

THE PONTIFICAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

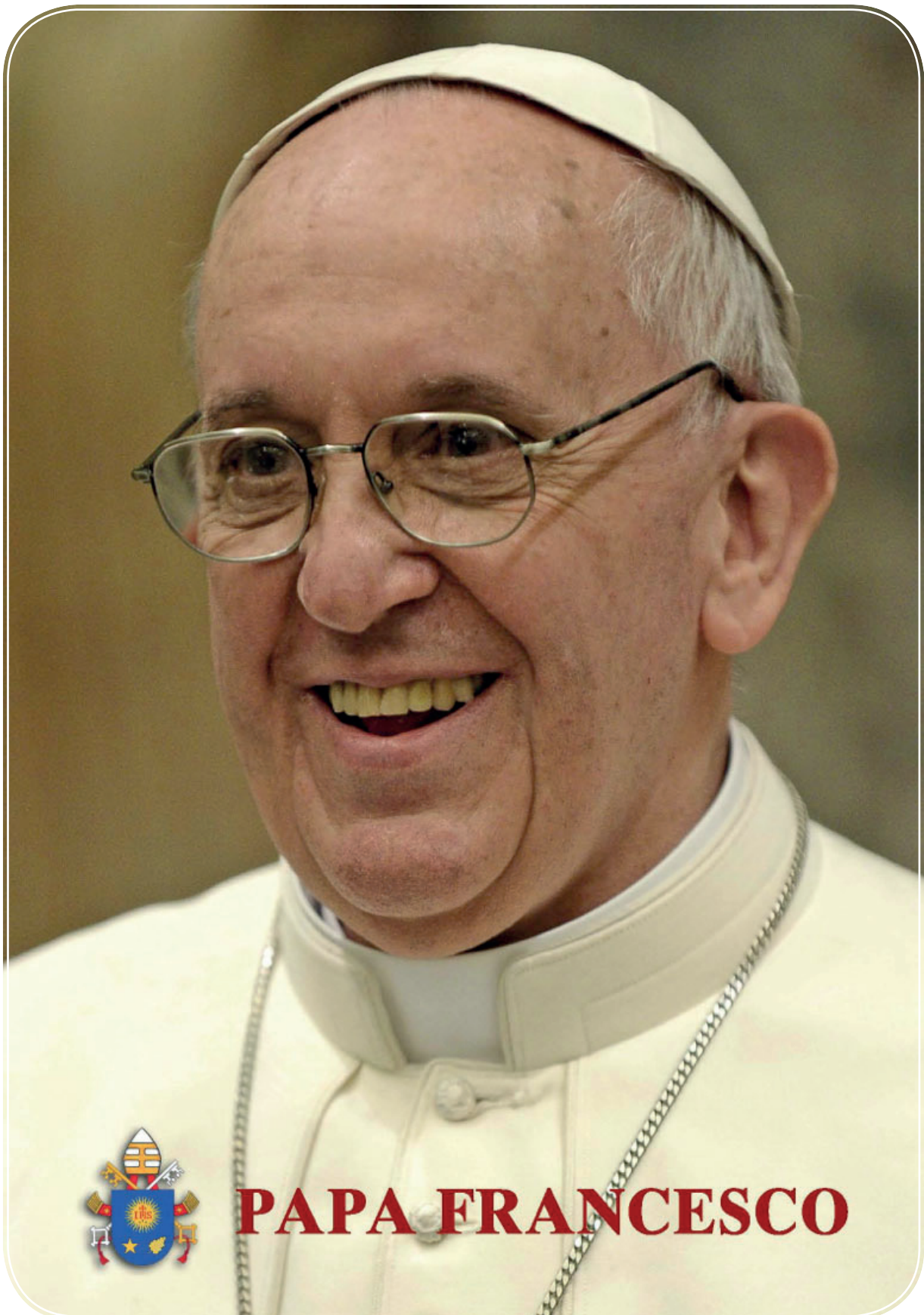
International Conference

Memory in the Diseased Brain

27 January 2015 – Casina Pio IV – Vatican City



VATICAN CITY 2015



PAPA FRANCESCO



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International Conference
**Memory in the
Diseased Brain**
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In human physiology, memory is the process by which information from the outside world is encoded, stored and later retrieved.

Borges said that “we are our memory”.

Memory is such an important process that, historically, it has been assigned a fundamental value to individual and social life of man.

