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**Fig 1: Part of the
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**NEWS IN ANGIOLOGY AND
VASCULAR SURGERY IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN REGION**

The 22d Mediterranean Congress of Angiology and Vascular Surgery took place in Civitavecchia, Italy between 11 and 13 of October 2011, in the Hotel San Giorgio.

President of the Congress was Prof Pier Luigi Antignani and A. Apollonio and G Marcucci were Vice Presidents. This year the 8th Annual Congress of Fleboforum was held in conjunction to the MLAVS Congress. The 22d MLAVS Congress was under the auspices of the International Union of Angiology and the International Union of Flebology.

Civitavecchia, Known since the ancient times as the port of Rome, is located 80 km north of Rome just nearby the Etruscan and Medieval structures of the region of Lazio. The harbor is formed by two piers and a breakwater, on which there is a lighthouse. The name Civitavecchia means "ancient town".



Fig 2: Civitavecchia in 1795, etching by William Marlow

The 16th Century **fortress Forte Michelangelo** stands imposingly over the port and it was commissioned by Pope Julius II. The central tower was designed by Michelangelo. The fortress is made of walls over 6 meters in depth.



Fig 3: Forte Michelangelo



Fig 4: The old quarter of Civitavecchia

The Cathedral of San Francesco d' Assisi was built in the 18th century on the site of an earlier church. The cathedral's very attractive Baroque-Neoclassical design, features intricate frescos and stained glass windows. It is situated just a short walk from Forte Michelangelo.



Fig 5: Cathedral of San Francesco d' Assisi

The scientific program was excellent. It was divided in three rooms, two in Hotel San Giorgio and one in Hotel De La Ville. The Program started on Thursday 11th of October at 13.00 hours with the opening Ceremony which included several welcome addresses, **the Balas Lecture** under the title "Ancient Surgery" delivered by N. Angelides and a second **Lecture** under the title "Women and Science" delivered by C. Allegra. The scientific program was composed of **Key Lectures**, joint **symposia**, **round tables**, and **paper sessions** which covered up-to-day vascular and endovascular surgery, as well as cardiovascular medicine, phlebology and lymphology in a step by step manner. The main symposia gave an answer to what's new in carotid and peripheral arterial disease, what's new in aortic surgery (thoracic, thoraco-abdominal and abdominal

aorta), as well as what the latest steps and new horizons in Angiology, Cardio-Vascular Medicine, Flebology and Lymphology are. The scientific program also included **two Courses**, on **Venous Duplex Ultrasound** and on **Scleromousse**. These were extended over two days, including theoretical and practical knowledge.



Fig 6: The beautiful seashore of Civitavecchia.

After the Opening Ceremony the program included a **Key Lecture** by J Fareed on "Oral anti-IIa and anti-X drugs: their impact on therapy". This lecture was followed by the **Symposium**: "Post Thrombotic Syndrome" which included the following **presentations**:

"Can we reduce the rate of VTE recurrence?" (G. M Andreozzi); "Is there yet a role for heparins?" (E Kalodiki); "Microcirculation and PTS" (Z. Pecsvarady); "Microcirculation and venous ulcers" (G. Failla); "Medical treatment" (M. Sartari); and "The Villalta scale validation in PTS" (E. Kalodiki).



Fig 7: The Archaeological Museum, an ideal place for the presentation of exhibits mainly of Etruscan and Roman origin.



Fig 8: Civitavecchia, resti di antica torre

The scientific program continued with a **Lecture** by A. Mansilha on the topic "QoL. Evaluation and chronic venous disease: how to do this in our daily practice?"

This lecture was followed by a **book presentation** "Twenty years of varicose vein treatment" edited by L. Castellani and G. Marcucci, and a **Key lecture** by N. Angelides on the topic: "Critical limb ischaemia: open or endovascular surgical approach?"



Fig 10: Another view of the harbour of Civitavecchia

The program continued with a **Symposium** under the title: "Peripheral arterial disease". It included the following **presentations**:

"The fate of lower limb amputation in patients with limb ischaemia is still current?" (L. Castellani); "Peripheral arterial disease: indicators of systemic atherosclerosis" (P. Poredos); "Endovascular Treatment of PAD: factors affecting results" (R. Pulli); "Treatment of

peripheral arterial disease: modest scenario” (I. Koncar); “CLI in ESRD patients: a major challenge for limb salvage” (F. Spinelli); “Open surgery versus endovascular treatment of popliteal artery aneurysms: is it worth the price?” (F. Talarico) and “Infragenicular endovascular interventions for critical limb ischaemia: PTA alone or stent-supported?” (E. Hussein).



Fig. 11: The Michelangelo Fortress from a different angle.

