



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA



UNIVERSITÀ DI PADOVA

2nd INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON

“Endocannabinoids in Endocrinology, Metabolism and Cardiovascular Diseases”

Bologna, 3rd-5th July 2008

Aula Magna Santa Lucia
Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna

final programme

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF

SIC

Italian Society of Cardiology

SID

Italian Society of Diabetes

SIE

Italian Society of Endocrinology

SIIA

Italian Society of Arterial Hypertension

SIMI

Italian Society of Internal Medicine

SIO

Italian Society of Obesity

SISA

Italian Society for the Study of Atherosclerosis

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Luc Van Gaal (*Antwerp, B*)

Roberto Vettor (*Padua, I*)

Carsten T. Wotjak (*Munich, D*)

Hannele Yki-Järvinen (*Helsinki, FIN*)

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to welcome you to Bologna for the 2nd International Workshop on “Endocannabinoids in Endocrinology, Metabolism and Cardiovascular Diseases”.

The workshop is organised by the Universities of Bologna and Padua which established the first example of *Gymnasium Omnium Disciplinarum* – an educational model that can now be seen all over the world.

The city of Bologna preserves the traces of past civilisations and the character of medieval splendour. Avidly visited by the Romantic writers and celebrated for the arts and culinary excellence, Bologna is animated by a cosmopolitan culture that is enriched by the presence of the University. The University of Bologna prides itself on being more than nine hundred years old. Its history boasts some of the greatest thinkers in science and the humanities, so that the *Alma Mater Studiorum* has become a fundamental point of reference in the panorama of European culture.

The research on endogenous cannabinoids of the last 15 years has opened promising scenarios for the therapeutic use of drugs modulating endocannabinoid-related mechanisms in many disorders. The meeting will focus on the multiple physiological functions of the endocannabinoid system that are just beginning to be fully appreciated.

The workshop brings together scientists to present and discuss the most recent cutting-edge findings related to the role of endogenous cannabinoids in the regulation of energy metabolism, their influence on endocrine axes and on cardiovascular function and disorders.

The endocannabinoid system plays a major role in controlling energy balance, possibly targeting the central mechanism and a variety of peripheral organs.

The endocannabinoid system is also involved in immune control, neuroprotection, regulation of blood pressure and cardiac function, dependence on alcohol and liver lipid metabolism. Each of these functions may be a target with potential therapeutic implications. In addition, recent pharmacological advances point out that our understanding of this system is far from being complete. Updating our knowledge will pave the way to design innovative molecules for targeting major diseases.

We have done our best to offer high quality lectures and research reports ranging from basic sciences to clinical and patient-oriented research. The stimulating environment of one of the world's most ancient Universities will generate fruitful discussions between established leaders in this field and young scientists.

By coming to the 2nd International Workshop on “Endocannabinoids in Endocrinology, Metabolism and Cardiovascular Diseases” in Bologna you will enjoy not only the qualified scientific programme, but also the numerous attractions that Bologna offers in a stimulating environment that combines art and sciences, modernity and tradition.

