



12th International Congress on Antiphospholipid Antibodies

Florence (Italy)
April 18 – 20, 2007

SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Chairmen

Pier Luigi Meroni Italy

Angela Tincani Italy

Local Organizing Committee

I. Cettin Italy

B. Acaia Italy

G. Balestrieri Italy

S. Bombardieri Italy

S. Di Masso Italy

A. Lojacono Italy

M. Galli Italy

V. Pengo Italy

F. Tedesco

G. Valesini Italy

International Advisory Board:

J. Arnout, Belgium

R.A. Asherson, South Africa

M-C Boffa, France

D.W. Branch, USA

R.L. Brey, USA

R. Cevera, Spain

P.G. De Groot, The Netherlands

R.H.W.M. Derksen, The Netherlands

T. Exner, Australia

J.A. McIntyre, USA

M. Petri, USA

S.S. Pierangeli, USA

J.C. Piette, France

R. Rai, UK

J. Rand, USA

J. Rauch, Canada

N.R. Rose, USA

R.A.S. Roubey, USA

E.N. Harris, USA

G.R.V. Hughes, UK

M.A. Khamashta, UK

T. Koike, Japan

S. A. Krilis, Australia

R.G. Lahita, USA

R. Levy, Brasil

M.D. Lockshin, USA

S. Machin, UK

G.A. McCarty, USA

Y. Shoenfeld, Israel

P. Von Landenberg, Germany

W.A. Wilson, USA

P. Youinou, France

Dear Colleagues,

it is our pleasure and honour to inform you that the International Advisory Board decided that the next meeting will take place in Florence, Italy, April 18-20, 2007.

The Antiphospholipid Syndrome (APS) is still an evolving and exciting topic that covers several medical sub-specialities. New pathogenic aspects came out in the last years suggesting that APS does not mean "clot" only but involves different biological events spanning from molecular interactions, cell activation to the involvement of immune mediators. APS is more and more becoming a true autoimmune systemic disease and an interdisciplinary field of research both from a clinical and biological point of view. As the capital of the Italian Renaissance, Florence is the ideal place to burst such growing scientific interests.

More than 500 attendees are expected and a parallel patients' meeting will be also organized.

We encourage you to submit a paper on your work and be a member of this vital community.

Science and the Tuscany are waiting for you!

Prof. Pierluigi Meroni and Prof. Angela Tincani
Chairmen

PRELIMINARY MAIN TOPICS

Basics:

Etiology & pathogenic mechanisms of thrombosis
Etiology & pathogenic mechanisms of fetal loss
Inflammatory mediators
Animal models

Genetics

Polimorphisms
Family studies
Gene definition

Laboratory Diagnosis

Diagnostic assay standardization
Updating on additional diagnostic assays

Clinical Manifestations

Obstetrical
 Fetal losses
 Pregnancy complications
 Infertility
Non Obstetrical
 Vascular
 Nervous system involvement
 Heart involvement
 Pulmonary manifestations
 Skin involvement
 Haematological manifestations
 Ocular manifestations
 ENT manifestations
 Endocrine system involvement
 Gastrointestinal involvement

Therapeutical approach

Anti-coagulant therapy: old versus new drugs
Anti-platelet drugs
The role of immunosuppressive drugs
Future trends

Patients session

Special sessions for patients will take place with up-dating lectures by experts and with round tables open to discuss the main practical problems of the daily management of the disease.

SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION

Call for abstract

Participants are requested to submit an abstract to the Secretariat by e-mail to the address secretariat@antiphospholipid.net no later than **January 15, 2007** together with the registration form and fees.

Authors will be notified by e-mail regarding abstract acceptance before **February 28, 2007**. Accepted abstracts will be published in a supplement issue of "Clinical and Experimental Rheumatology".

Method of submission

The abstract form is available on our site: www.antiphospholipid.net for download.

If you have not access to internet, please, follow these instructions:

The entire block (Title, Authors, Institutions, Text) should measure NO MORE THAN 14.5 x 16 cm (height x width) typed using Times12 point (or Arial 11). Do **not** use a smaller font to fit in more text; each abstract will be photographically reduced to fit 6 on one page.

FORMAT:

First line: Title in capital letters, boldface type.

