FIRST CIRCULAR OF

THE 12TH INTERNATIONAL MEDICINAL MUSHROOMS CONFERENCE

24-27 SEPTEMBER 2024, BARI, ITALY

WWW.IMMC12.COM

We are pleased to announce the 12th International Medicinal Mushrooms Conference. We invite scientists, students, mycologists, medical doctors, immunologists, contagious disease specialists, naturopaths, biochemists, and all those who are interested in studying and discussing the most current research on medicinal mushrooms and their properties.

BARI, AN UNEXPECTED MEETING POINT BETWEEN EAST AND WEST

Bari is a very charming city, the third-largest city in Southern Italy, in order of the population.

It’s incredible the contrast between the folkloristic old town and the cozy city center, full of branded shops and polished aristocratic buildings. Bari is highly multifaceted city, and you really need to discover every single aspect to understand its true core. Known as the “Gateway to the East” due to its long tradition of trade, this capital of Apulia is rich in history: see with your own eyes in the town of Bari Vecchia and surrounding area.

Exploring the historic centre allows us to discover its most authentic character, with signs of its past scattered through the local alleyways and endless examples of age-old traditions passed from generation to generation. Then there is the famous Bari promenade, one of the most beautiful in Italy, overlooking the clear sea and the unique charm of Bari.

Today, this dynamic city, nestled in the heart of the countryside punctuated by white dry-stone walls, is an important university hub.

But it still holds dear the memory of its seafaring exploits of the Middle Ages, as well as its precious monuments and striking churches.

The history of Bari is fascinating and turbulent. The ancient settlement dates back to the Bronze Age, passing from rule by the Peucetians to the Goths, before being fought over by the Byzantines and Lombards. Repeatedly ransacked and destroyed, medieval Bari was conquered by the Saracens and became a small independent Muslim state. It was then taken over by the Franks, before returning to the hands of the Romans, who made it the major Italian political, military and commercial centre of the
Eastern Roman Empire. In 1087, with the arrival of the relics of St Nicholas of Myra, commonly known as Santa Clause, Bari became a thriving religious centre uniting the East and West.

Norman rule in Apulia ensured a long period of prosperity for Bari, though it was still subject to conflict. Rebuilt by the Swabians, it experienced a new peak of splendour, until it declined again under the Angevins, torn apart by struggles between local squires and foreign bankers.

After going to the Aragonese and then the Dukes of Milan in 1464, it was restored to its former glory by Isabella of Aragon in 1500. In 1558, it fell into Spanish hands, experiencing numerous bloody rebellions, and in 1657 it was hit hard by plague. It then passed from Austrian to Bourbon rule, being renewed under French rule in the early 1800s with the construction of the new city.

After being returned to the Bourbons in 1815, it joined the Kingdom of Italy in 1860. This tumultuous history of dominations has left Bari with a unique artistic heritage for all to admire.

Bari is not only art, history, and ancient culture. In fact, a great social life awaits you.

WARNINGS

Bari is a relatively safe city for foreigners. Even though there are some areas to avoid (the main ones are the Libertà, Japigia, San Paolo, and Madonnelle neighborhoods), tourists should not face safety problems other than petty crime, the kind of crime you find in many cities. Use common sense and apply all usual safety precautions.

AVERRAGES FOR BARI IN SEPTEMBER

This month is known as a warm month. The average maximum daytime temperature in Bari in September lies at 26.2°C (79.16°F). The average minimum temperature goes down to around 17.1°C (62.78°F) (often the minimum temperature is noted at night). Rainfall during September is moderate with an average of 66mm (2.6 inches). There are generally around 8 rainy days.

DATE AND VENUE

The conference will take place in Bari, Italy, 24-27 September 2024 at the The Nicolaus Hotel Bari - HO Collection. The conference will be organized in parallel sessions and poster exhibitions. The official language of the conference is English.

