

## Focus on...

### Cotignola



The Interventional Cardio-Angiology Unit at Villa Maria Cecilia Hospital in Cotignola, Italy is headed by Dr Alberto Cremonesi and Dr Fausto Castriota. The hospital is part of Gruppo Villa Maria, an Italian and international health care network of several hospitals.



The unit is one of the most recognised cardiac centres in Italy and built its international reputation in the field of coronary and endovascular interventions, in particular carotid stenting. After establishing its coronary programme in the early 1990's including an acute MI service, the unit pursued the development of endovascular techniques and technologies. It was recognised that a greater proportion of patients were burdened by polyvascular disease and sometimes the artificial boundaries between disciplines hindered benefit to patients. This programme was successful because of the method of consultation and teamwork between physicians and surgeons and the support and trust given by the executive management of the hospital.

Today, the cathlab undertakes a high volume of coronary, carotid and peripheral procedures (femoral, iliac, below-the-knee, renal, aneurysmal and stenotic aortic disease). Structural heart interventions are managed by a highly-trained and dedicated team involving doctors, nurses and radiographic technicians. The expertise

and innovations of the team have often defined progress in the arena of endovascular carotid therapy.

Embedded in the philosophy of the unit is the principle to educate and teach. National trainees in cardiology are able to spend a year undertaking diagnostic and interventional cardiac catheterisation training. It is the centre for the EuroPCR Peripheral Research & Interventional Fellowship.

It is also an established centre for the training in the Master in Endovascular Techniques programme from the University of Milan-Bicocca, as it shares the thinking that cross-fertilisation of knowledge and skills between various specialties is valuable. In this programme, interventionists from all schools are able to pursue high-specialisation in endovascular techniques to deliver such therapies safely.

The centre has established a strong national and international collaborative network throughout Europe and the United States. These collaborations contribute to a broadened understanding of cardiovascular disease through research, scientific publications and clinical trials.

As part of the vision of Gruppo Villa Maria, the Villa Maria Foundation Clinical Statistics & Health Research Institute has been established and recently provided support for a research scientist. Prof Giancarlo Biamino is the Chairman of the Endovascular Project of the Group.

The directors believe, though an ambitious endeavour, experience in intervention in several disciplines will lead to the development of superlative interventional ability, providing the safe management of patients with ever-increasing complexity.

**We believe cross-fertilisation of knowledge and skills between various specialties is valuable.**

## Today with...



**Didier De Canniere**

Cardiac surgeon / Belgium

10:30-11:00	ROOM 1	Welcome & team work: together we achieve more
11:30-12:30	ROOM 1	Opening
12:30-13:30	ROOM 1	Live case transmission from Rotterdam
13:30-15:00	ROOM 1	The Great Debate: what is best for my patient with an unrestricted educational grant from MEDTRONIC
15:10-15:30	ROOM 2	Keynote lecture K. Mathias
15:30-16:30	ROOM 1	Late breaking trials

### FROM ACCESS TO CLOSURE: A NURSE'S PERSPECTIVE

Join our Nurse Session

May 13, 15:00-16:45, Room 4

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