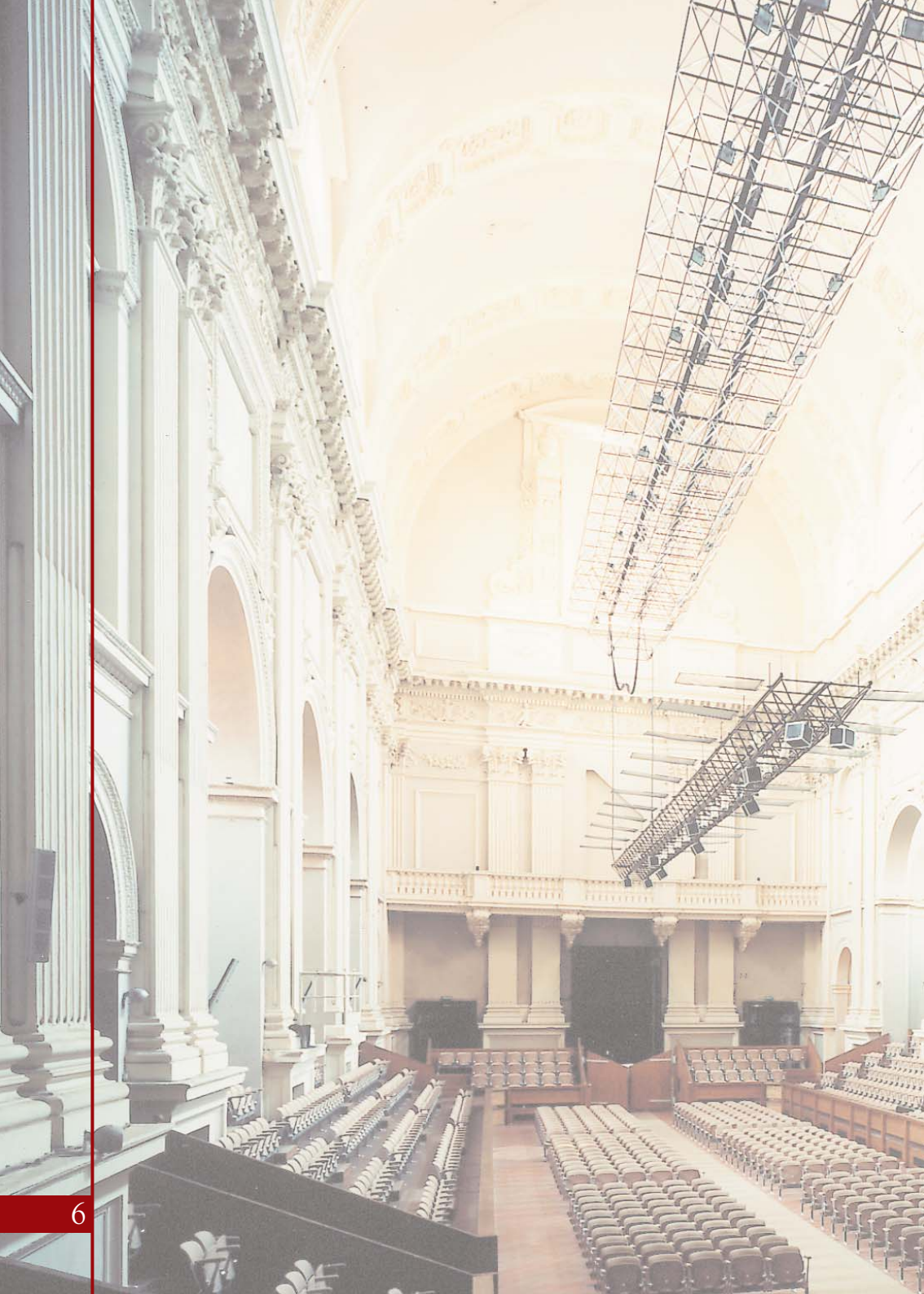
A warm welcome to Bologna.

Renato Pasquali
(University of Bologna)

Roberto Vettor
(University of Padua)



Scientific programme



Thursday, July 3rd 2008

12.30 PM Registration

1.00 PM WELCOME LUNCH

2.00 PM **Welcome address**

SYMPOSIUM

Endocannabinoids: the brain power

CHAIRMEN: **Fabrizio De Ponti** (*Italy*), **Carlo Maria Rotella** (*Italy*)

2.15 PM Mesolimbic effects of endocannabinoids in modulating food intake

Daniela Cota (*France*)

2.50 PM Hypothalamic effects of endocannabinoids in modulating food intake

Uberto Pagotto (*Italy*)

3.25 PM Novel genetic animal models to better understand the functions of endocannabinoids

Giovanni Marsicano (*France*)

4.00 PM Cannabinoid type 1 receptor mediated actions on mood

Carsten Wotjak (*Germany*)