How to reach Bari

Airplane: Bari Airport is just outside the big port city of Bari, on Italy’s Adriatic coast in the southern region of Puglia. The airport makes a good gateway to the south of Italy, as Bari has transport links to many of the most interesting destinations. Bari airport is located at Palese, around five miles to the west.
of the city, and is also known as Bari Palese. It is officially named Aeroporto di Bari Karol Wojtyla after the late Pope John Paul II, and its IATA code is BRI. The airport is an international one, with flights to several European countries including the UK, Belgium, Germany, Spain and Greece. There is also - at the time of writing - a once-weekly flight between Bari and New York, operated by Eurofly. Currently Ryanair offer fairly cheap flights from the UK (London Stansted) to Bari Airport, making this a good budget way to reach the south of Italy. They also operate flights to and from Brindisi Airport, which is near Lecce, further south in Puglia, meaning that you can fly into one airport, tour the region, and fly out of the other. The airport is also served by British Airways flights from London Gatwick. The airport is modern, busy and smart, with shops, cafes and a tourist information point - although these do keep limited opening hours (https://www.aeroportidipuglia.it/homepagebari) . The cheapest way of getting into Bari is to take the urban bus service run by Bari transport company AMTAB. This bus, the number 16, runs from the airport to Piazza Aldo Moro, by Bari’s main railway station, Bari Centrale. It stops several times along the route through the city centre. Timetables are available on the AMTAB website (https://www.amtab.it/en/) . Unfortunately, at the time of writing the last service from the airport, around 9:30pm, is too early to be of use to Ryanair passengers. A faster alternative is the Tempesta shuttle bus (https://www.autoservizitempesta.it/) , which runs directly to the railway station, stopping outside in Piazza Aldo Moro. This speedy service runs until 11:20pm at the time of writing, costs € 4.00, takes 20 minutes, and unlike most Italian bus services, you can pay the driver. Both the Tempesta shuttle and the AMTAB 16 bus depart from right outside the terminal building, and there are big signs to make the bus stops easy to find. Timetables are displayed on the bus stops. The destination for both the bus services - Piazza Aldo Moro, outside Bari railway station - is ideal if you are planning onward travel. Three different railway stations are alongside each other in the square, giving you a good range of destinations just a cheap ride away. A third option is to catch a taxi into Bari or to one of the nearby suburban railway stations. If you wish to hire a car - a good option if you are staying or touring in the remoter parts of the region - you can pick up your rental car here at the airport.

**Train:** It's incredibly simple to catch a train to Bari, with the city well served by rail transport. Bari Centrale train station enjoys convenient connections via Frecciargento trains across the Apulia region and Italy as a whole. For example, the train from Rome to Bari takes just over 4 hours, while connecting services can take in excess of 8 hours (https://www.thetrainline.com/en/destinations/trains-to-bari)

**Bus:** [https://www.flixbus.ca/bus/bari?_sp=3297c7e1-25ce-44fc-9d45-71d33e35143.1676476008145&atb_pdid=65a49c14-bc0e-4c25-fca17b44aa9](https://www.flixbus.ca/bus/bari?_sp=3297c7e1-25ce-44fc-9d45-71d33e35143.1676476008145&atb_pdid=65a49c14-bc0e-4c25-fca17b44aa9)

**Car:** The distance between Bari Airport and the city centre is 12 kilometres / 7.5 miles, meaning that by car you'll need 20 to 25 minutes to get there.
THEME OF THE CONFERENCE:

MEDICINAL MUSHROOMS: THE BET FOR THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY

ORGANIZED BY:

University of Bari, Department of Soil, Plant, and Food Sciences (Di.S.S.P.A.)

Italian Society for Medicinal Mushrooms (SIFM)

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LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
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• Chairs: Prof. Maria Letizia Gargano & Prof. Giuseppe Venturella
• Organizing Committee: Dr Gaetano Balenzano, Dr Filippo Bosco, Dr Fortunato Cirlincione, Dr Valeria Ferraro, Dr Giulia Mirabile, Dr Raimondo Pardi, Dr Anna Scaringella
• Secretariat: Dr. Gaetano Balenzano, Dr Raimondo Pardi, Dr Anna Scaringella
• E-mail: secretary@immc12.com

gaetano.balenzano@uniba.it
raimondo.pardi@uniba.it
anna278929@gmail.com

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM OF CONFERENCE WILL INCLUDE:

- Keynote speeches
- Plenary lectures of invited speakers

Different symposia dedicated to:

- Biodiversity, taxonomy and ecology of medicinal mushrooms;
- Medicinal mushrooms culture collections, cultivation technology and circular economy;
- Biochemistry, biotechnology and pharmacology of medicinal mushrooms;
- Use of medicinal mushrooms in animal husbandry and veterinary medicine;
- Medicinal mushrooms in human pre-clinical and clinical studies;
- Legislation, certification and safety of mushroom-based supplements;
- Medicinal mushrooms as a source of novel functional food and health benefits;
- Ethnomycology and the therapeutic potential of psychedelic mushrooms
CALL FOR PAPERS

We would be pleased to receive contributions from interested authors that follow the conference themes. Abstracts should focus on current issues relevant to progress in research and/or to industry and should be scientific and/or of technical content.

