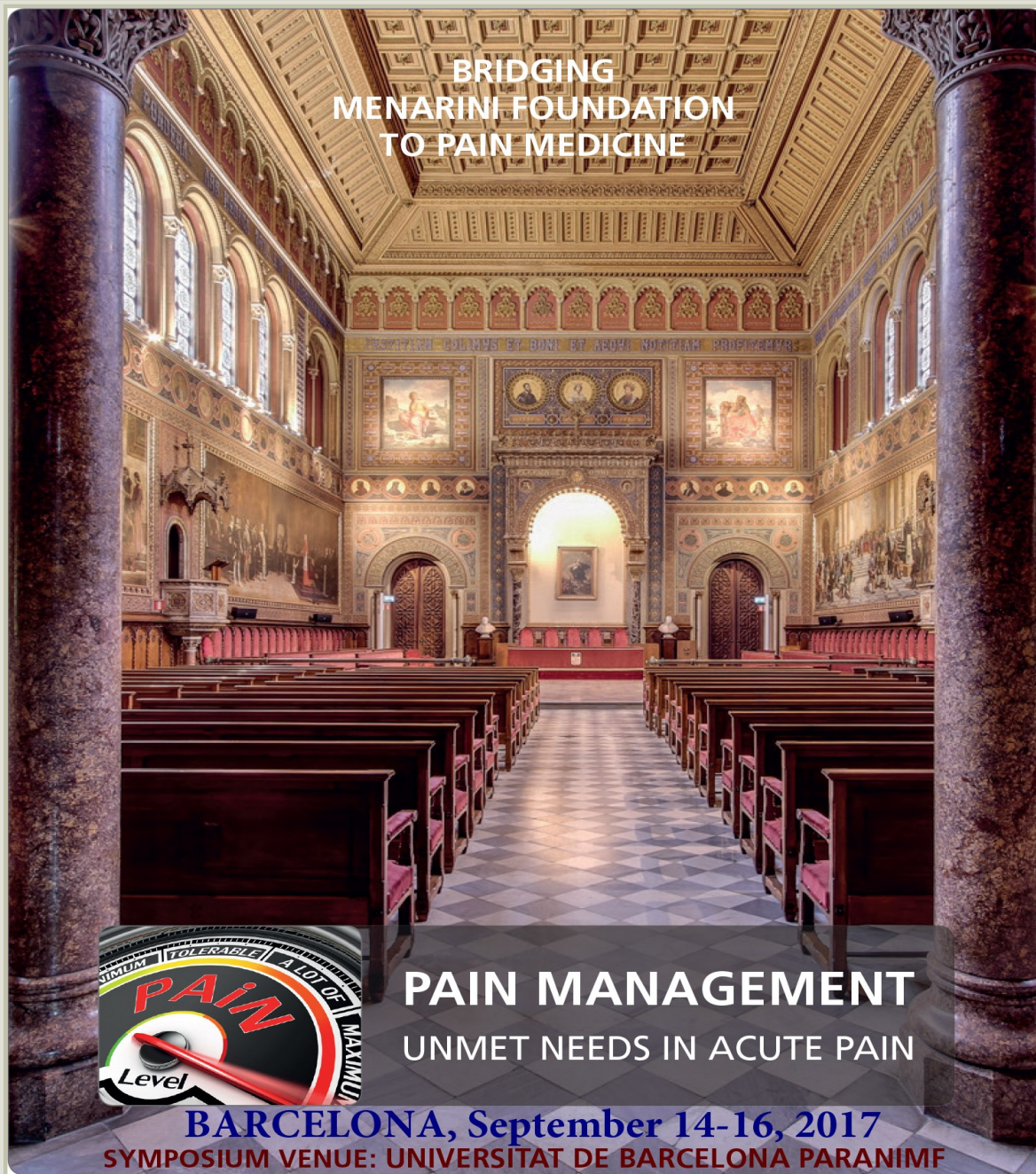




FONDAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE MENARINI

BRIDGING
MENARINI FOUNDATION
TO PAIN MEDICINE



PAIN MANAGEMENT
UNMET NEEDS IN ACUTE PAIN

BARCELONA, September 14-16, 2017

SYMPOSIUM VENUE: UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA PARANIMF

A brief history
of the University of Barcelona



European and international physicians will be meeting in Barcelona from 14th to 16th September, 2017 on occasion of the second edition of the Symposium “Pain management: unmet needs in acute pain” promoted by Fondazione Internazionale Menarini. The event is organised with the scientific coordination of the European League Against Pain (EULAP) and directed by Professor Antonio Montero, Professor Carmelo Scarpignato and Professor Giustino Varrassi.

