



# SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY REPORT 2022

Looking ahead  
to 2023



Bambino Gesù  
FONDAZIONE





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# Principles and criteria underpinning the Social Responsibility Report

The 'social' reporting of the activities of organisations and companies was initially a voluntary process. Today that process covers **specific characteristics and requirements** that also apply in the Italian **charity sector**, and the associated principles and guidelines have served as the basis for drafting this Social Responsibility Report. This report is also based on the provisions of Legislative Decree No 117/2017 and the guidelines laid down in the Decree of 4 July 2019 for organisations in the charity sector.

In representing the dynamics of organisational events and activities from a broader and more general perspective compared to the accompanying financial statements, the Social Responsibility Report has the objective of **providing a concise, clear and transparent picture of the Foundation's activities**, highlighting the impact of the actions implemented and the network of relationships with the various stakeholders at all levels and in a range of spheres, and is thus of value to all individuals and bodies that have

a permanent interest in the activities of the Foundation.

The intention, following on from the previous financial year, is to describe in as much analytical detail as possible the reasons why certain projects and initiatives are or have been supported, indicating the corresponding costs and the related impacts in terms of effectiveness and added value deployed in areas of particular interest and social relevance that specifically relate to the sphere of healthcare and humanitarian support, in line with the Foundation's institutional mission, and especially those related to the institutional activities of the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital (IRCCS).

This document also constitutes a tool for reporting on the management responsibilities, institutional conduct, behaviours and social results associated with the activities carried out that have impacts on the healthcare environment within the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital, and aims to reflect the underlying spirit of the concept of



accountability, understood as responsibility specifically focused on the **principles of transparency and compliance** that guide the Foundation's actions. In that sense, its purpose is to fulfil the obligation to provide information to supplement the purely economic and financial details contained in the financial statements, although it does include a summary of the salient data. In this way, the Social Responsibility Report details the value generated by the organisation, providing comparisons of the results achieved over time.

Reference has been made, in particular, to the core principles of social reporting – relevance, completeness, transparency, neutrality, relevance in terms of time, comparability, truthfulness, verifiability and reliability.

The data presented in this document refer to the financial year of the Bambino Gesù Foundation non-profit organisation (Onlus) and its financial statements as at 31 December 2022.

# Messages from the Chairpersons of the Bambino Gesù Foundation and the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital

The beginning of the 2023 financial year was characterised by significant events in terms of the Hospital's governance.

On 29 March 2023, Mariella Enoc officially handed over the baton as Chairperson of the Hospital to Prof. Tiziano Onesti. At the same time, the outgoing Chairperson was appointed by the Holy See as 'consultant for the Hospital's development projects for as long as necessary'.

The changeover comes at a time of

huge growth for the Hospital, with numerous initiatives under way, including the new headquarters, the digitisation process and the strengthening of the new organisational model, in conjunction with ongoing promotion of the considerable managerial skills present in the Hospital. Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital is continuing its mission of research and care for children and young people from all over Italy and all corners of the world.

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## Message from the Chairwoman Mariella Enoc

*After eight years at the helm of the Hospital and after living through so many projects and experiences, I considered it right for the good of the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital to bring forward the*

*end of my term of office so that the huge endeavour of creating a new site on the Janiculum Hill could be undertaken by those who would be responsible for its completion.*

*The Hospital is experiencing a time of huge growth and there are numerous initiatives under way, so I think you can understand that I have taken this step as an act of responsibility, and one of love for this great institution.*

*Through the help and support of everyone involved, Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital has grown significantly and is held in high esteem both institutionally and in medical and scientific terms, nationally and internationally.*

*It is the duty of everyone to continue along this path: I am pleased to have contributed to bringing a strongly value-based, human and charitable spirit to the sense of managing and therefore caring for young patients and their families from Italy and all over the world.*

*The commitment with the Foundation then made that spirit a reality and made it possible to realise that drive focused more on the margins of the world, to the periphery of places often subject to violence and martyrdom, to the denial of any sense of civilisation, where the protection of health is in no way a right. International projects, humanitarian care, and the reception of foreign patients who would otherwise be deprived of the most minimum support, and who have often found in our Hospital the most advanced and complex treatments, have characterised years of commitment to an ongoing stream of major projects. These include the construction of the Bangui Hospital, in that centre of Africa fraught with difficulties and stricken with absolute poverty, where the Holy Father felt the urgent need for a Catholic healthcare presence, providing the initial drive for a project that was later successfully completed.*

*Our advanced modern surgical interventions and innovative therapies, the result of years of translational research, say all that needs to be said about the Hospital's operations in highly complex and highly specialised care settings.*

*This is a commitment also to support important international documents that establish principles and emphasise the rights of children to be treated and, above all, taken care of at all times, wherever they are from in the world, which has seen the Hospital adopt a position that is always outward-looking, deploying its*

*considerable energy and resources in taking the lead on the global stage.*

*Most recently, the incredible commitment to the development of the Palliative Care Centre fills an important gap in care in such a delicate phase of the healthcare process, alongside young patients and their families.*

*Telling the story of so many years is neither simple nor easy: they are years full of events, experiences, memories and emotions!*

*So all I can do is wish everyone the fondest of farewells, saying from the very bottom of my heart how it has been a wonderful time and an extraordinary adventure: truly great is the gift the Lord has given me by bringing me to Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital!*

Mariella Enoc





On 27 March 2023, Prof. Tiziano Onesti was appointed Chairman of the Governing Board of the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital for the next three years, effective from 1 April, by an act of the Cardinal Secretary of State, on the basis of the powers conferred upon him by Pope Francis.

Born in Rocca di Papa in 1960, Tiziano Onesti is a tenured professor of business administration at the University of Roma Tre and has held various administrative and supervisory positions at leading companies (including the State Railways, Trenitalia, Eni, Telecom, Gruppo Editoriale L'Espresso, Aeroporti di Puglia, and non-profit organisations).

Professor Onesti had been a member of the Hospital's Board of Statutory Auditors since 2017 and his appointment follows the resignation at

the beginning of February of Mariella Enoc, who had held the position of Chairwoman since 2015.



## First statement by new Chairman Tiziano Onesti

*Working at the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital is a great responsibility, but also a great blessing: an opportunity to serve life with love and humility.*

*As they say in the Hospital, there are still incurable diseases but there are no incurable children. I am truly grateful to the Holy Father for the privilege he has granted me and am determined to carry out my work with dedication and a spirit of service, in the same vein as Chairwoman Mariella Enoc, with whom I have worked for almost seven years.*

*With its scientific research activities and excellence of care, the Hospital contributes every day to making a real difference in the lives of children and their families. Our mission*

*remains one of bringing together science and charity, clinical excellence and hospitality, offering a high quality service and human and spiritual support that can help our young patients and their families to overcome difficulties and live with hope and serenity.*

Tiziano Onesti





# About us

## NAME OF THE ORGANISATION

Fondazione Bambino Gesù Onlus

## TAX ID

97531780589

## LEGAL HEADQUARTERS

Passeggiata del Gianicolo, snc  
c/o Villino Sion - 00165 Rome

## OPERATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

V.le di Villa Pamphili, 100  
00152 Rome

## WEBSITE

[www.fondazionebambinogesu.it](http://www.fondazionebambinogesu.it)

## CONTACTS

[info.fond@fondbg.it](mailto:info.fond@fondbg.it)  
+39 06.6859.2946

*From the date when it is entered in the Single National Charity Sector Register (RUNTS), the Foundation will take the name Fondazione Bambino Gesù – Ente Filantropico (Bambino Gesù Foundation – Philanthropic Organisation).*

# History of the Foundation

The Foundation was created in 1996 when the Cari Bambini (Dear Children) Foundation was established by Pope John Paul II to support the hospital care provided for children at the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital, which was itself founded in 1869 and is now accredited as a Scientific Research and Healthcare Institute (Istituto di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico (IRCCS)).

More recently, the Foundation acquired new articles of association and the name Fondazione Bambino Gesù on 4 September 2000.



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The Foundation is based in the Vatican City State, but has consolidated its operational presence in Italy through the establishment of a secondary site, which has enabled it to pursue its designated mission of supporting humanitarian initiatives

to aid the care and research activities carried out by the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital and helping children in need of hospital care who are not covered by the Italian national health service.

Since 2008, with the establishment of the secondary site, the Foundation has been entered in the Register of Legal Entities held at the Prefecture of Rome and in the Register of Non-profit Organisations maintained by the Lazio Regional Government under its current name Fondazione Bambino Gesù Onlus. In November 2015, the Foundation completely renewed its Governing Board, which approved new articles of association geared towards transparency in the entity's operations.

On 15 March 2023, the Foundation's Governing Board definitively approved the new articles of association, with the additions proposed by the Secretary of State and the Secretary for Economic Affairs, formalising registration in the Single National Charity Sector Register (RUNTS).

In 2022, the following individuals were members of the Foundation's Governing Board: Mariella Enoc (Chairwoman), Pierluigi Betturri, Maite Bulgari, Ferruccio De Bortoli, Moroello Diaz Della Vittoria Pallavicini, Benedetta Geronzi and Giuseppe Mascarucci. This Governing Board was appointed by His Eminence the Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, on

17 February 2020, for the three-year period 2020–2022. Pursuant to Article 9.2.b of the Foundation’s articles of association, the three-year term of office is deemed to expire when the financial statements for the final year of the three-year period are approved. This approval was scheduled for the Board meeting held on 21 June 2023. Pursuant to Article 9.2.c of the Foundation’s articles of association, the term of office of the Governing Board may be extended to

enable the performance of activities involved in ordinary administration until a new Board is appointed.

The Foundation’s economic activities are subject to audit by the Board of Statutory Auditors.

The Foundation’s financial statements are certified by the auditing firm Deloitte.



# Identity, Mission and Values

Supporting the efforts of doctors, researchers and health workers at the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital and those who work daily to provide a better quality of life for children and their families.

Building an enclave of Christian solidarity backed by principles of healthcare, support, patient management and treatment based on the demands and needs of families and children, who will therefore always find the door to the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital open, regardless of where they come from.

In the context of its genesis and institutional purpose, the Bambino Gesù Foundation is a non-profit organisation involved in initiatives and activities rooted in social action and solidarity:

- promoting and supporting the scientific research activities of the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital, contributing to guaranteeing the availability of a range of resources aimed particularly at supporting projects with a significant medical and scientific focus, in the context of the Hospital's IRCCS structure;
- supporting the development of healthcare services provided by the Hospital for Italian and foreign minors who are disadvantaged due to their physical, psychological, economic, social or family situation, addressing the complex nature of the urgent requests for paediatric care and treatment that now arrive from all over the world. It is often the case that only the Hospital has access to the appropriate

and adequate resources, skills and diagnostic, therapeutic and interventional options that would otherwise not be feasible;

- implementing projects with a significant focus on ethics, values and social function, which guarantee appropriate support for the Hospital's activities within the changing landscape of the demands of the social care and healthcare environment, and if necessary acting as a driver in coordinating processes designed to implement new initiatives for which specifically dedicated fundraising efforts can be harnessed.

The values that guide the work of the Foundation are the following:

## INTERNATIONAL SCOPE

- The commitment to give full support to cooperative partnerships and synergies based on international research and treatment agreements is

an important operational mechanism for the Foundation, which operates with an increasingly outward-looking and international focus, with the aim of garnering attention and resources from the most highly qualified and authoritative entities in the sphere of international donations, which in turn have a desire to promote and support serious, credible projects in the fields of health protection and humanitarian aid.

- The provision of hospitality for the neediest children with serious illnesses from countries with fewer resources has now become a core strategic focus in the Foundation's activities, making it possible to specifically allocate an ever-increasing range of resources. The implementation of this strategy has yielded very important results in terms of addressing medical and healthcare needs, confirming the need for a positioning for the Foundation aimed at identifying this complex and often dramatic scenario of healthcare demands and providing an appropriate response.
- The implementation of missions in the field of training and technical support, to freely transfer knowledge and experience in the paediatric field, constitutes an equally strategic aspect oriented towards international situations and countries with a more limited degree of medical specialisation. This follows on from the idea of a universal healthcare mission that is also achieved by pooling and transferring as much as possible of the wealth of

skills, knowledge and experience that is constantly exploited in the day-to-day running of the Hospital, with its multidisciplinary healthcare excellence.

### **TRANSPARENT RELATIONSHIPS WITH DONORS**

The ethical and values-based approach applied to the Foundation's activities incorporates a particular focus on social reporting of its actions, which is reflected primarily, in operational terms, in management activities aimed at maximum transparency in all phases of the donation process: donors are promptly informed of the transfer of the funds collected to the Hospital – in line with any allocation constraints – and, once the activities have been completed, they are informed of the outcome and the results achieved.

### **A FRUGAL APPROACH TO ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT**

Based on a lean management model designed to ensure the swift introduction of each initiative and phase of activity, organisational and management austerity is a distinguishing feature of the Foundation's operations, resulting in a structure characterised by very low expenditure, which thus ensures that the funds raised are allocated to the development activities envisaged by the Hospital, which is regularly informed of the donations received and the associated allocation constraints.



# Cooperation between the Fondazione Bambino Gesù Onlus and Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital (IRCCS)

The Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital and the Foundation: a partnership based on solid values that continues to benefit the world's children and their families

Since their inception, the values shared by the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital and the Foundation have developed in common, firmly anchored in the ethical, ecumenical and Christian solidarity principles and values of the Holy See. They have built a first-response entity that has gradually become more and more integrated and multifaceted in terms of medical care and scientific excellence, to the point that it has become an international benchmark for paediatric patients. The Hospital and the Foundation are therefore bound by an indissoluble common mission, in a relationship that connects assumptions with goals, values with operating methods, and resources with objectives. They work together for the good of children, nurturing a shared network of

relationships and regulatory and procedural safeguards designed to ensure the sustainability of healthcare action in addressing important goals for treatment, care and research in the medical and healthcare fields and those of new therapies, new drugs and modern methodologies and technologies for approaching children's health needs. At the same time, they represent a national and international beacon for services related to humanitarian aid and patient reception. Recent events on a global scale, including conflicts and wars, both in neighbouring Eastern Europe and in the rest of the world, have led to a significant increase in the migration of ever larger sections of persecuted and tormented populations, who are increasingly in need of assistan-

ce and care, often involving medical treatment with psychological support. In this sense, the combined mission of the Hospital and Foundation has seen an increasing focus on specific areas of intervention.

### **THE VALUE OF DONATING TO A HUMANITARIAN AND HEALTH INITIATIVE**

The dynamic, ongoing nature of the complex activities undertaken each day in managing the Hospital therefore continues to represent a process that requires continued medical, healthcare and scientific action in the construction of a system that safeguards the health of children. The Foundation's institutional role in support of the Hospital continues to be a factor in providing support and ongoing quality, within a timeline that is absolutely consistent with situations, related demands and corresponding requirements for assistance in which the Hospital's daily operations represent a focus on paediatric health that very often crosses over to include humanitarian and family issues, while still finding care responses in a much broader sense based on solidarity and reflecting the Foundation's parallel spectrum of activity.

