



IMMC9

The 9th International Medicinal Mushrooms Conference
24 - 28 September 2017, Palermo, Italy

**SECOND CIRCULAR OF
THE 9TH INTERNATIONAL MEDICINAL MUSHROOMS CONFERENCE
24-28 SEPTEMBER 2017, PALERMO, ITALY**

Dear Colleague:

In 8 months, the 9th International Medicinal Mushrooms Conference will be open in Palermo (Italy).

The purpose of this Second Circular is to invite you to attend the IMMC9 and to let us know if you plan to attend, and also to request that you submit your abstracts to the conference. Please complete the registration and abstract form available on the web (www.immc9.com).

We would appreciate your early response if you plan to attend.

THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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I. PALERMO, THE BUSTLING AND FASCINATING CAPITAL OF SICILY

Palermo, the regional capital of Sicily, is a buzzing Mediterranean center whose ca. 700,000 inhabitants are a fascinating cocktail of apparently diversified characteristics.

Historically, the town went from one dominating power to another with remarkable frequency. Its strategic position in the middle of the Mediterranean brought wave upon wave of invaders including the Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Greeks, Romans, Saracen Arabs, Normans, Swabians, and French and Spanish Bourbons just to name some of the most influential. The result of this quilted history is evident today in the vast range of architectural styles, the intriguing fusion of ingredients in many local dishes, and in many names of places obviously not of Italian origin.

There is an incredible number of interesting monuments in Palermo and in its environs. You can actually spend a whole week in the province of Sicily and still only have time to see the most important sites, which include churches, museums, palaces, theaters, and gardens.

Italy is the country with the highest number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Since July 2015, a new Italian jewel has been placed on the list: the breathtaking architectural complex of Arabic and Norman origins of Palermo, along with the Cathedrals of Monreale and Cefalù.

The outdoor markets blend the past and present for bargain hunters. One of the legacies of Palermo's past as a commercial center and port that continues to manifest itself in the present day is the Palermo market culture. In particular, Palermo's Muslim history has made an imprint on the bazaars and markets of the town. Bustling, crowded, and full of all kinds of treasures, a day at the market is a unique way to connect with the real lifestyle of the Palermo locals.

Palermo is fifth in the list of the "top ten cities for street food". The uniqueness of street food from Palermo lies not only in its variety and goodness, but also in the ability that every dish has to tell a historical chapter of the Sicilian capital.

The Arabs, who knew the joy of a green oasis, were the ones who introduced gardens to Palermo. The Normans added to the idea by creating extensive parklands and summer retreats to escape the heat. Today, you can wander among gardens and greenery and encounter incredible centuries-old banyan trees and other exotic plants.

The Orto Botanico (Botanical Garden) was designed in 1795. The garden is known to botanists the world over thanks to the richness and variety of its plant species, which are mainly tropical and subtropical. Among the curiosities are the *Bombacaceae* and *Chorisia* plants shipped here in the late 19th century from South America. These have swollen, prickly trunks and, in spring, bloom with beautiful pink flowers that turn into a strange fruit.

II. WARNINGS

Palermo is a big city. Just be careful in the large cities, as you would in any other part of the world. If you're going out at night, avoid dark, lightly travelled streets, just as in any large metropolitan area. When riding the city buses in Palermo, be careful of pickpocketing.



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III. AVERAGE WEATHER CONDITIONS FOR PALERMO IN SEPTEMBER

Temperature: 25°C, 77°F - Low temperature: 22°C, 71.6°F - High temperature: 27°C, 80.6°F - Sunshine hours: 8.4 hrs - Chance of sunny day: 81% - Rainfall: 40 mm - Rainfall days: 9 - Chance of rain: 30% - Chance of cloudy day: 3% - Sea temperature: 25°C, 77°F - Chance of a windy day: 23%.

IV. TRANSPORTATION

Airport: Falcone-Borsellino Airport is at Punta Raisi, 30 km west of Palermo on the A29 motorway. Nearly all major airlines offer flights to Palermo (Alitalia, Easyjet, Ryanair, Volotea, AirBerlin, Meridiana, AirFrance, Vueling, Volotea, Medavia, etc.)

