

“Roma città aperta” (Rome open city)

Daniel Moya¹

“Rome, Open City” is a masterpiece of Italian neorealist cinema. Set between 1943 and 1944 during the Nazi occupation, the film sought to denounce and raise awareness of the suffering experienced during that period. Directed by Roberto Rossellini in 1945, it was filmed on location, using the still-devastated city as the backdrop for a dramatic story told with remarkable realism.

The host city of the 2nd International Meeting of the International Federation of Shock Wave Treatment presented an entirely different atmosphere. On this occasion, Rome was a city open to encounters, to the exchange of ideas and experiences, and to fellowship and unbiased scientific dialogue. The venue itself reflected another chapter in the city’s history. The Hospital of Santo Spirito, founded in 727 AD, has recently been restored to its former splendor, recalling the days when it housed more than 300 inpatient beds (Fig. 1).

The composition of the Scientific Committee embodied the organizers’ vision. In many cases, it brought together professionals recognized well beyond the field of shockwave therapy, yet possessing extensive expertise in the subject. This represents the strongest safeguard against models in which a small group of “illuminati” remains in power over time and dictates the direction for everyone else. Such an approach prevents the recycling of the same perspectives and avoids fostering self-reinforcing convictions around concepts that have not necessarily been conclusively demonstrated.

Indeed, one lecture had a truly “shocking” impact. Dr. Jan Dirk Rompe (Germany), one of the pioneers of shockwave treatment, demonstrated that despite the favorable clinical outcomes achieved with the procedure in the treatment of

Achilles tendinopathy, the scientific evidence remains far from definitive. His presentation sparked considerable interest in developing research projects aimed at addressing this important gap in knowledge.

Participants also enjoyed lectures delivered by renowned experts, including Dr. Nicola Maffulli (United Kingdom), Dr. Sun Wei (China), Dr. Ronald Hamisultane (France), Dr. Josep Pous (Spain), Dr. Ram Chidambaram (India), Dr. Dan Zin (Israel), Dr. Cristina D’Agostino (Italy), Dr. Mani Singh (United States), Dr. Ricardo Kobayashi (Brazil), and many other distinguished professionals from around the world.

The Italian Society for Shock Wave Treatment, under the leadership of Drs. Maria Chiara Vulpiani, Sergio Gigliotti, and Paolo Buselli, played an active role in the meeting and conducted a Certification Course that reached full capacity.



Figure 1: Detail of the dome of the Santo Spirito Hospital. (Photo courtesy of Dr. Jan Dirk Rompe).

¹Department of Orthopaedic, Servicio de Ortopedia y Traumatología, Hospital Británico de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Address of Correspondence

Dr. Daniel Moya,
Department of Orthopaedic, Servicio de Ortopedia y Traumatología, Hospital Británico de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
E-mail: drdanielmoya@yahoo.com.ar



Dr. Daniel Moya

Submitted Date: 30 May 2026, Review Date: 30 May 2026, Accepted Date: June 2026 & Published: 30 June 2026

Journal of Regenerative Science | Available on www.jrsonweb.com | DOI:10.13107/jrs.2026.v06.i01.185

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Describing the scientific contributions of the Italian society and its members to the field of shockwave treatment would require an article in itself.

Other Italian institutions, including the Academy of Bioregenerative Medicine and Surgery, several universities, and leading researchers, also made substantial contributions.

The event brought together a large group of colleagues from across Latin America, spanning from northern Mexico to the southern tip of Patagonia, who participated actively throughout the meeting.

The meeting received scientific endorsement from the International Society of Orthopedics and Traumatology and

was broadcast live on OrthoTV, the world's leading interactive medical platform.

No account of the meeting would be complete without acknowledging Dr. Alfonso Di Giorno, whose tireless efforts were essential in achieving its success.

This event will undoubtedly be remembered for many reasons, but above all for serving as a catalyst for the advancement of this scientific field. Anticipation is already building for the next meeting, to be held in China in 2028 under the leadership of Dr. Sun Wei. The destination will change, but the spirit that animated this gathering will surely remain the same.

Conflict of Interest: NIL
Source of Support: NIL

How to Cite this Article

Moya D | Roma città aperta" (Rome open city) | Journal of Regenerative Science | Jan-Jun 2026; 6(1): 01-02.