

## Know Before You Go – Important Information for

# Delivery of Nucleic Acid Therapeutics II: Biology, Engineering and Development

April 4-8, 2024

March 27, 2024

To: Participants in the **Delivery of Nucleic Acid Therapeutics II** Conference  
From: Barbara K. Hickernell, ECI Executive Director

On behalf of Engineering Conferences International and the conference chairs, **Steven Dowdy**, Ph.D., Professor, UCSD School of Medicine, San Diego, CA, USA; **Laura Sepp-Lorenzino**, Ph.D., Executive Vice President, Chief Scientific Officer, Intellia Therapeutics, Cambridge, MA, USA; **Matt Stanton**, Ph.D., Chief Scientific Officer, Generation Bio, Cambridge, MA, USA and I (**Barbara Hickernell**) will be the ECI on-site staff. This note conveys several items that need to be brought to your attention.

### HOTEL

Grand Hotel Minareto, Via del Faro Massolivieri, 26 96100 Siracusa, Italy - Tel. +39 0931.721222

### COVID-19

*Our community thrives by engaging with each other face-to-face (or mask-to-mask) but we wish to be safe in doing so. We do encourage you to self-test. We will not have any test kits on site but will have a limited number of masks available. Should you test positive or feel unwell at any time during the conference, please contact Barbara (+1-914-484-7349 or +1-914-4260-3664) so that she can assist you and notify the hotel.*

### FINAL PROGRAM AND ABSTRACTS FILES

Abstracts for oral and poster presentations, and the final program with participants list were shared with you electronically. If you cannot find, it, please contact [Kathy Chan](#).

The files are in PDF format. You can add comments, highlight, add text to the abstract files, and print. However, rotate, delete, replace, crop, split document and insert pages are not accessible.

Please note that in our attempt to go green, **there will not be a printed copy onsite**. We recommend downloading the files prior to arrival. If you would like to have a hard copy on hand, please print and bring with you to the conference.

### TRANSPORTATION FROM CATANIA AIRPORT

Siracusa is in the southeast corner of Sicily, on Sicily's east coast, about an hour south of Catania. The closest airport to the Grand Hotel Minareto is Catania-Vincenzo Bellini Airport ([CTA](#)). It is 71 km from the hotel (about a one-hour drive).

You have several choices of transportation: Individual transfer, group transfer, train (and taxi), bus (and taxi), and rental car.

[Nadia Davi](#) of Liberty Travel, Italy is the contact person for those wanting to book transportation from the Catania Airport to the Grand Hotel Minareto. Do not contact her for train, bus or rental cars.

### **Individual and Group Transfers**

You can choose an individual transfer or a group transfer. The group transfer will be organized by the expected time of arrival at Catania Airport within the range of one hour. For example, if two people are arriving at 11:30 am and 6 people are arriving at 12:00 pm, then the transfer would be 8 people. The rate of a "group" transfer is

€45 per person for arrival hours between 6:00 am and 10:00 pm. For arrivals between 10:00 pm and 6:00 am there is a night supplement of €13.5 per person.

An individual transfer (for one – three persons) in a private vehicle with driver is €90. The night supplement is €27

Other requests will be quoted individually by Ms. Davi.

[Please use this form when contacting Ms. Davi.](#)[Download](#)

### **By Train**

From Catania Station (Taxis can transport you from the airport to the train station), take a train to Syracuse (Siracusa). There are hourly trains from the train station in Catania to the train station in Siracusa. The train ride is approximately 85 minutes. Taxis can be hired at the Siracusa station for transfer to the hotel (about a 10-minute drive). For schedules and fares visit <http://www.trenitalia.com>

Siracusa's train station is on Via G. Rubino (where Corso Umberto I and Via Ermocrate come together) in the "New City" mainland. It is just south of the archaeological zone and about a dozen blocks west of the bridges to Ortigia (the "old town" on an island).

### **By Bus**

Interbus ([www.interbus.it](http://www.interbus.it)) runs buses to Siracusa regularly during the week from Catania to Siracusa and less frequently on Sundays. Please visit their website for details. This is the most economical way, although you will need to add a taxi at each end of your journey.

### **By rental car from Catania Fontanarossa Airport**

(About 55 minutes) Get on E45 from SP701. Follow E45 and the Catania-Siracusa highway (SS114) and take the "Siracusa Sud" exit from SS114 onto Via per Florida/SS124 in Siracusa.

Continue on Florida/SS124 until the next roundabout where you take the 2nd right onto Via Antonio Ascari. At the next roundabout (Largo Primo Levi), take the second exit onto Viale Pantanelli (essentially following the main road).

At the roundabout at the Viale Paolo Orsi, turn to the right, Via Columba, (where there is a median strip of palms, and on the left you will see a McDonalds) and go straight until the crossroads where you make a right onto Via Elorina (on the left you will see a Bingo) which is now SS115.

Pass the Agip and QB petrol stations on your right and after about 500 meters pass the QB, you will come to a roundabout where you will take the second exit onto Via Lido Sacramento.

At the next roundabout, take the first exit and stay on Via Lido Sacramento.

Continue straight onto Via La Maddalena which turns right and becomes Via del Faro Massollivieri. You will see a sign for the Minareto and Nesos.