Your abstracts should clearly define the objectives of the presentation or the topics covered, key conclusions reached, and potential benefits for scientific developments and industry. Abstracts should not be more than 500 words but not less than 300.

Abstracts should be sent to IMMC12 (abstract@immc12.com) before the 15th of February 2024. Text documents must be in Word or PDF format and written according to the template included in the conference web site.

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

February 2023  Opening of the conference website
30 April 2023  Distribution of first circular
30 May 2023  Opening of registration
15 February 2024  Distribution of second circular
30 May 2024  Abstract submission deadline
15 June 2024  Notification to authors of abstract acceptance
30 June 2024  Early bird registration deadline
15 July 2024  Full paper submission deadline
31 July 2024  Closing date for registrations and accommodation
23 August 2024  Distribution of final scientific program
23 September 2024  Registration desk opens
24-27 September 2024  IMMC12-2024

For more information visit www.immc12.com
**IMMC12 International Medicinal Mushrooms Conference**

**SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AND EXHIBITION TABLE REQUEST FORM**

There are a number of sponsorship opportunities for this IMMC9 conference, where scientists from all over the world will meet in an atmosphere of excellence to discuss the most recent advances in medicinal mushroom researches.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Organization / Country / Company</th>
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<td><em>Website url:</em></td>
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Comitato Organizzatore Convegno Internazionale The 12th International Medicinal Mushrooms Conference (nonprofit organization)
Fiscal code: 930996030509. Deed of Incorporation 25 October 2022
Registered Office: Department of Soil, Plant and Food Science
Via G. Amendola, 165/A; I-70126, Bari (Italy)
Secretariat: Dr. Gaetano Balenzano, Dr. Raimondo Pardi (secretary@immc12.com)
☐ ½ page color ad in Conference Program and Exhibitor Guide
☐ Sponsorship acknowledgment in all conference printed materials
☐ Company promotional literature included in registration packet
☐ Exhibit table

SILVER (€ 10,000)
☐ One complimentary conference registration for the entire three days
☐ VIP seating at one of the conference’s keynote plenary sessions
☐ Prominently displayed name on banner and sponsorship boards at all functions
☐ Company logo on conference website
☐ Sponsorship acknowledgment in Conference Program and all conference printed materials
☐ Company promotional literature included in registration packet
☐ Exhibit table

BRONZE (€ 5,000)
☐ Prominently displayed name on banner and sponsorship boards at all functions
☐ Company logo on conference website
☐ Sponsorship acknowledgment in Conference Program and all conference printed materials
☐ Exhibit table

PATRON (€ 1,000)
☐ Name displayed on banner and sponsorship boards at all functions
☐ Sponsorship acknowledgment in Conference Program and all conference printed materials
Additional Sponsorship Opportunities

Listed below are the other unique sponsorship opportunities including conference events, meals, interest sessions, and some specialty items. We are also happy to explore customizing a sponsorship that meets your budget and program requirements, and compliments the conference.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sponsorship</th>
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<tr>
<td>Welcome Reception Sponsor</td>
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<td>Congress Dinner</td>
<td>€ 15,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference Welcome Bag Sponsor</td>
<td>€ 7,500</td>
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<td>Lunch Sponsor (one day)</td>
<td>€ 7,500</td>
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<td>Coffee break standard Sponsor</td>
<td>€ 2,500</td>
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<td>Coffee break superior Sponsor</td>
<td>€ 3,500</td>
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<td>Scholarship Sponsor (multiple available)</td>
<td>€ 1,000 each</td>
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For more information on sponsorships, please contact secretary@immc12.com

We would like to extend our deep appreciation to all our partners and sponsors who will help make the IMMC12 Conference possible.

FULL PAPERS

Excellent papers of the IMMC12 will be published in the International Journal of Medicinal Mushrooms (IJMM). Please send the full paper according to journal format of the IJMM before 15 July 2024 if the IMMC12 secretary informs you of your abstract acceptance.

