



Basel Declaration Society | Allschwilerplatz 1 | PF | CH-4009 Basel  
www.basel-declaration.org | contact@basel-declaration.org

## 4<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE BASEL DECLARATION SOCIETY:

# Research on animals in the frontline: Transparency and public engagement

Rome, 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2015



## Congress Information

Human health is benefiting enormously from continuous medical progress. This is made possible by the interactions between basic biomedical research, translational research and the development of new drugs and therapies. The incredible advances of biomedical research during the last few decades would not have been possible without the ground-breaking research done in various animal models, ranging from simple invertebrates to non-human primates. In order to continue to contribute scientific discoveries that will benefit human health, it is absolutely critical that state-of-the-art basic as well as applied research can continue.

A small, but very active and influential fraction of the general public sees this rather differently and poses a threat to modern biomedical research. They are very vocal in promoting the claim that research involving animals is useless and unnecessary or even harmful to medical progress and improvement of human health. This anti-scientific attitude misrepresents the scientific and historic evidence as well as the ethical challenge of our dual responsibility towards human patients and research animals.

What can be done to increase public awareness of the benefits of basic and applied research using animals for human and animal health alike? Discussing these urgent issues will be one of the major focuses this conference.



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## Program

### Program September 30<sup>th</sup>

for invited & registered participants only

#### Venue:

Hotel Ponte Sisto, via dei Pettinari 64, Roma



19.00

**Welcome dinner**

Hotel Ponte Sisto,  
via dei Pattinari 64, Roma

### Program October 1<sup>st</sup>

for invited & registered participants only

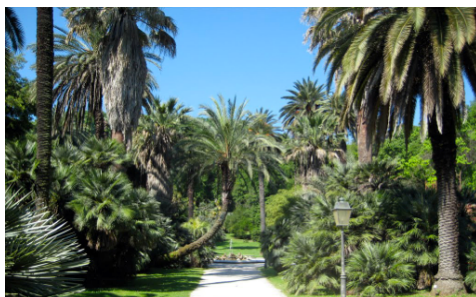
#### Venue 1<sup>st</sup> Day:

Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Palazzo dell'Auditorio  
Via della Lungara, 230, Roma, Italy



and

Orto botanico - SAPIENZA University of Rome  
Largo Cristina di Svezia, 24 - 00153 Roma





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8:00	Registration, (Sala dell' Auditorio)	
8:45	Welcome by the Basel Declaration Society	<b>Rolf Zeller</b> President of the BDS, Department of Biomedicine, University of Basel, Switzerland
9:00	Welcome by the SAPIENZA University of Rome	SAPIENZA University of Rome, Italy
09:10	Best Practice - how researchers deal with the activities of animal right activists in a most effective way: Research4Life	<b>Giuliano Grignaschi</b> Vice President of the BDS, IRCCS Istituto di Ricerche Farmacologiche Mario Negri, Milano, Italy
9:30	Training and education: the importance of having a handbook written in the national language by local researchers	<b>Fabio Luzi</b> Departement of health, animal science and food safety, University of Milan, Italy
9:50	Minimizing the influence of the animal rights narrative with increased transparency and visibility: An example from Portugal	<b>Nuno Henrice Franco</b> Ambassador, Basel Declaration Society, University of Porto, Portugal
10:10	<b>Coffee Break &amp; Networking</b>	
10:40	Non-human primate research in the frontline: Ways to transparency and public engagement	<b>Roberto Caminiti</b> SAPIENZA University of Rome, Italy
11:00	Research on non-human primate models of HIV	<b>Guido Silvestri</b> Emory University, Atlanta, USA
11:20	The 2017 EU evaluation: what strategy?	<b>Kirk Leech</b> EARA European Animal Research Association, UK
11:40	A historical perspective	<b>Andrea Grignolio</b> SAPIENZA University of Rome, Italy
12:00	Animal research in the news	<b>Fiona Fox</b> Science Media Center, London, UK
12:20	Q&A, General Discussion	<b>Rolf Zeller</b> President of the BDS, Department of Biomedicine, University of Basel, Switzerland
12.45	<b>Lunch &amp; Networking</b>	



