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Presentation

In this Supplement of the Italian Heart Journal*, the Official Journal of the Italian Federation of Cardiology and of the Italian Society for Cardiac Surgery, the Proceedings of the 16th International Congress The "New Frontiers" of Arrhythmias 2004 are published. The Congress is endorsed by the Italian Ministry of Health and organized in collaboration with the Working Group on Arrhythmias and the Working Group on Cardiac Pacing of the European Society of Cardiology. It is also under the auspices of the World Heart Federation, the Autonomous Provincial Government of Trento and the Istituto Policlinico San Donato of Milan. This Supplement joins the previous four books published in Italian (Le Nuove Frontiere delle Aritmie, printed by Piccin in the years 1974-1976, 1978, 1980 and 1982) and ten published in English (The New Frontiers of Arrhythmias, printed by OIC Press in 1984; as special issues of New Trends in Arrhythmias in 1986, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994 and 1996; and as a Supplement of the Giornale Italiano di Cardiologia in 2000 and of the Giornale Italiano di Aritmologia e Cardiostimolazione in 2002).*

The Marilleva Congress has meanwhile gained a 30-year experience which will help to optimize the level of organization. In addition, the beautiful scenario of the Val di Sole mountains, in Trentino, Italy, represents a unique opportunity to spend a full working week in association with recreational initiatives and cultural exchanges. The informal atmosphere of the hosting house will also improve interpersonal relationships for fruitful cooperation.

In this Edition of the Congress the Chairman of the Program, Riccardo Cappato (Milan, Italy) and the Co-Chairman, A. John Camm (London, UK), in accordance with the tradition, performed a special effort to bring together the most advanced progresses in diagnosis and management of cardiac arrhythmias in all fields of experimental and clinical arrhythmology. The selected topics collected in many specific symposia are programmed with an educational perspective in order to match the expectations of all attendees, electrophysiologists and experts of the sector and in particular for scholars in arrhythmology also following the suggestions of the Italian Ministry of Health. For the first time in a Marilleva Congress some advanced symposia are the result of the allotted contributions by prominent speakers directly invited by our Scientific Committee. The other symposia are traditionally combined with the contributions by invited expert speakers who selected their own "frontier topics". To ensure the prompt presentation of the newest results in the field, we adopted the policy of publishing only a short abstract of the presentations in case of papers under review.

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In this Proceedings Volume, each topic is published according to the order of its presentation within the course of the Congress with the exclusion of all Free Papers which are included as abstracts at the end of the Volume.

The reader will find contributes ranging from the basis of cardiac arrhythmias to repolarization analysis and resynchronizazion therapy, from genetic molecular basis to new arrhythmic syndromes and many news about atrial fibrillation, sudden cardiac death, cardiomyopathies, arrhythmogenic right ventricular dysplasia, ischemic heart disease, syncope, ventricular tachycardias, arrhythmias in athletes, congestive heart failure, progresses in electrophysiology and in cardiac ablation, cardiac surgery, cardiac pacing and implantable cardioverter-defibrillators, monitoring of arrhythmias in special situations, drug treatment, predictive methods, and cell-based therapy.

I wish to thank the Co-Guest Editors, all the Contributors to the New Frontiers - Marilleva 2004 and also the Co-Founders and all the Members of the Scientific and Local Organizing Committees for their cooperation. A special thank to the precious work of Daniela Pietrocola and Marcella Manca (Milan), Anna Stenghel (Trento) and to Sergio Landi from the OIC Organizing Secretariat who have also actively contributed to the preparation of this Supplement. Finally, I wish to thank the Editors of the Italian Heart Journal, *Pantaleo Giannuzzi and Giuseppe Ambrosio, and the Publisher CEPI for allowing us to publish this Proceedings Volume in time to be ready for the Marilleva 2004 Congress.*

Francesco Furlanello
President of the Congress