PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

Mediterranean Pain Forum 2027

MPF27



Palermo

16–17 April 2027

ARS · Sicilian Regional Assembly

Congress President

Giuliano Lo Bianco

Chronic and neuropathic pain · Interventional techniques
Neuromodulation · Regenerative medicine · Cancer pain



Preliminary Scientific Programme

Congress President: **Giuliano Lo Bianco** · WIP Italian Section · Fondazione Istituto G. Giglio di Cefalù · Organising secretariat and CME provider: Biba Congressi

Sicilian Regional Assembly, Palazzo dei Normanni – Sala Rossa (120 seats) with Sala Gialla connected by video streaming (60 seats). Draft updated 27/11/2026 – titles and speakers subject to confirmation.

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ARS · OMCeO Palermo · Fondazione Istituto G. Giglio di Cefalù · UNICAMILLUS · anfi

Endorsed by WIRM World Institute of Regenerative Medicine

Endorsed by GIMDO Gruppo Italiano Multidisciplinare Dolore Orofacciale

Friday 16 April 2027

08:00–09:00	*Registration & Welcome Coffee*
09:00–09:30	**Opening Ceremony & Institutional Greetings** **Giuliano Lo Bianco (Congress President), Giovanni Albano, Gianni Profita (Rector, UniCamillus), Toti Amato, ARS Authorities**
09:30–12:05	**I Session Chronic / Neuropathic Pain** Chairs **Mariella Lucia, Valeria Arone di Valentino, Francesca Rubino**
09:30–09:45	From Symptom to Mechanism: Phenotyping Chronic Pain for Precision Therapy **Silvia Natoli**
09:45–10:00	The Pain Assessment Visit: Functional Examination, Red Flags and Choice of the Treatment Pathway – the Physiatrist's Perspective **Marco Di Gesù**
10:00–10:15	Neurological Examination in Neuropathic Pain **Domenico Restivo**
10:15–10:40	*Coffee Break*
10:40–10:55	Nociplastic Pain: the “Third Dimension” of Chronic Pain **Carlo Francesco Biundo**
10:55–11:10	Neuroinflammation and Glial Cells: New Therapeutic Targets **Filippo Drago**
11:10–11:25	Pathophysiology and Treatment of Myofascial Pain in Low Back Pain **Pasquale Enea**
11:25–11:40	“When Regional Anesthesia is Mistaken for Pain Medicine: The Importance of Etiology-Driven Interventional Pain Management” **Laura Demartini**
11:40–12:05	**Q&A**
12:05–12:25	**KEYNOTE LECTURE** **The Future of Pain Medicine: Precision, Innovation and Equitable Access across the Mediterranean** **Peter Staats**
12:25–13:25	*Lunch*

13:25–13:55	**PRO / CON DEBATE Persistent Spinal Pain Syndrome: Neuromodulation First or Surgery First?** Chairs **Nicola Salvo, Filippo Boniforti, Angelo Toscano**
13:25–13:40	PRO NEUROMODULATION — Neuromodulation First: the Pain Physician's View **Alfonso Papa**
13:40–13:55	PRO SURGERY — Surgery First: the Spine Surgeon's View **Vito Triolo**
13:55–14:05	**Presentation of the International 2nd-level University Master's Programme** **Pain Medicine and Palliative Care — A.Y. 2026–2027** **Giuliano Lo Bianco** Director · Fondazione G. Giglio, Cefalù **Sebastiano Mercadante** Scientific Director · La Maddalena, Palermo
14:05–15:45	**II Session Neuromodulation** Chairs **Giuseppe Bova, Peter Staats, Luigi Basile, Didier Demesmin**
14:05–14:20	Dorsal Root Ganglion Stimulation: Mechanisms, Patient Selection and Expanding Indications **Kenneth B. Chapman**
14:20–14:35	Spinal Cord Stimulation in PSPS Type II: Patient Selection, Trial and Long-Term Outcomes **Massimo Innamorato**
14:35–14:50	Closed-Loop Spinal Cord Stimulation: ECAP-Controlled Therapy and What the Spinal Cord Tells Us **Sean Li**
14:50–15:05	Peripheral Nerve Stimulation (PNS): Minimal Invasiveness and New Indications **Ezio Amorizzo**
15:05–15:20	Safety First: Complications of Interventional Pain Procedures and How to Prevent Them **Maurizio Marchesini**
15:20–15:45	Q&A
15:45–16:10	*Coffee Break*
16:10–16:30	**KEYNOTE LECTURE** **Orofacial Pain: from Trigeminal Neuralgia to Interventional Procedures and Neuromodulation** Carmelo Costa
16:30–18:05	**III Session Interventional Techniques** Chairs **Emilia Lo Giudice, Francesca Rubino, Monica Alongi**
16:30–16:45	Basivertebral Nerve Ablation in Vertebrogenic Low Back Pain **Luigi Manfrè**
16:45–17:00	Hot or Cold? Cryoneurolysis, Cooled RF and Pulsed Radiofrequency Compared **Felice Occhigrossi**
17:00–17:15	Epidurolysis, Adhesiolysis and Epiduroscopy: Indications, Technique and Evidence in Epidural Fibrosis **Giuseppe Russo**
17:15–17:30	Intradiscal Therapies for Discogenic Pain: State of the Art and New Perspectives **Tommaso Angileri**
17:30–17:45	Minimally Invasive Spine Treatment for Lumbar Spinal Stenosis: from the MIST Guidelines to a Practical Algorithm **Jonathan Carlson**
17:45–18:05	Q&A



