

www.lorenzinfoundation.org

The **Fondazione Giovanni Lorenzini Medical Science Foundation** consists of two not-for-profit scientific organizations, one based in **Milan, Italy** (established in 1969) and the second in **Houston, USA** (established in 1984): both are committed to the international scientific exchange and education in basic and medical research.

The Foundation has the mission to transfer the results of basic scientific research to clinical and applied research and to collaborate with academia to ensure the constant updating of physicians and basic scientists.

The activities of the Lorenzini Foundation include the organization of International **Congresses and Meetings** and the publication of proceedings, highlights, websites, and CD-ROMs on specific topics; in particular we wish to highlight the series of International Symposia on Women's Health and Menopause, Drugs Affecting Lipid Metabolism, Triglycerides and HDL, Prostaglandins and Eicosanoids (the most recent one was organized in July in Beijing, China).

The Lorenzini Foundation has a vast experience in **promoting and coordinating interdisciplinary panels** and in publishing comprehensive documents such as **Position Papers** or **Guidelines**. The most recent activities in this area are:

- 1) a joint monograph entitled "International Position Paper on **Women's Health and Menopause: A Comprehensive Approach**" **published in July 2002 together with the National Heart and Lung Institute/NIH and the NIH Office of Research on Women's Health**: this publication has been developed by an international Panel of 80 experts (*NIH Publication No. 02-3284, July 2002, 1-297*).
- 2) international guidelines entitled "**Harmonized Clinical Guidelines on Prevention of Atherosclerotic Vascular Disease**" developed in collaboration with the International Atherosclerosis Society and its 54 Constituent Member Societies.

The Lorenzini Foundation has been actively involved and has a long standing experience in running **Educational Campaigns on Public Health** both at national and international levels, such as the Italian Cholesterol Campaign (national: 1986-1992), the Campaign on Triglycerides as a Risk Factor (international: 1989-1992), the Italian Campaign on Women's Health and Menopause (national: 1995-1999), the Italian Campaign for the Prevention of the Global Cardiovascular Risk (directed to clinicians, GPs, and public: 2003 - still in progress)

The Lorenzini Foundation also coordinates all the activities of the **International Society of Atherosclerosis** (a Federation of 54 national societies with more than 12,000 members).

The Lorenzini Foundation is also coordinating the **development of web sites** as permanent sources of information, dedicated to metabolic diseases and atherosclerosis, in collaboration with the International Atherosclerosis Society (www.athero.org) and the Italian Heart Foundation (www.fondazionecuore.it).

As a result of the above the Lorenzini Foundation has great expertise in **combining the scientific interests of regulatory agencies, health organizations, academia, clinicians, scientific societies, and industry** aimed at the solution of complex problems.

At present the Lorenzini Foundation is developing an **international project on the use of Integrated Biomarkers in Cardiovascular Diseases**. As the project kick off, the **First International Course on INTEGRATED BIOMARKERS Biochemical and Bioimaging Endpoints in Cardiocerebrovascular Diagnosis, Prevention, Therapy and Drug Development** was organized in *Lugano (Switzerland)* in *2005*.

A report based on the Course "**Biochemical and bioimaging markers for risk assessment and diagnosis in major cardiovascular diseases: a road to integration of complementary diagnostic tools**" is published in March 2007 in the *Journal of Internal Medicine*.

At the moment and as a second step of the project, the Lorenzini Foundation is promoting and organizing, in cooperation with the Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, the **Second International Symposium INTEGRATED BIOMARKERS IN CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES** to be held in **Berlin, Germany** on **June 21-23, 2007**.

The Biomarkers project will include not only **courses and meetings** but also the coordination of an **International Panel** with the aim to discuss the state of the art of research and use of biomarkers (alone or integrated) and also to propose recommendations on future research and better use of the biomarkers (alone or integrated) towards a more personalized medicine.