From/to the airport: The simplest transportation is by **bus**. Prestia e Comandè (<http://www.prestiaecomande.it/?idx=102>) runs an efficient half-hourly bus service between 5am and 11pm that transfers passengers from the airport to the centre of Palermo, dropping people off outside the Teatro Politeama Garibaldi and Palermo Centrale train station. Tickets for the journey (prices to be updated January 2016), which takes anywhere from 35 to 50 minutes depending on traffic, cost €6.30 one-way. Return journeys to the airport run with the same frequency and pick-up at the same points. A **train** (the "Trinacria Express") serves the route between the Palermo airport and the main railway station, departing every hour or so, a ticket costs 5.80 euros. **Taxis** are not recommended as you'll probably be grossly overcharged, paying at least 50 euros for the ride into the city, and even higher rates after 8 PM. The major car-hire companies are represented at the airport. Recently, some taxi drivers started to propose a taxi-sharing service (7 euro per person). Currently the IMMC9 local organizers are negotiating with the taxi drivers a fixed price for participants to the Conference.

Boat: From Palermo's port *Grandi Navi Veloci* ferries operate to Civitavecchia, Genoa, Naples and Tunis; *Tirrenia* goes to Cagliari and Naples; *Grimaldi Lines* goes to Salerno.

Train: Two of the most popular long distance train connections back to the mainland arrive at the Palermo train station from Rome and Naples (<http://www.trenitalia.com/tcom-en>).

Car: Sicilian freeways are mostly toll-free. Toll booths are found only on the A18 and A20. Here you must pay cash showing the ticket that you took from the freeway entrance. Some toll booths are reserved for the automatic telepass system, so pay attention to be in the right line of cars. In Italy highway signals are coloured in green.

A19 Palermo - Catania (A19): this freeway is managed by ANAS and is toll-free. The A19 is almost an obligatory choice for visiting the center of the island (Enna, Caltanissetta) or to reach Agrigento and the valley of the temples. The highway starts at the "circonvallazione" (beltway) of Palermo in via Regione Siciliana. The first stretch of the road, until Termini Imerese, is along the northern coast of Sicily. Then it turns into the island's center.

A20 Messina - Palermo (A20): the A20 highway is 182 Km long and it is managed by CAS. It is a toll road. The freeway swings along the rocky northern coast of Sicily and has viaducts and tunnels.



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V. DATE AND VENUE

The conference will take place in Palermo, Italy, 24-28 September 2017 at the **Splendid Hotel La Torre, in Mondello** (Palermo). Mondello is more or less a suburb of Palermo and a small seaside resort with a wonderful beach. The conference will be organized in parallel sessions and poster exhibitions. The official language of the conference is English.

How to reach Mondello

Mondello is on Palermo's urban bus network, and standard tickets for the AMAT city buses (including good-value day tickets) are valid as far as Mondello, making it a cheap and easy outing from central Palermo. You should buy a ticket before getting on the bus, at any newspaper kiosk or tobacco shop or other bus company booths. Buses 806 and 833 run to Mondello from the Politeama and Piazza Sturzo in Palermo. Services are fairly frequent, with extra services in summer, when the buses can get uncomfortably full. The journey takes around 20 minutes, circling the base of Monte Pellegrino. In the summer there is also another line to Mondello (called GT or Gran Turismo) operating more comfortable coaches; details can be found on the AMAT city bus website along with details of the regular urban routes (<http://www.palermoweb.com/trasporti/lineebuspercorsor.asp>). From the airport, the simplest way to travel is by taxi. Currently the IMMC9 local organizers are negotiating with the taxi drivers a fixed price for participants to the Conference.

THEME OF THE CONFERENCE:

***ADVANCES IN MEDICINAL MUSHROOM SCIENCE:
BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN WESTERN AND EASTERN MEDICINE***

ORGANIZED BY:

University of Palermo, Department of Agricultural and Forest Sciences

VI. INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- Dr. Angela Amazonas (Brazil)
- Prof. Marin Berovic (Slovenia)
- Prof. Vittorio Calabrese (Italy)
- Prof. Shu-Ting Chang (Australia/China)
- Prof. Peter C.K. Cheung (Hong Kong, China)
- Dr. John Holliday (USA)
- Prof. Omon S. Isikhuemhen (USA)
- Dr. Ivan Jakopovich (Croatia)
- Prof. Atef Jaouani (Tunisia)
- Prof. Carmenza Jaramillo (Colombia)
- Dr. Ha Won Kim (South Korea)
- Prof. Yu Li (China)
- Prof. Ulrike Lindequist (Germany)
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- Dr. Nadezhda V. Psurtseva (Russia)
- Prof. Mahendra Rai (India)
- Prof. Vikineswary Sabaratnam (Malaysia)
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- Dr. Joey Schlaegel (USA)
- Dr. Ángel R. Trigos (Mexico)
- Prof. Leo J. L. D. Van Griensven (Holland)
- Prof. Giuseppe Venturella (Italy)
- Prof. Solomon P. Wasser (Israel/Ukraine)
- Prof. Georgios I. Zervakis (Greece)



