

National Public Health Symposium

29th November 2019

Southern Auditorium – Mater Dei Hospital

13:30-14:00	Registration and light refreshments
14:00-14:15	<p style="text-align: center;">Opening Plenary</p> <p>Dr. Natasha Azzopardi Muscat <i>Chair of the Symposium Organising Committee</i></p> <p>Dr. Kenneth Grech <i>President Malta Association of Public Health Medicine</i></p> <p>H. E. Dr. George Vella <i>President of the Republic of Malta</i></p>
14:15-14:45	<p style="text-align: center;">Keynote Presentation</p> <p>Prof. Stefania Boccia <i>Full Professor of Hygiene and Preventive Medicine, Faculty of Medicine. Section of Hygiene, Institute of Public Health, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (UCSC), Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli IRCCS, Rome, Italy</i></p> <p>Current and emerging biomedical and digital technologies have a great potential to improve healthcare and underpin more efficient and sustainable health systems. These technologies and their applications advance are likely to play an integral role in shaping healthcare and the ways in which citizens manage and optimise their health. On the other hand, although they are creating new opportunities for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of disease on an ever more personalised basis, these new technologies bring the potential to broaden the gap between available</p>

	resources and the healthcare requirements. Focusing on the current and forthcoming applications of the genomics technologies in healthcare, we will discuss the role of the health professionals in shaping the policies for a responsible integration of such technologies in the healthcare.
14:45-15:45	<p style="text-align: center;">Plenary</p> <p>Moderator – Prof. Charmaine Gauci & Dr. Denis Vella Baldacchino</p> <p><i>Trend analysis in place of death over the past 20 years in Maltese residents</i> Tania Cardona</p> <p><i>Malta’s changing demographics - Projecting Malta’s future health system demands to 2030</i> Maya Podesta</p> <p><i>Sexually transmitted infections testing, risk and needs of men who have sex with men (MSM) in Malta: results from the 2017 European MSM Internet Survey (EMIS)</i> Maria Borg</p> <p><i>The potential economic impact of a sugar-sweetened beverage tax in Malta</i> Kurt Sant</p> <p><i>Are commercial food products for infants and young children less than 36 months in Malta healthy?</i> Lucienne Pace</p> <p><i>Enhanced surveillance of mosquitoes and vector-borne diseases in the Maltese Islands: Molecular species identification, insecticide resistance monitoring, and risk assessment for vector-borne infections</i> Tanya Melillo</p>

15:45-16:00	Coffee Break		
16:05-17:05	Parallel Sessions 1		
	TRACK 1 – Health Promotion Moderator: Dr. Antonella Sammut & Dr. Marika Borg Venue: C1 (opposite MDH chapel)	TRACK 2 – Healthcare Services Moderator: Dr. John Cachia & Dr. Stephanie Xuereb Venue: C2 (opposite MDH chapel)	TRACK 3 – Infectious Diseases Cases and Outbreaks Moderator: Dr. Maria Borg & Dr. Tania Cardona Venue: South Auditorium
	<i>Awareness and Knowledge of the Maltese Public on Fluoride</i> Nicholas Bonnici	<i>Opioid Use Disorder Individuals on Methadone Maintenance Treatment versus those Not on Methadone Treatment: A Naturalistic Cross-Sectional Comparative Study of Cognitive Performance</i> Kristian Sant	<i>An outbreak of Salmonella infantis linked to a Turkish establishment, July 2018, Malta</i> Graziella Rocco
	<i>Are mothers in Malta taking Folic Acid preconceptionally?</i> Marika Borg	<i>Critical Analysis of the Work Practices Surrounding Patient Appointment Scheduling in Mater Dei Hospital's Obstetrics and Gynaecology Outpatients Clinic</i> Viktor Cassar	<i>Investigation of a recurring Norovirus outbreak on a cruise ship, Malta, August-September 2018</i> Maria Borg