Herodotus reports that the Egyptian priests kept the memory of 341 previous generations, that means over 11,000 years.

The Greeks worshiped a deity called Mnemosyne, attributing a divine property to memory, to guarantee the preservation of culture and history of populations.

Papa Francesco, commenting on the reading from the Book of Nehemiah (8, 1-4, 5-6, 7-12), about the discovery of the book of the law that had been lost, he said that we all have the memory of salvation and that feel close the memory of our salvation warms the heart and lights up inside us the joy and concluded by stating to ask the Lord for the grace to always have his memory next to us.

But, if memory is a tool of human physiology of such a great historical, cultural and even religious value, what is actually memory and what happens when it fails?

This is what the International Conference “Memory in the Diseased Brain” to be held under the auspices of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences on January 27, 2015 at the Casina Pio IV, Vatican City, aims to clarify.

The conference will be opened by a keynote lecture by Prof Kandel, Nobel Prize for Medicine in 2000 for his research on the physiological basis of memory storage in neurons, which will present the state of the art of what is memory and what we actually know about it.

It will be followed by a first morning session, focusing the differences between normal and pathological memory and memory disorders in the course of the most important neurological and geriatric diseases, such as vascular dementia or Alzheimer’s dementia, neurodegenerative disorders and Parkinson’s disease.

In the afternoon, memory disorders in the course of some of the most severe psychiatric disorders will be dealt with, particularly emphasizing the topics regarding major depression and schizophrenia.

The final section covers the most recent therapeutic advances in memory disorders, both on the psychological and organic treatments aspects.

Prof. Stefano Maria Zuccaro
Vatican Health Officer

H.E. Msgr. Marcelo Sánchez Sorondo
Chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences

Prof. Roberto Bernabei
Director Dept. of Geriatrics, Neurosciences
and Orthopedics, Pol. Gemelli, Rome



Welcome addresses: S.E. Rev.ma Mons. Marcelo Sánchez Sorondo - Stefano M. Zuccaro

Chairman: Paolo M. Rossini (Rome, I)

9:30 – 10:00 OPENING LECTURE: WHAT IS MEMORY
Eric R. Kandel (New York, USA)
Nobel Prize for Medicine 2000

Chairmen: Roberto Bernabei (Rome, I)
Gabriele Miceli (Trento, I)

10:00 – 10:30 THE CLINICAL NEUROPSYCHIATRY OF MEMORY
DISORDERS
Michael D. Kopelman (London, UK)

10:30 – 11:00 THE IMPORTANCE OF VASCULAR CHANGES IN
MEMORY DEFICITS: ALZHEIMER DISEASE AND
VASCULAR DEMENTIA
Gabriel Gold (Geneva, CH)

11:00 – 11:30 COFFEE BREAK

11:30 – 12:00 MEMORY IS ON THE FIRST LINE OF ATTACK OF
ALZHEIMER DISEASE
Bruno Dubois (Paris, F)

12:00 – 12:30 TREATMENT OF MEMORY DEFICITS IN
NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASES
Ezio Giacobini (Geneva, CH)

12:30 – 13:00 MEMORY DEFICITS IN PARKINSONIAN
PATIENTS
Clive Ballard (London, UK)

13:00 – 14:30 LUNCH

Chairmen: Mario Maj (Naples, I)
Stefano M. Zuccaro (Rome, I)

15:00 – 15:30 MEMORY AND COGNITIVE DYSFUNCTION IN
DEPRESSION
Philippe H. Robert (Nice, F)

15:30 – 16:00 NEW UPDATES ON THE PHARMACOLOGICAL
TREATMENT OF DEPRESSION, WITH REFERENCE
TO MEMORY AND COGNITIVE DYSFUNCTION
Marco A. Riva (Milan, I)

16:00 – 16:30 MEMORY AND COGNITIVE DYSFUNCTION IN
SCHIZOPHRENIA
Philip D. Harvey (Miami, USA)

16:30 – 17:00 COFFEE BREAK

17:00 – 17:30 MEMORY AGING AND BRAIN MAINTENANCE
Lars Bäckman (Stockholm, S)

17:30 – 18:00 THE ROLE OF COGNITIVE TRAINING AND
EXERCISE IN THE PREVENTION OF MEMORY
DISTURBANCES
Laura Fratiglioni (Stockholm, S)

Chairman: Ezio Giacobini (Geneva, CH)

18:00 – 18:45 GENERAL DISCUSSION