



# ERNDIM National Representative Meeting

May 9, 2008

Basel

Organization of BGT testing in Italy

U. Caruso, Genova

National Representative







**ITALY:**  
**20 Regions**



2008



# Newborn Screening

Newborn screening in Italy is generally organized on regional basis. Some Regions have more than one Centre (Sicily, Puglia...), some Regions refer to a single Centre (north-east). This is due mainly to historical reasons. NBS born and grew from local Paediatric Departments (first in Genoa in 1973). Central Health and political Authority demonstrated interest for NBS only in the last years.

NBS for PKU and CH is mandatory, recommended for CF.

Some local Centres perform NBS also for CAH, galactosemia, MSUD, biotinidase def., hypermethioninemias, G6PD def.





# Newborn Screening 2006

- Live births: ~ 560000
- Coverage:
  - PKU and CH: 100%
  - CF: 77.6%
- Detection rate:
  - PKU and HPAs 1 / 3652
  - CH 1 / 392
  - CF 1 / 5503





# Newborn Screening

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Expanded NBS is ruled by regional law in Tuscany from December 2004.

Pilot programs are active in Genoa (full Region coverage) and in Rome (partial coverage) from 2005.

In Padua is performed locally from 2001.





Expanded NBS programs



- Active
- Planned

P = partial coverage





## Expanded NBS 2006 (\*)

	screened	AA	OA	β-OX	Total	Rate (1/X)
<b>Florence</b>	<b>33601</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8400</b>
<b>Genoa</b>	<b>12299</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4100</b>
<b>Rome</b>	<b>5312</b>			<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2656</b>
<b>Padua</b>	<b>4094</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>55306</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5690</b>

(\*) Data from SISN Report on Newborn Screening Programs in Italy







## Questionnaire:

### 1. General information:

- Clinical Department in the same Hospital
- Confirmatory testing for expanded NBS
- Training
- Replacement plan

### 2. Participation do ERNDIM schemes

### 3. Metabolite analysis

### 4. Biochemistry (enzyme activities)

### 5. Genetic assay

### 6. Prenatal testing

- Metabolite
- Enzyme
- Genetics





## Testing for IMD in Italy



Submitted data

Presumptive data





<b>OVER 29 LABORATORIES</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Clinical Department in the same Hospital</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>86.2</b>
<b>Confirmatory testing for expanded NBS</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>51.7</b>
<b>Training programs</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>44.8</b>
<b>Replacement plan</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>24.1</b>





<b>Participation in ERNDIM schemes</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>% *</b>	<b>% total</b>
<b>Aminoacids</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>41.4</b>
<b>Organic acids qualitative</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>27.6</b>
<b>Organic acids quantitative</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>6.9</b>
<b>SA serum</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>17.2</b>
<b>SA urine</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>20.7</b>
<b>Purines pyrimidines</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>6.9</b>
<b>Lisosomal disorders</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>6.9</b>
<b>Acylcarnitines</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>6.9</b>
<b>Proficiency Testing</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>20.7</b>

\* Among the labs doing the assay





<b>Metabolite assay - 1</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Aminoacids</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>69.0</b>
<b>Organic acids qualitative</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>44.8</b>
<b>Organic acids quantitative</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>24.1</b>
<b>Ammonia</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>48.3</b>
<b>Orotic acid</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>27.6</b>
<b>creatinine</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>48.3</b>
<b>Total homocysteine</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>41.4</b>
<b>Succinylacetone</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>24.1</b>
<b>Acylcarnitines</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>24.1</b>
<b>Free carnitine</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Acylglycines</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10.3</b>
<b>Neurotransmitters</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10.3</b>





<b>Metabolite assay - 2</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Lisosomal metabolites</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>34.5</b>
<b>VLCFA</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>20.7</b>
<b>Phytanic / pristanic</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>13.8</b>
<b>Plasmalogens</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6.9</b>
<b>Pipecolic</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10.3</b>
<b>Bile acids</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3.4</b>
<b>7-dehydrocholesterol</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10.3</b>
<b>Mevalonic</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>17.2</b>
<b>Creatine – guanidinoacetate</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>24.1</b>
<b>Sialotransferrins</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>24.1</b>
<b>Purines/ pyrimidines</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>13.8</b>
<b>Pterines</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6.9</b>
<b>Carbohydrates and metabolites</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>20.7</b>





