



In search of golden numbers

If mathematics is the language in which God created the universe, at least according to science. We too as disciples of science, equally owe what we know to Galileo's intuitions and will try to use some "golden" numbers to describe with scientific objectivity the SICCR's 4th national congress.

250 the participants, a numerous participation in the congress regardless of the shrink in financial support but the evergrowing appeal that SICCR has with its stimulating scientific programme and a faculty marked by scientific prestige, proves its winning capability to overcome any obstacles.

128 [the scientific papers presented](#), among which were chosen the 8 podium presentations and the 85 posters. A sincere thanks goes to the society's special scientific committee, which had the difficult task of evaluating the papers anonymously and taking into consideration their originality, scientific importance, methodological correctness and the quality of the presentation ([see the winners in another section of the site](#)). The general opinion expressed regarding the papers was that they were on average of a high level. The abstracts chosen will be published in *Techniques in Colonproctology*.

125 the millimetres of rain that fell during the days of the congress. If regardless of the passion for science, somebody had been tempted to visit the wonderful Porto Antico and nearby city centre of Genoa, Giove Pluvio managed to keep them stuck to their seats in the Magazzino del Cotone.

62 the spokesmen, **22** the moderators, **25** the discussants that animated the sessions, guaranteeing a level of competence of absolute scientific nature.

"Scientific discoveries in the light of certainty but in the semi-darkness of probability " said Locke. We know that our professional behaviour is inspired by "penultimate" truths that will be surpassed tomorrow by more advanced and modern acquisitions. The presentations and discussions with the honesty, friendship and passion that are the key factors of our society have given us with methodological rigour and intellectual honesty, the evidence that guides our choices.

28 the biomedical companies that collaborated and supported the realization of the event and to which goes a particular thanks for the availability and understanding towards us and the SICCR and especially for the mutual respect of the roles and the rules that are characteristic of our relationship.

15 the under 40 called to make part of the faculty that together with the numerous presence of young people among the participants, witness in a statistically valid manner the liveliness of our society which does not remain fixed to certain points of view but is open to generational changes.

12 the degrees in the main hall between the first and third day, a clear indication of the scientific rigour and the warm atmosphere of the congress.

11 the members of the Local organizing committee from Liguria who for more than a year shared the progressive preparation of the congress, a group of people in which precious contributions of ideas and suggestions stemmed from an atmosphere of friendship and conviviality which we hope can lead to further goals as a regional expression of our society.

9 the relators from abroad – France, Great Britain, Spain, United states, Switzerland- six of which originally Italian. Data that invites us to reflect and that made part of the opening session with the interventions of the senator I. Marino and Dr S. Quaini. President of the health committee for the region of Liguria. We are aware that Italians export talent abroad and they are capable of being appreciated wherever they go. Nor are we surprised that in an open society men are free to circulate and not only opinions. It is the incapability of our country to attract foreign intellectuals that represents a society that is not based on merit and that is still attached to the principle of privilege.

3 the guest scientific societies (AIGO; AIUG; SICE) with which we shared sessions. This shows the interdisciplinary vocation and the scientific merit of our society. A sincere thanks goes to them in the hope that we will collaborate more frequently and proficiently in the future.



3 the new sessions for our congress:

- the session on ethics and surgery, which aroused a lot of interest both for its relationship with media and information, as for its purpose to guide a scientific society.
- The interactive session on haemorrhoids in which the discussion of clinical cases with the direct involvement of the audience was both instructive and fun.
- The session of discussion of the best articles of literature was a source of new information and lively discussions with a formative role in the approach to a critical reading of a scientific paper.

3 the members of the polling station who made sure that the elections took place regularly. The Directive Council will remain in office for two years. We would like to wish the newly elected members all the best ([see the results in the other section of the site](#)).

2 + 2 the working lunches that accompanied and completed the proposals put forward during the congress. An opportunity dedicated to information and communication with the professionals managed independently by the companies in accordance to the rules of disclosure.

1 minute **59** seconds the length of the catchy “Colorectal Surgeon song” played during the congress and which has become the colon proctologists’ anthem. It will be almost impossible to listen to it without remembering the pleasant atmosphere of Genoa where it was listened to the first time and that gained the approval and amusement of all participants.

1 the course for nurses. The course was on “Colorectal resection in video laparoscopy”. Other than enterostoma therapy there is a world of nursing competences necessary to colon proctology. These nurses need the opportunity to

make themselves known, to compare themselves with others and to grow up professionally.

1 the dinner party in the aquarium of Genoa following a fascinating tour among the fearsome piranha and less fearsome lamantins heirs to the mythological spell of the sirens. This feast consisting in a variety of dishes of fish accompanied by the precious extra olive oil famous of the region, was served on elegantly laid tables. During the dinner one could admire the view of the whales that observed wide-eyed from behind the glass.

1 The leitmotiv of all the congress from low cost to high tech. The evaluation of the cost/benefit of diagnostic-therapeutic procedure and the validation of new technologies based on evident data in literature is the most important task of a scientific society. Doing whatsoever is best for the patient by optimizing the resources (that are in the meantime becoming scarcer) should be the main concern of our daily occupation.

I have given some idea of the “golden numbers” connected to this event among serious and less serious facts, without an pretension of acknowledgement. The symbolism that emerges from these figures is the reference to the contributions citing last but not least the Directive Council, the SICCR secretariat and its organization.

Prophecy and convincement give birth to the event: interpreting our observations by making use of Aristotle’s aphorism which dates back to 2000 years ago, we can translate this into the dream of those who founded and helped develop the SICCR in these years and the determination of those who contributed to carrying out the objectives can be attributed to the success of this event.

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