

Short summary of the 5th Italian F.O.P. Conference held in Rome on March 24-26, 2011

F.O.P.ITALIA Onlus was founded in 2006 by few families of young FOP patients, and still now is managed by these families. In Italy up to now 25 persons have been diagnosed with FOP. Under the guide of Mr. Enrico Cristoforetti, President of the Association, and with the medical/scientific support of the Genova University, each year an international symposium has been organized, with important participation of the major worldwide experts in research and clinic of FOP and associated disorders.

The 2011 Italian F.O.P. Conference was held in Rome with a 3 days program, whose goal was a general update on the research results and treatment guidelines, with open discussion among relators and audience. The conference was open to the public and useful for doctors in medicine and other sanitary personnel willing to improve their education score, as required by the Italian legislation on medicine professions.

The topics discussed in the various sessions of the first 2 days were the following:

- **Progress of research on pathogenic mechanisms of FOP**
- **Clinical aspects and treatment of FOP patients**
- **Progress of research on pathogenic mechanism of FOP**
- **Multipotent progenitors with osteogenic potential**
- **Progressive osseous heteroplasia and disorders associated to GNAS gene mutations**

In the third day the focus was moved onto the Italian FOP Association activity performed in the last year, with a medical final summary by the Scientific FOP Italian Committee. The Board of Directors of FOP Italia Onlus also approved the 2010 balance and discussed the main strategies for the 2011.

Italian patients had also the chance to benefit of a visit done by the pool of american, german and italian doctors attending the conference and expert in clinical approach.

The 3 days conference ended with a successful convivial dinner in a traditional Rome restaurant. The day after, a short tour was organized for the relators still in Rome in order to visit the ancient ruins in the very centre of the town.

Relators attending the conference:

- ✚ Eileen Shore – University of Pennsylvania, School of Medicine, U.S.A.
- ✚ Robert J. Pignolo - University of Pennsylvania, School of Medicine, U.S.A.
- ✚ Rolf Morhart – Garmisch Hospital, Germany
- ✚ Martine Le Merrer – University of Paris, French
- ✚ Irina Stefanova – University of Lubeck, Germany
- ✚ Francesc Ventura – University of Barcelona, Spain
- ✚ Jim Triffitt – University of Oxford, UK
- ✚ Moira Liljestrhom – President of F.O.P. Argentina Association

- ✚ Roberto Ravazzolo, Renata Bocciardi, Maja di Rocco, Donato de Angelis – University of Genova, Italy
- ✚ Davide Gatti – Physician, Verona Hospital, Italy
- ✚ Ermanno Baldi – Pediatrician in Trento, Italy
- ✚ Paolo Bianco – University of Roma, Italy
- ✚ Giovanna Mantovani – University of Milano, Italy
- ✚ Gianpaolo di Iulio – Physician, expert in non traditional medicine, Roma, Italy
- ✚ Roberto Bufo – President of IPOHA Italian Association
- ✚ Domenica Tarascio – Director of the Italian Rare Diseases National Center (CNMR)
- ✚ Nicola Spinelli – Vice President of the Italian Federation for Rare Diseases Association (UNIAMO)
- ✚ Enrico Cristoforetti – President of FOP ITALIA Onlus
- ✚ Maria Marcheselli, Francesco Moresco, Massimo Alfieri – members of the Board of FOP ITALIA Onlus

For any comment / need / information please contact

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