Second line: Authors' names (initials followed by family name: H.L. Smith, J.W. van Damn, M. Al-Shanti)

Third line: Institutional affiliations

Blank space

Text of the abstract

Official Language

The official language of the Congress is English.

No simultaneous translation will be provided.

Slide Center

All the meeting rooms will be equipped only with a digital projector connected to a personal computer. No traditional slide projection will be available in the meeting rooms. Speakers are requested to use Power Point for Windows (or Mac/Apple); the files containing the presentation must be delivered using a Floppy Disk, CD, Flash Card or Memory stick at the Slide Centre, available on the premises, at least 45 minutes prior to their talks.

We strongly suggest that all presentations do not exceed 20 MB, to avoid any delay during scientific sessions.

Certificate of attendance

The certificate of attendance will be given to all registered participants who will request it at the Organizing Secretariat desk.

Accreditation

ECM accreditation has been requested.

GENERAL INFORMATION

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

All requests for accommodation information or reservation should be directed to:

OIC Way srl

Viale G. Matteotti, 7 - 50121 Florence, Italy
Tel. +39 055 503 51, Fax +39 055 500 1912,
E-mail: registration@antiphospholipid.net

Hotel accommodation can be reserved at reduced rates in Florence hotels through the intermediary of OIC Way srl. Only bookings made through OIC Way srl in advance will secure these rates.

All rates quoted on the hotel booking form are per room and per night. Room rates also include breakfast, service, taxes and private facilities, unless otherwise stated.

Hotel category should be indicated on the hotel booking form.

Please also indicate which other category should we book in case your first choice is fully booked.

As **single rooms are limited**, OIC Way srl will have to assign double rooms for single occupancy if necessary, the price in this case will be slightly lower than the double room rate and will be indicated in the room details confirmation.

You are kindly requested to return the hotel booking form giving details on required accommodation together with the appropriate deposit (see chart) which includes € 20,00 for handling fee.

In order to avoid disappointment, early bookings are recommended.

No telephone reservation will be accepted.

To book accommodation on line please fill in the on line hotel reservation form.

Accommodation cannot be guaranteed if request is received after **March 15, 2007**, although OIC Way srl will make every effort to meet participants requirements.

OIC Way srl will operate on a 'first come first served' basis with incoming requests.

Reservations will only be confirmed if deposit and handling fee are received.

Average prices per room per night (including breakfast and taxes)

Category	Single min/max	Double for single use min/max	Double min/max	Deposit per room (including handling fee)
4 stars superior	80,00-130,00	130,00-180,00	150,00-200,00	220,00
4 stars standard	70,00-80,00	115,00-130,00	130,00-150,00	170,00
3 stars	50,00-70,00	95,00-110,00	115,00-125,00	135,00
2 stars	40,00-50,00	60,00-80,00	80,00-90,00	110,00

Prices shown are in Euro and can be granted only for a limited number of rooms

CONFIRMATION OF RESERVATION

Upon receipt of the payment, OIC Way srl will confirm your reservation giving details on the reserved hotel with complete address.

Please note that some hotels will request the total prepayment of the stay. In this case we will ask you the authorization to charge the whole amount on your credit card. For cancellation policy please refer to page Cancellation Policy.

Group reservations (more than 5 rooms) through travel agencies, companies, etc. will be dealt with by OIC Way srl by separate contracts.

GENERAL INFORMATION

VENUE

Palazzo dei Congressi
P.zza Adua, 1
50123 Firenze FI

CONGRESS SECRETARIAT

OIC srl
Via Fatebenfratelli, 19
20121 Milan, Italy
Tel. +39 02 65 71 200
Fax +39 02 65 71 270
E-mail congress@antiphospholipid.net

REGISTRATION AND HOTEL ACCOMMODATION DEPARTMENT

OIC srl
Viale G. Matteotti, 7
50121 Florence, Italy
Tel. +39 055 50351
Fax +39 055 5001912
E-mail: registration@antiphospholipid.net

	Normal Fee paid by January 31, 2007	Late Fee paid by March 31, 2007	On-site
Participants	€ 360,00	€ 480,00	€ 540,00
Junior (borne after 20/04/1972)*	€ 180,00	€ 180,00	€ 240,00

* certification required

The registration fees include:

- Access to all scientific session and exhibition
- Congress folder including program and abstract book
- Coffee break and lunches on April 18, 19 and 20, 2007

BADGE

Each participant will receive a name badge upon check-in at the registration desk. The badge will be the official meeting document and should be worn at all time in order to gain entry into the meeting rooms.