4.35 PM COFFEE-BREAK

SYMPOSIUM

Endocannabinoids and energy metabolism: the strength of the periphery

CHAIRMEN: **Paolo Cavallo Perin** (*Italy*), **Gaetano Lombardi** (*Italy*)

5.00 PM Are the adipocytes the motor of the weight reducing effect of CBI blockade?

Claudio Pagano (*Italy*)

5.35 PM The liver and the endocannabinoid tone

George Kunos (*USA*)

6.10 PM Blockade of CBI receptor: the lesson from the dogs

Joyce Richey (*USA*)

Friday, July 4th 2008

SYMPOSIUM

When and why to treat obese patients

CHAIRMEN: **Gianni Forti** (*Italy*), **Aldo Pinchera** (*Italy*)

8.45 AM Pharmacotherapy of obesity

George Bray (*USA*)

9.20 AM The power of bariatric and metabolic surgery

Nicola Scopinaro (*Italy*)

9.55 AM DEBATE

Does modification of risk factors associated with obesity lead to changes in outcomes? Rimonabant experience

PRO: **Renato Pasquali** (*Italy*)

CONS: **Roberto Vettor** (*Italy*)

10.55 AM COFFEE-BREAK

SYMPOSIUM

Janus in medicine: obesity and depression

CHAIRMEN: **Marco Boscaro** (*Italy*), **Massimo Cuzzolaro** (*Italy*)

11.10 AM Depression causes obesity

Isabella Heuser (*Germany*)

11.45 AM Obesity causes depression

George Chrousos (*Greece*)

12.20 PM Rimonabant Safety: how long and when depression should be monitored in patients undergoing treatment?

Jogin H. Thakore (*Ireland*)

1.20 PM LUNCH

ROUND TABLE

Hot Topics

I SESSION

CHAIRMEN: **Mauro Bernardi** (Italy), **Ezio Ghigo** (Italy)

- 2.30 PM** AMPK and endocannabinoids
Marta Korbonits (United Kingdom)
- 2.55 PM** Endocannabinoids and the atherosclerotic plaque
Andrea Mezzetti (Italy)
- 3.20 PM** Endocannabinoids and liver cirrhosis
Paolo Caraceni (Italy)
- 3.45 PM** Endocannabinoid action and dysregulation in the pancreas and adipose tissue: what we know and what we don't
Vincenzo Di Marzo (Italy)
- 4.10 PM** COFFEE-BREAK

II SESSION

CHAIRMEN: **Angelo Avogaro** (Italy), **Luigi Bolondi** (Italy)

- 4.30 PM** Novel mode of action of CB1 receptor antagonist at adipocyte level
Enzo Nisoli (Italy)
- 4.55 PM** Visceral vs subcutaneous: the ADAGIO Study
Robert Ross (Canada)
- 5.20 PM** Reducing the progression of coronary atherosclerosis: the Stradivarius Study
Luc Van Gaal (Belgium)
- 5.45 PM** What's new about diabetes and Rimonabant? The Arpeggio Study
Andre Scheen (Belgium)
- 6.10 PM** Closing Remarks

Participants are expected to actively participate in the final discussion and exchange views with all the speakers.

Saturday, July 5th 2008

SYMPOSIUM

Weight loss and Diabetes

CHAIRMEN: **Claudio Borghi** (*Italy*), **Renato Lauro** (*Italy*)

8.30 AM Preservation of beta cells
Eleuterio Ferrannini (*Italy*)

9.05 AM Effect of exercise on diabetes
Pierpaolo De Feo (*Italy*)

9.40 AM DEBATE

Is Rimonabant effective towards type 2 diabetes?

PRO: **Andre Scheen** (*Belgium*)

CONS: **Stefano Del Prato** (*Italy*)

10.40 AM COFFEE-BREAK

SYMPOSIUM

Determinants of metabolic syndrome

CHAIRMEN: **Eleuterio Ferrannini** (*Italy*), **Pier Mannuccio Mannucci** (*Italy*)

10.55 AM Metabolic syndrome: insulin resistance or visceral obesity?
Giulio Marchesini Reggiani (*Italy*)

11.30 AM Flogosis determinants of metabolic syndrome
Hannele Yki-Järvinen (*Finland*)

12.00 PM DEBATE

Is Rimonabant effective for the treatment of multiple cardiometabolic risk factors?