### **ORGANISATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL RECIPROCITY**

Over time, the close link between the Hospital and the Foundation has facilitated the development of a common approach, integrating the management of processes and procedures to ensure

that the various possible forms of aid and support provided by those who donate to the Hospital through the Foundation are always completely lawful, transparent and functional.

The Foundation's procedures (single register, accounting records, tracked donation methods, certification of financial statements, code of ethics, privacy model, etc.) guarantee unambiguous management processes, and in particular for the tracking of each individual donation. An increasingly structured and close synergistic relationship with the areas of the Hospital responsible for control has made it possible to create a monitoring network that ensures the timely disbursement of resources for use by the projects and activities to which they are specifically allocated. The Hospital also applies appropriate reporting methods, which enable the Foundation to produce reporting specifically for its stakeholders.

Specifically, since October 2019, the Hospital has revised the processes relating to the acquisition, management and reporting of donations that identify the Hospital as the beneficiary of such donations either directly or through the Foundation, to ensure that those processes are more integrated and organised. As a result, all donations made to the Foundation by individuals or legal entities (in cash, bequests or testamentary dispositions, or other donations) intended to support the Hospital's activities are collected, catalogued, assessed, accepted and reported by the Foundation, in close cooperation and liaison with the various implementing actors, with the sole exception of '5 per 1000' donations, which continue to be carried out by both the Hospital and the Foundation.

The Foundation also operates a Single Donation Register (RUD), in which





all donations made and received directly by the Foundation are recorded in chronological order, and which the Foundation then evaluates in terms of suitability for the Hospital, along with all donation proposals that may designate the Hospital as the final beneficiary. Activities associated with reporting and communication to donors are also recorded in the Register.

The funds collected are used to:

- a)** support scientific research;
- b)** support clinical activity and technological innovation;
- c)** support the reception of families of hospitalised children;
- d)** support humanitarian care: provision of assistance for foreign patients;
- e)** support international cooperation and the health school platform;
- f)** contribute to the construction of new facilities;
- g)** support special projects approved by the Governing Board.

Alongside the close relationship that impacts the two entities' operating methods, since 2021 the Foundation has also adopted a Code of Ethics based on the same values and principles as the similar document adopted by the Hospital. In line with its policy of strict compliance with privacy regulations, the Foundation also adopted a specific Organisational Model that refers to similar procedures and approaches and therefore has the professional appointed by the Hospital in the role of Data Protection Officer (DPO). Still in the context of the close cooperation that binds the two entities, above all in relation to particularly complex project activities, the Foundation has in place a structured synergistic relationship based on important collaborative dialogue with the va-

rious technical support teams in the competent areas within the Hospital, especially with regard to the realisation of new projects and structures that have particular relevance and impact in terms of implementation and economics.

## **THE VALUE OF CONTINUITY OVER TIME**

The international scenario and related demands for aid and medical and other assistance, with the increasingly global scope of diseases and viruses, in the context of changes in communication tools – especially digital tools – have driven the Foundation to continue planning its mission of supporting healthcare activities by extending the scope of its outreach activities far beyond Italian borders. This means looking outward, reaching out more and more to provide answers and contribute work and actions wherever there is a need and a cry for help asking for treatment and assistance for children of the world and their often struggling families. The Foundation's institutional support actions are therefore also geared towards international scenarios and the search for possible partnerships and donors that act in a consolidated and systemic manner to provide global support for worthy initiatives with a genuine humanitarian, treatment and healthcare focus, such as those carried out each day by the Hospital.

This includes the initiative based around the launch of a foundation under US law, based in New York, called 'Patrons of Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital' in November 2022, which will launch its first initiatives in 2023.

# Network of relationships and stakeholders

Strengthened by the values-driven scope of its initiatives, the Bambino Gesù Foundation has succeeded over time in building an extensive network of internal and external contacts, which contribute to the full and continuing deployment of its activities.

From this perspective, it is possible to feel an ongoing sense that values are being capitalised on to create relationships that represent a real major asset, using the impetus generated by the satisfaction and motivation derived from the results of the various projects to sustain the links that tie the partners to the Foundation in a virtuous relationship based on cooperation and support that just keeps going!

## DONORS

These are the Foundation's great resource: natural and legal persons, organisations and companies that, through their contributions, support the Hospital's development and solidarity projects. A summary of the donations received in 2022 by the Foundation and transferred by it to the Hospital is provided later in this document.

## THE HOSPITAL AND ITS EMPLOYEES

The Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital is the largest paediatric hospital and research centre in Europe, a

point of reference for the health of children and young people from all over Italy and abroad. The Hospital is the Italian centre for Orphanet, the world's largest database for rare diseases, with 39 member states.

Healthcare services are provided at six centres: the Hospital's historical site on the Janiculum Hill, the San Paolo Fuori le Mura and Viale Ferdinando Baldelli sites in Rome, the Palidoro and Santa Marinella sites on the Lazio coast, and, since March 2022, the Paediatric Palliative Care Centre in Passoscuro. This provides a total of 627 beds, including 40 in intensive care and 22 in neonatal semi-intensive care.

The Hospital's employees help the Foundation in seeking the best allocation of resources, promptly identifying new needs to interpret the wishes and needs of patients and their families.



An intense and extensive exchange of reports and proposals then serves as the mechanism for the development of projects of scientific relevance that are of specific interest and that will result in translational effects, providing a concrete demonstration of the Foundation's commitment to ensuring their economic sustainability.

## ASSOCIATIONS

First and foremost, this includes the voluntary associations that not only contribute to improving patient care and management in the Hospital but also do their utmost to promote fundraising. The Foundation then allocates the funds raised based on the most urgent needs. There are also numerous contacts with cultural and sports associations, professional associations and local authorities. The purpose of these contacts is to guarantee appropriate services to patients and their families and to promote fundraising initiatives for the Foundation in support of the Hospital's various activities.

## PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

The Hospital provides care and treatment for patients from all over the world, supporting research into rare diseases, cancers and transplants, while the Foundation raises funds to ensure proper care is provided for family members, supports children without financial means in need of costly operations, and disseminates knowledge about best healthcare practices free of charge.

## FOUNDATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

Regular relationships are maintained with the foundations at the major Italian children's hospitals (Meyer, Gaslini), with national and international foundations and with local and national institutions (Fondazione Angelini, Fondazione Ania, Fondazione Terzo Pilastro Internazionale, Fondazione Enel Cuore, Fondazione Heal, Fondazione Mediolanum, Associazione Officium, Fondazione Giulio e Giovanna Sacchetti, Fondazione Cariplo, Il Laboratorio di Chiara, Associazione Davide Ciavattini, Peter Pan Odv, Gruppo Conad, Italian Cystic Fibrosis League, Banca IFIS, Il Cuore Grande di Flavio Odv, etc.).

## MEDIA AND SOCIAL NETWORKS

This covers a series of modern, highly interactive tools and systems, through which the Foundation is able to publicise relevant news and the events it organises and to describe the activities it implements and involve the public through the internet in the performance of those activities. The Foundation regularly contacts the community of donors, patients' families and relevant associations by means of a newsletter providing reports on donations received and illustrating the Foundation's events and



programmes. The upgrading of the Foundation's website continued in 2022 and it is now completely new, and fundraising activities now also use the Foundation's new dedicated app and, from April 2023, the new crowdfunding platform, which allows donors to set up and manage their own fundraising for the Bambino Gesù Foundation.

### **CORPORATE BODIES**

These are the Governing Board and the Board of Statutory Auditors, which were appointed at the beginning of 2020. These bodies were presented last year and continue to guide and support the Foundation.

### **WORKING GROUP**

The Foundation operates with a small working group of six professionals – all employees of the Hospital seconded to the group – coordinated by the Secretary General according to the model described in the section on the organisational structure.



# Corporate bodies

The Bambino Gesù Foundation has the following institutional bodies for the purposes of its governance activities: a Chairperson, a Governing Board and a Board of Statutory Auditors.

The chairperson is appointed by the Holy See, by a specific act of the Secretary of State. The Vatican Secretary of State also appoints the members of the Governing Board and the Board of Statutory Auditors.

## GOVERNING BOARD

**CHAIRWOMAN:** Mariella Enoc

**DIRECTORS:** Pierluigi Betturri, Maite Bulgari, Ferruccio De Bortoli, Moroello Diaz Della Vittoria Pallavicini, Benedetta Geronzi e Giuseppe Mascarucci

**PERMANENT GUEST MEMBER:** Maria Grazia Salviati

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## Chairperson

The Chairperson is the legal representative of the Foundation before third parties and in legal proceedings, and has the associated signatory powers, coordinates the Foundation's activities and oversees the full achievement of its goals, convenes and chairs the meetings of the Governing Board, ensures that the resolutions adopted are implemented, carries out acts of ordinary administration, and adopts and implements irrevocable, urgent measures of extraordinary administration that are necessary to ensure the proper functioning of the Foundation.

## Governing Board

The Governing Board holds all powers for the ordinary and extraordinary administration of the Foundation, approves the annual budget forecast and the proposed annual financial statements, decides on the strategy, objectives and fundamental programmes related to the Foundation's activities, decides whether to accept contributions, donations and bequests, and decides on purchases and sales of movable and immovable property.

The current Governing Board was appointed for the three-year period 2020–2022 and will hold office until the proposed financial statements for 2022 have been approved.

## Board of Statutory Auditors

The Board of Statutory Auditors verifies that the accounts are properly kept and monitors the Foundation's financial management.

The current Board of Statutory Auditors was appointed for the three-year period 2020–2022 and will hold office until the proposed financial statements for 2022 have been approved. The members of the Board of Statutory Auditors are as follows: Maurizio Zelli (Chairman), Francesco Alati and Gianni Artegiani.



### MARIELLA ENOC (CHAIRWOMAN)

Mariella has always held positions of responsibility directing and managing healthcare facilities. She was formerly Chairwoman of Confindustria Piemonte, Deputy Chairwoman of the Cariplo Foundation and the Cini Foundation, and a board member in various organisations (Social Housing Foundation, Filarete Foundation, University of Eastern Piedmont 'A. Avogadro'). She has been Chairwoman of Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital since 2015.

### PIERLUIGI BETTURRI

Born in Rome, Pierluigi first pursued a technical education and then studied architecture. After working for the State Railways, he turned his attention to amateur and youth sports and the restaurant sector. In the early 2000s, he set up the Configno Museum, of which he is the director, and founded the Orie Terme Nature Oasis. Since 2012 he has been Chairman of Trastevere Calcio, a Serie D football team.



### MAITE BULGARI

A graduate in communication sciences and with a PhD in philosophy, Maite worked as a journalist first in Spain and then in Italy, in the print media and for radio and television stations. Since 2003, she has made numerous documentary films dedicated to illustrious people in Italian cinema. She has been active for many years in promoting and supporting activities to reduce poverty.



## FERRUCCIO DE BORTOLI

Ferruccio is an Italian journalist. He was twice editor-in-chief of the *Corriere della Sera*, from 1997 to 2003 and from 2009 to 2015, as well as editor-in-chief of the *Sole 24 Ore* from 2005 to 2009. Since 2015 he has been Chairman of the Vidas Association in Milan. He is currently Chairman of the Longanesi publishing house.

## BENEDETTA GERONZI

Benedetta is a law graduate and professional journalist, and has worked in public relations at Tim. In 1998, she joined the Italian Football League and, in 2002, the Italian Football Federation, first as Head of Marketing and then as Head of Institutional and Social Responsibility. In 2003 she received the Marisa Bellisario Prize. In 2006 she was awarded the honour of Knight of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic. Always active in social work, she has been a member of the Board of Directors of Ail and is a member of the Board of Special Olympics Italy and Vice-Chair of Airc in Lazio.



## GIUSEPPE MASCARUCCI

A graduate in law, Giuseppe has worked for a number of prominent law firms. Since 2001 he has been employed in the Secretariat of State, where he is responsible for certain legal aspects. He is a member of the Supervisory Board of the Vatican Printing Press – *L'Osservatore Romano* – Photo Service, and Manager of the Coordination Centre for the Protection of Images and Coats of Arms (CCTIS).

## MOROELLO DIAZ DELLA VITTORIA PALLAVICINI

A graduate in law, Moroello soon devoted himself to the family business in the real estate, wine and agriculture sectors. With his brother Sigieri, he is a major shareholder in several companies in the financial and energy sectors. He was formerly National Chairman of the Italian Historic Houses Association and is a board member of the AIRC Foundation for Cancer Research and a member of the General Council and Committee of the Cini Foundation.



# Organisational structure

The Foundation operates using a particularly lean organisational structure in order to ensure operational efficiency, timely delivery of services and containment of costs. This structure includes a Secretary General and a working group of six people, each of whom is responsible for a certain area of activity but is also responsible with the other working group members for conceiving, setting up and defining institutional fundraising campaigns, planning and implementing charity meetings, implementing marketing projects and partnerships with organisations and companies aimed at fundraising, and monitoring the progress of donations and the related valuations of movable and immovable property.



## FRANCESCO AVALLONE (SECRETARY GENERAL)

A graduate in law, specialist in psychology, company manager, lecturer in work and organisational psychology, former Deputy Vice Chancellor of Sapienza University of Rome and Chancellor of Unitelma Sapienza, Francesco has promoted research, programmes and interventions on well-being and organisational development.

The Secretary General works directly in cooperation with the Chairwoman of the Foundation.

On the instructions of the Chairwoman, he prepares the documents relating to the Governing Board's resolutions and maintains relationships with the Governing Board, the auditors and the auditing firm. He also prepares the draft preliminary and final financial statements. He maintains relationships with the staff of the Bambino Gesù Chil-

dren's Hospital and with the various categories of donors, in particular to gain support for the Hospital's major development projects.

He supervises administrative and financial activities, with a particular focus on transparency and reporting of funds collected.

He coordinates the people who have been engaged in 2022 in the following specific activities:





## MONICA CITTI

Monica updates the Unique Donation Register on a weekly basis, verifies compliance with allocation constraints, and makes the relevant transfers to the Hospital. She works on the monthly reconciliation of the Foundation's income and expenditure according to the various fund allocation categories. She also prepares donation receipts for tax purposes and bi-monthly activity summary reports.

## ANTONELLA COLTELLA

Antonella is responsible for setting up and promoting campaigns for new companies and those that are already loyal supporters. She promotes and manages direct marketing activities. She organises ceremonies and events and manages relationships with communications agencies for the production of printed and multimedia material. She also updates the file of institutional donors.



