conference focusing on Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG) and Diffuse Midline Glioma (DMG).

More than 150 of the leading experts (researchers and doctors) families and foundations from across the globe confirmed their participation in this event.

Bringing the researchers, doctors, foundations, and families together in this collaborative event is a unique approach towards collaborative and innovative research.



Rationale

Diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG) is an aggressive tumor of the brainstem. It almost always affects the pediatric population, with approximately 200 to 300 new annual cases in Europe and as many in the United States. Most patients survive less than two years. These patients are primarily treated with radiation therapy, as surgical resection is not a viable option for them. The effect of radiation therapy is temporary, and no chemotherapeutic agent has been effective in treating this pathology. Several clinical trials of new agents and novel therapeutic approaches have emerged over the past decades to improve the outcome of patients with DIPGs, yet no real success has been obtained.

The formation of this tumor may be linked to particular cells that exist in very high concentrations during the cerebral tissue development. This explains why this tumor rarely occurs in adults and almost always occurs in mid-childhood (ages 5 to 10), a period in which the cerebral tissue is very active in development. The model has identified the neural precursor-like cell population in the normal human ventral pons that is linked both anatomically and temporally to the incidence of DIPG. The frequency of this cell type during mid-childhood mirrors the bell-shaped incidence curve of DIPG. These cells are notably absent in the midbrain, where DIPGs are virtually nonexistent.

On the molecular level, recent advances in the biological understanding of the disease have identified the H3K27M mutation in nearly 80% of DIPGs, leading to the 2021 World Health Organization (WHO) classification of diffuse midline glioma H3K27-altered, a grade 4 tumor. Brainstem gliomas affect approximately 600 children in the world each year and are the major cause of death in children with brain tumors.

This Conference will discuss the DIPG etiology, pathophysiology, histopathology, treatment, and management. Focus will be devoted to fundamental and applied research. Particularly, drugs targeting the mitochondrial proteostasis involving the ClpP.

Space will be given also to listen to Child Families through their DIPG Foundations.





HOUR	TITLE	SPEAKER
8.00	Participant registration	
9.00	OPENING CEREMONY	<p>Prof. Antonio Scilimati Professor of Medicinal Chemistry of the Department of Pharmacy-Pharmaceutical Sciences of the University of Bari Aldo Moro</p> <p>Prof. Grazia Paola Nicchia ProRector of the University of Bari Aldo Moro</p> <p>Prof. Francesco Leonetti Head of the Department of Pharmacy-Pharmaceutical Sciences of the University of Bari Aldo Moro</p> <p>Prof. Maria Laura Bolognesi President of the Italian Medicinal Chemistry Division</p> <p>Dr. Teresa Perillo Pediatric Hematology, Ospedale Policlinico of Bari</p> <p>Italian DIPG Foundations Prof. Giovanni Neri as representative of Fondazione Onlus MiaNeri (Lazio, Italy), Fondazione GAIA (Marche, Italy), Fondazione Matibellula OdV (Piemonte, Italy) and La Bottega del sorriso (Puglia, Italy), Associazione Il Coraggio dei Bambini (Campania, Italy), Fondazione Heal</p>

HOUR	TITLE	SPEAKER
PLENARY KEYNOTE SESSION		Chair: Prof. Antonio Scilimati
10.00	From German HIT-HGG trials to the new European trial SIOPE HGG-01: A long and stony way to improve the situation of pediatric DIPG/DMG patients. Epigenetic targets and treatment approaches: What can we learn from H3K27M isogenic DIPG/DMG models?	Prof. Christof Kramm Chief of Division of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, Department of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, University Medical Center Goettingen (Germany)
11.00	Coffe break	
Chairs: Paolo Coccia (Italy), Christof Kramm (Germany)		
11.30	Story of adjuvant treatment with nimotuzumab/vinorelbine in DIPG	Dr. Maura Massimino IRCCS Foundation - National Cancer Institute of Milan (Italy)
12.00	Histological and molecular approach to diagnosis of diffuse midline glioma H3K27- altered	Prof. Manila Antonelli Department of Radiological, Oncological and Anatomic-Pathological, La Sapienza University of Rome (Italy)
12.30	Diffuse midline glioma H3K27-altered and diagnostic challenges: a few interesting cases from pathologist's perspective	Dr. Antonio D'Amati Unit of Human Anatomy and Histology, Department of Translational Biomedicine and Neuroscience (DiBraiN), University of Bari (Italy)



