Introduction to the 9th LAIC Meeting

Liver Anesthesia and Intensive Care (LAIC) International Meeting has celebrated this year the 9th Congress in Modena (Italy) from the 29th of November to the 1st of December 2007. Usually past editions of LAIC Meeting happened in the early spring but this time we decided to organize the 9th edition at the end of November with the aim to build a large scientific event composed of three different Meetings. Indeed the 9th LAIC Meeting this year included also: The 3rd Meeting of the Italian College of Full Professors of Anesthesia and Intensive Care (CPOAR) and a new Meeting dedicated to PostOperative Pain management.

This 9th edition, organized by the Chair of Anesthesia and Intensive Care of The University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, was endorsed by: the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, the City of Modena, the Emilia-Romagna Region, the Italian Ministry of Health, the Italian Society of Anesthesia, Analgesia and Intensive Care (S.I.A.A.R.T.I.) the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine (E.S.I.C.M.), European Academy of Anesthesiology and the Italian Association of Hospital Anesthesiologists and Intensive Care Doctors (A.A.R.O.I.).

The main body of the 9th LAIC Meeting was traditionally dedicated to an update and scientific debate dealing with anesthesia and intensive care medicine of patients undergoing major abdominal surgery and organ transplantation, as well, with medical critically ill patients with abdominal organ diseases. The LAIC Scientific program included 5 round tables and 3 lectures. Round tables were dedicated to the following topics:

Renal and liver failure in medical and surgical patients: Hepatorenal syndrome (E. Villa, Modena), Kidney failure following liver surgery (F. Saner, Essen), extracorporeal treatments in acute liver dysfunction (G. Auzinger, London), extracorporeal treatments in chronic liver dysfunction (S. Faenza, Bologna).

Pearls in sepsis management in liver disease: Controversies in antibiotic therapy (M. Langer, Milano), Are immunoglobulins really effective? (G. Tulli, Firenze), New therapies: what is their role in the transplanted patient? (R. Fumagalli, Monza), What immunosuppression in transplanted patients? (G. Biancofiore, Pisa).

Non-transplant liver anaesthesia: Preoperative evaluation of liver function (A.D. Pinna, Bologna); Epidural anaesthesia: yes, of course (P. Feltracco, Padova) versus Epidural anaesthesia: no, of course (J. Fazakas, Budapest);

Anesthesia in laparoscopic liver surgery (L. Santamaria, Messina); Non-operating room anesthesia in patients with liver disease (A. De Gasperi, Milano).

Abdominal trauma: The role of radiologists: from diagnosis to treatment (A. Rampoldi, Milano), Damage control surgery in hepatic trauma (G. E. Gerunda, Modena), Strategies to control massive abdominal bleeding (S. Busani, Modena), Trauma and infections (E. Cerutti, Torino), Intra-abdominal hypertension: pulmonary and cerebral complications (V. Vegar-Brozovic, Zagreb).

Evaluation and management of marginality: The recipient with cardiac disease (G. Della Rocca, Udine); The recipient with severe encephalopathy (J. Viana, Coimbra), The recipient with previous surgery and/or portal thrombosis (A. Arcadipane, Palermo); Indications for combined transplantation (F. Pugliese, Roma).

The three lectures were: *Surgical abdominal patient: lungs are victims?* (L. Gattinoni, Milano), *Hot topics in liver intensive care* (A. Bacher, Wien) and *Hot topics in liver anaesthesia* (Pozar Lukanovic N., Ljubljana). All these arguments played a conversal role in the international scientific discussion. They often do not have the same clinical pathway of management by doctors; they are hot topics/arguments to improve the outcomes of these patients.

As we stated before, one of the main novelties of the 9th edition was the concomitant 3rd CPOAR Meeting. The opening session during the LAIC Meeting was dedicated to the CPOAR round table "Teaching in Anesthesia and Intensive Care" in Italy and in all European Countries with the kind participation of several Italian speakers (A. Pasetto, Modena; A. Braschi, Pavia; S. Mangione, Palermo; G. Delogu, Roma) and some foreign invited speakers (M. Zimpfer, Wien; V. Vegar Brozovic, Zagreb; J. Viana, Coimbra; D. Dreyfuss, Paris; A. Artigas, Barcelona; G. Auzinger, London) drawing upon their national experiences. This round table was interesting because it highlighted differences between the European countries about the responsibilities of the residents in anesthesia and intensive care during the trainee period and their chances for future employment.

Another interesting innovation of the 9th LAIC Meeting was a session completely dedicated to post-operative pain and its treatment. In this session all invited speakers were from various Italian Universities: G. Martinelli, Bologna; R. Tufano, Napoli; G. Fanelli, Parma; A. Pasetto, Modena; G. Di Nino, Bologna; G. Varrassi, L'Aquila; R. Alvisi, Ferrara.

During this session invited speakers presented: the results of two clinical studies (ITOSpop and PATHOS), different postoperative pain protocols, and the organization of an acute pain service. Furthermore, the LAIC Scientific and Organizing Committees have decided this year to dedicate the LAIC Prizes to three young researchers, who sent noteworthy original papers about pain management in abdominal diseases entitled: the role of the neurolytic celiac plexus block in the treatment of pancreatic cancer pain; perioperative management in patients undergoing pancreatic surgery; the anaesthesiologist's point of view; and major abdominal surgery and post-operative pain control. Are the protocols sufficient?

For further information about the history of the LAIC Meeting and the city of Modena, I suggest you also read the preface to the 8th edition by Prof. Alberto Pasetto (*Pasetto A. Transplantation Proceedings 2006; 38, 779*).

At the end I would like to thank the organizing and scientific committees of the LAIC Meeting, all the other invited speakers that I did not mention in this preface, all the chairmen who participated in the LAIC sessions and, most of all, the doctors and the nurses that participated in the three Meetings.

Stefano Busani
Alberto Pasetto