## SILVIA CROTALI

Silvia manages and updates the website, determining the information to be published. She maintains the email inbox info.fond@fondbg.it and manages related correspondence. She manages relationships with management control and the Hospital structures concerned to ensure the success of donations. She organises ceremonies and events and handles requests for solidarity-related wedding favours, wedding lists, birthday wish lists, etc.

## MORENA PECCARISI

Morena independently manages the reporting of incoming and outgoing financial flows as well as relationships with the Foundation's credit institutions. She handles the paperwork for donations and bequests to the Foundation. She manages contacts with the Board of Statutory Auditors, the auditing firm and the competent Vatican bodies. She prepares the preliminary and final financial statements and handles the reporting of '5 per 1000' donations to the relevant ministry.



## CHIARA LOZUPONE (from 1 November 2022)

Chiara maintains dialogue with donors by preparing thank-you notes for contributions made. She maintains the Foundation's invoice register and archives. She handles relationships with US Foundations.



The Secretary General coordinates the activities of the individuals described above, who form the working group responsible for promoting activities aimed at identifying resources to support the Hospital's development projects.

The working group is responsible for maintaining contacts with foundations, associations and organisations to generate support for the Hospital's major development projects. This group also prepares the Foundation's contracts and agreements with donors, suppliers and other parties.

To carry out his various institutional activities, the Secretary General relies on the assistance of Giuseppe Melone, Administrative Manager of the Hospital.



# Analysis and collection of donations



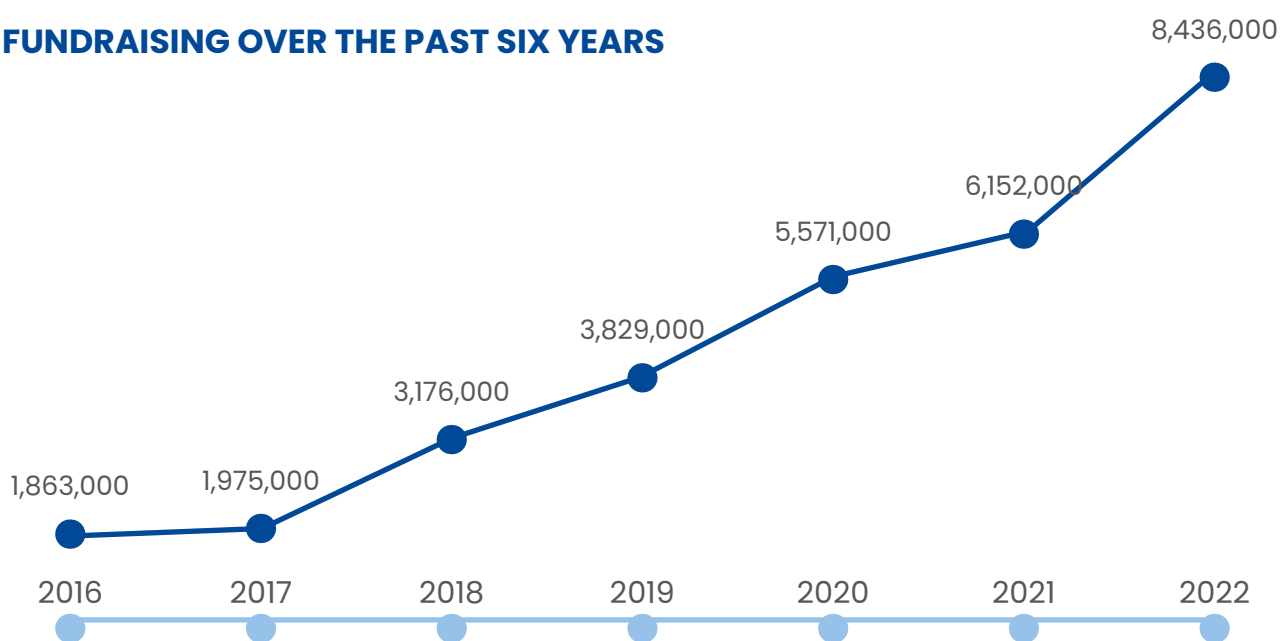
All donations made to the Foundation by individuals or legal entities intended to support the Hospital's activities are collected, catalogued, evaluated, accepted and reported by the Foundation. In 2020 the Foundation introduced a Single Donation Register (RUD), in which all donations made and received directly by the Foundation are recorded in chronological order, and which the

Foundation then evaluates in terms of suitability for the Hospital. Activities associated with reporting and communication to donors are also recorded in the Register.

The upward trend in donations collected continued in 2022 (+37% compared to the previous year).

The following is a summary table.

## FUNDRAISING OVER THE PAST SIX YEARS



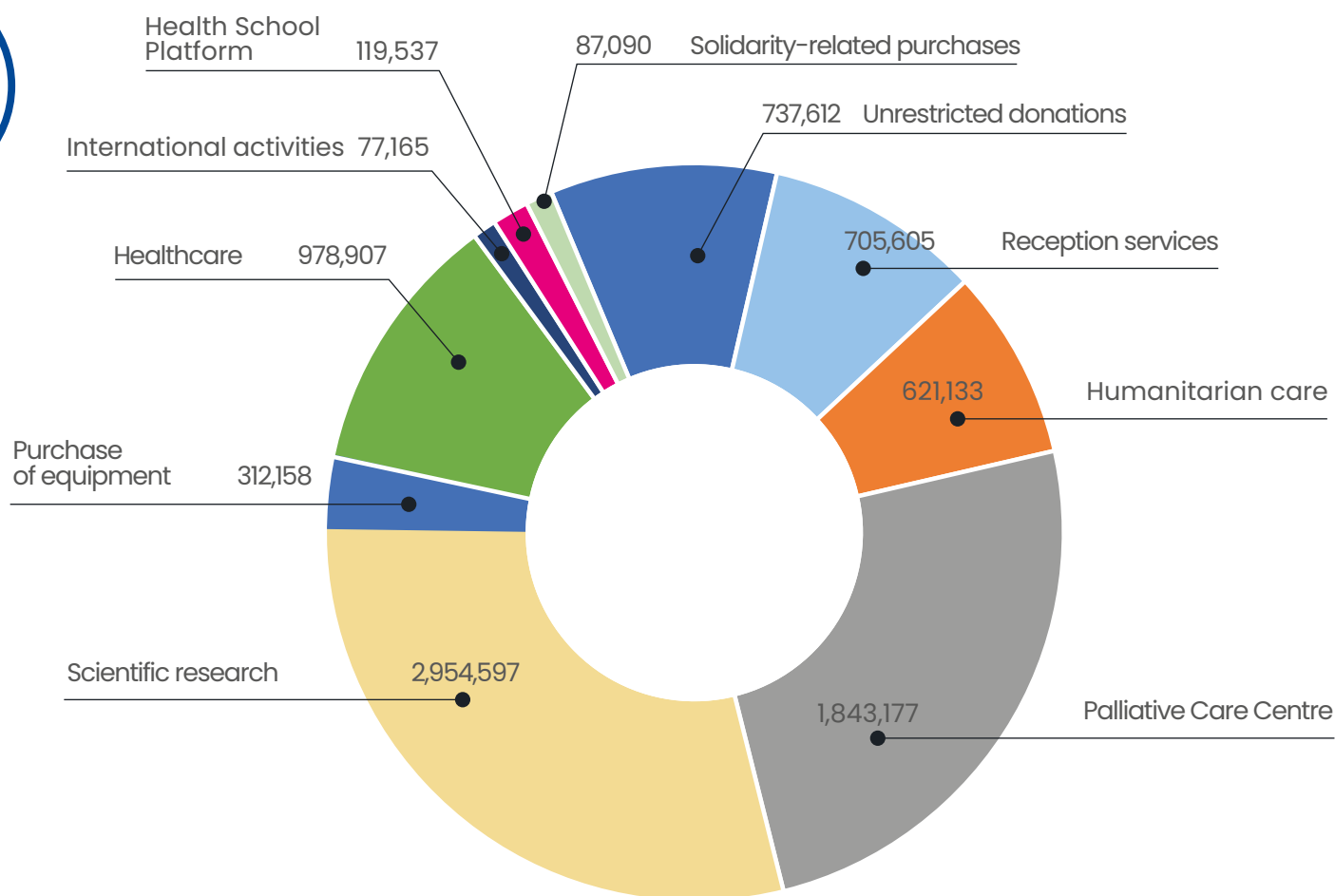
A total of 92% of donations were paid through bank transfers. The remaining 8% was paid through postal current accounts, cheques, postal payment slips, credit cards and PayPal.

In 2022 90.3% of donations were tied to a specific Foundation project, 8.7%

were unrestricted donations and the remaining 1% was linked to the purchase of solidarity-related gift products.

The following table shows the distribution of donations in relation to the intended purpose.

## DONATIONS FOR 2022 BASED ON ALLOCATION CONSTRAINTS



In the course of 2022, Fondazione Bambino Gesù Onlus, through the donations received and with the addition of €869,881 in donations in

2021, transferred approximately €8 million to the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital, distributed as follows:

ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED	AMOUNT
Support for scientific research	<b>3,078,986</b>
Support for humanitarian care	<b>1,444,599</b>
Support for healthcare	<b>347,827</b>
Support for the the purchase of technological equipment	<b>345,232</b>
Support for the health school platform	<b>114,375</b>
Support for international activities	<b>120,606</b>
Support for reception services for families	<b>265,237</b>
Establishment of the Passoscuro Palliative Care Centre	<b>2,253,338</b>
Special projects	<b>138,000</b>

# Support activities at the Paediatric Hospital

## Context and background

Before presenting the various activities carried out by the Bambino Gesù Foundation to support the development projects undertaken by the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital, we wanted to interview the Hospital's

Medical Director, Dr Massimiliano Raponi, and propose some remarks on the changes in the economic and social scenario, with particular regard to the healthcare context.

### What have been the greatest difficulties encountered in providing healthcare during the pandemic?

*The COVID emergency has presented us with major challenges, the first of which is the ability to cope with the uncertainty we have experienced since the beginning. The challenges we have faced in delivering care have been numerous:*

- *protecting personnel involved in providing care;*
- *creating safe pathways for patients and relatives;*
- *dealing with staff shortages due to infection and quarantine;*
- *ensuring that laboratory tests on*

*swabs are carried out quickly and as accurately as possible.*

*To meet these challenges, the Hospital has defined specific pathways and set up dedicated operational units for the management of Covid patients at the Gianicolo and Palidoro sites, in accordance with international and national guidelines.*

Furthermore, with regard to A&E activities, the separation of patients arriving under emergency conditions with fever or acute respiratory symptoms at



the Rome and Palidoro A&E units has been guaranteed from the outset and then maintained.

A further major challenge has been to ensure that care could be provided for patients with emergency conditions or chronic illnesses, for example for organ transplants, the volume of which has remained high during the pandemic.

### **What are the major healthcare challenges facing the Hospital, not least because of the growing demand for high complexity services?**

*The challenge is to find effective treatment approaches that are accessible to everyone, with high quality and safety standards despite the often limited resources available to the national health service.*

*Children with complex care needs present very different clinical pictures, ranging from congenital or acquired multisystem diseases to onco-haematological pathologies.*

*Children with complex conditions present risks of acute decompensation caused by the underlying condition, risk of developing conditions secondary to the underlying condition and risk of frequent and prolonged hospitalisation.*

*Children requiring highly complex care are treated in hospital in acute wards, frequently in intensive care units: prolonged hospitalisation, in addition to having a very onerous impact on the family and the child, has a significant impact on care costs (in the USA, it is estimated that children with complex chronic conditions account for about 1% of the paediatric population and absorb about 30% of the total resources for the care of paediatric patients). The demand for specialist services also increases proportionally with the number of problems.*

*In Italy, it is estimated that one in every 200 children/adolescents (un-*

*der the age of 18) has a chronic disease with high complexity of care. If we look at this in terms of the general Italian population, about 850 children out of 1 million inhabitants have a condition involving a complex disability.*

*The constant improvement in care has also led over the years to a higher survival rate of children born prematurely, with congenital malformations or suffering from chronic diseases, contributing significantly to the increased prevalence of complex chronic conditions.*

*This epidemiological situation is a challenge for care providers, as children with complex chronic conditions need non-stop care and a multi-professional specialist approach and support networks outside the healthcare system in different settings (school, home, social life).*

*Added to this is the not insignificant impact of the need to ensure an adequate transition from paediatric to adult care for these patients, as they pass the age of 18. The organisation of an effective transition, which is necessary for the development of such children, involves careful cooperation between the different settings and levels of care involved, aimed at reducing non-essential hospital admissions and improving the quality of life of patients and their families.*



*In order to improve the quality of care for these patients, it is essential to build shared pathways between the Hospital and the local community, to focus on educating family members and caregivers, and to identify specialised and expert figures capable of taking care of the patient at home, ensuring a patient-centred clinical and care approach.*

**How has demand for healthcare services to support the growth phases of young adolescents changed and on which areas it is most focused?**

*Adolescent patients experience hospitalisation quite differently from younger patients. Adolescence is a delicate age, when it is necessary to pay careful attention to patients who are in need of help and yet are often disinclined to ask for it.*

*Some time ago, the Hospital decided to dedicate initiatives and spaces to this particular category of patients, initiatives that during the pandemic were geared towards the use of computer media and virtual meeting places.*

*This type of development, while necessarily a handicap in terms of physical meeting places, has created new possibilities for contact and sharing experiences.*

*The ADOLESCENTS' COUNCIL, which was already active pre-pandemic and used to meet in the recreation room at least once a month, has become a virtual place inhabited daily by the desires, feelings and thoughts of adolescents. Thoughts, plans and themes related to social events are discussed virtually with the rec room staff in the Hospital and the adolescents from home.*

*Support groups dedicated to young people with specific pathologies have been created and have continued to exist and develop in the*

*post-pandemic period. I am thinking, for example, of the work with girls suffering from anorexia nervosa: the Reception Office shares certain projects with the Neuropsychiatry Unit aimed at recovering social and manual skills through periodic group activities, first online and then face-to-face.*

*Not least, school activities have found new methods of implementation during the pandemic. Schooling at all levels is available in the Hospital, and therefore also secondary school. At both the Rome and Palidoro sites, lessons were held on computer, and the young people had the opportunity to meet others of the same age and with similar pathologies in virtual classrooms, establishing bonds – including emotional ones – that were important in combating loneliness and the sense of abandonment.*

*Ultimately, as far as the reception aspects are concerned, there were problems but the pandemic also represented an opportunity for improvement through projects that have continued to this day, aimed at meeting and sharing the experiences of our young people.*



# Post-COVID situation

Rising operating costs for healthcare companies tend to make the issue of financial sustainability much more complicated, both for hospitals and for local entities, both public and private.