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VII. PUBLISHING COMMITTEE

- Prof. Solomon P. Wasser
- Prof. Giuseppe Venturella
- Prof. Leo J. L. D. Van Griensven
- Dr. Maria Letizia Gargano

VIII. LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

- Honorary Chairmen: Prof. Shu-Ting Chang, Prof. Solomon P. Wasser
- Chairman: Prof. Giuseppe Venturella
- Secretariat: Dr. Maria Letizia Gargano, Prof. Salvatore Walter Davino
- E-mail: secretary@immc9.com

IX. SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM OF CONFERENCE :

- ✓ Keynote speeches
- ✓ Plenary lectures of invited speakers

Different symposia dedicated to:

- ✓ Medicinal mushrooms in social media
- ✓ Biodiversity and taxonomy of medicinal mushrooms
- ✓ Molecular systematics and phylogeny of medicinal mushrooms
- ✓ Medicinal mushrooms: evidence-based medicine and trials
- ✓ Medicinal mushrooms in animal health
- ✓ Medicinal values and pharmacology of medicinal mushrooms
- ✓ Medicinal mushrooms in human clinical trials
- ✓ Potential values and new developments of medicinal mushroom products
- ✓ Science and biotechnology of medicinal mushrooms
- ✓ Quality control and regulations
- ✓ Industrial production and marketing, technology of cultivation and fermentation



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X. 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 IMMC9 (abstract@immc9.info) before the 15th of February 2017. Text documents *must* be in Word or PDF format and written according to the template included in the conference web site.

AT LEAST ONE OF THE AUTHORS NAMED IN THE ABSTRACT MUST REGISTER FOR THE CONGRESS. ONLY ABSTRACTS THAT ARE SUBMITTED BY THE AUTHORS WHO HAVE REGISTERED FOR THE CONGRESS SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM.

XI. HOW TO REGISTER

- 1) visit the conference web site (www.immc9.com)
- 2) click the button on the right up side of the menu to register (REGISTRATION) or directly go to <http://immc9.com/registration/>
- 3) edit the pdf file in each part. The pdf automatically calculates the total amount of euros for your registration
- 4) print and sign the pdf
- 5) pay the total registration fee due (registration+accommodations) through the bank account reported in the pdf file
- 6) send the pdf + the receipt of your bank payment to registration@immc9.info

Registration form not accompanied by the registration fee will not be taken into consideration.



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XII. INVITATION FOR VISA APPLICATION

For many people, letters of invitation help smooth the visa process, and we wish to support international attendees in their efforts to secure the needed travel documentation.

However, in order to receive a letter of invitation, the meeting organizers must be assured that you intend to attend the meeting if your travel request is granted. Individuals that require an official letter of invitation in order to obtain a visa and authorization to attend the meeting must first register for the meeting and then request a Visa Letter of Invitation.

We require that you provide your full name, address, and email for us to process the electronic official letter of invitation. The letter of invitation does not financially obligate the IMMC9 Conference organizers in any way. All expenses incurred in relation to the meeting are the sole responsibility of the attendee. Please note that we cannot guarantee that you will receive a visa. The decision to grant visas is at the sole discretion of the embassy/consulate. The meeting organizers cannot change the decision of the governmental agency should your application be denied.

Due to the costs involved, we cannot send letters of invitation via express mail services.

To request a letter of invitation in order to attend the meeting, please email (indicate "invitation letter" in subject line) IMMC9 at registration@immc9.info (put secretary@immc9.com in cc).

Advance travel planning and early visa application are important. It is recommended that you apply early for your visa.

XIII. IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

15 February 2017	Abstract submission deadline
15 April 2017	Notification to authors of abstract acceptance
30 May 2017	Early bird registration deadline
30 June 2017	Full paper submission deadline
31 July 2017	Closing date for registrations on-line and accommodation
1 August 2017	Distribution of final scientific program and third circular
24 September 2017	Registration desk opens
25-28 September 2017	IMMC9-2017

For more information, visit www.immc9.com



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XIV. 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.

