



UNIVERSA
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PATAVINA
LIBERTAS

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PADOVA

DIPARTIMENTO DI PEDIATRIA



Welcome Address



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

it is a great honour to host the 17th Edition of the International Paediatric Colorectal Club Meeting in Padua. During two intensive working days experts from all over the world will get together to expose the most recent knowledge of this interesting field and share their own expertise. The Congress Venue is located in the old Law Court that has been recently renovated to accommodate meetings and shows; it is conveniently located in the ancient part of the town, closed to the old University, to most of the historical sites and to the traditional open market.

Padua, probably better known as the city of St. Anthony or as the economic capital of Veneto, is one of the most important Art Cities in Italy. Its face is marked by 3000 years of history. Founded as a fishermen's village, it was allied to the Romans and since 45 BC. the *municipium Patavium* was one the most flourishing towns of the Roman Empire, as the ruins of the great amphitheatre can testify. Later on the city knew a period of extraordinary economic and cultural ardour that left an indelible mark on the town: the Mediaeval City Walls, the great civil and religious buildings, the foundation of the University (1222), which attracted masters and students from all Europe in the past (Galileo Galilei, amongst others, taught here) and at present times. Finally, Padua offers a large art panorama, dominated by Giotto with his masterpiece, the decoration of the Scrovegni Chapel, Donatello, Mantegna as well as a series of impressive medieval buildings, such as the Palazzo della Ragione, the three Squares, walls and gates, besides the magic scenography of Prato della Valle. The city maintains almost uninjured its unique urban structure: a tangle of narrow streets with arcades and monumental squares, humble houses, and imposing buildings.

L.C. Congressi has been engaged as the organising secretariat and will take care of the Meeting organization and hospitality with its high professionalism.

Paola Midrio

Piergiorgio Gamba