	<p><i>Mapping out Infant and Young children feeding practices in Malta</i> Mariella Borg Buontempo</p>	<p><i>Establishing the Readiness of the Physiotherapy Profession for Non-Medical Prescribing</i> Nicholas Attard</p>	<p><i>An increase in the number of Measles cases, in Malta, in 2019.</i> Graziella Rocco</p>
	<p><i>The prevalence of reported allergies in State schools 2018-2019</i> Jason Attard</p>	<p><i>The Cancer Patient's Lived Experience of the Health System in Malta</i> Christina Galea Curmi</p>	<p><i>The risk of malaria re-emergence in Southern Europe: cryptic Plasmodium falciparum malaria case in Malta in 2018</i> Tanya Melillo</p>
	<p><i>Effectiveness of a 12-week, weekly exercise program</i> Johann Zarb</p>	<p><i>The knowledge and attitudes of persons who participate and do not participate in colorectal cancer screening: A comparative survey</i> Sylvia Ann Camilleri</p>	<p><i>Two neonatal outbreaks of Bordetella pertussis in Malta, 2019</i> Graziella Rocco</p>
	<p><i>Brief interventions for smoking cessation: practices of health care professionals</i> Joseph Grech</p>	<p><i>Transgender Healthcare: At the intersection between human rights policy and health policy</i> Alexia Bezzina</p>	<p><i>Trends of pulmonary and extrapulmonary tuberculosis in Malta over 29 years (1990-2018) and the impact of screening newly arrived migrants to Malta</i> Tanya Melillo</p>
17:05-17:25	Coffee Break		

17:30-18:30	Parallel Sessions 2		
TRACK 4 – Non-Communicable Diseases Moderator: Dr. Daniel Cauchi & Mr. Joseph Grech Venue: C1 (opposite MDH chapel)	TRACK 5 – Digital Health Moderator: Prof. Sandra Buttigieg & Dr. Jason Attard Venue: C2 (opposite MDH chapel)	TRACK 6 – Epidemiology & Infectious Diseases Moderator: Dr. Tanya Melillo & Dr. Amanda Bugeja Venue: South Auditorium	
<i>Conducting a national representative cross-sectional study with limited resources - lessons learnt</i> Sarah Cuschieri	<i>Closing the Audit Cycle: Analysing the impact of a digital intervention at the Infectious Diseases Control Unit</i> Stefan Buttigieg	<i>To Assess Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccination Rates in Medical Inpatients</i> Bernice Farrugia	
<i>Food Innovation and Reformulation for a healthier Malta- A Legal Approach</i> Cherise Ellul	<i>Investigating the Uptake of Artificial Intelligence in Malta's public healthcare system; A Public Policy Analysis</i> Rebecca Degiorgio	<i>Beyond the assumption; disabled women's sexual health</i> Clare Azzopardi Lane	
<i>Adherence to the Mediterranean Dietary Pattern among University Students</i> Yasmine Treki	<i>Bridging the Digital Divide: how a low-tech intervention led to rapid myHealth uptake</i> Stefan Buttigieg	<i>Should public health guidelines for migrant screening in the EU be revised? First detection of Hyalomma rufipes in a recently arrived migrant to Malta</i> Raquel Medialdea Carrera	

	<p><i>The Maltese epidemic – Type 2 diabetes mellitus</i> Sarah Cuschieri</p>	<p><i>Review of Female Health Apps in Maltese App Stores</i> Angelika Biernacka Buttigieg</p>	<p><i>A One Health response to the threat of Antimicrobial Resistance in Malta</i> Maya Podesta</p>
	<p><i>Targeting childhood obesity in Malta</i> Marika Borg</p>		<p><i>The Acquisition of Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus in the General Maltese Hospital, between January-April, 2016.</i> Graziella Rocco</p>
	<p><i>The Maltese specific high-risk diabetes characteristics</i> Sarah Cuschieri</p>		
18:35-18:55	<p>Closing Plenary</p> <p>Moderator – Dr. Sascha Reiff</p> <p>Panel: Dr. Denis Vella Baldacchino, Prof. Charmaine Gauci, Prof. Stefania Boccia, Dr. Kenneth Grech</p>		
18:55-19:00	<p>Closure of Symposium</p> <p>Dr. Kenneth Grech <i>President Malta Association of Public Health Medicine</i></p>		



Symposium Organising Committee: Dr. Natasha Azzopardi Muscat (Chair), Dr. Tanya Melillo Fenech, Dr. Sascha Reiff, Dr. Jason Attard, Dr. Stefan Buttigieg, Mr. Joseph Grech, Dr. Marika Borg, Dr. Tania Cardona

Scientific Committee: Dr. Tanya Melillo Fenech, Dr. John Cachia, Dr. Miriam Azzopardi, Dr. Jason Attard, Dr. Annalise Borg

Rapporteurs: Dr. Charmaine Zahra and Dr. Norman Galea

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