HOUR	TITLE	SPEAKER
13.00	Lunch	
Chairs: Maura Massimino (Italy), Javad Nazarian (Swiss)		
15.00	Neuroradiology in Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Gliomas/ Diffuse Midline Gliomas	Dr. Brigitte Bison Diagnostic and interventional Neuroradiology, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Neuroradiology, University Hospital of Augsburg (Germany)
15.30	Re-Irradiation of Pediatric Malignant Glioma	Dr.ssa Sabina Vennarini IRCCS Foundation - National Cancer Institute of Milan (Italy)
16.00	The SIOPe DIPG/DMG registry	Dr. Veronica Biassoni Pediatric Oncology, IRCCS Foundation - National Cancer Institute of Milan (Italy)
16.30	Coffe break	
17.00	Antiproliferative effects of the unselective tyrosine kinase (TK) and ion channel inhibitor staurosporine on DIPG36 cells: possible role of TK and ion channels as drug targets in DIPG	Prof. Domenico Tricarico Department of Pharmacy-Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Bari (Italy)
17.15	Anatomopathological sign in mice treated with DIPG cells under development	Prof. Nicola Zizzo Department of Veterinary Medicine. Section of Veterinary Pathology and Comparative Oncology, University of Bari (Italy)

HOUR	TITLE	SPEAKER
17.30	Oncolytic viruses for pediatric brain tumors: an alternative therapeutic approach	Prof. Marta Maria Alonso Roldàn Medical Oncology Department, Universidad de Navarra (Spain)
18.00	Exploiting mass cytometry for the immunophenotyping and the study of the TME in DIPG and other paediatric-type diffuse high-grade gliomas	Dr. Mara Vinci Paediatric High Grade Glioma Group, Bambino Gesù Pediatric Hospital of Rome (Italy)
18.30	Round Table and Closing Remark	
20.00	Social dinner	



HOUR	TITLE	SPEAKER
Chairs: Veronica Biassoni (Italy), Sabine Muller (USA)		
9.00	A multipronged approach for targeting tumor metabolism in pediatric high grade gliomas	Prof. Javad Nazarian Head of DMG Research Center, University of Zurich (Swiss)
9.30	Current insights on DIPG/DMG: the neurosurgeon's perspective	Prof. Francesco Signorelli Department of Translational Biomedicine and Neuroscience (DiBraiN), University of Bari (Italy)
10.00	The Biopsy Dilemma: Balancing Benefits and Risks in DIPG Care	Dr. Andrea Carai Bambino Gesù Pediatric Hospital, Rome (Italy)
10.30	The liquid biopsy in patients with DMG	Prof. Alexander Druy Head of Laboratory of Molecular Oncology, D. Rogachev Center, Moscow (Russia)
11.00	Coffee break	
Chairs: Marta Maria Alonso Roldàn (Spain), Antonio Ruggiero (Italy)		
11.30	New therapeutic approaches for children with DMG: a PNOc perspective	Prof. Sabine Müller Neurology UCSF Weill Institute for Neurosciences, School of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco (California)

HOUR	TITLE	SPEAKER
12.00	Integration of oncological and palliative treatment in pediatric DIPG/DMG: are simultaneous care really feasible?	Dr. Elisabetta Schiavello Pediatric Oncologic Unit, IRCCS Foundation - National Cancer Institute of Milan (Italy)
12.30	Proton Therapy: today and tomorrow	Prof. Roberto Orecchia Scientific Director at European Institute of Oncology (Milan), Head of Scientific Board of Linearbeam (Ruvo di Puglia, Italy)
13.00	Lunch	
Chairs: Maria Grazia Perrone (Italy), Mara Vinci (Italy)		
15.00	Towards combinational therapy for DMG	Dr. Esther Hulleman Departments of Pediatric Oncology/Hematology, Neuro-oncology Research Group, Cancer Center Amsterdam, VU University Medical Center, Amsterdam (The Netherlands)
15.30	Development of novel anticancer compounds targeting mitochondrial ClpP and protein homeostasis	Dr. Mark Mabanglo Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, University of Toronto (Canada)
16.00	Coffee break	



HOUR	TITLE	SPEAKER
16.30	Fingerprints for Ligands and Proteins interaction investigation tackling hClpP	Prof. Cosimo Fortuna Department of Chemical Science, University of Catania (Italy)
17.00	DIPG transcripts meta-analysis	Dr. Davide Derri Department of Pharmacy-Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Bari (Italy)
17.30	Repurposing drugs targeting hClpP by Excalate platform	Dr. Carmine Talarico Discovery Platform Senior Specialist - Dompè farmaceutici
18.00	High Performance Computing and Life Science	Dr. Giorgia Frumenzio HPC Specialist, CINECA, Bologna (Italy)
18.30	Closing Remark	

Information

REGISTRATION

To participate in the Congress, it is strictly necessary to send your registration by the website <https://conferenceonpediatricdipg.it/>

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