



# ETTORE MAJORANA FOUNDATION AND CENTRE FOR SCIENTIFIC CULTURE

TO PAY A PERMANENT TRIBUTE TO GALILEO GALILEI, FOUNDER OF MODERN SCIENCE  
AND TO ENRICO FERMI, "THE ITALIAN NAVIGATOR", FATHER OF THE WEAK FORCES



## International School of Bioelectromagnetism “Alessandro Chiabrera”

*Directors of the School:*

*Ferdinando Bersani (University of Bologna, Italy) and Maria Rosaria Scarfi (CNR-IREA, Naples, Italy)*

The Centre for Scientific Culture in Erice (Sicily, Italy) is named after the great Italian scientist Ettore Majorana. Antonino Zichichi, the director of the Centre, has said: “At Erice, those who come in order to follow a certain School are called ‘students’, but actually they are young people who have successfully completed their University studies and who come to Erice in order to learn what the new problems are. However, what is distinctive for Erice is the spirit animating all participants: students no less than teachers. The prime objective is to learn. The student listens to the lectures and after that comes the most amusing part: the discussion session.”

Topics in Bioelectromagnetics have come to Erice many times in the past, especially in the 1980s, with international courses and workshops on non-ionising radiation, and today many participants of those courses contribute greatly to the development of this research field.

Following the request of the European Bioelectromagnetics Association (EBEA) and the Inter-University Centre for the study of the Interaction between Electromagnetic Fields and Biosystems (ICEmB), in 2003 the Ettore Majorana Centre has established a Permanent School of Bioelectromagnetics, named after Alessandro Chiabrera, who is considered as a master by the young scientists of the two organizations.

### 9<sup>th</sup> COURSE: “Possible Biomedical Applications of Electromagnetic Fields to cancer: from Biology and *in silico* to clinical perspectives”

Erice (Sicily, Italy): March 24 to March 30, 2019

Co-organised with the European BioElectromagnetics Association



#### Directors of the Course:

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The relation of EMF with cancer is two-sided: on one hand the International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified them as “possible carcinogens,” though we lack a strong experimental support for that, and, on the other hand, they can be used as a diagnostic and therapeutic tool for certain types of cancers. As often occurs, the situation is far more complex and multidimensional, since the effects of EMFs on biological systems depend on the physical parameters of the field and the type and physiological conditions of the biological system.

Presently, there are well established techniques, like hyperthermia, electrochemotherapy, thermal ablation, etc., that have already entered into clinical use, whereas much remains to be understood regarding the therapeutic use of EMFs themselves for treating cancer. At this time, there are only a small number of studies in cells, animals and humans that

could be relevant for cancer therapy, mainly for EMFs in the range of low intensity ELF, intermediate frequencies and RF fields, suggesting possible use as an additional tool for the modulation of cell proliferation and differentiation, or antitumor effects. These studies are still in their infancy and significant work must be done in the future towards this direction. A primary target of the Course will be to shed light on this hot and controversial issue, starting from what is best established in terms of biology and clinical applications, to the analysis of the different theoretical perspectives and future research needs.

After a physical and technical introduction concerning EMF exposure conditions, the biological evidence presently available from *in vitro*, *in vivo* and epidemiological data will be considered, in particular, in the light of the most recent advancements in the understanding of the biological foundations of cancer etiology and the mechanisms underlying both regarding pro- and anti-cancer activity. Also, a survey of the more recent diagnostic and therapeutic applications of EMFs to cancer will be presented and discussed, including mathematical modeling and treatment planning (dose concept, clinical procedures, safety, etc.) for cancer therapy.

In conclusion, the course is intended to present an updated critical and comprehensive analysis of the present state of knowledge in this area and, most importantly, to provide young researchers with the opportunity to discuss the central questions that future researchers must address, in order to improve upon our present understanding and inspire new lines of research.

#### **Award for the best poster presentation**

One day will be partially devoted to poster presentations by participants. A Scientific Committee will award the author of the best poster. All posters will be introduced by a 5-minute oral presentation.

**Participation fee:** € 1300 including food and lodging.

**Application:** Interested candidates should send an e-mail to the Directors of the Course at the following e-mail address: [school@ebea.org](mailto:school@ebea.org)

with the following information:

- A short Curriculum Vitae
- Scientific interest of the candidate
- Students: a letter of recommendation of a Senior Scientist

In case of acceptance the candidate will be informed by e-mail.

The deadline for sending the requests of participation to the School is **November 30, 2018**.