The talks will take place in the emblematic *Paranimf* located in the historical building of the Universitat de Barcelona (Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes, 585).

LA UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA (The University of Barcelona)



Barcelona has always given an enormous importance to the education of its people and today the city hosts many higher institutions and colleges. Among them, there is the *Universitat de Barcelona*, a public institution called UB. It is the fifth oldest school in the world known for its research programs and contributions to science.

Located straight in the city centre next to *Plaça de Catalunya*, the UB was founded on 3rd November 1450 by means of the Royal Prerogative of King Alfonso V of Aragon with the chairs in Theology, Canon Law, Civil Law, Moral and Natural Philosophy, the Seven Arts, Medicine and other disciplines. However, the history of the *Universitat de Barcelona* started over 50 years before, in 1398, with a letter from King Martín that established here an *Estudi General*, the old name for a medieval university, which remained active until 1714. In the same year, it was closed down by the Bourbon dynasty after the War of the Spanish Succession in which the Catalans fought for the Habsburg dynasty. All Studies were moved to Cervera (Lleida) where a new University was established. Despite the willingness to abolish existing services, medical studies continued in Barcelona and in 1760 new official high-level courses were set up with the creation of the Royal College of Surgeons. Only in 1837, during the liberal monarchic period of Queen Isabel II de Borbòn, the University of Barcelona was restored. On its return, the institution was housed in several existing buildings as the Convent of Carme, the Royal Academy of Medicine and the Hospital of Santa Creu and Sant Pau.



In 1862, the Catalan architect Elies Rogent i Amat, director of the Barcelona School of Architecture, began the construction of the current university building to host all faculties in a neo-gothic and Catalan “renaixentista” styles edifice. The building still occupies two blocks in the *Eixample* district, comprises the original central body and two wings each capped with a tower. The institution was opened officially in 1874 in *Plaça Universitat* becoming one



of the first buildings constructed outside the ancient city walls. During the second half of the 20th century, the University of Barcelona began its expansion by inaugurating new buildings in the city.

Nowadays, the imposing Rogent's University building is declared national monument of historic and artistic interest and hosts the Rector's offices with the departments of Philology and Mathematics. It shows on the façade the coat of arms of the Spanish crown during the reign of the Habsburgs with a fleur-de-lis added in the center, acknowledging the period when the University was restored to the city. On its side are two stone medallions bearing the bust of Alfonso the Magnanimous, the royal founder of the *Estudi General* and of Queen Elisabeth II de Borbòn during whose reign the University returned to Barcelona.



The main building has some mediaeval spots such as the Main Entrance Hall, the Nobel Stairway and the *Paranimf*, where important institutional ceremonies are held. The main entrance hall includes three naves and eight sections with pillars that support groin vaults with capitals furnished with the coat of arms of the Spanish provinces. The walls are decorated with five life-sized statues of St. Isidoro of Seville, Averroes, Alfonso X the Wise,

Ramon Llull and Joan Lluís Vives, representatives of the culture that made up Spanish history. The sculptures are the work of the Vallmitjana brothers and were commissioned between 1875 and 1876.

A great staircase of honour leads upward to the first floor to the Aula Magna and the *Paranimf* on the left and to the Rector's offices and the Library to the right. The walls are adorned with a series of portraits of the rectors since the University was transferred back to the city from Cervera and precious paintings of the collection of the Museo del Prado with tapestries decorated with the historical heraldic shields of the University and the Order of the Golden Fleece (*El Orden del Toisón de Oro*).



EL PARANIMF (the Noble Hall)

The *Paranimf* is the hall where the Symposium will take place and it is the most emblematic part of the historic building. It was designed in a lavish Romanesque-Byzantine style by Elies Rogent i Amat to be the heart of the University life. It sits right in the middle of the building directly above the main entrance hall. In this room, main institutional ceremonies, prestigious events, inaugurations of the academic year or the awarding of the degree of Doctor Honoris Causa are habitually celebrated. The richly ornate decoration of the hall have multicolour





motifs in a Neo-Mudéjar style inspired by ancient Arabic scripts, Kufic and Naskhi characters according to the intention of architect Rogent i Amat “to impress the soul and fascinate the imagination”. The interior contrasts with the Medieval austerity of the rest of the building, in particular the façade and the courtyards.

The interior walls are covered with a collection of six paintings representing key moments in Spain’s history:

- The Council of Toledo representing the Visigoth period;
- The civilization of the Islamic Caliphate of Cordoba representing the Arab-Andalusian period;
- Alfons X and the Toledo School of Translators representing the medieval city;
- Alfons V and the establishment of the University in 1450 representing the Crown of Aragon;
- Cardinal Cisneros and the Complutensian Polyglot Bible representing the Renaissance period;
- The studies for the Barcelona Chamber of Commerce representing the eighteenth century.

