

PRESS RELEASE

"BALNEOLOGY IN CHANGING SOCIETIES"

This is the theme of the 73rd International Scientific Congress of the World Federation of Hydrotherapy that will take place in Castel San Pietro Terme (Bologna) from 3 to 6 November 2022.

What role do spas play in today's web society? What answers can balneology give to the new health needs in the e-health world? What kind of innovations are required to meet the challenges of new tools related to the evolution of technology and therapeutic methodologies? Do health, disease, doctor-patient relationship and with the territory find an adequate support in the spa culture and organization? Have the rehabilitation treatments offered in spa facilities played an appropriate role in the treatment of diseases related to the Covid-19 pandemic? Are the requirements of scientific evidence, rationality, tradition, effectiveness and efficiency, required today in "good practice", really offered?

These questions will be answered by a wide debate and international comparison, the 73rd Conference of Femtec, World Federation of Hydrotherapy and Climatotherapy, dedicated to "Balneology in changing societies. Multilateral Approach for the Care of Health and Well-being", which will be held from 3 to 6 November 2022 in Castel San Pietro Terme (Bologna).

On the agenda will be above all the health-disease relationship, deeply changed not only because of the pandemic, but in general in the current web society, with the advent of new tools related to the exchange, transmission and sharing of health information that propose a new doctor-patient relationship.

The spa sector is also affected by socio-economic and environmental changes and must propose a critical and proactive self-analysis in order to update itself to the new realities. Femtec believes, in fact, also on the basis of its long experience, that the spa system, both Italian and international, has in itself all the elements capable of proposing and realizing a renewal-renaissance of this ancient tradition of prevention, care and rehabilitation. But, as highlighted in the issues addressed in the previous Congresses of Femtec (<https://www.femteconline.org/info.php?s=CONGRESSES>), multidisciplinary (technical-scientific-cultural) and multilateral (political, economic, social and organizational) approaches are indispensable.

Main topics of discussion in the Congress:

- Research, as a factor of knowledge and correct information
- University and post-graduate training
- The role of patients and spa operators
- Technologies and structures of thermal centers
- Organization and management of the Thermal District territory
- Public-private partnerships
- Traditional and informatics marketing
- Sustainable tourism and health: the concept of ONE HEALTH
- Supplementary private health insurance
- Regional and national health policy
- Legal-administrative regulations.

Specific workshops are also planned on: **Exercise Sciences and Balneology** as a strategic alliance for health and lifestyles; The Project "Wellness and Spa Tourism Sectoral Skills' Development - **WESKILL**" (Co-founded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union) for health tourism operators; **Thermae & Diplomacy**.

"The thermal baths of Castel San Pietro Terme (Bologna, Italy) that will host the Congress, says Prof. Umberto Solimene, President of Femtec, are a renowned health resort, cited for the properties of its sulphurous and bromine-iodine waters since the 14th century. The thermal waters of Castel San Pietro allow prevention treatments, care and rehabilitation for respiratory and osteoarticular pathologies. Moreover, the modern and updated structure of Castel San Pietro Terme, health, hospitality and management, inserted in a territorial context of valuable tourist offer, can represent the realization of a concrete "model" of a **balneology of our time**.

FEMTEC site: www.femteconline.org

Site dedicato of the Congress: www.femteconline.org/_CastelSanPietro/

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