



English Version – Press Release

PANS PANDAS WORLD AWARENESS DAY – October 9th 2023

If you recognize it, you cure it

All Children have the right to return to smile!

Every year, on October 9th, associations and families with children diagnosed with PANS/PANDAS celebrate this day to raise awareness and spread knowledge of these sudden-onset post-infectious syndromes caused by viruses, bacteria or other triggering factors of which the exact etiology is not yet known and it is still under study.

Pans and Pandal are neuro-inflammations of autoimmune origin, with sudden neuropsychiatric symptoms of various types and severity. A child changes completely overnight www.pandasbge.it

The Associazione Genitori Pans Pandal Bge ODV since its establishment one year ago and even before that, as a Parents' Committee, has been committed to various types of initiatives to spread knowledge and raise awareness, above all, of public institutions, at various levels, starting first from Emilia-Romagna Region (where the Association has the Headquarter), and its top executives, the request to the Presidency of the S.I.P. - Italian Society of Pediatrics to establish Italian pharmacological guidelines, up to the meeting with the Premier Giorgia Meloni. Never done before in Italy!!

In just one year many things have happened for which the Association itself has worked and continues to work, non-stop, in silence and of which some important stages are retraced below.

During the course of the year, the Italian Associazione Genitori Pans Pandal Bge ODV meets both President Bonaccini and Councilor Donini. In November 2022, the Italian region recognized, as among the most virtuous in the healthcare sector, after various failed attempts, approved a bipartisan regional resolution, which calls for a comparison at a national level, to understand and become aware of the situation in which many families concern (throughout Italy) that, until now, no one had ever cared about.

Associazione Genitori Pans Pandal Bge ODV – sede legale: Via Ivano Bonomi, 5 – 43126 Parma
www.pandasbge.it – c.f.: 92206320340



The situation in general was not known at all and the government's response was not long in arriving, so much that Giorgia Meloni herself summoned Nicole (12 years old), together with the leaders of the Pans Pandas Bge ODV Parents Association (The President Stefania Lessio and The Vice President Fabridi Lalli Nicole's mother), after reading her touching letter as a child suffering from this syndrome. Now, she is declared "healed" thanks to the care of two "enlightened" Italian doctors (D. Fernanda Falcini and Dr. Carlo Capone) <https://www.pandasbge.it/2023/03/02/presidente-giorgia-ci-aiuti-a-guarire-tutti/>.

The Premier, following that long meeting, launches a technical, governmental, medical-scientific and scholastic working table chaired by the Hon. Gemmato, as she promised during the meeting with the Association's Leaders:

an important step on the path towards recognition and a clear and decisive position compared to the past, which finally gives hope of being able to cure thousands of children.

In the letter, Nicole asked the Premier to "cure" all children suffering from pans pandas.

The Emilia-Romagna Region and the "Meloni's Government" have taken to heart the health of the many children affected by pans pandas and their families, who until now have been left alone, to face the drama caused by an unknown disease, both responding positively with various concrete projects, which can be implemented in the near future, such as, for example, the "taking charge" of children and untreated adults in 3 public hospitals, in Emilia Romagna, which will be communicated the 9th and more.

The association is the witness of daily family tragedies that could be avoided if every pediatrician in Italy was able to recognize the symptoms and treat them effectively, rather than denying them as often happens.



DIAGNOSIS AND TIMELY TREATMENT

early diagnosis and the approach to effective multidisciplinary treatments to stop neuro-inflammation as soon as possible is the project to which the Associazione Genitori Pans Pandas Bge ODV has dedicated the next October 9th 2023.

In fact, in the Conference Room of the Parma University Hospital, a short medical-scientific training course with ECM credits will be held, in presence, where will be explained to the participating doctors, the possibilities of diagnosis and effective treatment, available in Italy now and the future prospects of treatment. Among the various speakers there will be also **Dr. Susan Swedo, on video, whose intervention is highly awaited.**

It is essential that doctors understand these conditions, in their complexity, drawing on the experience provided by the various experts in the various fields, through a meeting, which will end with a constructive debate, **heralding the first complete Italian online training course of in-depth analysis always with ECM credits that the Association itself has produced involving numerous national experts.**

In the afternoon, an in-presence training meeting dedicated to the School is planned, the first in Italy dedicated to school till now, with the extraordinary participation of Prof. Paolo Crepet, (famous Italian psychiatrist, sociologist, essayist, TV columnist and books author) who will speak to a room full of teachers, psychologists and school directors, about the importance of the figure of 'teacher in growth of the child, especially in the difficulties that a disabling illness such as Pans Pandas can cause. Psychologists and psychiatrists who have known and treated Pans Pandas syndromes for years will intervene, as speakers, explaining the most common symptoms that can occur at school and teaching them how to manage them, to create a school environment that is as peaceful as possible for everyone.



Last, but not least, from 6pm on October 9th, many Italian cities and municipalities will light up their most significant monuments in green, a symbol of hope, to testify their closeness to the families who are suffering, committing themselves to spreading the knowledge and information that is made available.

Every citizen who sees a monument lit up in green in their city will be able to photograph it and post it on their Facebook page by tagging @associazionegenitoripanspandasbge and on Instagram @pans_pandas

All this so that children whose childhood has been stolen by an as yet unrecognized illness are granted the right to the right treatment so that they can smile again.

The following companies contributed to the realization of 9th October events:

Barilla, Long Life, Cariparma Foundation, Parmigiano Reggiano, Gas Sales Energia, Anmic Parma, Vescovi Salumi, La Giovane, Give me your e-learning dream, Parma University Hospital.

For info: pandasbge@gmail.com