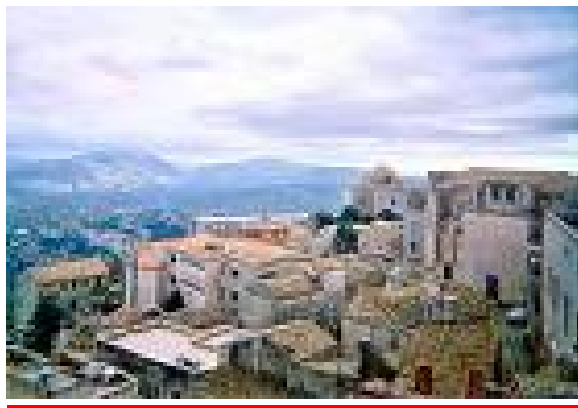


**Proposal for the 4<sup>th</sup> Special Conference of the  
International Society for Neurochemistry**

**“Membrane Domains in CNS  
Physiology and Pathology”**



**Erice (Trapani), Sicily, Italy**

# ***Proposal for the 4<sup>th</sup> Special Conference of the International Society for Neurochemistry***

**“Membrane Domains in CNS physiology and pathology”**

**May 22-26<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**Erice (Trapani), Sicily, Italy**

## **Importance of the topic**

Cellular membranes are characterized by two basic properties: they are non-homogeneous structures and they are highly dynamic structures. The highly organized and dynamic structure of cellular membranes is the consequence of lateral interactions between membrane components, that leads to the creation of macro-and microdomains acting as membrane subcompartments specialized for specific functions. These include the sorting of membrane components (with the consequent morphological and functional cell polarization), the regulation of turnover of membrane components, and the modulation of membrane-associated signaling complexes, which are involved in several aspects of “outside-in” signal transduction and in cell-cell interactions. These roles reflect a particular relevance to the physiology and pathology of the CNS. Key events in the CNS such as neurite- and dendrite-growth, neuronal pathfinding, neuronal survival, myelination and neuron-glia interactions, neurodegeneration and neuroinflammation are linked to the organization of cellular membranes in membrane domains.

## **Proponents:**

A. Prinetti and S. Sonnino:  
Center of Excellence on Neurodegenerative Diseases,  
Department of Medical Chemistry, Biochemistry and Biotechnology,  
University of Milan,  
Milano, Italy.

## **Location**

[Erice \(Trapani\), Sicily, Italy.](#)

Erice is a pre-mediaeval town located in the southernmost region of Italy, the island of Sicily, that lies in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea. Sicily is conveniently connected with airport hubs through the international airport of Palermo ([www.aeroporto.palermo.it](http://www.aeroporto.palermo.it)). Near Erice is located the regional airport of Trapani ([www.trapaniairport.it](http://www.trapaniairport.it)). Public buses, shuttles and taxis connect the Palermo airport with Erice and Trapani.

## **Venue**

[The Ettore Majorana Foundation and Centre for Scientific Culture.](#)

Three restored monasteries provide an appropriate setting for high intellectual endeavour. There are living quarters in the Centre for people attending the Conference.

## **Meeting style**

**Duration:** 3-4 day program with a maximum limit of 10-12 sessions (with 10-12 moderators) and 50-60 speakers. Total participants: 150-180. The meeting will be organised in “Gordon conference” style including holding 10-15 slots for speakers selected from among younger scientists. In order to stimulate the participation of junior scientists, we plan to provide full economical support for 10-20 participants without a permanent institutional position (graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, etc.). **Poster session:** posters will remain displayed for the whole 3 days; poster sessions will be every day after lunch and before the afternoon sections of oral presentations.