If you have any academic question, please send e-mail to secretary@immc12.com

Registration form is available starting 30 of May 2023 on the conference website www.immc12.com

Please print your registration form and send it to secretary@immc12.com
E-Poster

IN SUBSTITUTION OF THE TRADITIONAL POSTER SESSION (NOR PAPER POSTER NEITHER MOUNTING AREA WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE IMMC12 ORGANIZATION), IMMC12 ORGANIZE THE ELECTRONIC POSTER SESSION, OR E-POSTER SESSION.

GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTERS

ARE AVAILABLE AT HTTPS://WWW.IMMC12.COM/POSTER.HTML

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Payment can be made only by bank transfer

<table>
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<tr>
<th>ACCOUNT FOR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS IN EUROS</th>
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For any bank transfer made from outside the Euro zone, please be aware of bank service charges. All bank charges for remittances are to be borne by the participant.

Failure to pay this fee will result in an incomplete registration.

If you have any question about payment, please send e-mail to secretary@immc12.com
REGISTRATION

Please note that individual registrations can be made ONLY using registration form available starting 30 of May 2023 on the conference website www.immc12.com.

All prices are in Euros and include VAT 22%.

REGISTRATION FEES

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<tr>
<td><strong>REGULAR ATTENDEES</strong></td>
<td>500,00 €</td>
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<td><strong>PhD students, research fellows</strong></td>
<td>300,00 €</td>
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<td><strong>ACCOMPANYING PERSON WITH LUNCHES</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ACCOMPANYING PERSON WITHOUT LUNCHES</strong></td>
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1PhD students and Research fellow registration forms must be accompanied by a signed letter from the head of Department attesting to student status.

The fee does not include accommodation costs.

REGISTRATION PACKAGE

The registration package for the participants includes:

- access to the conference and poster sessions
- conference bag
- final printed program
- proceedings of the Conference
- welcome cocktail reception
- lunch on each conference day
- coffee/tea/refreshment breaks
conference dinner

- certificate of attendance
- Accompanying persons are entitled only to:
  - welcome cocktail reception
  - lunch (only if required in the registration form)
  - conference dinner

INSURANCE

The registration fees do not include insurance of participants against accidents, sickness, cancellation, theft, property damage or loss. Participants are advised to arrange adequate personal insurance.

CONFIRMATION

Upon receipt of the registration form(s) with the appropriate fees, confirmation will be sent. Once registered, registrations cannot be changed to another fee category.

CANCELLATION OF REGISTRATION AND REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

Cancellations received before 30th June 2024 will be subject to a 40% surcharge on all monies paid. From this date onward, until 31st July 2024, cancellations will incur a 60% surcharge on all monies paid. From that date onward, no repayments will be made in the event of cancellation. Please note that refunds will be issued only after the end of the meeting.

ACCOMMODATION

To make room reservations, participants should use the link on the IMMC12 website at www.immc12.com/accommodation.html

Rooms are being held at the IMMC12 venue hotel at special rates. Accommodation at The Nicolaus Hotel Bari - HO Collection (4 stars) includes breakfast. THE ACCOMMODATIONS WILL BE ARRANGED ON THE BASIS OF FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED. SINCE THE AREA
OF BARI ATTRACTS A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF TOURISTS EACH YEAR, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND TO BOOK YOUR ROOM IN ADVANCE.

Once the availability of rooms at the Hotel Nicolaus has ended, participants will be arranged at the HI Hotel Bari, which is part of the same chain Ho Collection and is located 15-minute walk from the conference venue.

Alternatively, participants can independently decide to stay in one of the city's many hotels and B&Bs.

Since all activities of the IMMC12 will take place within the space of **The Nicolaus Hotel Bari - HO Collection** (conferences, meetings, display of posters and lunches), accommodation in this hotel is very advantageous and convenient.

All hotel rates are in Euros, per room/night, including service, breakfast and 22% VAT.

The city of Bari does not currently have a city tax for accommodation.

**The Nicolaus Hotel Bari - HO Collection**

https://www.thenicolaushotel.com/

Via C.A. Ciasca 27, 70124 - Bari Phone - +39 080 5682111

Fax - +39 080 5042058

Email - info@nicolaushotel.com

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**I Presidenti del Comitato Organizzatore / The Presidents of Organizing Committee**

Prof. Maria Letizia Gargano

Prof. Giuseppe Venturella