Saturday 17 April 2027

08:15–08:45	*Welcome Coffee*
08:45–10:20	**IV Session Regenerative Medicine** Chairs **Giuliano Lo Bianco, Alberto Castiglione, Danilo Canzio**
08:45–09:00	MRI in Osteochondral Disease: Differential Diagnosis Before Treatment and Imaging After Regenerative Therapy **Domenico Albano**
09:00–09:15	HIFU and Focused Ultrasound in Musculoskeletal Pain **Marco Mercieri**
09:15–09:30	Why Some PRP Treatments Work and Others Don't: Patient Selection, Imaging and Biology **Giulia Biondi**
09:30–09:45	Microfragmented Adipose Tissue and BMAC: Clinical Evidence Compared **Emanuele Piraccini**
09:45–10:00	Ultrasound-Guided Regenerative Therapies of Peripheral Nerves and Entheses: Indications, Technique and Evidence **Marco La Grua**
10:00–10:20	Q&A
10:20–10:40	KEYNOTE LECTURE **Combined Subchondral, Intradiscal and Peridiscal BMAC Injections for Advanced Degenerative Discs and Endplates with Modic Changes** Sudhir Diwan
10:40–11:05	*Coffee Break*
11:05–11:25	KEYNOTE LECTURE **Cancer Pain across the Continuum of Care: from Diagnosis to Long-Term Survivorship** Sebastiano Mercadante
11:25–13:05	**V Session Cancer Pain** Chairs **Giuseppe Russo, Sebastiano Mercadante, Franco Valenza**
11:25–11:40	Simultaneous Care: Early Integration of Pain Therapy into the Oncology Pathway **Daniela Floridia**
11:40–11:55	Ganglion Impar Neurolysis in Pelvic and Perineal Cancer Pain: Indications, Technique and Safety **Andrea Tinnirello**
11:55–12:10	Intrathecal Drug Delivery in Refractory Cancer Pain **Massimo Barbieri**
12:10–12:25	CT-Guided Percutaneous Cordotomy in Cancer Pain: Clinical Cases and Experience **Valentina Bova**
12:25–12:45	CIPN Duet – Chemotherapy-Induced Neuropathy in Two Voices: the Oncologist (Prevention and Management of Neurotoxic Regimens) and the Neurologist (Diagnosis and Treatment of Neuropathic Pain) **Massimiliano Spada, Giorgio Di Raimondo**
12:45–13:05	Q&A
13:05–13:20	**Closing Ceremony & Take-Home Messages** **Giuliano Lo Bianco (Congress President)**
from 13:30	*Optional guided tour of the Palatine Chapel*



Social programme

FRIDAY 16 APRIL · EVENING

Social dinner

Ticket to be purchased separately · price, venue and time to be confirmed



SATURDAY 17 APRIL · EVENING

Aperitif dinner & party

DJ set Dr. Danilo Giucastro

Ticket to be purchased separately · price, venue and time to be confirmed

Faculty

Giovanni Albano · Presidency
Domenico Albano · Speaker
Monica Alongi · Chair
Toti Amato · Presidency
Ezio Amorizzo · Speaker
Tommaso Angileri · Speaker
Valeria Arone di Valentino · Chair
Massimo Barbieri · Speaker
Luigi Basile · Chair
Giulia Biondi · Speaker
Carlo Francesco Biundo · Speaker
Filippo Boniforti · Chair
Giuseppe Bova · Chair
Valentina Bova · Speaker
Danilo Canzio · Chair
Jonathan Carlson (USA) · Speaker
Alberto Castiglione · Chair
Kenneth B. Chapman (USA) · Speaker
Carmelo Costa · Speaker
Laura Demartini · Speaker
Didier Demesmin (USA) · Chair
Marco Di Gesù · Speaker
Giorgio Di Raimondo · Speaker
Sudhir Diwan (USA) · Speaker
Filippo Drago · Speaker
Pasquale Enea · Speaker
Daniela Floridia · Speaker
Massimo Innamorato · Speaker
Marco La Grua · Speaker
Sean Li (USA) · Speaker
Giuliano Lo Bianco · Chair / Presidency
Emilia Lo Giudice · Chair
Mariella Lucia · Chair
Luigi Manfrè · Speaker
Maurizio Marchesini · Speaker
Sebastiano Mercadante · Chair / Speaker
Marco Mercieri · Speaker
Silvia Natoli · Speaker
Felice Occhigrossi · Speaker
Alfonso Papa · Speaker
Emanuele Piraccini · Speaker
Gianni Profita · Presidency
Domenico Restivo · Speaker
Francesca Rubino · Chair
Giuseppe Russo · Chair / Speaker
Nicola Salvo · Chair
Massimiliano Spada · Speaker
Peter Staats (USA) · Chair / Speaker
Andrea Tinnirello · Speaker
Angelo Toscano · Chair
Vito Triolo · Speaker
Franco Valenza · Chair

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52 faculty members · international speakers from the USA · preliminary programme: order and titles may change.