PRO: **Luc Van Gaal** (*Belgium*)

CONS: **Felipe F. Casanueva** (*Spain*)

12.30 PM End of the Meeting

1.30 PM LUNCH

GENERAL INFORMATION

BOLOGNA

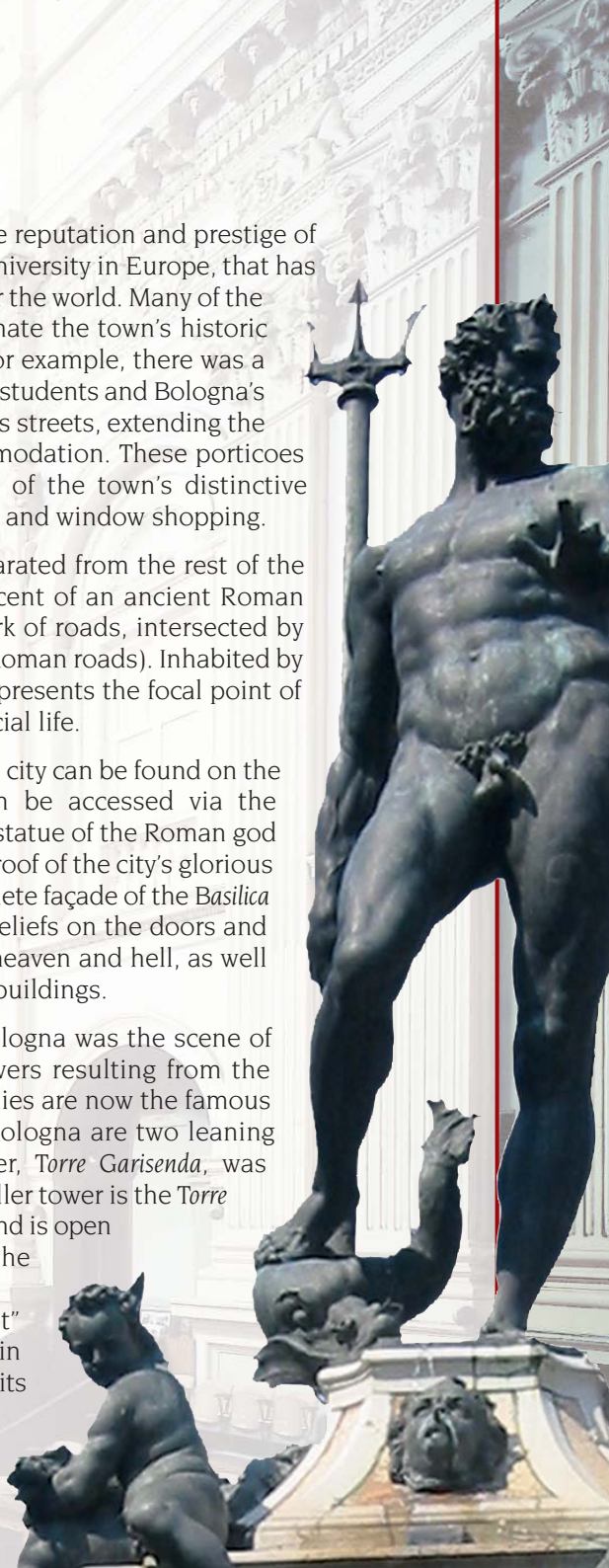
Bologna's fame is closely linked to the reputation and prestige of the *Alma Mater Studiorum*, the oldest University in Europe, that has always attracted students from all over the world. Many of the buildings and museums which dominate the town's historic centre are legacies of this heritage. For example, there was a shortage of roomspace for university's students and Bologna's solution was to build porticoes over its streets, extending the houses above to create more accommodation. These porticoes have always been a striking feature of the town's distinctive architecture, very pleasant for walking and window shopping.

