

With the participation of 30 international speakers, and 440 inscriptions from more than 40 Countries, the **Mitochondrial Diseases Conference 2021** has brought together physicians, researchers, local mitochondrial patient associations, and representatives of pharma industries, and has been a unique opportunity to discuss and update on current understandings of mitochondrial diseases and pathways towards diagnosis and treatment.

Mitochondrial diseases are very complex disorders, still little known by the scientific community, with multi-system manifestations and different ages of onset, ranging from infancy to adulthood.

In recent years, giant steps have been taken in the study of the basic mechanisms involved in these diseases and we have finally moved from the diagnosis to the study of possible treatments.

The program, drawn up in collaboration with **Mitocon' Scientific Committee**, has been designed to inspire the integration of technology and innovation into medical practice. We discussed about the natural history of some devastating mitochondrial diseases, and about exciting new models to treat these diseases.

A very important session was dedicated to the research of therapies, with a specific focus on an update on current clinical trials and a round table with the most active industries in the field. It has been a unique opportunity for discussion between clinicians and industry and a real possibility for new collaborations. Finally, a round table with different Patients Advocacy Organizations was organized, to give voice to the patients' needs. (Link to the programme of the Mitochondrial Diseases Conference: <https://www.mitocon.it/mitochondrial-diseases-conference-2021/#1595345600991-c4b293b4-0d13>)

To ensure the dissemination of the scientific content of the event, the conference was organized online and in English, and participation was free. Most of the speakers' speeches were recorded and published on Mitocon' YouTube channel (Link to the recordings of the speakers' speeches: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIle3hmV8RKTp-uPsz3ly1SOewQaRECMY>).

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