Name of Organization / Country / Company <i>Website url:</i>	
Primary Contact Person: <i>Name:</i> <i>Mobile phone:</i> <i>E-mail:</i>	
Secondary Contact Person: <i>Name:</i> <i>Mobile phone:</i> <i>E-mail:</i>	
I need an Exhibit Table:	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
I would like to contribute as:	<input type="checkbox"/> Platinum Sponsor <input type="checkbox"/> Gold Sponsor <input type="checkbox"/> Silver Sponsor <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze Sponsor <input type="checkbox"/> Patron Sponsor <input type="checkbox"/> Other

PLATINUM (€30,000)

- Three complimentary conference registrations for the entire three days
- VIP seating at all conference keynote plenary sessions
- Most prominently displayed name on banner and sponsorship boards at all functions
- Company logo and web link on IMMC9 conference website
- Full 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

GOLD (€15,000)

- Two complimentary conference registration for the entire three days
- VIP seating at all conference keynote plenary sessions
- Very prominently displayed name on banner and sponsorship boards at all functions
- Company logo and web link on conference website
- 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.

Welcome Reception Sponsor	€3,000
Congress Dinner	€15,000
Conference Welcome Bag Sponsor	€7,500
Lunch Sponsor (one day)	€7,500
Coffee break standard Sponsor	€2,500
Coffee break superior Sponsor	€3,500
Scholarship Sponsor (multiple available)	€1,000 each

For more information on sponsorships, please contact Maria Letizia Gargano at secretary@immc9.com

We would like to extend our deep appreciation to all our partners and sponsors who will help make the IMMC9 Conference possible.



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XV. FULL PAPERS

Excellent papers of the IMMC9 will be published in the International Journal of Medicinal Mushrooms (IJMM). Please send the full paper according to journal format of the IJMM before **30 June 2017** if the IMMC9 secretary informs you of your abstract acceptance.

If you have any academic question, please send e-mail to secretary@immc9.com, abstract@immc9.info

On-line registration forms are available starting **15th of June 2016** on the conference website www.immc9.com.

XVI. PAYMENT INFORMATION

Payment can be made only by bank transfer

ACCOUNT FOR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS IN EUROS	
BENEFICIARY	Comitato Organizzatore Convegno Internazionale 9th IMMC9
BANK	CREDEM, PALERMO AGENZIA 5
ADDRESS	Via Leonardo da Vinci 141, I-90145 Palermo (Italy)
BIC CODE	BACRIT21467
ABI	03032
CAB	04604
CIN	W
ACCOUNT NUMBER	010/000003676-2
IBAN	IT18 W030 3204 6040 1000 0003 676

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@immc9.com



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XVII. REGISTRATION

Please note that individual registrations can be made **ONLY** on-line.
All prices are in Euros and include VAT 22%.

REGISTRATION FEES

	EARLY BIRDS (until 30 May, 2017)	NORMAL (after 30 May, 2017)
REGULAR ATTENDEES	450,00 €	500,00 €
STUDENTS¹	220,00 €	250,00 €
ACCOMPANYING PERSON WITH LUNCHES	250,00 €	270,00 €
ACCOMPANYING PERSON WITHOUT LUNCHES	150,00 €	170,00 €

¹Student rate applies to those registered for a higher degree. Student 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.

XVIII. REGISTRATION PACKAGE

The registration package for the participants includes:

- ✓ access to the conference and poster sessions
- ✓ free entrance to the conference exhibition
- ✓ conference bag
- ✓ final printed program
- ✓ book of proceedings
- ✓ welcome cocktail reception
- ✓ lunch on each conference day (and light meal on the Congress excursion day)
- ✓ coffee/tea/refreshment breaks
- ✓ scientific excursion
- ✓ conference dinner
- ✓ certificate of attendance
- ✓ celebrative T-shirt

Accompanying persons are entitled only to:

- ✓ welcome cocktail reception
- ✓ lunch (only if required in the registration form)
- ✓ scientific excursion
- ✓ light meal on the Congress excursion day
- ✓ conference dinner
- ✓ celebrative T-shirt



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XIX. 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.

XX. 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.

XXI. CANCELLATION OF REGISTRATION AND REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

Cancellations received before **30th June 2017** will be subject to a 40% surcharge on all monies paid. From this date onward, until **31st July 2017**, 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.



