

LAM: TO KNOW IS TO WIN

First European LAM Conference - Udine, 1st, 2nd and 3rd of October 2010

On October 1st, 2nd and 3rd 2010, the first European conference on Lymphangiomyomatosis (LAM) will take place.

Lymphangiomyomatosis (LAM) is a rare disease diagnosed almost exclusively in women which affects different organs and tissues such as lungs, lymphatic vessels and kidneys. As of today, unfortunately, there are no known treatments to stop LAM progression. Most women diagnosed with LAM tend to be in child-bearing age. Common symptoms include: shortness of breath, pneumothorax, decline in lung capacity, and in 40% of patients, angiomyolipomas in the kidneys. When the disease progresses, it might be necessary to utilize oxygen to go by daily activities, and in some cases, lung transplant is required.

Over the last decade, there have been important progresses in the knowledge and understanding of this pathology, thanks mainly to scientific research in the US and the UK. In fact, researchers have been able to identify the genetic mutation of TSC1 and TSC2, responsible for the proliferation of smooth muscular cells, the LAM cells, which is causing the deterioration of lung tissue. In addition, it has been possible to begin few drug trials which are providing initial results, suggesting that a possible treatment might one day be available. Nevertheless, there is still so much more that needs to be understood about LAM, from the discovery of the origin of the LAM cell, to the mechanism of its evolution so different in each patient, to the design and implementation of safe and successful treatments.

LAM Italia is the Italian association aiming at providing support to Italian patients and families. Building upon the remarkable scientific progresses which have taken place in the US and the UK in particular, LAM Italia wants to promote scientific research through fund raising, by raising awareness and promoting networks and information sharing on a national and international level.

To this regard, LAM Italia is organizing a very unique and exceptional event: the 1st European LAM Conference, scheduled for October 1st, 2nd and 3rd in Udine. All the most important leading figures in LAM will attend, from world-known researchers to clinicians involved every day with LAM patients. Most of the attendees have already received important recognition in the medical fields and have extensively published on the topic of LAM.

Thanks to the participation of 20 among the most respected LAM experts, the conference will represent an unprecedented experience to learn about scientific updates across various fields and about the latest results on recent drug trials. In addition, representatives from many LAM associations across the world will attend to learn from each other experiences on how to gather patients, promote involvement in the LAM community and raise awareness.

This conference will represent an extraordinary occasion for all those involved in LAM to learn about scientific and clinical progresses, to network with each other, to share experiences and to discuss how best to implement common strategies to defeat LAM.

The event is open to all.

To take part in the conference, please email: info@lam-italia.org

For booking flights and hotels contacts: D.DeFranceschi@planetario-viaggi.it