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14:00-16:00	PARALLEL WORKSHOPS (Breakout Rooms)	Tentative topics
	Workshop 1	How to deal with misinformation and threats: developing a logical checklist. Example ECI: Stop Vivisection Initiative <b>WLs: Sarah Rappaport</b> , Wellcome Trust <b>Stuart Pitchard</b> , Wellcome Trust
	Workshop 2	Triple check: the 3Rs and the evaluation of research protocols <b>WLs: Augusto Vitale</b> , Istituto Superiore di Sanità <b>Simone Pollo</b> , SAPIENZA University of Rome
	Workshop 3	Crisis management <b>WLs: Dario Padovan</b> , ProTest Italy <b>Stefan Treue</b> , Member of the Board of the BDS, German Primate Center, Göttingen, Germany (by Video)
16:00-16:15	Break	
16:15-16:45	Panel (Sala dell' Auditorio)	The importance of transparent communication – how to explain the role and value of animal models to patients  Chaired by: <b>Roberta Villa</b> , Scienza in rete <b>Giulia Volpato</b> : ass p63 Sindrome E.E.C Internatioanl ONLUS <b>Orietta Mariotti</b> Pro Rett Ricerca Onlus <b>Nicola Spinelli Casacchia</b> UNIAMO
16:45	Plenary session Results/ Q&A/Discussion	<b>Gregor Rainer</b> Boardmember of the BDS, Departement of Medicine/Physiology, University of Fribourg, CH
17:30	Finalisation of workshop summaries and assembly of papers for the press (2 <sup>nd</sup> day)	Workshop-Leaders
18:15	Guided visit of the Villa Farnesina	

**Venue:**

Hotel Ponte Sisto, via dei Pettinari 64, Roma



20:00

**Gala dinner**

Hotel Ponte Sisto  
via dei Pettinari 64, Roma



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### Program October 2<sup>nd</sup> day: (at the Italian Parliament)

In addition to participants of the first day, the 2<sup>nd</sup> day will be open to politicians, science journalists and additional interest groups

#### Dresscode:

**Men:** Suite and Tie

**Women:** There is no specific dresscode but also NOT informal.

#### Venue:

Italian Senate, Palazzo Giustiniani (Sala Zuccari), Via della Dogana Vecchia, 29, Roma