XXII. ACCOMMODATIONS

Rooms are being held at the Congress venue hotel at special rates. Accommodations at **Splendid Hotel La Torre** (4 stars) include breakfast. **THE ACCOMMODATIONS WILL BE ARRANGED ON THE BASIS OF FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED.**

SINCE THE AREA OF PALERMO ATTRACTS A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF TOURISTS EACH YEAR, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND TO BOOK YOUR ROOM IN ADVANCE.

Registered participants will be automatically rebooked in other hotels of Mondello and/or Palermo in case all rooms at the Splendid Hotel La Torre will be filled.

Since all activities of the Congress will take place within the space of the **Splendid Hotel La Torre** (conferences, meetings, display of posters, and lunches), accommodations in this hotel is very advantageous and convenient. Hotel reservations can be confirmed together with the Congress registration.

Only guaranteed reservations will be accepted. To guarantee your reservation, full payment is required.

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

A City Tax per person of **€2,00** (for the first four days of stay) is not included in the room's price.

SPLENDID HOTEL LA TORRE

www.latorrehotel.it

via Piano Gallo, 11

90151 Palermo, Italy

Standard Room Dus	B&B	€107,00
Room Garden View Dus	B&B	€128,00
Sea View Room Dus	B&B	€150,00
Extra person staying in hotel room	B&B	€30 per day

XXIII. ePOSTER SESSION (available from 25 to 27 September 2017)

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF YOUR FINAL E-POSTER MATERIAL IS 30 JUNE 2017

GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTERS

In substitution of the traditional poster session (**neither paper poster nor the mounting area will be provided by the IMMC9 Organization**), a novel concept that is being introduced in IMMC9 is the Electronic Poster session, or ePoster session.



An ePoster utilizes a large monitor and computer to display multimedia versions of a poster. ePosters are intended to provide a display of information that is not possible with a traditional printed poster. Embedding multimedia content, along with static elements, such as titles, logos, and summaries, would be a good way to convey information.

An electronic poster (ePoster) is a poster in PDF FORMAT, allowing the inclusion of movies, and other multi-media formats, and presenters are encouraged to take advantage of the versatility of this medium. All multi-media E-Posters will be presented in monitors in the Exhibition Hall.

A formal presentation is not necessary

The intention of an ePoster does not include attracting visitors to stay for a long oral, video, or slideshow presentation. Each participant can take action on the keyboard and mouse by typing the number of the poster indicated in the Book of Abstract or looking poster typing the author's last name or the title of the poster.

ePosters, are meant to present new information. The attendees will benefit from interacting with your ePoster, not viewing a website that he or she can access without going to the conference.

No audio allowed. No internet access provided.

A ONE PAGE PAPER WILL STILL NEED TO BE SUBMITTED (abstract@immc9.info) FOR IMMC9 PROCEEDINGS (see Abstract template in the Conference Website www.immc9.com)

All electronic poster presenters should upload their presentation via conference website



(www.immc9.com), which is already online.

The ePosters will be loaded onto the ePoster stations by the IMMC9 Poster Session Manager, prior to conference. ePosters will be available in the Exhibition Hall from 9 am (25 Sept 2017) until 6 pm (27 Sept 2017).

Specifications of the equipment provided for the ePoster

- Digital Display Monitor
- Type: 46" LCD TV
- Resolution: 1920 x 1080
- Orientation: Vertical

XXIV. PREPARATION OF YOUR e-POSTER

To complement your poster presentation and to make it available to a broader audience, authors are requested to provide a presentation file of one page in PDF format including multimedia material.

This e-Poster will be displayed in the poster loop played on a large screen in the ePoster stations.

However, any video material should contain the same level of information indicated in the subsequent preparation guidelines and **must not exceed 30 seconds of duration**.

ePosters must be formatted in PDF format according to the following templates:

- The e-poster contains a three column format. Each column can be subdivided and may conveniently be divided into sections, starting with a
- Problem Description and Challenges
- Your approach/method,
- Results / evaluation, and
- ending with a Conclusion and References.
- Please, try to use a standard MM format for your e-Poster:
- Images: high-resolution images in one of these formats: TIFF, JPEG, PNG, BMP, GIF.
- Video: In encoding PAL formats, MPEG-4, AVI, Mkv or Wmv.

The total length of all videos should not exceed 30 seconds.

