Introduction
The University of Padua wants to celebrate Giovanni Battista Morgagni, the anatomist who started teaching in our Gymnasium 300 years ago (1712) and introduced the concept of organ pathology as the cause of signs and symptoms of the diseases. There is a general consensus that he established pathological anatomy as science, thus changing the course of medical diagnosis. With the Morgagni’s method of clinical-pathologic correlations, the empiricism of anatomical observation became Medical Science and his book “De sedibus”, published 250 years ago (1761), represented the dawn of physiopathology. Major advances occurred in Pathology along the centuries. With the employment of the microscope Rudolph Virchow discovered the microcosme of cell pathology, Gregor Mendel established the principles of genetic heritage, Louis Pasteur and Robert Koch detected bacteria as cause of transmissible infectious disease, Max Knoll and Ernst Ruska increased magnification by inventing electron microscopy, James Watson and Francis Crick discovered the DNA and genetic code, Kerry Mullis cloned the DNA by polymerase chain reaction, opening the new avenues of molecular pathology. On the clinical setting, several diagnostic testings developed parallel to the Anatomical Theatre: Radiology, Cat, Echo, CT and MR labs, besides the Surgical Theatre. The “dissection” of the human body is now feasible in vivo with a sensitivity and specificity equal to the classical postmortem investigation. This meeting will deal with the great achievements in cell biology, diagnostic testing, therapeutics, surgery since the time of Morgagni. Is still there a room for autopsy and Morgagni’ method of clinicopathologic correlations? The late Jesse E. Edwards, father of cardiovascular pathology, stated in 1999: «At this point in the history of medicine, the leaders in the field of diagnostic aids have come from a class of people familiar with the autopsy, and development of these tests and many others have been supported by anatomical observations made by pathologists and clinicians working together at the autopsy. Now, persons in the diagnostic fields are being educated and trained in a period not only of declining incidence of autopsy, but, worse than that, absence of the clinician from the few autopsies that are being performed... Unless that trend reverses itself, it is my prediction that the day will come when current and future teachers will miss the fundamental instruction on which the practice of medicine has been built.»

GAETANO THIENE

March Friday 23, 2012

9.00 Welcome
Giuseppe Zaccaria, Rector Magnificus

9.15 Introductory remarks
Gaetano Thiene

Oncology
Chairpersons: Alberto Amadori, Stefano Piccolo, Gianpietro Semenzato (Padua, Italy)

09.30 Antiangiogenic therapy of tumors
Napoleone Ferrara (San Francisco, USA)

10.15 Causes and consequences of microRNA disregulation in cancer
Carlo Croce (Columbus, USA)

11.00 COFFEE BREAK

Pathology
Chairpersons: Ambrogio Fassina, Massimo Rugge, Marialuisa Valente (Padua, Italy)

11.30 Anatomic pathology: from descriptive cellular anatomy to predictive molecular pathology
Manfred Dietel (Berlin, Germany)

12.15 Pathological observation: history and procedures – Domine, ut videam
Gianni Bussolati (Turin, Italy)

13.00 LUNCH

Neurosciences
Chairpersons: Corrado Angelini, Tullio Pozzan, Carlo Reggiani (Padua, Italy)

14.15 Mirror neurons
Giacomo Rizzolatti (Parma, Italy)

15.00 The placebo effect: how the ritual of the therapeutic act changes the patient’s brain
Fabrizio Benedetti (Turin, Italy)

15.45 COFFEE BREAK

Cardiovascular Sciences
Chairpersons: Sabino Iliceto, Mario Plebani, Paolo Prandoni (Padua, Italy)

16.15 The genetics of AV block
Connie R. Bezzina (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

17.00 Management of venous thromboembolism
Harry R. Buller (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

17.45 ADJOURN

March Saturday 24, 2012

Endocrinology and Signaling
Chairpersons: Annalisa Angelini, Franco Mantero, Lorenzo Pinna (Padua, Italy)

9.30 PI 3-kinase, metabolism and disease
Lewis C. Cantley (Boston, USA)

10.15 Endocrine hypertension: then and now
William F. Young (Rochester, USA)

11.00 COFFEE BREAK

Surgery and Transplantation
Chairpersons: Donato Nitti, Federico Rea, Paolo Rigotti (Padua, Italy)

11.30 Advanced colo-rectal cancer: how multimodality management has transformed the prognosis
Bernard Nordlinger (Boulogne, France)

12.15 Organ regeneration
Doris A. Taylor (Houston, USA)

13.00 END OF SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS
MORGAGNIAN YEAR 2011-2012

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Alessandro Mazzucco
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