

The Umberto Veronesi Foundation was established in 2003 to encourage the most creative, original and ethically-aware aspects of scientific progress. At the most fundamental level the aim of the Foundation is to promote wider appreciation of the ethical values intrinsic to science. Its programmes are focused on:

DISSEMINATING SCIENTIFIC CULTURE

The implications of the impending revolution of science and technology are not being discussed widely. Except for interest in some of the ethical dilemmas raised by genetic manipulation, cloning, and the use of embryonal stem cells, society at large does not seem interested. It is interested neither in the strategic investment decisions being taken in research, nor in the social and economic implications of those decisions, nor in the consequences of the technological explosion in general.

Thus, although science is having an increasingly pervasive impact on daily life, society as a whole appears surprisingly indifferent to the forms and consequences of that impact. This is largely an educational and cultural problem. The Foundation is seeking to remedy this situation by embarking on a project to promote science, or more precisely to increase public awareness of the major choices that scientific progress is imposing on our society.

This is exactly the aim of THE FIRST WORLD CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF SCIENCE (September 21-23, 2005, Venice), organised by The Umberto Veronesi Foundation, the Giorgio Cini Foundation and the Silvio Tronchetti Provera Foundation. The Conference is shaping up to be the most important and stimulating scientific-cultural event of 2005. It will unite in Venice many

FIRST WORLD CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF SCIENCE SEPTEMBER 21-23, 2005 VENICE, ITALY

PROGRAMME

Wednesday September 21st 2005

SCIENCE AND VALUES

SCIENCE AND RELIGIONS
SCIENCE, CULTURE AND ETHICS
FREEDOM OF SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY

Thursday September 22nd 2005

THE IMPACT OF SCIENCE ON HUMAN LIFE

FUTURE SOURCES OF ENERGY FOR MANKIND
THE DNA REVOLUTION
A CHALLENGE FOR SCIENCE: CONQUERING CANCER
FUTURE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

Friday September 23rd 2005

SCIENCE AND POWERS

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
SCIENCE AND ECONOMIC POWER
SCIENCE AND POLITICAL POWER

President : Umberto Veronesi
Secretary General: Chiara Tonelli

of the most prominent and influential thinkers of our times— including several Nobel prize-winners – to discuss aspects of the overwhelming impact that science is having on society.

The conference is aimed at scientists, philosophers, industrialists, politicians and indeed all women of culture who wish to participate in a documented reflection about the dynamics of scientific progress.

ATTRACTING THE BEST SCIENTISTS TO ITALY

The Foundation wishes to create an environment of scientific excellence in Italy. This will be achieved by:

- Facilitating the return of the best Italian scientists currently working abroad
- Attracting high level foreign, mainly European, scientists to Italy

To achieve these aims it is necessary to offer attractive conditions to scientists of any nationality who are willing to assume leading roles in Italian scientific research.

Italy is blessed both with world class research centres, and organisations able to finance major research projects. The role of the Foundation will be to act in concert with these organisations, to identify and recruit scientists, to manage their placement in research centres, and offer them an adequate initial salary (via endowments), thereby facilitating their insertion into the Italian scientific community.

PROMOTING BASIC AND CLINICAL RESEARCH IN BIOMEDICINE

The Foundation aims to promote studies that systematically encourage, in parallel with the development of new therapies, preventive approaches to main diseases, like cancer. Success will depend on three factors: advances in molecular biology, continued technological development, and increased awareness of the risks of cancer among the population. Biotechnology, food science and nutrition science are also important as potential contributors to quality of life and disease prevention. It is via these sciences – not ideologically – that such major problems as hunger, food safety, food borne diseases, childhood obesity, cardiovascular disease, and cancers associated with particular diets, can be tackled.

In a joint venture with the University of Miami, The Foundation is sponsoring the Umberto Veronesi Award for promising developments in the fight against breast cancer.

SUPPORTING MEDICAL-SCIENTIFIC TRAINING

A further mission of the Foundation is to contribute to innovative medical training and updating initiatives. In particular the

Foundation wishes to support the European School of Molecular Medicine (Scuola Superiore Europea di Medicina Molecolare, SEMM) and university master courses in senology. The European School of Molecular Medicine is the first school in Europe for the training of physicians and researchers in “post-genomic” medicine. It is accredited by the Italian Minister of Health and is organised in collaboration with the Universities of Milan and Naples.

SEMM offers a PhD program in Molecular Medicine and it is going to organise an MD-PhD course in the same field. The latter qualification is today obtainable only at a restricted number of prestigious universities in the United States and the United Kingdom.

The master courses in senology, offered jointly by the University of Milan and the European Institute of Oncology, also embody a new direction in medical training. No other university in Europe offers what this course offers: the opportunity to study senology at one of the most important senology centres in the world.

ENCOURAGING BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH IN EMERGING COUNTRIES

It is an ethical imperative to encourage the development of science and research in countries with limited resources, especially in the biomedical field.

The Foundation has therefore embarked on a project to promote the building of Oncological Institutes in emerging countries, beginning with Brazil and Argentina. It will also offer grants to promising young students from these countries to allow them to study in Italy. The programme will eventually be extended to offer the same possibilities to students from eastern Europe.

The Foundation is also supporting the first programme for the early diagnosis of cancer in an Arab country – Egypt. The programme is being carried out at the Italian Hospital, Cairo, in collaboration with the Italian Health Ministry and the Challenger Foundation for the Fight Against Cancer in the Third World. Already 5000 women have been contacted at home by women doctors in areas of the city designated by the Health Ministry, and 14 cancer cases have been identified. This initiative is without precedent in a developing country.

The Foundation is involved in a scientific and humanitarian programme in Nazareth.

The Italian Hospital of the Holy Family at Nazareth is trying to attract all women, be they Israeli or Arab; Christian, Hebrew or Moslem, and convince them to participate in the programme for the early diagnosis of female cancers.



FOR INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION:
WWW.VENICECONFERENCE2005.ORG