XXV. SUBMIT YOUR ePOSTER

You will be able to upload your ePoster through a dedicated form within the website www.immc9.com. **You could upload your works until June 30th 2017, 11.59 PM (Italian time).**



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When you will upload your file, please note that the file name contains your Name and Surname (in UTF-8, Unicode encoding)

Note: You cannot upload files bigger than 300 MB

Please consider that your material might need to be reformatted for technical reasons.

If you have any question regarding items mentioned in this document, please do not hesitate to contact us in writing: secretary@immc9.com and/or abstract@immc9.info.



XXVI. SOCIAL EVENTS

WELCOME COCKTAIL

A Welcome Cocktail will be served in Hotel Splendid La Torre on Monday, September 25, from 20:30 to 22:00.

All colleagues registered in the IMMC9 2017 Conference are invited to attend this Cocktail.

SOCIAL DINNER

Wednesday, September 27, 2017

Alle Terrazze

Viale Regina Elena, c/o Antico Stabilimento Balneare (Mondello)



Haute cuisine between sky and sea

Thanks to its spectacular waterfront location in Mondello, the restaurant Alle Terrazze is one of the most exclusive restaurants in Palermo, and it is famous for its beauty, the panoramic view, and its setting even beyond local and regional borders.

Since its inauguration in 1912, the Bathing Establishment has been synonymous to beauty and elegance, with its Art Deco furniture, the innovative concrete structure, the wide windows opening on the horizon and the terraces stretching on the sea.

Attending a meal in its elegant halls was the status symbol of a privileged class. These terraces have hosted crowned heads and aristocrats dining: the view is breathtaking and, the cuisine is divine.

After a careful renovation, the restaurant has reopened to the public in spring 2011, taking up the glories of the past without omitting the comforts of the present. Total white décor, with the fine touch of the



comfortable Masters chairs designed by Philippe Starck for Kartell, pleasant decorations and works of art by contemporary authors give the environment a cozy and refined atmosphere.

All the colleagues registered in the IMMC9 2017 Conference are invited to attend the Congress Dinner.

Participants will arrive at Le Terrazze on their own. The event will start at 21:00.

ONE-DAY EXCURSION (PALERMO-CASTELBUONO-CEFALÙ-PALERMO)

Thursday, September 26, 2017

Departure from Palermo 08:00 am

Estimated time of arrival in Palermo 08:00 pm

The small town of Castelbuono (423 m a.s.l.) is located 97 km from Palermo, which is a province it belongs to and is included in the wonderful Madonie National Park. In the ancient times the village was called with the Byzantine name of Ypsigro meaning “cool place”. In 1316 Francesco Ventimiglia built a castle on St. Pietro. In the monumental field besides the medieval castle with a regular plan with two quadrangular towers, there is the Old Matrix dedicated to SS. Assunta, consecrated in 1494 and recently restored. Castelbuono is a famous centre for the production of Manna, laxative got by cutting the bark of ash trees.

The scientific excursion will take place in the surrounding forest of Castelbuono mainly composed by chestnut, oaks, maple trees, and holly including some monumental trees. The forest is a hotspot of biodiversity for fungi including some wild medicinal species (*Ganoderma lucidum*, *Hericium erinaceum*, *Grifola frondosa*, *Pleurotus eryngii*, etc.).

Currently, the IMMC9 local organizers are negotiating with the City Council of a Castelbuono for a lunch offered by the Major of Castelbuono.

In the afternoon the IMMC9 conference participants will move to the nearby town of Cefalù. For a small town, Cefalù offers a great deal including sandy beaches, winding Medieval streets flanked with shops and its unique Norman cathedral. While Cefalù's origins go back to at least Greek times (the name derives from the ancient Greek word for "Cape"), the town we now know and love was built at the behest of the Norman King, Roger II. Construction of the Cathedral began in 1131 and is an exquisite example of what has been termed "Sicilian Romanesque". Thanks to the splendid mosaic of Christ Pantocrator above the altar, it is twinned with the Palatine Chapel in Palermo and the Duomo in Monreale. Also of interest is the Medieval wash house - lavatoio - which is fed by a natural spring and the Osterio Magno which, according to tradition, was King Roger's very own residence.

In 2015, Arab-Norman Palermo and the cathedrals of Monreale and Cefalù were granted status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Tours for Accompanying Persons

The IMMC9 Local Organizing Committee is delighted to offer the tours for the accompanying person's program. Three half-day sightseeing tours are included in the accompanying person's registration package. The cost of these tours is included in the registration fee. Evidence of registration as an accompanying person must be shown.