The decoration is completed with allegories of the natural and social sciences and representations of the monarchs who played leading roles in the University’s history.

Nice to know is that the word *Paranimf* in ancient Greek originally meant “friend of the bridegroom, best man”. For a semantic transition, it has become only in Catalan idiom “the person who makes the inaugural speech at the university course” and today it identifies “the assembly hall for university ceremonies”.

BARCELONA

The city of Barcelona is the second largest city of Spain in size and population and the sixth largest in European Union. It lays in a privileged position on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea and it is the capital of the region of *Cataluña*, one of the seventeen Autonomous Communities of the country. It is a city well known for its quirky, cosmopolitan, energetic and cool character. More than other cities in Spain, Barcelona preserves strongly and proudly its own traditions, culture and Catalan language, which was banned from public institutions during Franco dictatorship. Today, Catalan and Castilian Spanish are the two official languages spoken in Barcelona.

The documented history of the city dates back to the founding of a Roman colony, in the second century BC, on the site of a previous agricultural settlement. A legend says that the Carthaginian Hamilcar Barca, father of Hannibal, founded the city in the III century B.C. and named it Barcino after his family. It was first ruled by the Visigoths, and subsequently came to form part of the Moorish Caliphate of Cordoba. After the Christian conquest in the late IX century, it became the seat of the counts of Barcelona and, subsequently, the capital of the Kingdom of *Cataluña and Aragón*. For centuries, it was the central port in an extensive Mediterranean trading empire.

Barcelona grew to be a typical dense medieval city, with narrow streets, locked inside defensive walls. In 1854, the walls were demolished and the expansion of the old city was undertaken in 1859. The city still preserves monuments of Romanesque, Gothic and Renaissance periods or still before, but most characteristic is what was built during the last 100 years that saw spectacular urban, industrial and economic development, with the growth of the new industrial bourgeoisie, who had a high purchasing power and increased cultural interests.

Since the second half of the XIX century and thanks to





the World Exposition of 1888, Barcelona became the centre of a very innovative art expression that deeply changed the city and still characterizes it: the Catalan Modernism. It was a novel cultural, political movement that spread out in Barcelona in all forms of artistic expressions, primary on architecture and also on applied and decorative arts, painting, sculpture, poetry, theatre “to escape Historicism, the tyranny of previous historical styles” and as expression of Cataluña’s culture and strive for independence from Spain. The main forms were the architectural works of few genial and unconventional Catalan architects who became the symbols of the new movement: Elies Rogent, Antoni Gaudí, Lluís Domènech i Montaner and Josep Puig i Cadafalch. The style they used was unique, full of creativity, innovation, inventiveness. Their buildings were constructed with asymmetry forms, dynamic shapes, unusual roofs, intricate ironwork balconies, original domes and sloping sections at different heights; the interiors seemed to be lined in a range of materials such as iron, wood, ceramics and polychrome tiles.



and polychrome tiles.

Today the city has more than 2,000 buildings attributed to the Catalan Modernism or containing modernist elements and nine of them have been designated UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

The most famous pieces are the Sagrada Família, the Casa Batlló, the Milá-Pedrerà and Parc Güell, the Palau de la Música Catalana, the Casa de les Punxes. Other Modernism artistic expressions came from the painters Santiago Rusiñol and Ramon Casas, the sculptors Eusebi Arnau and Josep Llimona, the cabinetmaker Gaspar Homar, the glassmaker Lluís

Rigalt.

Since the end of Modernism period, the city has always proved its will to be innovative, non-conformist and to follow the latest international tendencies or be ahead of them. For example, during the two World Wars the city became home of the Surrealist movement of painters like Joan Mirò, the eccentric Salvador Dalí and Antoni Tàpies who were specialised in representing the unconscious mind, the “dream-like” images, discovering a new way of looking at the reality. In addition, Picasso appreciated the innovative creativity of Barcelona, where he spent part of his life and took inspiration.

During the last years, Barcelona has grown much faster than any other city in Spain becoming the engine of change, progress and industrialization of the country. Industry in the manufacture of paper, iron, wool, leather, textiles and processed fish, as well as in the export of wine and cotton has led the city to a new sense of confidence and prosperity.



Fondazione Internazionale Menarini

Edificio L - Strada 6 Centro Direzionale Milanofiori 20089 Rozzano (MI)

Tel. +39 02 55308110 Fax +39 02 55305739 Email: milan@fondazione-menarini.it

www.fondazione-menarini.it - www.facebook.com/fondazionemenarini