

THE 2ND AIR MEETING – WORKING TOGETHER TO TRANSLATE IDIOPATHIC PULMONARY FIBROSIS RESEARCH INTO PRACTICE

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Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) is widely recognised as a fibrosing lung disease associated with a tremendous health burden. The estimated median survival of patients with IPF is 2–5 years following diagnosis and the mortality rate is worse than that of a number of malignancies (1, 2). However, both basic and clinical research have greatly advanced the field in recent years, generating exciting results and greatly improving diagnostic and management strategies. Respiratory Societies have promoted the drafting of documents and guidelines on IPF and other idiopathic interstitial pneumonias, expanding discussion and consensus of disease definition and diagnosis, and raising awareness amongst respiratory physicians with regard to this devastating disease.

A relatively recent and successful educational initiative in this field is the annual symposium ‘ADVANCING IPF RESEARCH (AIR): WORKING TOGETHER TO TRANSLATE IPF RESEARCH INTO PRACTICE’. This event brings together leading IPF experts, practicing European physicians, and other healthcare professionals with the objective of developing a network of “IPF health professionals” and of further improving the clinical management of patients with IPF. Specifically, plenary lectures and interactive learning sessions, including discussions of individual case reports, provided participants with a unique opportunity to share and discuss both up-to-date research results and practical experiences in the management of IPF.

Following the success of the first European AIR meeting in Berlin, Germany, in 2011 (3, 4), the second AIR event took place in Rome, Italy, on 30th November and 1st December 2012. This supplement incorporates a collection of articles originating from key presentations from this second AIR meeting, selected by the AIR Scientific Committee, and provides a valuable resource of the most current and practically relevant scientific information on key topics in the management of IPF.

REFERENCES

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DISCLOSURES:

- Cesare Saltini has following relationships relevant to this presentation:
- Member of Advisory Boards for InterMune Europe and Boehringer Ingelheim Italia
 - Principal Investigator for IPF trials (InterMune, Boehringer Ingelheim, Actelion, Gilead)
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