According to Agenas studies, for 2022 alone, energy costs for healthcare companies increased by 79% (by approximately €1.4 billion) compared to 2021 and by 92% compared to 2019 before the Covid pandemic and conflict situations.

The system as a whole is trying to make up the gap generated in 2020 because of Covid, and although there are signs of recovery, there are shortfalls in care for first consultations of around 3.4 million and for follow-ups of around 5.5 million, compared to the pre-Covid figure for 2019. All of this is despite the allocation of €1 billion to cope with the recovery of services on specialist waiting lists for 2020 and 2022, which are still facing a gap in the system-wide deployment of mo-

dern technological infrastructure systems to facilitate patient access to facilities through digital flow and booking management tools.

The effect of the focus of demand for health services on particularly efficient structures specifically organised for areas such as paediatrics, leads to a flow of patients to Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital from all parts of the country and from other countries, making the issue of sustainability even more complex, especially for areas not supported by ordinary institutional funding. This creates a need for support to which the Foundation responds, especially in this delicate phase, through the donations it collects, a valuable support mechanism.





# Effects on national health service financing

The central issue of the national healthcare requirement and its funding – in the given scenario – are the focus of government and policy choices, in the difficult situation that last December saw the allocated funding for the national health service increased by an additional €2 billion for 2023, in addition to the amounts previously allocated, bringing the total amount to €128 billion, an increase of €4 billion compared to 2022. It must be said, however, that much of the increase will be absorbed by the rise in energy costs for healthcare facilities.

The trend towards a new conception of public health spending, which, as a result of the pandemic, has taken on a strategic value as an investment in security rather than mere public spending, aimed at reorganising, rearranging and strengthening a national health service in the post-Covid era, therefore envisages a need to view this in terms of a coherent picture within the national macroeconomic framework not just for health but also with all the related incremental public expenditure requirements for other sectors.

Under the particular conditions applicable in the general system, however, the public burden of financing the national health service at levels of percentage GDP aligned with European standards (around 9%-10%) appears increasingly difficult to sustain (the national figure at around 6.5% for 2023 is substantially in line with the pre-Covid figure in 2019). In 2020, the impetus provided by the pandemic had brought it to a level of 7.5% of GDP,



but, as long as the interest burden on public debt remains so high for Italy (8.5% of public spending) and where appropriate incremental conditions of growth and economic development are not realigned, this result does not appear easy to replicate. Moreover, the figure for the ratio of health expenditure to GDP appears unrepresentative if linked to a completely unrelated value, such as GDP, which is correlated to the production of national wealth, an element that usually grows in developing countries and not in situations of systemic crisis such as we are currently experiencing. Within this framework of increasing macroeconomic complexity and the interplay between aspects of the country system's resilience and consistency with commitments in the EU arena, the issue of sustainability and the search for conditions of sound management equilibrium, at company level, not only suggest



that continuous monitoring of changes in the system is a crucial factor, but also necessarily tie corporate strategic choices to the 'core' objectives of health protection. At the same time, this places an increasing institutional and structural burden on the entities that are responsible for supporting and sustaining these areas, along with a more central and leading role, as a factor in support and development, in order to ensure more and more resources and therefore feasibility for projects that would otherwise be likely to be scaled down.

In this sense, the Foundation strongly feels this central role in securing resources for the Hospital for all of its humanitarian care activities, however they are designed, relating to patient management, reception, international healthcare and innovative scientific projects, all of which bring, on the one hand, a significant impetus for change and a

drive towards a modern healthcare approach and, at the same time, full implementation of the Hospital's ecumenical and Christian mission. The institutional health promotion activities and related fundraising initiatives of the Bambino Gesù Foundation are therefore also fully in line with this common theme.

The continuity of an institutional commitment is therefore supplemented through additional strong drivers that see a specific and increasingly leading role for the Foundation in conceiving, planning and leading the implementation of important projects, such as the project already in place for palliative care, or the project initiated with the Patrons within the framework of the US foundations, and lastly the hoped-for operational launch of the centre for the study of eating disorders, perceived as a widespread social issue among adolescents, especially after the pandemic.

The Medical Management Department is responsible for guiding, guaranteeing and coordinating the Hospital's healthcare activities: it is responsible for the clinical governance of the Hospital, in terms of quality, operational efficiency and appropriateness, and it is

the ultimate guarantor for healthcare and the coordination of the healthcare personnel working in the Hospital.

In more specific terms, the Medical Management Department is responsible for:

- Coordinating and integrating health, hygiene, technical and organisational processes.
- Organising responses to care requests, from a healthcare, technical, methodological and general coordination point of view.
- Verifying the appropriateness of the medical and surgical services provided, also in terms of the suitability of the clinical and healthcare pathways and the proper management of resources, using a system that continuously monitors organisational appropriateness – which envisages the evaluation of medical records and interaction with the periodic inspections carried out by the Lazio Region – and clinical appropriateness, through the preparation of clinical protocols and the activation of specific clinical and healthcare pathways by pathology and clinical area.
- Monitoring, preventing and controlling the risk of infection for children, staff and visitors through coordinated infection prevention, monitoring and control actions and through information, training, evaluation and inspection activities.
- Identifying, managing, containing and monitoring clinical risk, where necessary through the implementation of 'good practice' projects to improve the quality of care and treatment and the monitoring of adverse and prevented events, the most significant of which are discussed each month and analysed through in-depth studies and RCA. Based on the analyses performed, the necessary corrective actions are identified and implemented.
- Managing Hospital services, including accommodation services.
- Supervising clinical documentation: from compilation to archiving processes and transmission to users.
- Coordinating activities relevant to institutional and voluntary accreditations, as well as certification processes, where necessary through the preparation of internal regulatory documentation and the provision of training in the field.

- Maintaining relationships with institutions and different authorities, in particular for:
  - aspects relating to the remuneration of healthcare services provided by the Hospital and related critical issues concerning the classification of paediatric admissions;
  - the economic impact assessment on IRCCS regulatory changes;
  - support for operational units for feasibility studies on research projects managed by the Medical Management Department.
- Proposing the activation of specific agreements with the Local Health Authorities within the Lazio Region for the creation and maintenance of pathways to facilitate the relationship between the Hospital and the local community, where necessary in the light of the provisions contained in the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP), Missions 5 (Cohesion and inclusion) and 6 (Health).
- Collecting and sending data on EU foreign patients for billing to the relevant country (foreign patients with TEAM cards or S2 forms).
- Managing and monitoring all the Hospital's information flows to ensure the flow of information to the institutions.



# Scientific research

## Research as a new option in guaranteeing safety of treatment

The issue of health protection and of policies and programming intended to enhance its scope and the available tools, with a view to increasing resources and thus ensuring the sustainability of the system, has been marked in the last two years by the revolution in the general healthcare context brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition to its dramatic effects in terms of victims and the disruption caused to economic and production systems, this crisis has highlighted a series of critical issues not only in health systems but also in underlying welfare systems and care democracies on a global scale. In this sense, the fundamental role of research and innovation has been highlighted, providing initial tools and transitional solutions, both scientifically and for the economic and productive recovery of the countries of the world, and therefore not only in terms of health.

## Research at Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital (IRCCS)

Over the years, the Hospital's research activities – as an IRCCS – have become extremely important internationally, gaining increasing credibility and impact factors that place it at the top of the world rankings. And it is worth bearing in mind that the Hospital's area of operation covers only the paediatric world and developmental age and its associated pathologies and treatment requirements, with a particular emphasis on rare and oncological diseases,

which means that the scientific results achieved provide even greater specificity and added value. Supporting the development of scientific research in all the Hospital's sectors of excellence in order to find increasingly effective and personalised therapies for the treatment of young patients is certainly one of the Foundation's objectives in its support of the Hospital.

It is an imposing, complex and integrated entity, with a modern structu-

re, absolute scientific credibility and international recognition, and with access to extraordinary means and resources.

Scientific activities are carried out by hundreds of researchers working in research areas such as genetics and rare diseases, multifactorial and complex diseases, immunology, infectious diseases and paediatric drug development, onco-haematology, clinical, management and technological innovation, multimodal laboratory medicine, specialist translational paediatrics, neurological sciences and rehabilitative medicine.

Specific reporting on the Hospital's research activities, both for stakeholders and for all possible external parties that may have an interest for various reasons, is included in the Hospital's Sustainability Report, in a section produced by the Hospital's Scientific Management Department. This constitutes the cohesive, specific and comprehensive technical document covering these activities, incorporating the information that can be inferred from the section in the Hospital's financial statements. The resource requirements for research are constantly growing, especially as the associated complexities increase, and more gene-

rally because of the need to provide adequate responses to the new challenges facing the health of the paediatric and developmental age population, for example for the study of rare diseases, medical genetics, the possible consequences of Covid-19 in infants and children, new therapies for the treatment of cancer, research on organ and haematopoietic stem cell transplants, and translational research projects, aimed at providing increasingly timely and targeted therapies for the treatment of many diseases.



## The Bambino Gesù Foundation and support for research

The culture, mission and objectives of the Hospital and the Foundation are driven entirely by goals and objectives based on health, philanthropy and humanitarian ideals, and are therefore focused solely on placing research at the heart of changing processes in healthcare and

treatment, with the aim of extending the positive externalities of research as far as possible in a sense of ensuring democracy of care, which has always been the main goal of the two institutions in both healthcare and spiritual terms. Again in accordance with the re-

forms envisaged for the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, the Italian regulatory scenario recently adopted Legislative Decree No 200 of 29 December 2022, as a specific milestone, aimed at redefining and updating the world of Scientific Research and Healthcare Institutes, compared to the provisions of Legislative Decree 288/2003. The decree tends to give a more modern profile to the sector, grasping new cases of scientific development and linking them with the need to have higher standards in order to be able to compete internationally and seize the corresponding opportunities, introducing higher values for aspects such as the impact factor, complexity index and citation index, in order to allow only for facilities of excellence in research.

In this situation, the Foundation's specific future action, in finding increasing resources to be used to finance the Hospital's important social and health mission, is even more significant, especially insofar as it is

specifically geared towards supporting research projects, and is always alert to the changing needs of the healthcare and scientific sector that drives the Hospital's spheres of development and action.

In 2022, the Foundation collected donations for 70 research projects, transferring a total of €3,059,000 to the Hospital for this purpose. Some funding comes from foundations and associations that have long supported the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital (Ania, Terzo Pilastro, Heal, Associazione Il Grande Cuore di Flavio, La Vita è un dono, Luigi Comini Onlus) and from contributions from individuals who wish to remain anonymous. Other projects received direct support from the Foundation, which used unrestricted donations for this purpose.

Since it is impossible to report on every project, we will only mention a few research projects that have attracted significant funding.

## Anti-GD2 CAR-T for the treatment of paediatric and young adult patients with relapsed or refractory central nervous system tumours.

The agreement has been signed between Banca Ifis and the Bambino Gesù Foundation to support the Hospital's research against malignant tumours of

the central nervous system. The challenger bank chaired by Ernesto Fürstenberg Fassio will donate €3 million over three years for research into innovative new therapies on malignant tumours of the central nervous system affecting children and young adults. The donation instrument was signed in Rome, at the Hospital's Gianicolo headquarters, by the Chairwoman Mariella Enoc and the Chairman of Banca Ifis, Ernesto Fürstenberg Fassio. The signing



was attended by Prof. Franco Locatelli, Director of the Department of Onco-haematology and Cellular and Gene Therapy, head of the research project, and Dr Angela Mastronuzzi, clinical coordinator of the trial.

In technical terms, the primary objective of the study is to evaluate the safety and feasibility of intravenous injections of autologous iC9-GD2-CAR T-cells in patients with refractory/relapsed malignant CNS tumours. Considering the peculiar potential risk associated with the treatment of CNS tumours, the study has been designed to enrol patients in three cohorts based on histology and disease location.

The study envisages the enrolment of patients into three sequential treatment cohorts based on pathology and disease location and involves the infusion of anti-GD2 CAR-T cells generated in the Pharmaceutical Workshop at Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital.

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## **Implementation of bio-inspired robotic solutions combined with transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) for gait rehabilitation.**

This research project is being carried out by the Hospital's Movement Analysis and Robotics Laboratory (MARLab).

The research activity is geared towards the identification of new and more effective therapeutic solutions.

The MARLab is an open-space with operators from different disciplines. It is equipped with the most modern equipment for movement analysis, surface electromyography, wearable sensing, and EEGs for biofeedback and the analysis of body-environment force interaction. Another integral part of the MARLab is ad hoc developed solutions such as the DORIS system (Dynamic Oriented Rehabilitative Integrated System) consisting of a robotic platform with six degrees of freedom, an immersive virtual reality system and various motion analysis systems, all in a highly integrated environment capable of real-time interaction with the user through force interactions.

Over 30 years of instrument-based analysis of gait and posture have changed our interpretation of how human locomotion is organised from the concept of a stereotyped alternating movement of flexion and extension towards a complex dynamic functional process. From this perspective, the wearable robotic orthosis has become an essential tool for the study and dynamic manipulation of gait and ability to stand. Among the complex solutions involving the lower limbs, many researchers have focused their attention on the knee joint. The scientific literature, which is also geared towards rehabilitation solutions, has focused its efforts on the technical characteristics of the device or the various possibilities for interaction with the subject wearing the device. What is missing are aspects representing a scientific hypothesis required to configure the device as a rehabilitative object.

Currently, the following are still lacking: a theory of motor control, a clear view of



learning under pathological conditions, and a hypothesis on body–environment matching during execution of actions. The research aims to verify the possibility of implementing these three aspects in a knee orthosis for rehabilitation purposes.

The goal is a new technology with an appropriate design that combines wearability, versatility, motor control and learning rules and is able to speak a language that is comprehensible to the nervous system and the body. These aims conflict with some commercial solutions, which have shown a lack of aptitude for interaction and changes in gait pattern. They also pave the way for the construction of a device capable of interacting with the subject's activity on the basis of scientific theories. Ultimately, the main objective of the research is to develop a control strategy capable of interacting with gait from a motor rehabilitation perspective or to assist walking when the limits of recovery are reached, to be applied in early childhood, and thus as early as we learn to walk. The project leader is Maurizio Petrarca, head of the Hospital's Movement Analysis and Robotics Laboratory.



## Systemic juvenile idiopathic arthritis associated with pulmonary disease in Europe: a retrospective and prospective study

Systemic juvenile idiopathic arthritis (sJIA) is a distinct subtype of JIA, typically characterised by fever, rash, joint pain and arthritis, myalgia, lymphadenopathy, hepatomegaly, splenomegaly and serositis. Laboratory features of sJIA are typically an increase in acute-phase proteins, neutrophils and platelets, anaemia and increased ferritin, d-dimer and transaminases. Approximately 10%–15% of patients with sJIA develop macrophage activation syndrome (MAS), a life-threatening complication characterised by incessant fever, pancytopenia, coagulopathy and organ dysfunction. In recent years, a new serious and often fatal complication of sJIA – chronic parenchymal lung disease (LD) – has also been described. Although this is a very rare complication, the number of sJIA patients with LD is increasing and, interestingly, until recently the condition seemed to be more common in North America. There are actually no data available on European sJIA patients with this complication.