GENERAL INFORMATION

CATERING FACILITIES

Lunches and coffee breaks on April 18, 19 and 20 are included in the registration fee.

SOCIAL DINNER

On April 19, a Social Dinner will be organized in a villa in the surroundings of Florence. Transportation will be provided.

€ 80,00 (VAT included) per person

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE

Regularly registered participants will receive a certificate of attendance.

INDUSTRY INFORMATION

Pharmaceutical companies, manufacturers of technical equipments and publishers are invited to display their products at the exhibition which will be organized in connection with the Meeting. The organization of Satellite Symposia is also welcome.

For more information please contact the Organizing Secretariat OIC srl

INSURANCE

The Congress Organizers does not assume any liability for personal injuries sustained or loss of, or damage to, property belonging to congress participants (or their accompanying persons), either during or as result of the congress.

Participants are requested to make their own arrangements with respect to health and travel insurance.

Members of the European Community are advised to issue in their Country the health insurance form E111.

GENERAL INFORMATION

LETTERS OF INVITATION AND VISA REQUIREMENTS

Participants are invited to check with their local travel agency regarding any visa requirements to enter Italy. Letters of invitation can be sent on request, these documents cannot grant any financial support by the organizers.

EASY ACCESS TO FLORENCE

By air

There are frequent direct flights to all the most important European cities as well as convenient intercontinental connections.

Florence Airport "Amerigo Vespucci" is only 5 km from downtown.

Bus and taxi transportation is available between the airport and city centre.

There is also Pisa Airport "Galileo Galilei" served by several international airlines, connected to Florence by a shuttle train operating every hour.

The trip lasts approximately 1 hour.

By car

Florence is also centrally situated along the major north-south motorway.

The A1 "Autostrada del Sole" with its four exits available and the A11 "Autostrada del Mare".

By train

Eurostar trains connect Florence with Milan (2hrs and 45 min approximately) and Rome (1 hr and 45 min approximately).

The main railway station in Florence is S. Maria Novella which is very near to the convention venue.

TRANSPORTATION TO THE CONVENTION CENTRE

From the airport: A bus connection (Volainbus) is operating from the airport to the city centre (main station) every 20-25 minutes.

From the main train station: From the main train station you can reach the Congress Centre in 5 minutes walking.

Taxis: Taxis in Florence can be ordered by phone (Tel. 055 4242 or 4390) or found at the official taxi stand. You cannot stop a taxi on the road.

Bus: Florence has a comprehensive network of local bus routes.

Most of them stop at the main railway station and therefore near to the convention venue.

Bus tickets can be purchased at most coffee bars and kiosks. Fare is € 1,00 (June 2005) multiple trips, valid up to 60 minutes.

Car parking: There are several paying parking areas around the Congress Centre.

WEATHER

The weather in Florence in April is usually mild.

The average temperature is 20°C.

Do not forget a raincoat or umbrella for possible heavy showers.

GENERAL INFORMATION

PAYMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS

Payments

All payments regarding registration fees, hotel accommodation and excursions should be forwarded:

- by credit card VISA, Mastercard, American Express, Eurocard
- by bank transfer (free of charge for the beneficiary) to:
OIC srl
Bank: Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze, Ag. 1, Viale Matteotti 20r - 50132 Florence – Italy
Account Nr. 10628, ABI 6160, CAB 02801
IBAN CODE: IT39S0616002801000010628C00
CIN S, SWIFT CRFIIT3F
- by bank cheque payable to OIC srl (personal cheques are not accepted)
- on line registration is available only if payment is made by creditcard at the website www.antiphospholipid.net

Cancellations

Any changes or cancellation regarding registration fees and hotel accommodation should be made in writing to OIC srl (Fax +39 055 5001912, E-mail: registration@antiphospholipid.net)

In case of cancellation received:

- Before November 17, 2006
The paid amount will be refunded with a deduction of 30% for administrative charge.
- From November 17 to February 17, 2007
The paid amount will be refunded with a deduction of 50% for administrative charge.
- from February 18, 2007
No refund will be allowed for cancellations or no-shows

Booking fees will not be refunded

Refunds, if due, will be processed after the congress.