The Thursday’s program in Hotel de la Ville included **a Lecture** by B. B. Lee on the topic: “Changing concept on the chronic lymphoedema: it is no longer lymphatic disease!” followed by **a Symposium on Lymphoedema** which included the following **presentations**: “The CEAP-L classification” (V. Gasbarro); “Lymphoedema: lymphatic surgery and microsurgery” (C. Campisi); “Education of patients with lymphoedema” (P. Carpentier); “Compression in lymphoedema treatment” (S. Michelini) and “Non-invasive methods to evaluate the lymphoedema” (T. Barancelli).



Fig 12: Civitavecchia. The hills and the Mediterranean Sea.



Fig 13: Medieval city in the Province of Lazio.

The Scientific Program on Friday October 12th included **Courses** and **Free Communications**. At the same time an excursion to the province of **Lazio** was organised to see the area and understand the **Etruscan** civilization. The course on **scleromousse** took place in the hotel San Giorgio. It included: “venous anatomy” (R. Boirivant); “Ultrasound mapping” (M. Galluca); “History of sclerotherapy and method” (M. Sica); “Sclerotherapy and compression” (A. Molisso); “Saphenous varicose veins treatment” (W. Pacelli); “Extrasaphenous varicose veins treatment” (M. Del Guercio); “The role of scleromousse in the treatment of mail varicocele” (S. Rucci); “Treatment varicose vein recurrence” (I. Prisco); Scleromousse in the treatment of pelvic congestion syndrome (I. Altarazi); Finally it included a practical session with simulators (M. Sica) and the presentation of clinical Cases.



Fig 14: The majestic province of Lazio

The course on venous duplex ultrasound took Place, in parallel, at the Hotel de la Ville. It included : “Pathophysiology” (S. Bilancini); “Anatomy of vein system and method of Examination” (B. Ligas); “Setting of apparatus” (M. Rambotti); “Haemodynamics of venous system of lower Limb” (P.E. Mollo); “VDU in acute vein

Thrombosis" (A. Di Folca); "VDU in post-thrombotic syndrome" (F.Conti); Venous mapping of varicose veins (R. Pepe); "Indications of VDU in varicose veins surgery" (A. Orsini); Finally, a practical evaluation took place as well as presentation of clinical cases.



Fig 16: "Wealthy" towers in the Etruscan region. The higher they are the more wealthy the families that they built them were!

Friday's afternoon scientific program included **the Lecture**: "Asymptomatic carotid plaque predicts future cerebro- and cardio-vascular events beyond the cards of risk" (S. Novo). This Lecture was followed by the **Symposium**: "Upper limb vascular troubles" which included the following **presentations**: "Pulseless women syndrome" (A. Blinc); "Outlet Syndrome: treatment" (G. Palasciano); "Raynaud's phenomenon: clinical approach" (P. Carpentier); "Upgrading in Raynaud's phenomenon treatment" (Z. Pecsvarady); The presentation "Catheter related thrombosis" (L. Aluigi) closed this Symposium. Finally **the Lecture** "A new technique in deep veins valve repair" (A. Akgul) brought Friday's scientific program to an end.



Fig 17: Etruscan art was affected by the ancient Greek art. The Etruscan tombs were decorated with similar frescos.



Fig 18: The entrance to an Etruscan tomb. The royal tombs had a round configuration and mimic those found in the necropolis of Salamis in Cyprus.

Saturdays October 13th scientific program started with the **TEVAR Symposium** which included the following presentations: "Ibrid treatment of aortic arch aneurysms" (E. M. Marone); "Endovascular treatment of the aortic arch" (N. Mangialardi); "Chimney sandwich branches for TAAA: is there any agreement?" (E. Ducasse); "An intentional coverage of the left subclavian artery during endovascular repair of traumatic aortic transection" (F. Greco); Technical considerations of open TAAA repair" (I. Davidovic); "First experiences with branch endoprosthesis for aortic arch aneurysms" (S. Camparini); and finally "Initial experience with multilayer stent in TEVAR" (M. Taurino). This Symposium was followed by the Lecture "European guidelines on sclerotherapy" (E. Rabe).



Fig 19: Sunset at Civitavecchia

The scientific program then included a **Symposium** on the "Endovascular treatment of varicose veins" with the following **presentations**: "Oriented foam sclerotherapy" (I. Altarazi); "Foam sclerotherapy with long catheter" (A. Cavezzi); "Foam sclerotherapy with short catheter"

(M. Sica); "Update on endovenous laser treatment" (F. Pannier-Ficher) and finally "Update on radio frequency treatment" (T. Urbanek).



Fig 20: Sunset over the harbour.

