



17th ISPAD Science School for Physicians Report

April 9 to April 14, 2017, in Cremona (Italy)

The School took place in Cremona, a beautiful medieval city in the middle of Po valley in Italy, where some of the earliest and most famous luthiers, such as Antonio Stradivari, studied and worked.

All Faculty (15) and delegates (26) from 18 countries and 6 continents, enjoyed the hospitality of the city and had the chance to visit some museums and historical buildings of the town after sessions and during the half free day before the end.

Objectives of the School have been:

- **Improve/refresh knowledge on diabetes in pediatrics and young adults.**
- **Improve research skills.**
- **Improve presentation skills.**
- **Stimulate network development.**
- **Discuss individual research projects (in groups with tutors).**

From this year we learned that statistical courses will need to be given in a more practical way (group work, etc.).

As faculty we had time to discuss and evaluate the research proposals and we selected the best one, in collaboration with JDRF.

During the School, delegates listened to lectures from experts in different fields of research, like “streetlight effect”, pathogenesis of type 1 (wonderful lecture from Mathias von Herrath from N/N) and non-autoimmune diabetes, diabetes management and complications, and new therapies such as artificial pancreas and islet transplantation. Further presentations focused on statistical analysis, how to use the latest technology in patients with diabetes, and how to be successful in publishing and delivering a speech. During the meeting the fellows had the opportunity and took advantage of the presence of renowned experts to debate and discuss their work. This is the unique opportunity the ISPAD Science School allows.

Starting in Milano 2 years ago, the program included tutors (former participants in previous School editions) to stimulate discussion in small group works. As tutors, they also had the possibility to listen to projects from the attendees of the School, and they had the privilege to be involved in the learning process of those young colleagues sharing ideas, comments and considerations.

Moreover, they discussed together with the faculty the case reports on difficult cases or rare forms of diabetes. These discussions showed once again that diabetes and its management is all but easy and straight-forward. Discussions within small groups were vivid and very productive, thanks to different perspectives and experiences of people coming from different parts of the world.

Moreover, for the first time in the history of the School, JDRF, a leading non-profit organization involved in the care of children with diabetes, offered a grant to conduct the best study proposed from attendees, and Faculty decided to endorse a few projects considered of high quality presented during the School. (JDRF-ISPAD research Fellowship Petter Bjornstad, JDRF-ISPAD endorsement: After the School, the 4 tutors and the fellows provided feedback on the school 2017.

They suggested a more applied statistical course instead of only lecture with more practical exercise. They expressed their thanks ISPAD, and in particular to the conveners (Andrea Scaramuzza and Carine de Beaufort), for organizing this School. It was a great opportunity to learn, to think and to practice about research, and also for the great value of its faculty and attendees. They strongly believed that this School honored its keywords: “Moving Forward to Better Research”.

Andrea Scaramuzza & Carine de Beaufort, April 30th, 2017