The aim of the study is to retrospectively and prospectively assess the occurrence of the pulmonary complication in patients with sJIA in Europe and to better understand the natural history and course of this complication. Therefore, the clinical, laboratory, radiological and histological characteristics of sJIA patients with LD monitored in the various European paediatric rheumatology centres are being collected, and serum and plasma samples are being collected to measure inflammatory biomarkers relevant to the disease process, along with DNA for performance of genetic analyses of genes potentially related to this disease.

To date, data have been collected from 49 patients with sJIA complicated by LD monitored in 17 European paediatric rheumatology centres. It has been observed that the clinical and pulmonary features are similar to those of patients previously reported in the literature from North America, except that in this case series the age of onset appears to be higher. The collection of samples from these patients is beginning now.

This project is being carried out through the European Society of Paediatric Rheumatology's MAS and sJIA study group, of which Dr Claudia Bracaglia is the current Chair, and through the support of the sJIA Foundation. The sJIA Foundation is an American foundation and the only international association



of parents of patients with sJIA. It was set up in 2016 thanks to Rashmi Sinha, who has a son with sJIA, through a network of parents of children with the same condition. The foundation's goal is to find new therapies for cases of sJIA that do not respond to conventional therapies.

Person Responsible: Dr Claudia Bracaglia.

## Research project on 'Variability of SARS-CoV-2'

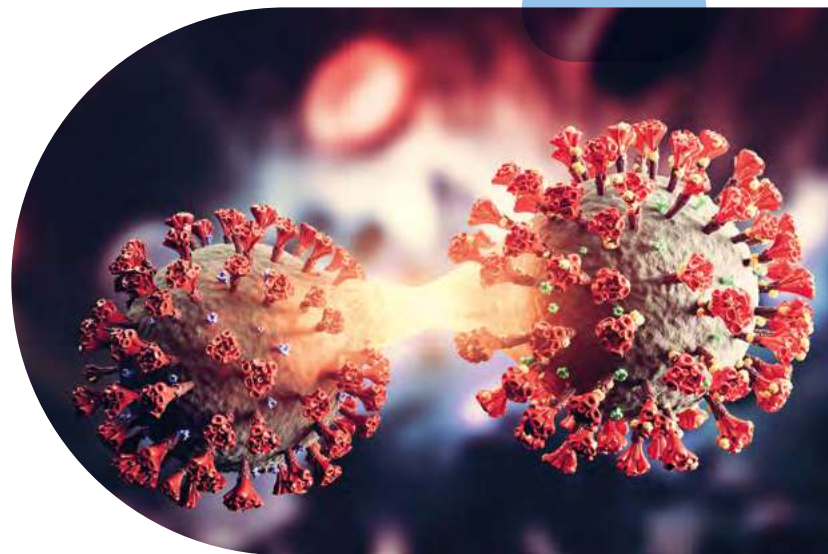
Large-scale viral genetic characterisation of paediatric samples using innovative techniques has produced significant advances in the field of virological knowledge and its applications for a major pathogen such as SARS-CoV-2.

The study, based on assessing the variability of SARS-CoV-2 and infection dynamics in a paediatric setting, which was commenced in 2022, has made it possible to determine the distribution of SARS-CoV-2 variants in the paediatric and adolescent population, identifying the clusters of the epidemic and the role they played in its spread.

The data produced and the statistical analysis have shown that in children over five years of age, the Variant of Concern (VOC) Gamma and the Delta variant were positively associated with interpersonal transmission groups. Conversely, data have shown that circulating strains of SARS-CoV-2 belonging to the Omicron lineage were negatively associated with transmission clusters. The study has also made it possible to identify the molecular elements of transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in the paediatric population, primarily identifying two transmission groups characterised by mutations in the spike region (spikes Q677K and V120I) capable of advantageously modifying the behaviour of the virus, either by conferring a higher degree of viral infectivity or by reducing the virus' affinity to certain monoclonal antibodies. The first results of this study were published in *Scientific Reports* (Alteri et al., 2022).

Studies continue, aimed at characterising the new virus circulating now and identifying the risk of disease progression in the paediatric population.

Person Responsible: Prof. Carlo Federico Perno.



**6 June 2022**

## Donation for scientific research on methylation profiles

Event to mark the delivery of the €53,000 donation to the Bambino Gesù Foundation for scientific research on methylation profiles at Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital. Those attending were the Secretary General of the Bambino Gesù Foundation, Francesco Avallone, and the founder of the Heal Foundation, Simone De Biase.



**20 October 2022**

## Charity Chef at Casa Coppelle

Charity dinner at the Casa Coppelle restaurant in Piazza delle Coppelle in Rome, which saw the involvement of numerous private donors and companies, all united for the benefit of a scientific research project on multiple sclerosis. The dinner featured a menu of delicacies specially designed and prepared by patients treated in the Hospital's Neurosciences Department. The evening was attended by Carolina Rey, television presenter and patroness of the event, Mrs Rachelle Guenot, owner of the restaurant and a huge supporter of the social initiative, the young people who successfully took on the role as chefs for an evening, and the Secretary General of the Foundation, Francesco Avallone, with the entire working group. The funds raised, amounting to €20,000, supported the Multiple Sclerosis Research and Treatment Centre, coordinated by Dr Massimiliano Valeriani.



## The Scientific Management Department of Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital

The Scientific Management Department of Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital (Scientific Research and Healthcare Institute) **promotes and coordinates clinical and experimental research.**

It develops the strategic and programme priorities for scientific activities, organising resources and identifying projects, with a particular focus on **translational aspects and innovation.**

It pursues these objectives by taking care of the **transfer of knowledge** from the laboratory to the patient's bedside, by fostering the continuous exchange of information between **research work and clinical care**, and by focusing on the interdisciplinary nature of the research areas and units.

The **research areas** are organisational units formed by the functional aggregation of a number of research, clinical and management structures, which in turn are subdivided into **research units**, identified with the aim of carrying out one or more projects and pursuing specific objectives of scientific relevance, with clinical and healthcare spin-offs.

The Scientific Management Department **supports researchers in planning and implementing scientific activities** and plays an **administrative, technical and economic support role for research.**

The Scientific Management Department also **monitors productivity, manages current and targeted research budgets**, provides **support to researchers** in finding public and private funding and submits research initiatives to the Scientific Technical Committee, an advisory body supporting the Scientific Director in defining and monitoring research programmes and the transfer of results.

The Scientific Management Department of Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital is also responsible for **relationships with stakeholders** and institutional bodies and develops national and international cooperation networks with other or-

ganisations and research institutes.

From 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2022, the Scientific Director was Prof. Bruno Dallapiccola, one of the most authoritative geneticists in the international sphere. Prof. Dallapiccola gave a vital proactive boost to the Hospital's research activities, helping to consolidate its presence among the most important national and international research institutes. Under his direction, and in close cooperation with the Medical Management Department, the Hospital has begun to take part in the **European Reference Networks (ERN)**, which group together clinical centres with the aim of optimising the treatment of **rare diseases** and facilitating the management of patients with conditions requiring highly complex treatments. Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital joined the **ERN project in 2017**, and over the years the number of networks in which it participates **has increased to 20**. In addition, during Prof. Dallapiccola's tenure, the Hospital, following input from the Ministry of Health, has strengthened its involvement in the IRCCS Networks in various thematic areas: oncology, cardiology, neurology, orthopaedics and paediatrics. For the latter, since the establishment of the IDEA Paediatric Network in 2017, the Hospital, in the person of Prof. Dallapiccola, has coordinated and chaired the Network's activities for six years, earning the appreciation of international reviewers for the projects carried out in the field of genetics and orphan diseases.

As of 1 January 2023, the new Scientific Director is Prof. Andrea Onetti Muda, an eminent physician and scholar, a tenured professor of anatomical pathology, former Rector of the Campus Bio Medico University of Rome and, until December 2022, Director of the Department of Diagnostic and Laboratory Medicine at Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital.

**We conclude this presentation with an interview with Prof. Andrea Onetti Muda**, Scientific Director of the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital.

**In the context of your new position, how will you shape the scientific activities of the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital?**

In a Scientific Research and Healthcare Institute (IRCCS) such as our Hospital, the emphasis must be placed on translational research, namely scientific activities that move as quickly as possible from the laboratory to the patient's bedside, whether that patient is admitted to the Hospital, seen in the outpatient clinic, or in need of care and follow-up within the local community. I believe that this translational approach, which creates a strong link between clinical and scientific activities, represents a virtuous way of understanding research, without underestimating the role of the administration, which acts as a support and back-up for healthcare and scientific activities and is therefore also closely linked to the Hospital's mission.

**What plans do you have for the Hospital's future?**

In my three-year plan as Scientific Director, I would like to strengthen the connection with other Italian paediatric IRCCSs and increase the Hospital's involvement in national and international networks, with the aim of fostering the sharing of data and knowledge. In paediatrics, there are numerous pathologies classified as rare diseases that, if taken individually, cannot provide enough information to ensure sufficient knowledge to identify effective treatment. However, if a number of national and international paediatric hospi-



tals pool their individual knowledge, the concentration of data and experience will make it possible to obtain statistically significant results more quickly.

This will be one of my main targets in managing the Hospital's scientific activities.

# Support for technological infrastructure

In the approach to global health that has been strongly supported internationally, technologies have been recognised as playing a fundamental role in the development and recovery of the world's poor countries. One example of this is the enormous potential of telemedicine, which is capable of eliminating, in certain diagnostic and even therapeutic fields, distances and gaps in development that would otherwise be impossible to bridge.

Technologies in healthcare are thus becoming a strategic factor in implementing a vision of health as a state of bio-psycho-social well-being and as a fundamental human right for all individuals throughout the world.

The option of large-scale use of medical and information technology techniques for diagnosis and treatment uses technology to harness the possibilities for improving clinical aspects usually linked to the place of treatment and rendering them more easily usable: from diagnosis (including instrument-based diagnosis) to the management of medical records, high-definition image diagnostics, and even the results of laboratory analyses. This is an entire set of information concerning the patient, which can be managed and channelled to improve the impact of the treatment event on the patient and at the same time

optimise hospital and local resources, increasing the added value of medical and healthcare networks and the perception by patients of the presence of the healthcare system as a real part of their lives and human relationships.

Evaluations of the use of technologies – when not determined by short-sighted choices based solely on economics, which prevent them being viewed as an investment rather than as a mere cost entry – aim to implement and innovate such technologies with respect to what already exists, opening up possibilities for a more proactive care process, which generates a virtuous cycle even before the onset of possible pathologies, shifting an important focus of care towards prevention and well-being. On the other hand, advances in early diagnosis are now being combined with technologies capable of supporting the onset of diseases before they actually occur, with these technologies increasingly emphasising the adage that prevention is better than cure.

The doctor-patient relationship has therefore been strongly influenced by new digital technologies, thanks to the tools made available by the application of technology to the world of healthcare: e-health is now a reality, bringing important innovations to the medical field that the

various branches are then approaching and adopting according to their specific needs and opportunities as they become possible.

Certainly, over time, the contribution of technologies to diagnosis and therapy has been increasingly maximised, to the extent that this is now a typical feature of those healthcare fields where complexity is a factor in everyday activities.

Big data platforms, system interoperability, the potential of artificial intelligence and so-called augmented reality (especially in the field of robotic and 3D surgery but also in robotic neurorehabilitation), DNA sequencing, the potential of media possible from 3D printers, with the common denominator of innovative tools and increasingly reliable diagnostic and surgical possibilities, are just a few examples of how the advent of technology, by enabling innovations in healthcare fields where they were previously unimaginable, is now an absolute factor for success in medical care.

At a European institutional level, an important milestone in this sphere was reached in December 2021, with the adoption by the European Commission of the regulation on health technology assessment, which – when enforceable, expected in 2025 – aims to ensure greater availability of innovative health technologies, ranging from medicinal products to medical devices and medical equipment, and thus methods for prevention and treatment. This is therefore a specific regulation that represents a necessary set of rules to ensure the efficient use of resources in relation to a correct assessment of health technologies, clearly driven by a desire for greater prudence and appropriateness of investments and thus sustainability in the long term, as well as ever greater quality of care.

It is also worth mentioning the specific attention paid by Ministerial Decree No 77/2022 on Italian healthcare reform, which, on the basis of the impetus provided by the PNRR, requires healthcare facilities to equip themselves with significant digital platforms capable of managing and conveying, with full interoperability, patients' health data and updates. This is also driven by a strong push towards digital health, as part of One Health, supported by widespread use of the Electronic Health File (FSE), which will make it possible to ensure greater quality and timeliness in the phases of patient management, screening and then treatment. So technology is increasingly at the very heart of quality healthcare!

Specifically, the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital has for years now been espousing the value of technologies and development of new and modern methods of diagnosis and treatment, acting with a commendably pioneering spirit in a context that is not always easy because of the need to reconcile the opportunities presented by technologies in their early stages and dynamically emerging knowledge bases that have yielded returns in terms of their soundness for health purposes, and the Hospital is now positioned at the highest international level given the technological assets it possesses in both diagnostic and operational areas. Progress is therefore moving inexorably towards the structured advent of innovative technologies in healthcare. With their associated media, these technologies are improving people's living conditions in real terms, contributing – especially in periods such as the pandemic – to providing infrastructure systems for the delivery of more timely and better quality services to cope with emergencies and, at the same time, showing the absolute necessity of



assigning health technologies and their turnover a central role, which requires considerable commitments of resources to restructure and maximise investments in healthcare.

For its part, the Bambino Gesù Foundation, applying the same strategic development guidelines as the Hospital, has guaranteed specific financial support for this complex area, which encompasses, from time to time, projects that impact more generally on the full range of healthcare equipment, medical devices, drugs, diagnostic systems, medical and surgical procedures, care pathways, and structural and organisational systems that define the perimeter of healthcare.

Over the years, the Bambino Gesù Foundation has therefore established, with the Hospital, a specific process logic to support endowment requirements, which are always driven by appropriate assessment and admission safeguards in relation to the acquisition of equipment and technologies, closely linked to the Hospital's activities and its re-

search projects and deserving of support and funding in the context of the assessments and procedures applied by the Hospital's Purchasing Evaluation Committee.

In close contact with the relevant areas of the Hospital, in particular Medical and Scientific Management and Management Control, specific activities relating to the preliminary evaluation of individual purchases are carried out, and these are then appropriately monitored and reported.