The historic city centre, which is separated from the rest of the city by ancient walls, is still reminiscent of an ancient Roman *castrum* (fortification), with its network of roads, intersected by both major *cardi* and minor *decumani* (Roman roads). Inhabited by both locals and students, this area represents the focal point of the city's cultural, economical and social life.

The political and religious heart of the city can be found on the Medieval *Piazza Maggiore*, which can be accessed via the symbolic *Piazza del Nettuno* on which a statue of the Roman god Neptune stands. The piazza is living proof of the city's glorious history. It is dominated by the incomplete façade of the *Basilica di San Petronio*, which has impressive reliefs on the doors and interior fifteenth-century frescoes of heaven and hell, as well as numerous other elegant Medieval buildings.

Like many Italian cities, Medieval Bologna was the scene of inter-clan rivalry, and two of the towers resulting from the competition between the town's families are now the famous symbol of the city. The *Due Torri* of Bologna are two leaning structures built in 1119. The shorter, *Torre Garisenda*, was immortalised in Dante's *Inferno*. The taller tower is the *Torre degli Asinelli*, which is over 300 feet tall and is open to the public - the views are worth the climb.

Bologna was named "the sapient" because of the University, the oldest in the Western world; "the fat" city due to its famous rich cuisine; and "the red" because of its red, terracotta-colored houses.



WORKSHOP VENUE

Aula Magna S. Lucia

Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna
Via Castiglione, 36
40124 Bologna (Italy)

The square-cum-parvis of the Church of Santa Lucia, in the centre of Bologna, offers an unexpected spectacle. In the second half of the sixteenth century, Pope Pius IV gave the small parish church of S.Lucia to the Jesuits, so that they might make it the centre of their spiritual formation activities.

In 1623, they commissioned the architect Girolamo Rainaldi to draw up plans that respected the congregation's needs, in order to facilitate their teaching work. The reconstruction was interrupted several times prior to 1835, then a citizens' committee raised funds by public subscription and put the architect Angelo Venturoli in charge of the project, who, for financial reasons, completed the main nave with an apse that was narrower than the one previously left unfinished. In 1866, the church was deconsecrated and became the property of the Bologna City Council. In 1988, on occasion of the celebrations for the 9th Centenary of the University of Bologna, the church was rehabilitated as the University's *Aula Magna* (Main Lecturing Hall).

HOW TO REACH BOLOGNA AND THE WORKSHOP VENUE

From the airport to the city centre:

Bologna G. Marconi Airport is located 10 km from Bologna city centre

By bus: the *Aerobus* brings you to the Bologna train station every 15 minutes (travel time: approx. 20 minutes). Tickets can be purchased on the bus.

By taxi: approximately 30 min

From the station to the city centre:

Bologna Centrale Railway Station

By bus: bus lines A, B, E, n. 13, n. 30 - Piazza Cavour or Piazza Minghetti stop

By taxi: approximately 5 min

By car:

From North: highway exit Casalecchio di Reno, ring - exit n. 7 Via Stalingrado; city centre direction

From South: highway exit San Lazzaro di Savena, ring - exit n. 7 Via Stalingrado; city centre direction

Taxi Numbers

+39-051-372727 or +39-051-534141

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

The official language of the Workshop is English. No simultaneous translation will be provided.

C.M.E. CREDITS

The Workshop has been registered as part of the Italian credit system for medical studies.

The C.M.E. credit certificate will be issued only if the participant has successfully attended the whole meeting and after having completed and returned the assessment questionnaire at the end of the meeting.

AUDIOVISUALS

Only Power Point presentations on USB memory device or CD Rom (no personal laptop) will be allowed. All speakers are kindly invited to deliver their presentations to the Slide Centre at least one hour before the beginning of the relevant Session.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

The Organising Secretariat has booked four star Hotels situated in the historical centre of Bologna.

