Epidemiology of aging and biostatistics

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The primary objective of the research group is to plan and implement projects on epidemiology of aging, health services research and clinical trials on age-associated diseases and disorders. One of the main aims of these projects is to provide health policy makers with data relevant for the planning and the implementation of preventative and therapeutic interventions for the older population, through research data and collaboration in the preparation of guidelines and consensus documents. In collaboration with other CNR Institutes, governmental agencies and scientific organizations, we develop protocols and instruments for studies of the elderly and we organize training and courses for investigators in the field of aging.

In particular, we deal with the following lines of research:

- **Chronic mental and physical conditions associated to the aging process:**
  - Frailty and sensory impairments in institutionalized older population (The Alvise Cornaro Center Study);
  - European research on poly-sensory indicators and cognitive disorders, a network of clinical professional from eight European countries aiming to develop a tool for the monitoring of sensory and cognitive status (planning phase);
  - Dementia Registry: analysis of the prevalence, incidence and predictors of conversion to dementia of Mild Cognitive Impairment in an elderly Italian population;
  - Survey on the instruments used by the Italian centres for cognitive disorders and dementia to diagnose Mild Cognitive Impairment;
  - European Project on OSteoArthritis (EPOSA), focusing on the personal and societal burden and its determinants of osteoarthritis;
  - Atrial fibrillation integrated approach in frail multimorbid and polymedicated older people (AFFIRMO, European project, call: H2020-SC1-BHC-2018-2020 Better Health and care, economic growth and sustainable health systems);
  - Impact of cardiovascular, osteoarticular and neurological conditions on polypharmacy, hospitalizations and mortality in the elderly population (Ricerca Sanitaria Finalizzata Regione Veneto);
  - Multidisciplinary approach to improve adherence to medical recommendations in older adults at hospital discharge;

- **Nutrition, vaccination and healthy aging:**
  - Protein enriched Mediterranean Diet to combat undernutrition and promote healthy neurocognitive ageing in older adults (PROMED project, financed within the ERA-HDL Prevnut call);
  - Meta-analyses and original articles on the role of Mediterranean Diet and vaccines in promoting the health of older individual;
  - Collaboration with the Mediterranean Diet Foundation and the University of Padua-DAFNE on the planning of a virtual museum on Mediterranean diet: Impact on Health and environmental sustainability of the Mediterranean dietary pattern

- **Cancer and aging:**
  - Prostate cancer monitoring project;
Lymphovascular invasion and extranodal tumour extension as risk indicators of breast cancer related lymphedema; mismatch repair protein loss as a prognostic and predictive biomarker in breast cancers (in collaboration with University of Milan);

Retrospective-prospective observational study of Italian patients treated in melanoma adjuvant cohort MAP to evaluate relapse free survival and overall survival –MADAM (Maximizing ADjuvAnt MAP);

**Collaboration with scientific societies:**
- Collaboration on the development of consensus documents on several musculoskeletal disorders (Osteoporosis, sarcopenia, osteoarthritis) with IOF, ESCEO, EuGMS, SIGG, SIGOT;
- Educational activities in the field of aging and vaccines in collaborations with the Italian Society of Gerontology and Geriatrics (SIGG), the European Geriatric Medicine Society (EuGMS), the European Interdisciplinary Council on Ageing (EICA)

**Selected references for the research activities:**

[1] Frailty and sensory impairment in an institutionalized older population: findings from the cross-sectional Alvise Cornaro Center Study. Submitted


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