Hence, in 2022, thanks to the foundations, associations and companies that have chosen to support the Bambino Gesù Foundation and thus contribute to the Hospital's growth objectives, it has been possible to purchase important state-of-the-art technological equipment that is indispensable not only in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases but also in prevention, surgery and rehabilitation of young patients.

By way of example, the following section describes two events related to fundraising for the acquisition of technological equipment.

## 30 May 2022 Rock per un Bambino concert

12<sup>th</sup> edition of the charity event, organised by singer-songwriter Luca Guadagnini in memory of little Aurora – who died prematurely in 2009 – in support of the Bambino Gesù Foundation.

All proceeds from the sale of tickets for the event – € 15,700 – were donated to the Hospital's Foetus-Neonate-Baby Medical Surgical Department through the purchase of equipment needed to enable timely intervention in foetal diagnoses. In 12 years, Rock per un Bambino has donated around €230,000 to the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital.



**15 November 2022**

## **PICU – Paediatric Intensive Care Unit – Liberation Day**

Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital in Rome held a PICU – Paediatric Intensive Care Unit – Liberation Day to improve the conditions for children hospitalised in intensive care units. During the day, the Hospital presented the results for the 'Liber-Action' clinical application, a holistic clinical protocol developed at the Hospital aimed at improving the care and comfort of young patients in the paediatric intensive care unit. The equipment for the project was purchased by the Hospital fully through funds donated through the Bambino Gesù Foundation, the charity association Gabry Little Hero ODV and the Parole di Lulù Foundation, which also had the support of Giulia Salemi.



# The Foundation's campaigns

A total of 90.3% of donations made to the Foundation have an allocation constraint. This means that the donor has expressed a wish to support research, to support a project for the reception of families or the humanitarian care of children, or to direct the contribution to a specific department of the hospital.

These latter donations help the Hospital to respond more efficiently to the demand for services and to create a better environment for patients and those caring for them.

To this end, the Hospital draws up and updates a list of wishes and needs that includes those stated by patients and the real needs of each department.

In some cases, the donor expresses his or her pledge by indicating the department followed by the name of the doctor he or she got to know and appreciate. In other cases, the pledge concerns a specific piece of equipment or apparatus to be allocated to the department. In still other cases, the contribution is aimed at supporting a line of research specifically followed by the chosen department or unit.

An example that we are happy to report and which indicates the broad range that donations of this type can represent concerns the project for recreational and psychological support for patients in the Neuro-oncology Department.

On 29 September 2022, OTB Foundation Vice-Chairwoman Arianna Alessi, along with Elena Santarelli, visited the patients in the Hospital's

Neuro-oncology Department. Welcoming the guests were Dr Angela Mastronuzzi, Head of the Department, and Francesco Avallone, Secretary General of the Foundation. Through a €25,000 donation, the OTB Foundation supported a project to provide recreational and psychological support for patients in the department. In most cases, however, the donor



wishes to know in advance what the needs of the Hospital are so that he or she can make a reasoned choice as to where the contribution made will go.

To this end, the Bambino Gesù Foundation has promoted a series of advertising campaigns aimed at illustrating the Hospital's needs and its programmes in the short and medium term, guaranteeing in each case that the entire amount of the donation will be forwarded to the Hospital in accordance with the allocation constraint.

Of course, the campaigns can vary over time because the development projects of the paediatric organisa-

tion will always be new and different. There were six active campaigns in 2022, which are briefly described in the following pages. These campaigns are the following:

- **Abbraccia la Ricerca** (Support for scientific research and technological infrastructure).
- **Accoglienza** (Support for families).
- **Frammenti di Luce** (Humanitarian care project).
- **Vite coraggiose. Tutti i figli del mondo** (International activities and Medtraining platform).
- **Io scelgo il futuro** (Bequests and memorial donations).
- **Mi prendo cure di te** (Campaign for the Passoscuro Paediatric Palliative Care Centre).

People interested in following the

campaigns can consult the Foundation's website ([www.fondazionebambinogesu.it](http://www.fondazionebambinogesu.it)) or write to: [info.fond@fondbg.it](mailto:info.fond@fondbg.it), but there is something a bit different for readers of this Social Responsibility Report: at the end of the description of each campaign there will be a QR code, a barcode that can be read using a smartphone enabling access to the short video presentation for the chosen campaign. In other words, we would like to introduce some small interactive elements, hoping in the future to stage some truly interactive events. Any comments on the videos we have made would be appreciated.

## Abbraccia la Ricerca

**(Support for research and technological innovation)**

Abbraccia la Ricerca (Embrace Research) aims to support specific research projects – and the associated implementation of essential medical technologies and equipment – investigating various areas to better understand the course of diseases and to be able to administer increasingly customised and timely therapies.

Scientific Research is one of the points of excellence of the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital. In this context, the Bambino Gesù Foundation is committed to supporting the Hospital in carrying out important research projects, with particular reference to the current health crisis and to the areas of cancer and transplants.



To find out about the Abbraccia la Ricerca campaign, simply scan the QR code using your smartphone.

# Support for families: Progetto accoglienza



When a child falls ill, the whole family needs care and attention.

Alongside the invaluable work carried out by numerous associations, the Foundation supports the activities of the Hospital, which is involved in hospitality activities using its own facilities, and also provides playrooms, spaces for mothers and cultural mediation services in 52 languages.

The families hosted come from all over Italy and from the most disadvantaged countries in the world, and need assistance because of their children's serious illnesses (tumours, transplants, complex operations, neuro-rehabilitation therapies) that require longer hospital stays and clinical care. This involves children with serious illnesses, such as onco-haematological conditions or rare and ultra-rare diseases, or those who have sustained war injuries.

Through this project, the Bambino Gesù Foundation provides a voice for the real needs of patients and their families, offering them moments of normal everyday life wherever possible, where they can feel welcome in a home 'far from home' and therefore even warmer and more welcoming.

Collective accommodation services create valuable opportunities for socialising and sharing of individual circumstances and stories.

Reunification of families is also facilitated during stays in these accommodation facilities, for single days or short periods.

Hospitality does not only mean providing housing assistance. It also means finding a few moments of serenity by being welcomed as if in someone's home and not feeling alone and overwhelmed by the illness affecting your children, being open to all cultures, traditions and religions while respecting diversity, being treated using an interpersonal style based on listening, consideration, recognition and support, being accepted without prejudice in terms of illness and background.

The Foundation is working on a new phase of the project to ensure that each facility goes beyond housing and to guarantee higher standards of material and psychological support.

The following are two important events supporting reception services.

## 8 March 2022 Conad Group donation ceremony

On 8 March 2022, the Council Chamber of the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital hosted a ceremony to give thanks for the funds that the Conad Nord Ovest Group and Pac200aConad collected through the 'Con tutto il Cuore per un grande Progetto di Solidarietà' initiative, which involved the sales network belonging to the two cooperatives. The ceremony for the transfer of the funds totalling €333,000 supporting the Bambino Gesù Foundation's Progetto Accoglienza was attended by the Chairwoman of the Bambino Gesù Foundation, Mariella Enoc, and the Chairman of Conad Nazionale, Claudio Alibrandi, representing both cooperatives.



## 20 May 2022 Inauguration of the St Paul VI home for families of the Circolo San Pietro charitable organisation

Inauguration of the St Paul VI home for families run by the Circolo San Pietro, dedicated to welcoming families and patients of the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital. This home is one of the facilities financed by the Bambino Gesù Foundation to welcome the families of long-term patients who come from various parts of Italy and abroad.

Some important and evocative remarks were made by the Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, who described the reception facilities as 'a miracle of charity', and added that 'there are three words that embrace and mark the life of every Christian, of every baptised person, but for you they have a special meaning and value: you cannot live without prayer, intense and hopeful; you cannot live without action, humble and practical; you cannot live without sacrifice, selfless and caring'. Thus, the Cardinal, His Eminence Pietro Parolin, Vatican Secretary of Sta-



te, explicitly recalled the motto of the Circolo San Pietro during the Mass for the inauguration of the renovated St Paul VI home in May 2022.

Progetto Accoglienza is presented in a video made by the company Stand by Me: Producer: Simona Ercolani; Speaker: Sebastiano Somma.



To watch this video, simply scan the QR code opposite using your smartphone.

## Frammenti di luce

Providing humanitarian care has always been a specific feature of the Hospital's mission.

Either within the framework of international cooperation agreements or in response to appeals from organisations, institutions or families from all over the world, every year the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital welcomes several dozen 'humanitarian' patients, namely children who have no form of coverage of their medical expenses, because they are not Italian or European Union citizens and are not supported by humanitarian or charitable organisations.

The costs of these care activities, which often involve the most highly specialised services, are borne entirely by the Foundation, which has launched a specific social campaign called Frammenti di Luce (Fragments of Light).

In 2022, despite the difficulties related to the pandemic, 78 such patients were supported and treated from the following 40 countries: Afghanistan, Albania, Armenia, Bangladesh, Benin, Belarus, Bolivia, Burkina Faso,

Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Georgia, Guatemala, Guinea, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Palestine, Paraguay, Peru, Senegal, Syria, Tanzania, Togo, Ukraine, Uganda, Venezuela, Vietnam and Yemen.



There are numerous fundraising initiatives in support of the Accoglienza and Cure Umanitarie projects. These include the following:

**29 October 2022**

## **Extraordinary Concert by Maestro William Lincoln Christie at the Conservatorio di Santa Cecilia**

On Saturday 29 October, a concert was held at the Conservatorio di Santa Cecilia in Rome by Maestro William Lincoln Christie. The purpose of the event, which was promoted and organised by Duchess Maria Luisa Magistrati Gaetani D'Aragona and Princess Olimpia Torlonia Weiller, was to support the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital's Progetto Accoglienza and Cure Umanitarie initiatives, implemented by the Bambino Gesù Foundation. The funds raised, totalling €200,000, have



been of enormous help in supporting the treatment of the many patients suffering from serious illnesses coming from all over Italy and from the world's poorest countries, and caring for their families.

The Frammenti di Luce campaign is presented in a video produced by THE KITCHEN FARM.

The background track entitled 'Luce' is written by Luca Barbarossa and performed by Fiorella Mannoia.

To watch this video, simply scan the QR code using your smartphone.





# Vite Coraggiose. Tutti i figli del Mondo

## (International activities)

The Vite Coraggiose campaign, which focused originally on research on rare and ultra-rare diseases, was transformed in 2019 into an action campaign to benefit education and treatment for children in their home countries.

Indeed, on the international front, the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital has set up major cooperative health projects in various countries around the world (Albania, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Russia, San Salvador, South Korea, Syria and Tanzania), offering training courses in 20 different paediatric specialisms and highly specialised health services.

This includes activities aimed not only at treating children locally but also at ensuring independence in treatment and assistance for doctors and health workers in the countries involved.

This context also includes the MedTraining Platform project. The design of this project, started in 2020 and further developed in 2021 and 2022, envisages an e-learning course dedicated to developing countries and aimed at all areas of paediatrics. This is a commitment supported by the Bambino Gesù Foundation, designed to benefit doctors, nurses and other qualified staff working permanently in the countries where projects are active.

In developing international activities, the objective is not only to provide healthcare to children, but also to bring knowledge and professio-

nal practices that can be transferred to local staff through training courses. The spirit that drives international activities is 'gifting knowledge', so that the work done in these countries is not an end in itself or simply support in a state of emergency.

Here are some of the areas covered by the platform: covid management, neonatal, eEmergency – urgency, training programme on paediatric nursing.

(<https://medtraining.ospedale-bambinogesu.it>)

This platform complements the Hospital's health school platform, a digital space divided into thematic categories, which brings together all content dedicated to the selected topic, from magazines to live broadcasts to podcasts and social cards. Users can subscribe to the channels they are interested in: in this way, they receive updates on the home page and by email on the channel.

(<https://www.scuoladisalute.it>)

**VITE**

**CORAGGIOSE**

Tutti i figli del mondo

**Sostieni la campagna sociale Vite Coraggiose - Tutti i figli del mondo, promossa dalla Fondazione Bambino Gesù, a vantaggio delle cure dei bambini nei loro paesi di origine e della formazione del personale medico ed infermieristico nelle zone più critiche del mondo.**

Puoi sostenere il progetto sociale attraverso:  
 Bonifico Bancario intestato a Fondazione Bambino Gesù Onlus  
 IT 05 B 03069 05020 1000000 16223 - Banca Intesa Sanpaolo  
 Conto Corrente postale intestato a  
 Fondazione Bambino Gesù Onlus n. 1000 425874  
 Online con carta di credito  
[www.fondazionebambinogesu.it](http://www.fondazionebambinogesu.it)  
 Causale: Vite Coraggiose - Tutti i figli del Mondo

Sostieni anche tu

**VITE corAGGIOSE**   
 Tutti i figli del mondo

  
**Bambino Gesù**  
 FONDAZIONE

# Patrons of Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital



Patrons of  
Bambino Gesù  
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

We had already pointed out last year that the pandemic had emphasised the global scope of diseases and viruses, creating new social burdens and responsibilities and extending the Foundation's action into international contexts and the search for possible partnerships and donors that will act systemically to support worthy global initiatives genuinely based on a need for humanitarian assistance, care and treatment.

The Foundation had therefore already considered setting up an initiative to act as a point of reference, internationally, to promote projects and forms of aid and support for the Hospital's activities, and in this sense to launch a campaign of contacts aimed at building solid relationships and operational interactions with international individuals and institutions. This will involve talking about the Foundation and above all the Hospital – its history, its strength in being part of a highly ethical and value-based context with significant symbolic value, its historical role, its global significance as a healthcare provider, its achievements in the fields of medicine, care, research, modern treatments, its worldwide humanitarian care activities, its organisation for providing hospitality for patients and families, and its pioneering role as a point of reference for values and principles relating to children's rights in the sphere of treatment and care. In this sense, it had achieved, as early as July 2021, the recognition of an equivalence determination (ED) so that it could stand as a point of reference in the same way as US public charities.

In the course of 2022, it was deemed appropriate to provide a more concrete and stable structure for the Hospital's presence in the United States, in order to better convey its message and the outcomes of its institutional health action, and thus to approach more stable networks of relationships with US stakeholders, and to better position itself in terms of the constraints of the stringent regulatory framework for donations in the United States. To this end, a project called 'Patrons of Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital' was set up to support extremely valuable projects carried out by the Hospital, with the backing of the Foundation.

In October 2022, the Hospital's new American foundation was unveiled in the United States. It will support care and assistance projects for all children throughout the world.

There were two main events at which OPBG representatives presented the new Foundation in the presence of Italian institutions and potential American donors. The first was in New York on 26 October 2022, at the Italian Consulate.