<b>Biochemistry</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Organic acidurias</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6.9</b>
<b>Aminoacid disorders</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Creatine defects</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6.9</b>
<b>GDG</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3.4</b>
<b><math>\beta</math>-oxidation defects</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3.4</b>
<b>Carbohydrate metabolism defects</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10.3</b>
<b>Mitochondrial defects</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10.3</b>
<b>Lisosomal disorders</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>34.5</b>
<b>Peroxisomal disorders</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Neurotransmitter disorders</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>





<b>Genetics</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Organic acidurias</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6.9</b>
<b>Aminoacid disorders</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>24.1</b>
<b>Creatine defects</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6.9</b>
<b>GDG</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b><math>\beta</math>-oxidation defects</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>13.8</b>
<b>Carbohydrate metabolism defects</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10.3</b>
<b>Mitochondrial defects</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>13.8</b>
<b>Lisosomal disorders</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>17.2</b>
<b>Peroxisomal disorders</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Neurotransmitter disorders</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3.4</b>







<b>Prenatal investigations</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>Metabolites</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Biochemistry</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Genetics</b>	<b>7</b>





# The Scientific Societies

- SISMME – Italian Society for the Study of IMD
- SISN – Italian Society for Neonatal Screening
- SIGU – Italian Society of Human Genetics
- SIBIOC – Italian Society of Clinical Biochemistry

Only the SISMME and the SISN are involved in IMD and NBS respectively.

These two Societies are going to make a unique Society within this year.





# The Scientific Societies

- Working groups:
  - Lissosomal disorders - SISMMME
  - Mass spectrometry (MSITA) – SISMMME/SISN  
[www.sismme.it/gismet](http://www.sismme.it/gismet)
  - Creatine (GISMeT-creatina) – SISMMME/SISN  
[www.sismme.it/gismet](http://www.sismme.it/gismet)
  - Italian Guidelines for Expanded NBS - SISMMME/SISN  
(work in progress)
- QA schemes:
  - PKU screening (from 1995) – SISN  
All screening Centres (involve also a few foreign Centres)
  - AA - AC (in 2006) – SISMMME/SISN  
All Centres doing the assay
  - PT for expanded NBS (from this year) – SISMMME/SISN  
As above (involve also a few foreign Centres)





**Prof. Cesare Romano, Pediatrician  
passed away on April 23rd, 2008, at the age of 83**



- Trained in the renowned school of Pediatrics founded and directed by Giovanni de Toni
- 1963: Cesare Romano first describes the syndrome that in part bears his name: the Romano-Ward syndrome.
- Careful and painstaking clinician, he was interested in all facets of pediatrics; nevertheless, he was particularly drawn to two fields of special scientific and socio-medical impact: cystic fibrosis and inborn metabolic diseases (IMD).
- As Director of the Endocrine and Metabolic Disease Center of the University of Genoa Pediatric Clinic, he was a pioneer in IMD and in newborn screening programs in Italy, as well as a fervent advocate of the first Italian regional law (Liguria Region, 1973) on newborn screening.
- 1978: Director of the University Department of Pediatrics and, thereafter, of the Residency Program in Pediatrics.
- Beginning in the 1980s, he regularly conceived, convened and animated yearly national conferences on newborn screening programs in Italy, efforts that lead in 1995 to the establishment of the Italian Society for Newborn Screening (SISN), of which he was a founding member and first President.
- Member of the SSIEM and President in occasion of the 37th Annual Symposium held in Genoa in 1999.



He was enlightening teacher for his students, and an inspiring and charismatic leader for all of his co-workers.

The void that Cesare Romano has left in his pupils, colleagues and peers can only be filled by the memory of his kindness, of his propriety and of his teachings.

The quality of our service today is a testament to his efforts.

