Targeted Therapies and Emerging Options for CARDIOMYOPATHIES:

Florence Advances in Cardiomyopathy Series

SCIENTIFIC DIRECTORS
Perry Elliott - Iacopo Olivotto - Faiez Zannad

OCTOBER 7th–9th 2026

FLORENCE

The rapid evolution of molecular cardiology, genetics, and targeted therapeutics is reshaping the management of cardiomyopathies and rare cardiovascular diseases. These conditions, though individually uncommon, collectively impose a significant global burden and often require highly specialized, multidisciplinary expertise. As scientific progress accelerates, there is a pressing need for a coordinated international forum where emerging therapeutic strategies can be critically examined, compared, and translated into meaningful clinical advances. To meet this need, the present workshop will welcome leading experts from around the world, for an interactive meeting dedicated to therapeutic innovation and the future of clinical trial design in this field. Breakthroughs in gene and RNA-based therapies, precision immunomodulation, disease-modifying agents, and advanced device technologies are reaching a pivotal moment. Bringing together clinicians, researchers, regulatory authorities, and patient advocates in a collaborative environment will allow participants to explore mechanistic insights, refine trial methodologies, and address challenges such as biomarker development, patient stratification, and long-term outcome assessment. Hosting this meeting in Florence — a city historically associated with creativity, exchange, and scientific curiosity — underscores our commitment to fostering open dialogue and global collaboration. By aligning perspectives across regions and disciplines, the meeting aims to catalyze new partnerships, harmonize research priorities, and ultimately accelerate the delivery of safe, effective, and equitable therapies for patients living with cardiomyopathies and rare cardiovascular diseases.

The Scientific Directors

DAY 1 – WEDNESDAY, 7TH

NON - CME PROGRAM

13:30 Welcome coffee

13:45 Registration of participants

14:15 Official greetings and opening ceremony
Francesco Annunziato *– Director of the Department of Experimental and Clinical Medicine, University of Florence*
Federico Gelli *– Chief Executive Officer, Meyer Children's Hospital, Florence*
Daniela Matarrese *– Chief Executive Officer, Careggi University Hospital, Florence*

Perry Elliott; Iacopo Olivotto; Faiez Zannad

SETTING THE STAGE
Chairpersons: Iacopo Olivotto; Faiez Zannad

14:30 Open questions and unmet needs in cardiomyopathies
Perry Elliott

14:50 Innovation in cardiovascular therapeutics: an overview
Giulio Pompilio

15:10 Discussion

A COMPREHENSIVE LOOK AT DRUG DEVELOPMENT: THE JOURNEY
Chairpersons: Elisabetta Cerbai; Michele Emdin

15:30 From the idea to the molecule
Leslie Leinwand

15:50 From the molecule to clinical trials
Yigal M. Pinto

16:10 From clinical trials to registration
Raffaele Coppini

16:30 From registration to patients
Giancarlo Agnelli

16:50 Discussion

17:10 **Industry Corner: updates and future developements**
Perry Elliott; Iacopo Olivotto; Faiez Zannad

19:10 Closing of the first day and welcome cocktail

DAY 2 – THURSDAY, 8TH

08:15 Registration of participants

08:45 Opening of the second day
Perry Elliott; Iacopo Olivotto; Faiez Zannad

ADVANCE IN EXPERIMENTAL MODELS AND PRECLINICAL APPROACHES
Chairpersons: Raffaele Coppini; Benjamin Meder

09:00 From experimental HCM models to gene therapy
Lucie Carrier

09:20 Bridging the divide from mouse to men: do our models reflect human disease?
Cecilia Ferrantini

09:40 Human-cell and engineered models: patient-specific mechanisms and drug screening
Thomas Eschenhagen

10:00 Discussion

10:20 Coffee break

10:50 **Multistakeholder moderated debate**
When is pre-clinical data good enough for translation?
Chairpersons: Carolyn Yung Ho; Jolanda Van Der Velden
Discussants: Eric David Adler; Gabriel Brooks; Leslie Leinwand; Benjamin Meder

PHARMACOLOGICAL THERAPIES FOR CARDIOMYOPATHIES
State of the Art – Part I
Chairpersons: Eloisa Arbustini; Francesco Cappelli

11:50 Protein stabilizers
Pablo Garcia Pavia

12:10 Myosin modulators
Iacopo Olivotto

DAY 2 – THURSDAY, 8TH

12:30 Mitotropes/metabolic modulators
Martin S. Maron

12:50 Exercise prescription as precision medicine in cardiomyopathies
Gherardo Finocchiaro

13:10 Light lunch

PHARMACOLOGICAL THERAPIES FOR CARDIOMYOPATHIES
State of the Art – Part II
Chairpersons: Filippo Crea; Iacopo Olivotto

14:10 Targeting microtubules and beta-adrenergic receptor signaling
Jolanda Van Der Velden

14:30 Anti-interleukins - removal therapies
Federica Marelli-Berg

14:50 SGLT1/2 inhibitors
Anjali Tiku Owens

15:10 Contemporary treatment of myocarditis
Maurizio Pieroni

15:30 Discussion

GENE THERAPY: WHERE ARE WE DOWN THE ROAD?
Chairpersons: Enrico Ammirati; Alessia Argirò