The second presentation event took place on 29 October in Washington, DC, where, during the gala dinner organised for the 47th anniversary of the NIAF (National Italian American Foundation), representatives of the Hospital were able to illustrate the history and aims of the Hospital and the newly-established foundation.  
[www.bambinogesupatrons.org](http://www.bambinogesupatrons.org)

# Io scelgo il futuro. Bequests and memorial donations

The Io scelgo il futuro (I choose the future) project is dedicated to the Bequests Campaign, which was developed with the intention of offering answers to the increasingly frequent requests for information about bequests or living donations and, at the same time, giving those who wish to do so the opportunity to feel as if they are actively involved in building a future focused on giving strength and support to the new generations who turn with confidence to the Hospital.

Making a living donation or a testamentary bequest to the Foundation means supporting the efforts of doctors, researchers and health workers and those who work every day to

provide a better quality of life for children and their families from all over Italy and from the poorest nations in the world.

Any help, no matter how big or small, renews trust and hope in the future, which are essential strengths in continuing – with focus and determination – the mission of caring for children, including the smallest and most marginalised, taken on by the Hospital.

## **A HUGELY GENEROUS GESTURE, FOR THE FUTURE.**

A simple and revocable act that also protects the rights of one's heirs.



# Mi prendo cura di te

## (Campaign for the Palliative Care Centre)

In Italy, there are approximately 35,000 girls and boys who unfortunately cannot return home immediately after being discharged from hospital because they require highly specialised care or need their parents to have acquired all the necessary skills to care for them.

Recognising a need that can no longer be ignored, the Lazio Region has chosen the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital to develop a paediatric palliative care centre that constitutes an important entity within the national healthcare offer and responds to the demand for healthcare and support from many families who continue to find that there is no adequate response to their complex needs.

The Bambino Gesù Foundation decided to support all phases of the project, which involved the very rapid renovation of a building that was well suited because of its location to house a paediatric palliative care centre. The building is located in Passoscuoro, a stone's throw from the Palidoro Hospital, in a location with good connections but also able to guarantee the necessary discretion and confidentiality.



The centre was inaugurated in March 2022 and is now operating at full capacity. In the autumn of 2022, work was commissioned to complete the facility, with the following objectives:

- upgrading the structure by increasing the number of housing modules from 20 to 30;
- renovating the remaining spaces and associated plant;
- constructing a technologically well-equipped multimedia space for play, recreational, theatre, meeting and relationship activities for patients, families and workers;
- constructing a new goods lift;
- creating a suitable dedicated parking area.



# Special projects

## The Passoscuro Paediatric Palliative Care Centre: let's get it finished!

A specific focus is continuing to characterise the Foundation's commitment to supporting the Hospital with regard to the Paediatric Palliative Care Centre, which is a particular example of the parallel, synergistic commitment between the Foundation and the Hospital, but also of the swift response provided by those institutions when a private initiative is focused on aspects of particular social relevance and general interest. In a framework of both national and regional institutional sensitivity, the Hospital's medical project is characterised by a great sense of openness and willingness to address the demand for healthcare and treatment from many families requiring a suitable and adequate response to their specific needs, to guarantee respect for the dignity of persons and to ensure policies based on equity in the provision of healthcare.

The vision of the project and its truly unique and delicate scope of action have given the whole enterprise a special character, based on the Hospital's specific intention to go beyond the common perception of a palliative care centre as the place for 'end of life' care, to create an enclave of decency and courage, where real conversations can take



place about issues that people are often afraid even to whisper about. The related fundraising operation has therefore become a highly symbolic and deeply resonant process, supported by the numerous donors who have responded with varying intensity but who have been moved in all cases by the idea of adding their own brick to the more complex architecture of the project. This reflects the very special value and uniqueness that the Hospital recognises in each individual child, each paediatric patient, and drives it to ensure that those patients and their families can find the answers and the special, targeted assistance they need during a very delicate treatment phase that involves much more than simple care.

The technical, technological, logistical and equipment needs and requirements of spaces and services characterised by particular standards have created a complex structure capable of delivering quality standards in a very specific paediatric universe. This is a context where, instead of joy, smiles and happiness, healthcare operators must instead grapple with tears, pain and an awareness of the substantial future ineffectiveness of treatment, where only 'caring' remains as a possible treatment modality, but where this must be provided in a way that ensures the dignity of the human person, both those suffering and those taking care of them and standing by their side.

Serving as a corollary for these principles and values is the admonition from Pope Francis, who considers that caring for children who suffer

remains a fundamental model for a value-based, Christian approach. This is supported by the high-level institutional appeal by the World Health Organization (WHO), aimed at guaranteeing an approach that improves the quality of life of the sick and their families dealing with incurable diseases, based on pathways that can relieve suffering through the early identification and optimal treatment of pain and other problems of a physical, psychological, social and spiritual nature. The Hospital sums it all up in the admonition: While there are therefore, unfortunately, children who cannot be cured, there are never 'incurable' children!

A few milestones provide the most credible proof of the power of a continuous and heartfelt commitment to the design and realisation of its works.

**22 March 2022**

## **Inauguration of the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital Paediatric Palliative Care Centre at the new site in Passoscuro**

On 22 March 2022, the inauguration of the Bambino Gesù Centre dedicated to palliative care took place, in the presence of the Secretary of State His Eminence Monsignor Pietro Parolin, the Chairwoman of the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital and the Bambino Gesù Foundation, Mariella Enoc, the President of the Lazio Region, Luca Zingaretti, and the most important institutional figures in the healthcare field. This centre is unique in the paediatric arena. This important occasion saw the Bambino Gesù Foundation hand over the facility to the Hospital. The initial renovation of the building was financed entirely through major donations.



The 2022 financial year was also centred on the Hospital's focus on this new facility and related palliative care services, and the Foundation continued to organise events and fundraisers to enable completion of the project by 2023. Additional resources will therefore be needed to complete this project, making this centre a unique facility in Italy and a concrete indicator of excellence in healthcare and human endeavour.

## **Institutional focus on palliative care**

*Palliative care represents an area of intervention with high 'social function' intensity, which goes beyond mere 'care', aiming to preserve and improve the quality of life of the patient and his or her family, and thus is not only end of life care!*

*In the Budget Law promulgated on 30 December 2022, special attention was paid to this issue, with paragraph 62-bis – which assigns the regions the task of submitting a plan by 30 January of each year for the expansion of palliative care in order to reach 90% of the corresponding population by 2028 – entrusting the associated six-monthly monitoring to Agenas. One element that is particularly important for the purposes of compliance is the fact that the submission and implementation of the plan is a regional obligation required to ensure access to supplementary public health funding from the State.*

*Previously, in Ministerial Decree No 77/2022, which set the important goal of local healthcare reform, specific attention had been paid to the issue, setting the scope of palliative care to be structured in the form of a 'network' consisting of services and facilities capable of guaranteeing the comprehensive management of the patient and his or her family unit, in a hospital setting, with counselling activities in the operational units, outpatient units, home services and the dedicated centre. An important clarification of this scope, with corresponding standards, concerned the requirement that palliative care be provided for patients of any age and that it not be associated merely with the terminal phase of the disease, also being used to complement active care from the early stages of a chronic/degenerative disease, controlling symptoms during the various trajectories of the disease and preventing or mitigating the effects of functional decline (one home palliative care unit (PCU – HOME) per 100,000 inhabitants; hospice: 8/10 beds per 100,000 inhabitants). In the paediatric field, still according to recent data, access to paediatric palliative care in Italy is limited to only 15% of children who would be entitled to such services.*



The following are a series of events that have provided a particular im-

petus for the project through their dedicated fundraising efforts:

## 18 February 2022

### Donation from the Lazio Regional Command of the Guardia di Finanza and the Fondazione Mediolanum Onlus

At the end of a solidarity initiative promoted in December 2021 among all the officers in active service and on leave from Lazio, the Regional Commander, Divisional General Virgilio Pomponi, accompanied by the Secretary General of the Fondazione Mediolanum Onlus, Virginio Stragliotto, along with representatives from the Lazio Co.Ba.R., symbolically handed over a cheque for €55,439 collected by the officers with the contribution of the Fondazione Mediolanum Onlus and the Fondazione Polli-Stoppani.

The sum donated to the Bambino Gesù Foundation made it possible to acquire a portable x-ray machine for the new Paediatric Palliative Care Centre in Passoscuro and to finance the reception of the parents of young long-term patients at the facility.



## 20 April 2022

### Stasera Fiorello per la Solidarietà

On 20 April 2022, at the Auditorium Conciliazione in Rome, a charity show was held to support the new Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital Palliative Care Centre. It was an evening at which a smile from the artist was matched by a concrete gesture of support, raising €111,000 for those in need. The show was the brainchild of Diletta Del Bono, author of the book 'Posti in piedi alla 201', the realisation of a dream, of a solidarity project for the benefit of fragile children and their families.

**24 June 2022**

## **'Con il cuore, nel nome di Francesco'**

Visit by Renato Zero and Father Enzo Fortunato, on behalf of the brothers of Assisi, where the project supported by the solidarity event 'Con il cuore, nel nome di Francesco' was presented in support of the Hospital's Paediatric Palliative Care Centre, to which a monitoring unit and an echotomography unit were donated, amounting to a total of €30,000. Those present included the Chairwoman of the Hospital, Mariella Enoc, and the founder of the Auxilium cooperative, Angelo Chiorazzo.



**16 November 2022**

## **'SOTTO UNA BUONA STELLA'**

### **Event for Bambino Gesù Foundation donors at Chorus Café**

The Bambino Gesù Foundation's charity event 'Sotto una buona stella' was held at the Chorus Café in Via della Conciliazione in Rome, aimed at raising awareness and knowledge about the project to set up the Hospital's new Palliative Care Centre at the new Passoscuro site. Many companies and private donors attended, supporting the project through donations over Christmas.



# Residence for the treatment of patients with eating disorders

As already discussed in the previous Social Responsibility Report, the Bambino Gesù Foundation had already decided, as part of its commitment to supporting health and people who are ill and particularly in need of care and support, in partnership with the Hospital, to introduce a series of initiatives aimed at paediatric patients with eating disorders.

Unfortunately, even today, one of the major critical failings of the Italian healthcare system is the absence of a functional link between hospital facilities and local networks, which would ensure appropriate, ongoing and effective management of patients in general, and of certain types of patients in particular, where the pathologies involved do not fall within paradigms that can be easily assessed in terms of recovery, but in-

stead require further, post-hospitalisation phases involving lengthy home care pathways that are often not easy to manage, especially for family members.

The 'healthcare' chain, in its proper sense, is very often interrupted, or becomes inadequate after discharge from hospital in terms of handover to local structures.

The project is inspired by the Hospital's sensitivity to this issue and its awareness of the care needs in the paediatric area, and the intention is to create a residential facility capable of accommodating paediatric patients suffering from eating disorders. The aim is to develop a structure capable of providing a healthcare service that acts as a functional link between the Hospital and the local area, covering the transition of the diagnostic, therapeutic and care pathway that acts as a clearance point between the hospitalisation phase and the phase of full return to life in the family environment, within a clinically structured context. This would address needs that still fall within the scope of clinical, medical and specialist care but that can be provided as a broader, more articulated series of 'residential' services covering various aspects and content, and not confined to strictly healthcare-related issues.



The Foundation therefore continued its preparatory activities and initiatives in 2022 in order to enable the effective construction of the centre in line with the strict structural and professional requirements imposed by the Lazio Region for authorisation of this type of healthcare facility and to provide all the physical, cultural and recreational activities that can facilitate a balanced return to the joys of life for the paediatric patients affected and for their entire families and surrounding environments.

The Hospital identified an appropriate site to be allocated to the centre and then outlined the plans and explored the options in terms of entities to be tasked and involved both for economic support and for the renovation and set-up phases, in accordance with the technical, logistical and organisational guidelines provided by the current national and regional regulations on structural and organisational requiremen-

ts, as well as recommendations and safety guidelines for patients and healthcare operators, for residential and semi-residential facilities dedicated to patients suffering from eating disorders.

The actual operation of the project – which in 2023 should see a phase involving the comprehensive definition as preparation for operations – will obviously take place within the framework of specific agreements with the Lazio Region and with national institutions, in order to ensure that the facility is placed within the operational framework of the sector, to provide a much-needed healthcare response that is perceived as essential and will as always look at a potential user profile not merely from a regional perspective.

## The dramatic evolution of an issue that is now generational

*In recent years, and especially after the pandemic, the number of people suffering from anorexia, bulimia and binge-eating disorder has risen from around 3.5 million to at least 5 million, with a specific bias towards paediatric patients, who are little more than children, even in the ten- to eleven-year age group.*

*The spectrum of problems and manifestations, which are now very different, has also broadened, united by psychophysical suffering and a conflictual relationship with food, as indicators of complex psychological disorders.*

*The issue primarily impacts the female adolescent population, with numbers increasing steadily and especially significantly after the lockdown, which also led to a reduction in the age of onset of such problems.*

*The reasons for such a significant increase are many and varied, and, as for almost all multifactorial pathologies, it is believed in the literature that it all stems from a series of co-factors: a strong feeling of loneliness, felt especially due to the lack of physical and relational contact with peers in the most acute phase of the pandemic; the erroneous perception, the result of social pressure, of unattainable aesthetic models that dominate social networks;*

*and the pressing expectations of family and society in general, regarding results and goals.*

*Specialists in the field agree that the 'time' factor is critical, and that individuals affected should be given support as soon as possible and by a professional team that is multidisciplinary, comprising a doctor, a nutritionist and a psychologist.*

*Even if there is a swift approach in primary care settings, the critical issue is the lack of suitable centres to which patients can then be referred.*

*Unfortunately, this is also impacted by environmental and social elements, as studies in the sector report that young and very young people tend to conceal symptoms of eating disorders in order to avoid asking for help, given the resulting social and image impacts.*

*As for the healthcare response, there are currently only a few centres that are little known and are not adequately distributed throughout the country, with serious shortages in central and southern areas.*

*In terms of recent data on this subject, research published in the Jama network (Journal of the American Medical Association) in February 2023 on the prevalence of eating disorders shows that out of 32 studies that included 63,181 participants from 16 countries, the average incidence worldwide was 22% of children and adolescents with disordered eating (one in five children/adolescents, in practice), with that proportion being even higher among girls. In this scenario, Italy unfortunately ranks far above the world figure, with one in three cases.*

*Studies carried out by the Italian Paediatric Society also show a phenomenon of 'social depression', which affects the subject. From data collected from 2004 to 2022 in more than 60 scientific papers that analysed the relationship between social media and the development of eating disorders, worrying findings appear, showing a recurring phenomenon of 'social depression', with psychological and behavioural difficulties and problems related to the sexual sphere, cyberbullying, sleep disorders, addiction, anxiety, distorted perception of one's own body, reduced physical activity, online grooming and headaches.*

# L'isola di Carlo. Sport and inclusion.

## In remembrance of Carlo Federico Benedizione

The Foundation wished to provide special support to a project that combines a sense of remembrance – a moving process for the family of Carlo, a young man who loved sport – and the involvement of numerous young people and small patients who can find not just a place for recreation but also a dynamic approach to their treatment in the dedicated space at the Hospital's site in Palidoro. In memory of Carlo, and as a means of keeping alive his spirit of unity and his explosive, contagious cheerfulness, 'L'isola di Carlo' (Carlo's Island) has therefore been created in the area in front of Pavilion III at the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital site in Palidoro, a place where games and sport can be symbols of inclusion and joy for all children and young people. The Island is structured as a well-equipped space, dedicated primarily to the game of basketball, a sport that is not only very popular and widespread among young people, and is simple, fun, and within everyone's reach, but which, since it can also be played by wheelchair users, will enable a significant expansion of the rehabilitation/therapeutic activities within the Hospital, which have already been started through the use of the adapted bicycle. The available space does not allow a regulation size court, with there only being enough room for a playground, a half-court with a single basket, adjustable in height for the different playing needs of users, created by covering the surface between the three sides of the walkway

of the existing Nature Path with a special rubber made of eco-friendly, non-trauma coloured material. The plan is to include 50 young people aged between 5 and 16 in the first year of the project. The children and young people who will be initiated into these activities will undergo a clinical and rehabilitation assessment carried out by an interdisciplinary team, consisting of sports physicians, physical medicine and rehabilitation physicians, physiotherapists, and personnel with degrees in motor sciences, with expertise in adapted physical activity. The work was financed by relatives and friends of Carlo Benedizione's family who promoted a fundraising campaign through the Bambino Gesù Foundation. The project is scheduled for completion in early summer 2023.