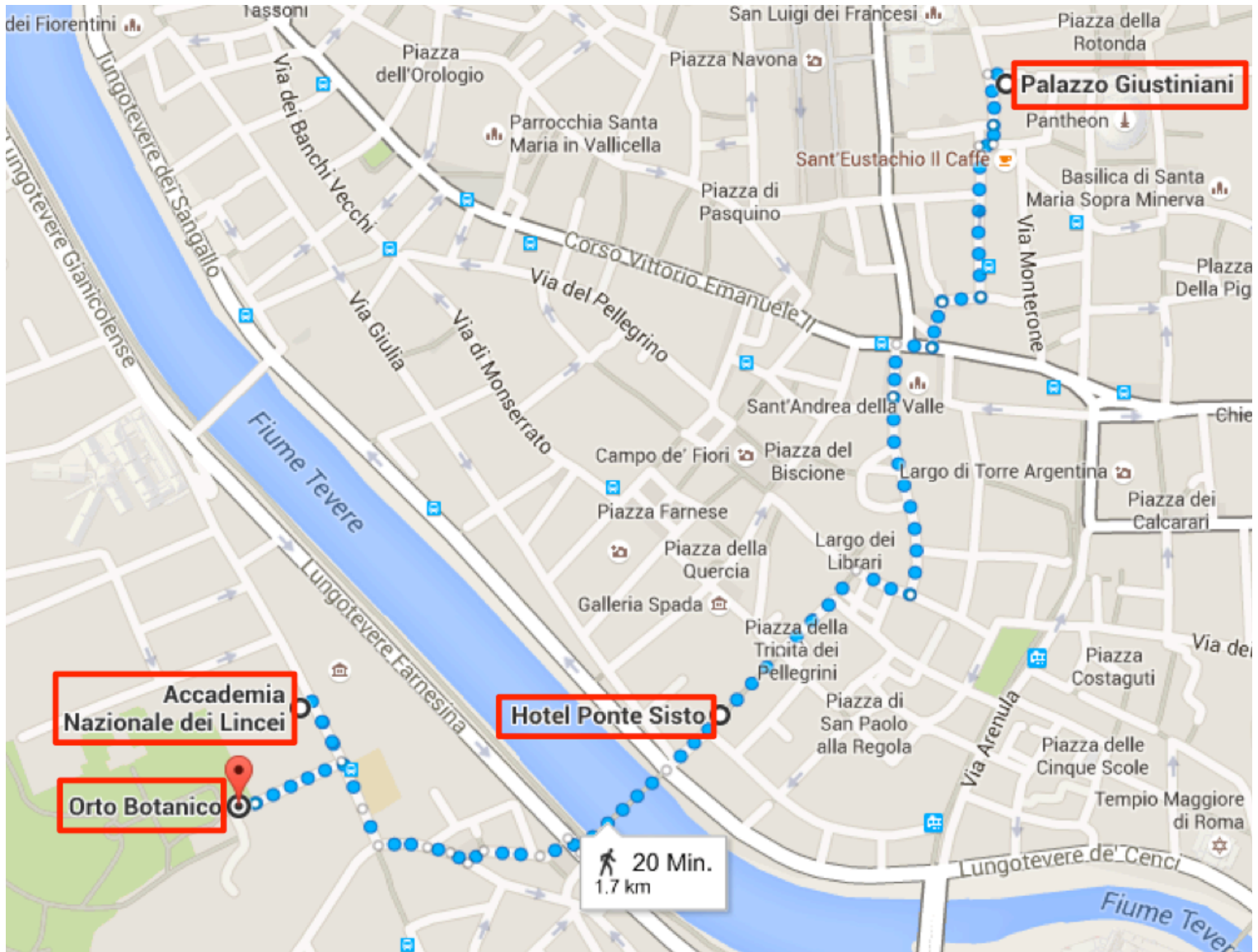


9:00	Welcome	<b>Rolf Zeller</b> President of the BDS, Department of Biomedicine, University of Basel, Switzerland
09:15- 10:00	Presentation of the topics and conclusions from the 1 <sup>st</sup> day	Workshop-Leaders
10:00	<b>Coffee break</b>	
10:30- 11:30	Round Table: <b>Improving animal welfare and quality of science</b>  <b>Giulia Volpato</b> (p63 syndrome eec international onlus) Patient Organization  <b>Lucia Monaco</b> Telethon, Scientist  <b>Marcello Raspa</b> AISAL, Scientist	Chaired by <b>Roberta Villa</b> Milan, Italy
11:30	Media Conference /Q&A	
12:00	Concluding remarks by Conference Organizers	<b>Giuliano Grignaschi</b> Vice President of the BDS IRCCS Istituto di Ricerche Farmacologiche Mario Negri, Milano, Italy
12:15- 13:15	Media Training	<b>Roberta Villa</b> Milan, Italy



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## Directions



- Italian Senate, Palazzo Giustiniani (Sala Zuccari), Via della Dogana Vecchia, 29, Roma  
**Closest bus station:** Teatro Valle
- Hotel Ponte Sisto, via dei Pettinari 64, Roma  
**Closest bus station:** Lungotevere
- Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Palazzo dell'Auditorio, Sala dell' Auditorio, Via della Lungara, 230, Roma  
**Closest bus station:** Lungara - Orto Botanico
- Orto botanico -SAPIENZA University of Rome, Largo Cristina di Svezia, 24 - 00153 Roma  
**Closest bus station:** Orto Botanico



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## Co-Chairs:

### **Prof Dr Rolf Zeller**

President of the Basel Declaration Society  
Department of Biomedicine, University of Basel, Switzerland

### **Dr Giuliano Grignaschi**

Vice President of the Basel Declaration Society  
IRCCS Istituto di Ricerche Farmacologiche Mario Negri, Milano, Italy

## Scientific Program Committee

- Dr Giuliano Grignaschi (IRCCS Istituto di Ricerche Farmacologiche Mario Negri, Italy)
- Prof Roberto Caminiti (SAPIENZA University of Rome, Italy)
- Prof Alexandra Battaglia-Mayer (SAPIENZA University of Rome, Italy)
- Lucia Monaco (Chief scientific officer, Telethon Italy)
- Prof Gregor Rainer (University of Fribourg, Switzerland)
- Prof Stefan Treue (German Primate Center, Göttingen, Germany)
- Prof Rolf Zeller (University of Basel, Switzerland)
- Dr Aimée Zuniga (University of Basel, Switzerland)

## Organizers

- Basel Declaration Society
- SAPIENZA University of Rome
- Research4Life
- Telethon Italy
- ProTest Italy

## Local Organizing Committee

- Prof Alexandra Battaglia-Mayer (SAPIENZA University of Rome)
- Prof Roberto Caminiti (SAPIENZA University of Rome)
- Dr Giuliano Grignaschi (IRCCS Istituto di Ricerche Farmacologiche Mario Negri, Italy)
- Gruppo del Fago (Student organization- SAPIENZA University of Rome)



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**Sponsoring:**