15:50 RNA therapies for cardiac regeneration and gene editing
Mauro Giacca

16:10 Silencers and RNAs
Francesco Cappelli

16:30 Gene editing
Alessia Argirò

16:50 Discussion

DAY 2 – THURSDAY, 8TH

17:10 Paradigms: Fredreich's Ataxia
Eric David Adler

17:30 Paradigms: Danon and Pompe
Juan Pablo Kaski

17:50 Discussion

18:10 Closing of the second day

DAY 3 – FRIDAY, 9TH

08:15 Registration of participants

08:45 Opening of the third day
Perry Elliott; Iacopo Olivotto; Faiez Zannad

TRANSLATIONAL BREAKTHROUGHS. WHAT WORKED, AND WHY?
Chairpersons: Perry Elliott; Gianfranco Sinagra

09:00 Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy
Carolyn Yung Ho

09:20 Dilated Cardiomyopathy
Neal K. Lakdawala

09:40 Amyloidosis
Simone Longhi

10:00 Lysosomal diseases
Eloisa Arbustini

10:20 Innovation in cardiac devices
Carlo Di Mario

10:40 Discussion

11:00 Coffee break

THE QUEST FOR CLINICALLY MEANINGFUL AND APPROVABLE ENDPOINTS IN CARDIOMYOPATHY TRIALS
Chairpersons: Aldo Pietro Maggioni; Marco Metra

11:30 Hard outcomes
Scott Solomon

11:50 Patient reported outcomes
Anjali Tiku Owens

12:10 Exercise capacity
Caroline Coats

DAY 3 – FRIDAY, 9TH

12:30 Biomarkers
Manuel Mayr

12:50 Imaging/Wearables
Gabriella Captur

13:10 Discussion

13:30 Light lunch

METHODOLOGY, TRIAL DESIGN AND STATISTICAL ISSUES

Chairpersons: Scott Solomon; Faiez Zannad

14:30 Is adaptive design appropriate in cardiomyopathy trials? Or else?
Peter Jüni

14:50 Statistical issues and solutions for small sample size trials
Brian Claggett

15:10 Disruptive methodologies: In-silico modelling/digital twins and AI solutions
Jari Hyttinen

15:30 Discussion

15:50 **Multistakeholder debate**
The patient's perspective "feel, function and survive", what else?
Discussants: Franco Cecchi; Callum Ferguson; Lisa Salberg; Emil Tsenov

CONCLUSIONS: PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

16:50 Cardiomyopathies are becoming mainstream in the HF community: opportunities and challenges
Faiez Zannad

17:10 How to bridge global inequities in the access to advanced treatments? The WHO Perspective
Perry Elliott

17:30 Discussion

17:50 Final remarks and conclusions
Perry Elliott; Iacopo Olivotto; Faiez Zannad

18:00 CME evaluation

SCIENTIFIC DIRECTORS

Perry Elliott
Director of UCL Institute of Cardiovascular Science & British Heart Foundation Centre of Research Excellence, London (UK)

Iacopo Olivotto
Professor of Cardiovascular Diseases, University of Florence - Meyer University Hospital, Florence (IT)

Faiez Zannad
Emeritus Professor of Therapeutics and Cardiology, Centre d'Investigation Clinique Inserm and Université de Lorraine, CHU Nancy (FR)

LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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Giulia Craig
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Livia Gjergji
Martina Gori
Irene Guarducci
Leonardo Guasti
Chiara Marzano
Alessandra Milazzo
Maurizio Pieroni
Alessia Tomberli

FACULTY

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Enrico Ammirati, Milan (IT)
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Alessia Argirò, Florence (IT)
Gabriel Brooks, Boston (USA)
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Gianfranco Sinagra, Trieste (IT)
Scott Solomon, Boston (USA)
Emil Tsenov, Vienna (A)
Jolanda Van Der Velden, Amsterdam (NL)
Faiez Zannad, Nancy (FR)

GENERAL INFORMATION

CONGRESS VENUE

Auditorium Camera di Commercio di Firenze
Piazza Mentana, 1
50122 Firenze

REGISTRATION

The congress is reserved for 200 participants.

Physician (under 35)	€ 200,00 VAT Included
Physician	€ 400,00 VAT Included

The registration includes:
- Congress kit
- Participation in the sessions
- Certificate of attendance
- CME certificate (for eligible participants)
- Welcome cocktail
- Coffee break
- Light Lunch

The registration form is available by scanning the QR code.

Registration is considered complete upon filling out the online form and verifying seat availability

CME PROVIDER

MCR Conference S.r.l. ID 489

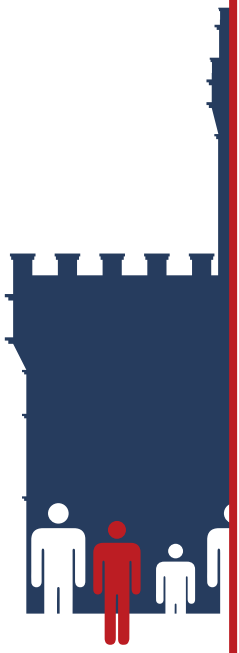
Please note that the first day (October 7th, 2026) is NOT included in the CME program.

Number of credits assigned: 4,5

Training objective: Guidelines - Protocols - Procedures

Profession: Medical Doctor
Disciplines: Anesthesiology; Cardiac Surgery; Cardiology; Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology; Diseases of the Respiratory System; Emergency Medicine and Surgery; General Medicine; Genetics; Geriatrics; Internal Medicine; Sports Medicine; Pediatrics

The issuance of credit certification is subject to:
• The match between the participant's profession and discipline and those for which the event is intended
• Attendance of at least 90% of the scientific sessions
• Submission of the evaluation and learning questionnaires duly completed
Please note that passing the learning assessment requires a minimum of 75% correct answers



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