# Support for the Bangui Children's Hospital in the Central African Republic

The Bambino Gesù Foundation has supported the local children's hospital on several occasions through the purchase of equipment, support

for the allocation of certain medical staff, and the building or maintenance of physical installations.

## A commitment born out of a wish by Pope Francis

Our journey into the heart of Africa began on 29 November 2015, when Pope Francis opened the door of Bangui Cathedral, kicking off the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. On that day, the Pontiff showed the world a path of stability, justice and hope and asked Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital to work to ensure that Central African children receive the care they need. That day, work began on an ambitious project, in cooperation with the Apostolic Nunciature of the Holy See in the Central African Republic, and also supported by the Bambino Gesù Foundation.

The Centre for Therapeutic Re-nutrition, dedicated to the treatment of malnutrition, was opened in March 2019.

To support the health of Central African children, a 15 km road in the forest was also upgraded and a ferry – a barge for crossing the river – was built to enable the local population to reach the dispensary in Ngouma, which was also renovated and reopened after more than three years.

But it is not just the facilities that are needed to provide the best care – the training of doctors and health personnel is crucial. For this reason, the Hospital and the Bambino Gesù Foundation support the studies of some students enrolled in the Faculty of Medicine at Bangui University and the training of resident doctors.

The Foundation's commitment in Bangui has not only supported the renovation of the existing paediatric complex, which was completed in 2018, but also continued by promoting the recruitment and training of staff working in the facility through internships in Italy at the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital for newly qualified specialists and professors from the Bangui Medical Faculty.

In 2022, the Foundation's contribution was limited to paying the instalments of the activated scholarships, involving a financial commitment of €4,196.





# The Solidarity Shop

For several years now, the Bambino Gesù Foundation has been offering a well-established fundraising formula through the Solidarity Shop. In the last year, a growing number of people are celebrating a happy event or an anniversary by making a donation and receiving a favour or gadget, thus combining a day of celebration with a real message of solidarity.

Many users have reviewed our shop through the wedding.com platform, crowning it the winner of the Wedding Awards for 2022.

Users can choose how much to donate and make their donations through the site or by email.

The Solidarity Shop is a kind way for hundreds of people to help support many children in need and their families. It is certainly not a virtual shop, and it is not part of the usual way in which the Foundation operates, but,

in receiving requests from so many users, it represents a tangible sign of a humanitarian purpose. The joyful representation of a message of solidarity.

Donors themselves are happy to promote how such a simple and straightforward action can also become an opportunity to give hope to many children and young people, by asking them to support their own wedding or party solidarity list.

This is a real gesture that carries with it one of the pillars of the Foundation, a concrete sense of solidarity. This activity has resumed its pre-pandemic levels, and each year the offers are renewed and promoted through the website and social media.

For more information:  
shopsolidale@fondbg.it  
Tel. +39 06/6859.3137



# Connecting with donors and social media

Every day, the Bambino Gesù Foundation uses technologies and interactive tools such as the website, social networks and emails to communicate with its stakeholders, giving media resonance to news and to events directly or indirectly promoted and curated by the Foundation itself. This is a simple way to promote the Foundation's many initiatives, which are implemented every year to create an open and sincere relationship of dialogue with the organisations, associations and donors with whom we work on a constant basis.

In particular, through the use of the simple tool of email, the Foundation communicates with donors, patients' families and associations, illustrating new projects, ideas, events and promoted programmes, not least by sending Christmas greetings.

The Foundation's website is innovative and intuitive: this ensures that anyone who lands on the website instantly understands what the Foundation stands for, what projects are active and how to donate.

Online, on the website and social networks, various types of news are published, aimed in particular at donors and families, in the form of editorials, interviews, infographics, specific surveys, research results or descriptions of equipment. There is also a thorough

and detailed account of everyday life at the Hospital provided through the stories of patients, which are transformed into 'hymns to life' through the support of the Foundation and the many donations.

This is also supported by the presence of the app, which promotes donations by ensuring that both desktop and smartphone options are available. The app can be downloaded from the Apple and Android stores, and provides the option of choosing from the many active projects.



The site has maintained a satisfactory number of views and a constant read time by users.

As far as social media is concerned, the Foundation boasts several options, in particular Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter and YouTube, where great storytelling brings the end user right to the heart of the Foundation's communications.

The total number of users accessing the Foundation's media has increased by around 30% compared to last year on Facebook and Instagram.

At the end of 2022, the Foundation also chose to make 'fundraising' more usable and customisable by designing a crowdfunding section (active from early 2023) where users can freely choose the goal of a fundraising drive, its duration and how to participate.

Thus #unpocoallavolta was born – the crowdfunding platform that will allow each user to set up his or her own project in support of the Hospital.

An innovative service that allows users to create their own fundraising campaigns in a simple, secure and intuitive way. Crowdfunding can be set up for any occasion and can support one or more projects that are being designed or are already active in the Hospital.



Setting up a fundraising project is easy!

1. Log in using your username and password or register
2. Click on the menu **CREA LA TUA CAMPAGNA**
3. Share the campaign with friends, family and acquaintances

For a contact, send an email to [info.fond@fondbg.it](mailto:info.fond@fondbg.it) or call +39 06 68592946



# Financial reporting and financial statements for 2022

In 2022 the upward trend in donations collected and transfers made by the Foundation to the Hospital continued.

Costs for services, on the other hand,

are lower than in 2021.

To allow comparison with previous years, a table summarising the last six years is shown below.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Institutional income	1,863,036	1,975,000	3,176,508	3,828,776	5,496,023	6,152,098	8,436,981
Costs for services	269,193	295,129	414,061	600,654	442,873	404,720	366,940
Amounts transferred to the Hospital <sup>(*)</sup>	1,336,134	1,428,547	1,690,885	3,413,874	4,744,736	5,207,699	8,108,371

(\*) Amounts transferred to the Hospital include: direct transfers to the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital – €5,451,625; expenses that the Foundation pays to third parties for accommodation of families of long-term hospitalised patients – €265,237; and expenses incurred by the Foundation for the Hospital's special projects – €138,000, in particular the Palliative Care Centre €2,253,338.

As detailed in this Social Responsibility Report, the funds transferred to the Hospital were allocated to support scientific research, the purchase of equipment of particular importance, the patient and family hospitality programme, humanitarian care, training projects within the framework of international activities, and the renovation of the building to house the Paediatric Palliative Care Centre.

Special mention should be made of the proceeds from the collection of '5 per 1000' contributions, which represented more than €700,000 for the financial years from 2017 to 2020. Amounts from the '5 per 1000' campaign are transferred to the Hospital for the Cure Umanitarie project.

The most important change in the financial statements, as noted in the Social Responsibility Report for the previous year, relates to donations with allocation constraints, which must be accounted for as assets

until it has been determined that the constraint has been observed. Considering that a large proportion of donations reach the Foundation in December and that the procedures for reviewing donations and ensuring compliance with the internal rules for verifying that the associated constraints have been observed take several weeks to complete, it can happen that the balance sheet closes with an asset that will then be finally allocated in the following financial year.

For 2022 the surplus stood at €1,012, a sign of the swift allocation of the restricted donations for 2022.

The full texts of the financial statements and annual report approved by the Governing Board at its meeting on 21 June 2022 are published separately both on the Foundation's website and through the publicity procedures provided for charity sector organisations.





# Report by the Audit Body on the Social Responsibility Report

Article 30 of the Charity Sector Code (Legislative Decree No 117 of 3 July 2017, as amended) requires that charity organisations institute a supervisory audit body tasked, among other things, with monitoring compliance with civic, solidarity-related and social protection objectives and certifying that the social responsibility report has been drafted in accordance with the guidelines laid down in Article 14. The social responsibility report acknowledges the results

of the monitoring carried out by the audit body.

The report drafted by the Audit Body contains the 'Reporting on the monitoring activities and associated outcomes' in Section A) and the 'Certification of compliance of the social responsibility report with the guidelines laid down in the Ministerial Decree of 4 July 2019 from the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy' in Section B).



**REPORT FROM THE AUDIT BODY**  
on the  
**Social Responsibility Report to 31 December 2022**  
of the  
**FONDAZIONE BAMBINO GESÙ ONLUS**

To the Governing Board of the Fondazione Bambino Gesù Onlus

**Introduction**

In the financial year ended 31 December 2022, the Audit Body performed the functions required under Article 30(c)(7) of the Charity Sector Code.

This single report contains the *'Reporting on the monitoring activities and associated outcomes'* in **Section A)** and the *'Certification of compliance of the social responsibility report with the guidelines laid down in the Ministerial Decree of 4 July 2019 from the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy'* in **Section B)**.

**A) Reporting on the monitoring activities and associated outcomes**

In accordance with Article 30(7) of the Charity Sector Code, during the 2022 financial year, we carried out the activities associated with monitoring compliance by the Fondazione Bambino Gesù Onlus with the relevant civic, solidarity-related and social protection objectives, with particular regard to the provisions of Articles 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the Charity Sector Code.

This monitoring was carried out in accordance with the current regulatory framework and focused in particular on the following:

- > verification that the institution carries out, exclusively or primarily, one or more general interest activities as referred to in Article 5(1) of the Charity Sector Code in relation to civic, solidarity-related and social protection objectives, in accordance with the specific rules governing their exercise, as well as, where appropriate, activities other than those indicated in Article 5(1) of that code, provided that they fall within the activities stated in the articles of association and are based on the criteria established by Ministerial Decree No 107 of 19 May 2021 relating to the secondary and contributory nature of such activities;
- > verification that the institution complies, in fundraising activities carried out during the reporting period, with the principles of truthfulness, transparency and fairness in relationships with donors, with that verification being carried out, pending the issuance of the ministerial guidelines referred to in Article 7 of the Charity Sector Code, on the basis of an overall examination of existing rules and best practices in use;
- > verification that the institution still pursues a non-profit purpose, through the allocation of assets, including all components (revenues, income, receipts, earnings however described), to the performance of the activities laid down in the articles of association, and complies with the prohibition on distribution, even indirectly, of operating surpluses, funds and reserves to founders, associates, workers and external contractors, directors and other members of corporate bodies, taking into account the categories referred to in Article 8(3)(a) to (c) of the Charity Sector Code.

**B) Certification of compliance of the social responsibility report with the guidelines laid down in the Decree of 4 July 2019 of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy**

In accordance with Article 30(7) of the Charity Sector Code, during the 2022 financial year, we carried out the

activities involved in verifying the compliance of the social responsibility report prepared by the Fondazione Bambino Gesù Onlus with the guidelines for preparing social responsibility reports for non-profit entities issued by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy through the Ministerial Decree of 4 July 2019, in accordance with the provisions of Article 14 of the Charity Sector Code.

The Fondazione Bambino Gesù Onlus has declared that it has prepared its social responsibility report for the 2022 financial year in accordance with those guidelines.

Without prejudice to the responsibilities of the governing board in relation to preparing the social responsibility report in accordance with the methods and timeframes laid down in the rules governing its preparation, the audit body is responsible for certifying, as required by law, that the social responsibility report complies with the guidelines imposed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. The audit body is also responsible for determining whether the content of the social responsibility report is manifestly inconsistent with the data shown in the annual financial statements and/or the information and data in its possession.

To this end, we have verified that the information contained in the social responsibility report faithfully represents the activities carried out by the institution and is consistent with the information requirements stated in the relevant ministerial guidelines. Our conduct and procedures were in line with the relevant provisions of the Rules of Conduct for the Audit Boards of Charity Sector Entities, published by the CNDCEC in December 2020. In this respect, we also checked the following aspects:

- > compliance of the structure of the social responsibility report with the organisation into sections as laid down in paragraph 6 of the relevant guidelines;
- > inclusion in the social responsibility report of the information referred to in the specific sub-sections explicitly required under paragraph 6 of the relevant guidelines, unless an adequate explanation is given as to the reasons why specific information has not been presented;
- > compliance with the principles applying for the preparation of social responsibility reports laid down in paragraph 5 of the relevant guidelines, including the principles of relevance and completeness, which may create a need to supplement the information explicitly required under those guidelines.

### **Conclusions**

On the basis of the work carried out, no evidence has come to our attention to suggest that the institution's social responsibility report has not been drawn up, in terms of all significant aspects, in accordance with the provisions of the guidelines laid down in the Ministerial Decree of 4 July 2019.

Rome, 21 June 2023

The Audit Body  
Maurizio Zelli (Chair)

Francesco Alati (Member)

Gianni Artegiani (Member)





Bambino Gesù  
FONDAZIONE



# Support the Foundation

You can support the Foundation's activities in support of the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital through:

## **BANK TRANSFER**

Made out to  
Fondazione Bambino Gesù Onlus  
IBAN IT 05 B 03069 05020 100000016223  
Banca Intesa Sanpaolo

## **POSTAL CURRENT ACCOUNT**

Held by  
Fondazione Bambino Gesù Onlus  
Account No 1000425874

## **ONLINE**

At the site [www.fondazionebambinogesu.it](http://www.fondazionebambinogesu.it)

## **5x1000**

Tax ID 97531780589



**Bambino Gesù**  
FONDAZIONE

## **CONTACTS**

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