Afterwards there was another **Symposium** about "Thrombophilia and vascular diseases" with the following **presentations**: "News in laboratory tests in an evaluation of thrombophilia" (G. Pessina); "DVT genetic polymorphisms and new drugs: can we improve the recurrence in the future?" (A. Manshila); "Indication to treatment of asymptomatic patients" (L. Aluigi) and "News on distal DVT" (G. Guarnera). This symposium was followed by the **Lecture**: "News about compression treatment" (C. Gardon-Mollard). Finally the scientific program came to an end with the **Symposium** "Asymptomatic carotid stenosis" which included the following presentations: "The role of carotid atheroma in the management of asymptomatic carotid disease" (A. Giannoukas); "Indications to the treatment of asymptomatic carotid patients" (A. Ippoliti); "CEA or CAS: when and why?" (B. Gosetti); "Do we need plaque morphology assessment to select asymptomatic patients with 70% carotid stenosis for revascularization?" (J. Fernandes); "CEA in the post RCTs era" (C. Liapis);



Fig 21: C. Allegra and N. Angelides discussing.

"Microembolism during CEA and CAS" (O. Martinelli); "CEA under cervical plexus block: a single centre experience" (M. Marcovic); and finally "CEA in GA using remifentanyl with conserved consciousness" (A. Siani). The **closing remarks** (N. Angelides) brought the Congress to the end.



Fig 22: Dinner time in an Italian restaurant



Fig 23: Official dinner in Hotel San Giorgio

BALAS LECTURE: ANCIENT SURGERY N. Angelides MD, PhD, FRCS, FACA Cyprus

The aim of this presentation is to give a global impression on Ancient Surgery. Starting from ancient Peru, we see that trepanation was particularly popular there in ancient times. Skulls were found, with up to five trepanned holes. People who survived the operation had their wounds covered with a shell or even silver and gold. Evidence about similar operations was also found in Greece.

In India, *Varanasi* is the city of Buddha situated on the banks of river Ganges. This town is also the home of *Ayurveda*, one of the oldest medical

disciplines in the world. Among the ancient writings found in Varanasi is *Samhita*, a book describing the tradition of surgery in India. In *Samhita* over 1,000 surgical conditions are listed, including injuries as well as illnesses related to ageing and mental diseases.

In Egypt, it was found that ancient Egyptians performed surgery mainly on their wounded soldiers. Egyptian physicians classified wounds into three categories: wounds that could be treated, wounds that were contended, and wounds that could not be treated. Some of the treatments applied to wounded soldiers were found in the Edwin Smith Papyrus. This document was a detailed writing of surgical treatments for wounds, starting with head injuries.

In Greece, Machaon was one of the sons of Asclepius. During the war against Troy he was considered to be the first military doctor in Greece. We know that military conditions always helped to improve knowledge and skills in the field of medicine. We also know that later Alexander the Great was wounded many times while advancing in Asia, fighting against the Persians, but he always survived and never lost a battle! His secret weapon was his surgeon Kritodemos from Cos. After Alexander's death in 323 BC, Alexandria became a great centre of science where medicine flourished. In Alexandria, the circumference of the earth was measured and the stars were plotted. At the same time in Alexandria, a young physician called Herophilus was given permission to dissect human bodies. His findings revolutionized all kinds of surgery. Herophilus was also allowed to break an even bigger taboo: he was allowed to perform vivisections on living human beings in order to observe the functions of their internal parts.

In Rome, before Galen's era, the only operation that could be attempted on the eye was cataract. However, after Galen's findings, surgeons tried to cure many other eye disorders. But eyes were only a part of the revolution in surgery in Rome. Galen created there a golden age of cosmetic and reconstructive surgery.

The end of the great library of Alexandria and the collapse of the Roman Empire marked the end of the progress in medicine and particularly in surgery for hundreds of years. But, with the coming of Renaissance, the knowledge of the ancients was rediscovered. Anatomy was accepted, new discoveries in wound treatment were made on the battlefields and the doors to new surgical techniques and practices opened widely.



Fig 24



Fig 25



Fig 26



Fig 24, 25, 26, 27: View from the inside of the Etruscan tombs



FUTURE MLAVS CONGRESSES

23d MLAVS Congress 3 to 5 October 2013 in Volos-Larissa Greece. President of the Congress Prof A. Giannoukas

24th MLAVS Congress 2014 in Portugal. President of the Congress Prof J Fernandes. Co-President A. Mansilha.

25th MLAVS Congress 2015 in Cyprus. President of the Congress Prof N. Angelides.

26th MLAVS Congress 2016 in Slovenia. President of the Congress Prof P. Poredos.

27th MLAVS Congress 2017 in Egypt. President of the Congress Prof E. Hussein.

FUTURE IUA CONGRESSES

21st EUROCHAP 2013, 29 September – 1 October 2013, in Rome. Presidents of the Congress Prof C. Alegra and Prof P. L. Antignani.

6th AFROCHAP 2013, 10 to 12 of October 2013, Alexandria, Egypt. President of the Congress Prof E. Hussein.

26th World Congress of IUA in August 2014, Sydney Australia. President of the Congress Prof P. Fletcher.

***Suggestions for the scientific program of the above Congresses are welcome by the organizers.

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