Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I have the pleasure to invite you to join the 54th Annual Scientific Meeting of the European Society for Clinical Investigation (ESCI), in Bari, overlooking the Adriatic Sea, in the beating historical heart of the Mediterranean Europe!

**Why attending Bari ESCI 2020 Annual Scientific Meeting?**

ESCI was founded in 1967, with the mission of merging clinicians and scientists across Europe working in the multidisciplinary field of biomedical research. Indeed, its journal, the European Journal of Clinical Investigation, offers the best of basic, translational, and clinical science. With the idea of “Bridging Gaps in Aging, Translational, and Transitional Research”, we will address several topics with the help of international scientists, young research fellows and their mentors from many countries and backgrounds. ESCI is committed to update your knowledge, to share your expertise with colleagues from around the world, to access cutting-edge research with scientific vision and mission. For young scientists, ESCI provides special membership fees, travel grants and awards while enjoying several multidisciplinary top-tier sessions and lectures, including the prestigious Albert Struyvenberg Medal 2020. The mission is to make ESCI greater, stronger, and to support the growing generations of young researchers. In other words “To encourage excellent, honest, highly innovative and sound clinical science through collaborations and mobility of young investigators across Europe and worldwide”

**Bari is the capital of Apulia region**, and its province hosts a history rich in culture gained from several past civilizations. Bari is actively linked to its important Port and to its international, high-ranked University “Aldo Moro”, established in 1923. From the times of the Roman Via Appia and onwards, the city has become the gateway to Near East countries, cultures, foodstuffs, and religions. Landmark monuments are the Roman ruins, the Byzantine Catapano Palace, the Roman Cathedral and St. Sabino’s Cathedral, the Norman-Swbian-Anjouins-Aragon Castle, the Petruzzelli, Piccinni and Margherita theatres, Bari Vecchia peninsula with the Muraglia and Lungomare facing the sea. The modern Via Sparano is a place for shopping and the “Karol Woityla” airport connects several European cities. Distinguished people contributing to Bari history are the Swabian Emperor Frederick II Hohenstaufen, St. Nicholas of Myra, Duchess Isabel of Aragon, Queen of Poland Bona Sforza, Joachim Murat, and many others.

Thus, I look forward to seeing you all in Bari in 2020, and so to celebrate together 54 years of strengthening research links across Academia in Europe!

Piero Portincasa  
Professor of Medicine, PhD, dr H. Causa  
University of Bari “Aldo Moro”, Italy  
Past-President ESCI (2011-15)