Tickets for the half-day guided tours can be reserved by sending an email to registration@immc9.info not later than 10 September 2017.

Please note that these tours are subject to availability and require a minimum amount of confirmed bookings in order to take place.

1. The Golden Age of the Normans in Palermo

Date: Monday, 25 September 2017

Time: 09:00 – 13:00

Meeting Point: Hotel Splendid La Torre in the Registration Area

There are surprising cities, where everything is possible. Places where the stratification and the traces of the past have survived. Images overlap, sharing styles and periods, and many different languages can be heard. Palermo is such a place. Palermo is surprising for its many aspects: in the field of visual arts you will come across all kinds of poetic techniques. For example, Palermo is one of the capitals of the mosaic and stucco, several possibilities of sculpture, interpreted here in its most eccentric vision. Thus, you can also admire the bright colors of glass tiles, as well as marble, shells, stones, lapis lazuli, enamel, malachite forming the mosaics created in the twelfth century, and the whiteness of the absolute white of the Oratory decorated by Serpotta, one of the many sons of the popular Kalsa district. (source: <http://www.secretitaly.it/>).

2. Tales of foolish groove: The Inquisition in Palermo

Date: Tuesday, 26 September 2017

Time: 09:00 – 13:00

Meeting Point: Hotel Splendid La Torre in the Registration Area

*The Spanish Inquisition was a Tribunal of the Faith established by the Catholic Monarchs, Ferdinand II of Aragon and Isabella I of Castile to hunt down heresy, in other words, bring the crown in line with the unitary logic of *un rey, una fé, una ley* (one king, one faith, one law). In 1487, the Inquisition arrived in Sicily, yet only started around 1500, when sufficient economic resources had been put in place. However, it should be remembered that during the Middle-Ages in Sicily there had already been the*



Papal Inquisition and from the 13th century on, the Inquisition had been delegated by the Pope (the Roman Inquisition). Jurisdiction over acts against the faith had normally been exercised by the Bishop, at times with the support of the Papal Inquisition. King Ferdinand II of Aragon availed himself of the privilege of the Apostolic Legazia bestowed upon by Urbano II on Roger I in 1098, according to which the sovereigns of the island were born legates to the pontiff. Thus, the Sicilian kings could claim control over any ecclesiastic matter and, in 1579, Phillip II established the Tribunal of the Monarchy with the right to intervene in every single controversy relating to the rapport between the lay tribunals and ecclesiastic tribunals. In virtue of this privilege, no act by the Holy See could be sanctioned without executory letters from the Viceroys. Therefore, on the island we have a tribunal of the faith, not dependent of papal or ecclesiastic authority, but on the Spanish monarchy (source [www. provinciadipalermo.it](http://www.provinciadipalermo.it))

3. The Baroque Age in Palermo: a colorful and stone theater

Date: Wednesday, 27 September 2017

Time: 09:00 – 13:00

Meeting Point: Hotel Splendid La Torre in the Registration Area

Baroque was much more than a design style for churches and palaces. It embraced the concept of the city as theatre, a place for people to gather and to take part in great ceremonies and festivals. The baroque style with its flamboyant decoration was applied to the city's open spaces, its streets and squares, as well as to the façades of its buildings, to be enjoyed by just walking around. The outstanding baroque monuments in Palermo, those not to be missed, are to be found in the interiors of churches and oratories. In the churches, work with inlaid and coloured marble was taken to a fine art, representing some of the most important and original creations of baroque art on the island. The Serpotta family, in particular, Giacomo and his son Procopio, represented the peak of the local tradition in sculpture. Working in stucco, Giacomo developed a distinctive style of natural, richly decorated figures. Less expensive and lighter than marble, stucco enabled a profusion of figures to be displayed on chapel walls and ceilings. A high degree of skill and dexterity was needed, for stucco dried quickly, leaving only a short time to complete the modelling. A shine was given to the surface of the Serpotta statues by the addition of marble dust to the stucco (source <http://jeremydummett.com/>).



IMMC9

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XXVII. ON SITE REGISTRATION HOURS

Visit the Registration Desk in the Congress Hub to register on site, should you check-in, or for assistance.

The Congress Hub will be located in the Hotel Splendid La Torre.

The hours of operation will be:

Sunday 24 September 2017 – **16:30 to 19:30**

Monday 25 to Wednesday 27 – **08:00 to 17:00**