

It is a great satisfaction and privilege for me to introduce the proceedings of the XIX National Congress of the Italian Society for the Study of Headaches “*Patient and headache: from care to cure – The future of therapy from the itineraries of the past*”.

A very significant title indeed, which underlies the importance of the centrality of the patient-physician relationship, as always considering the entire history of medicine; and at the same time, from a perspective of continuity with the past, highlights how today in the headache field we can offer, along with caring, better therapeutic strategies aimed at curing thanks to innovative drugs of increasing selectivity and efficacy.

The topics of the Congress are of great relevance and range from recent developments in genetics to new neurophysiological acquisitions, from headaches in childhood and adolescence to the psychobiological aspects of headaches, from critical evaluation of the ICHD-II to comorbidity, and from TACs and cranial neuralgias to headache management in the Emergency Department. Special attention has been given to the always present problem of chronic headaches, and to the present and future advancements in therapy. Three important round tables will be dedicated to patient associations, problems in the continuity of health care, and the first evaluation of the regionalization of the Society, which has at this point been completed. Lastly, a significant number of oral communications of high scientific interest attests to the vivacity and the active participation of numerous members of the Society. I would like to thank those who have contributed to this issue of the Journal, in particular, the Scientific Secretariat who evaluated all the abstracts and the referees who reviewed the short papers.

From these proceedings two aspects which characterise the Italian Society for the Study of Headaches stand out: the Society’s highly professional and scientific profile and its multidisciplinary nature. This is emphasised by the presence of different and complementary headache specialists, who by working together are able to provide integrated answers to basic and clinical problems, to ultimately meet patients’ needs and to relieve their suffering.

The location of the Congress in Padua and in Venice is both artistically exciting and historically meaningful: the University of Padua, recognized as “the cradle of modern medicine”; and Venice, the “Dominant”, the capital of Saint Mark’s Republic, the government of which knew how to promote with great foresight and generosity the advancement of knowledge of its “Studium Generale”. An implicit reminder of the constant need, today,

as in the past for continuous cooperation not only between scientists and governments but also between clinical medicine and health planning.

I warmly welcome all the participants both to Padua, an historical centre of excellence for the progress of scientific research, and to Venice, the core of art and beauty, “the city of the spirit and dreams”. I wish all of you a very productive and enjoyable Congress.

Giorgio Zanchin
President
Italian Society for the Study of Headaches