Go straight on the coastal road and the hotel will be on the right.

[Google directions from Catania Fontanarossa Airport to Grand Hotel Minareto](#)

### **WEATHER**

**Weather:** You can visit [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com) to check the weather in Siracusa. Right now we expect highs in the mid 60° F and lows in the mid-50s F. The forecast is for sun and "mostly" sun. Bring a sweater or jacket for the conference room if the temperature is too cool for you and also for meals which we hope to have outside.

### **MOUNT ETNA**

Although Mount Etna has been quiet lately, the volcano is active and still erupts because of its position between the African and Eurasian tectonic plates, as well as the fault between the African and Ionian micoplate. The Ionian plate is tilted backward - allowing space for mantle magna to well up to the surface.

For the latest information, Google "Mount Etna activity now" [Etna Volcano Earthquakes: Latest Quakes Past 7 Days | VolcanoDiscovery](#)

### **THURSDAY AND FRIDAY MORNING SCHEDULE**

**Thursday conference check-in:** Begins at 15:00 on Monday (April 8) in the hotel lobby. The technical session will begin at 16:30 pm With a Keynote talk. At 17:30 there will be a welcome reception on the terrace followed by dinner at 19:00.

**Friday morning:** Breakfast is a buffet that begins at 07:30 and the technical session begins at 09:00. (For accompanying persons, the breakfast area is open to 10:00.). The technical sessions are in the conference center.

### **SPEAKERS**

We expect that all presentations will use PowerPoint and we will have a computer projector as well as a laptop with Microsoft PowerPoint. Slides should be the standard 16:9 aspect ratio. Please bring your presentation on a memory stick for loading onto the ECI computer. If you plan to use a Mac computer, please bring the necessary adapters. Our audio-visual graduate student is **Phil Becker** and he will assist speakers in loading their presentations on the conference laptop.

All presentations should be loaded the day prior to the session or no later than three hours before the session in which you are speaking begins.

Some advice for speakers:

- (i) The less clutter (institutional logos, etc.) the better. No footnotes or headers.
- (ii) You will have a well-informed audience, so you can omit introductory slides. The audience can always ask questions.
- (iii) Ask not what you can put in but what you can leave out. The viewer can, at the most, take away one message from your talk.
- (iv) Use large fonts in the figures (including graphs) so that they can be read in one glance.
- (v) Use color when it is effective, but sparingly.

Be sure that you have provided your session chair with a **very brief** biography for introductions.

It is vital to the conference schedule that you keep to your given time, allowing enough time (at least five minutes) for questions/ discussion. Keeping in the tradition of ECI conferences, please be available during the conference for discussion and questions. Meals and social hours are perfect for discussion and questions.

### **EXCURSION/GUIDED TOUR:**

A guided tour of Siracusa (once the most important city in the western world) will take place on Sunday, April 7.

#### **BRING A WATER BOTTLE WITH YOU!**

The itinerary is as follows:

- 12:45 – Meet in the hotel lobby after you have eaten lunch.
- 13:00 – Departure from the hotel and transfer to Siracusa.
- Arrival at the archeological park of the **Neapolis** where we can see the monolithic Greek Theatre (its cavea is one of the largest ever built by the ancient Greeks and still in use today for classical representations), the sacrificial Altar of Hieron II, the Ear of Dionysius (an artificial limestone quarry named by the painter Caravaggio) and the Roman Amphitheatre.
- We will then continue on to the island of **Ortigia** to see the temple of Apollo, the oldest Doric style temple built in Sicily. The Cathedral is one of the most extraordinary buildings in the world due to the different architectural styles overlapping one another.
- 17.00 – Return to Grand Minareto Hotel

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

The following are a few housekeeping items:

- Please wear your badge throughout the conference. The hotel staff may refuse entry to meals and the bartender may refuse service to those without a conference badge.
- The reverse side of your name badge is where we suggest you place your emergency contact information.
- If you have special dietary needs (e.g., vegetarian, allergies, etc.) that you have not already informed us of when you registered, please contact [Kathy Chan](#) prior to the start of the conference. The hotel does not

guarantee that special dietary needs can be met if they are not informed at least three days prior to the conference. Breakfasts and lunches are buffet meals. If you have questions about the identity of any of the buffet items, please ask a dining area staffer.

- Dress: ECI conferences are casual. No suits and ties!
- ECI does not make pre/post conference reservations. You must contact the hotel directly.
- Audio, still photo and video recording by any device (e.g., cameras, cell phones, laptops, PDAs, watches) are prohibited during the technical sessions, unless the author and ECI have granted prior permission.
- Smoking is not allowed at any conference function.
- ECI will electronically distribute a conference evaluation/questionnaire on Monday. Please complete and return it, as your comments are valuable to the current chairs, the future chairs in the series, and ECI.
- Guests/Accompanying Persons: If you bring a guest at the last moment, you must first see the ECI staff at check-in, pay for your guest, and then give the ECI proof of payment to the hotel.
- Internet – There is wireless Internet access. Note that some areas of the hotel have better reception than others.

If you are having transportation difficulties and will be a late arrival, please either email or text Barbara (+1-914-484-7349) so we can inform the hotel.

Have a safe trip and enjoy the conference!