An hospitality desk will be set up at the reception hall of each Hotel as follows:

Thursday 3rd of July from 9.00 am to 9.00 pm

Friday 4th of July from 8.00 am to 8.00 pm

Saturday 5th of July from 8.00 am to 4.00 pm

OPENING SCHEDULE

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Thursday, July 3rd | Registration | 12.30 pm - 2.00 pm |
| | Working session | 2.00 pm - 7.00 pm |

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| Friday, July 4th | Working session | 8.30 am - 7.00 pm |
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| Saturday, July 5th | Working session | 8.30 am - 1.00 pm |
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REGISTRATION

Participation in the International Workshop on “Endocannabinoids in Endocrinology, Metabolism and Cardiovascular Diseases” is **on invitation only**. Confirmation of participation will be provided only via e-mail by the Organising Secretariat and should be shown at the registration desk on the first day of the Workshop.

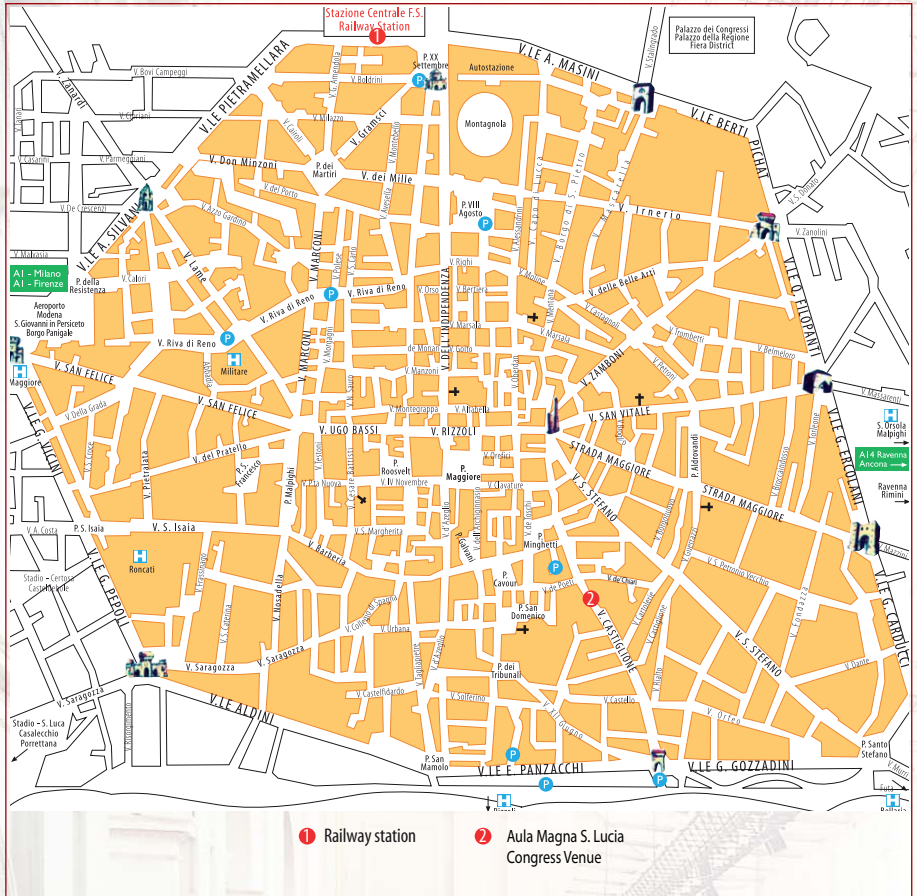
INSURANCE

The conference Organisers cannot accept liability for personal injuries or for loss or damage of property belonging to congress participants or their accompanying persons, either during or as a result of the Conference. Please check the validity of your own insurance.

CLIMATE

Bologna has a typical continental climate. In July is usually hot. We would advise you to bring light clothing.

HISTORICAL CENTRE OF BOLOGNA



NOTES



ORGANISING SECRETARIAT

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