



Ambasciata d'Italia
Londra



“Italy and UK pre-participation screening programme from elite to amateur: a common effort to prevent sudden cardiac death in the young”

The above event will be held on 28 January 2025 at the Embassy of Italy, organised in partnership with the Italian Sports-Medicine Federation (FMSI), with the collaboration of Lord Polak, a member of the House of Lords. The symposium will bring together Italian and British cardiologists and sports-medicine specialists to discuss programmes to screen for the risk of sudden cardiac death in young athletes.

“This event illustrates the internationally recognised value of Italian sports medicine. Thanks to our national laws and the scientific protocols of the Italian Sports-Medicine Federation – the only body of its type in Italy – we have succeeded in reducing the number of sudden deaths in sport in Italy to a level an order of magnitude lower than in the rest of the world: our rate is 1 in 1.5 million, as compared to 1 in 100,000 elsewhere,” said Maurizio Casasco, the president of the FMSI.

“The certification of fitness for sport is invaluable for primary, secondary and tertiary prevention,” he continued. “It is a crucial factor in the fight against the most common non-communicable diseases (cardiovascular, neurodegenerative, oncological, metabolic, etc.). In addition, it makes it possible to identify potential risk factors or minor pathologies, with clear benefits for the individual’s health and quality of life and consequent savings for the national health service or insurance.”

The event falls within the scope of the Memorandum of Understanding of bilateral collaboration signed between Italy and the UK in 2023, which encourages dialogue between medical professionals in the two countries.

Ambassador Inigo Lambertini said: “I am proud that the Embassy has co-organised and is hosting this symposium, with the valuable support of FMSI and its president, Prof Maurizio Casasco. “I am certain that the Italian model of screening will be of great interest to the British health system.”

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Embassy of Italy, London, 28 January 2025

Scientific programme

- 9.00 Registration of participants
- 9.30 – 9.45 Opening remarks
Inigo Lambertini, *Italian Ambassador*
Lord Polak, *Member of the House of Lords*
Hilary Nicholls, *Campaigner for the prevention of Young Sudden Cardiac Death*
- 9.45 – 9.55 Welcome and Italian background
Fabio Pigozzi *President, International Federation of Sports Medicine*
- 9.55 – 10.15 Italian pre-participation screening: laws, protocols, and preventative perspectives
Maurizio Casasco, *President, Italian Federation of Sports Medicine (FMSI) and European Federation of Sports Medicine Associations (EFSMA)*
- 10.15 – 11.00 **The Italian Cardiological Protocols (COCIS) in Sudden Cardiac Death Prevention**
- Introduction & Ventricular Tachyarrhythmias
Alessandro Biffi, *COCIS FMSI-Coordinator*
- Cardiomyopathies
Alessandro Zorzi, *University of Padua; FMSI Member*
- Ischemic heart disease
Franco Giada, *Scientific and Cultural Committee of FMSI*
- 11.00 – 11.45 **The UK experience**
- Setting international guidelines in elite sports and the opportunity to cascade into grassroots.
Sanjay Sharma, *Professor of Cardiology, St George's, University of London*
- Comparison with other countries and the UK's respected standards in international ECG protocols
Nabeel Sheikh, *Consultant Cardiologist, Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust*
- What the UK needs in order to meaningfully reduce the incidence of YSCD and how to get there

Gherardo Finocchiaro, *Honorary Reader in Cardiology, St George's, University of London*

The need to act now and what the future holds - AI advances

Teresa Castiello, *Cardiology President, Royal Society of Medicine*

Cambridge screening programme: impact and sustainability

Bhaskar Vira, *Pro Vice Chancellor of Cambridge University*

11.45 – 12.30 Discussion and Q&A