

15.00 - A short message from the sponsors of the Meeting

**15.15 - HIGHLIGHTS ON NEUROSCIENCE:
NEUROMODULATION AND NEURODEGENERATION**

Chairs: Antonio Colantuoni, University of Naples "Federico II",
Naples, Italy; Giuseppe Crescimanno, BIONECA, UNIPA, Italy

Speakers:

Maria Adelaide Micci, UTMB, Galveston (TX), USA

Shedding light on the injured brain (20')

Michelangelo Auteri, STEBICEF, UNIPA, Italy

The enteric nervous system: from motility to inflammation (15')

Fabio Carletti, BIONECA, UNIPA, Italy

*Neuromodulation of hippocampal hyperexcitability: focus on
cannabinoidergic and nitrenergic systems (15')*

Maurizio Casarrubea, BIONECA, UNIPA, Italy

*Temporal structure of social behavior in Wistar rat studied in open
field (15')*

Valentina Di Liberto, BIONECA, UNIPA, Italy

*Role of Fibroblast growth factor receptor 1 (FGFR1) transactivation
in hippocampal plasticity (15')*

Italia Di Liegro, BIONECA, UNIPA, Italy

*Regulation of mRNA transport, localization and translation in the
nervous system of mammals (15')*

Domenico Nuzzo, IBIM-CNR, Italy

*Obesity and Alzheimer disease: a link between metabolism and
impairment of cognitive function (15')*

Maria Grazia Ortore, Università Politecnica delle Marche, Italy

Time resolved experiments on amyloid- β peptide fibrillization (15')

General discussion and conclusions (5')

17.30: Conclusion of the Meeting

**INTERNATIONAL PHD COURSE
IN BIOMEDICINE AND NEUROSCIENCE**

**Dottorato di Ricerca Internazionale
in Biomedicina e Neuroscienze**

Sede Amministrativa:

*Dipartimento di Biomedicina Sperimentale e
Neuroscienze Cliniche (BIONECA)
Università degli Studi di Palermo, Italy*

in cooperation with

**THE NEUROSCIENCE GRADUATE PROGRAM OF THE
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL BRANCH
(UTMB) OF GALVESTON, TEXAS, USA**

Aknowledgements



**Second
Galveston - Palermo
Meeting**



**ADVANCES IN
BIOMEDICINE AND NEUROSCIENCE**

SPECIAL GUEST:

DAVID W. NIESEL

*Dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston (TX), USA*

MARCH 13th, 2014 — 9.00 a.m.

Venue:

**COMPLESSO MONUMENTALE DELLO STERI
SALA DELLE CAPRIATE
PIAZZA MARINA 61, PALERMO, ITALY**

Second Galveston - Palermo Meeting

Palermo - March 13th, 2014

9.00 - WELCOME SPEECH

Roberto Lagalla, Rector of the University of Palermo (UNIPA), Palermo, Italy

9.15 - INTRODUCTION TO THE MEETING

Chair: Giovanni Zummo, Director of the Department of Experimental Biomedicine and Clinical Neuroscience (BIONECA), UNIPA, Italy

Speakers:

Pasquale Assennato, Vice Rector for International Affairs, UNIPA, Italy

Vito Ferro, Vice Rector for Didactic Affairs, UNIPA, Italy

Francesco Vitale, Dean of the Graduate School of Medicine, UNIPA, Italy

Salvatore Amato, President of the Medical Council of Palermo, Palermo, Italy

Pier Luigi San Biagio, Director of the Section of Biophysics (IBF), National Research Council (CNR), Palermo, Italy

Giovanni Viegli, Director of the Institute of Biomedicine and Molecular Immunology (IBIM), CNR, Palermo, Italy

Bartolomeo Sammartino, President of the Euro-Mediterranean Institute of Science and Technology, Palermo, Italy

9.45 - SPECIAL GUEST ADDRESS

David W. Niesel, Dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB), Galveston (TX), USA

Presentation of the UTMB Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

10.00 - THE JOINT PROJECTS

Chairs: Luca Cicalese, UTMB, Galveston (TX), USA; Giulio Tagliatela, UTMB, Galveston (TX), USA

Speakers:

Luca Cicalese, Director of Texas Transplant Center, UTMB, Galveston (TX), USA

Hepatocellular carcinoma: new targets for therapy (15')

Project of Mauro Montalbano, PhD student at UNIPA/UTMB. Tutors: Luca Cicalese, MD (UTMB) and Renza Vento, MD (UNIPA)

Cristiana Rastellini, Director of Cellular Transplantation and Transplant Research, UTMB, Galveston (TX), USA

Wharton jelly derived mesenchymal stem cells in pancreatic islet transplantation (15')

Project of Tiziana Corsello, PhD student at UNIPA/UTMB. Tutors: Cristiana Rastellini, MD (UTMB) and Giampiero La Rocca, PhD (UNIPA)

Giulio Tagliatela, Director of the Neuroscience Graduate Program, UTMB, Galveston (TX), USA

Molecular chaperons and resistance to cognitive decline in Alzheimer's Disease (15')

Project of Claudia Marino, PhD student at UNIPA/UTMB. Tutors: Giulio Tagliatela, PhD (UTMB) and Giovanni Zummo, MD (UNIPA)

11.00 - HIGHLIGHTS ON BIOMEDICINE:

RESPIRATORY CELLS AND TISSUES HOMEOSTASIS AND PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

Chairs: Bruno Balbi, Fondazione "S. Maugeri" IRCCS, Veruno, Italy; Fabio Bucchieri, BIONECA, UNIPA, Italy

Speakers:

Fabio Bucchieri, BIONECA, UNIPA, Italy

Tissue engineering to study ciliogenesis in human bronchial mucosa (15')

Donna E. Davies, University of Southampton, UK

Epithelial Barrier Function and Immunity in Asthma (20')

Antonino Di Stefano, Fondazione "S. Maugeri" IRCCS, Veruno, Italy

Immunopathology of COPD of different severity: contribution of central airways. (15')

Pieter Hiemstra, University of Leiden, The Netherlands

Altered macrophage function in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (20')

Rosalia Gagliardo, IBIM, CNR, Italy

Mechanisms of glucocorticoid resistance in airway inflammatory diseases (15')

Bruno Balbi, Fondazione "S. Maugeri" IRCCS, Veruno, Italy

Alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency: from Italy to the world (15')

General discussion and conclusions (5')

13.00 – Break