



2016-17 ACADEMIC YEAR OPENING CEREMONY

January 24th, 2017

Humanitas Congress Center, Rozzano (MI)

Marco Montorsi, Humanitas University Chancellor

Autorità, Magnifici Rettori, Esimi Colleghi, Membri dell'Advisory Board, cari Studenti, Signore e Signori,

Welcome to all and thank you for coming.

It's a great pleasure for me to welcome you today for the Opening Ceremony of the new academic year of our young University. In fact, only two and a half years have passed since Hunimed was established – an University founded with the aim of setting up an educational project on an international scale in the field of the Life Sciences.

In the year that has just ended, the national data on University admission tests confirm the continuing appeal of the medical sciences, with a ratio of applications to available places higher than 6:1.

This is even more evident for the international courses in English, offered today by 10 public and private universities (including Hunimed), where the number of seats allocated to non-EU students is increasing.

The internationalization of our Higher Education system was also recently confirmed as one of the political priorities the Minister of University recently underlined in the official Guidelines just made public.

Applications/Available Places Ratio in Medical Schools in Italy

Applications/Places Ratio	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Medical Schools (ITA)	6,7	6,7	6,8
Medical Schools (ENG)	17,8	12,8	14,1
Hunimed	6,0	8,3	14,7

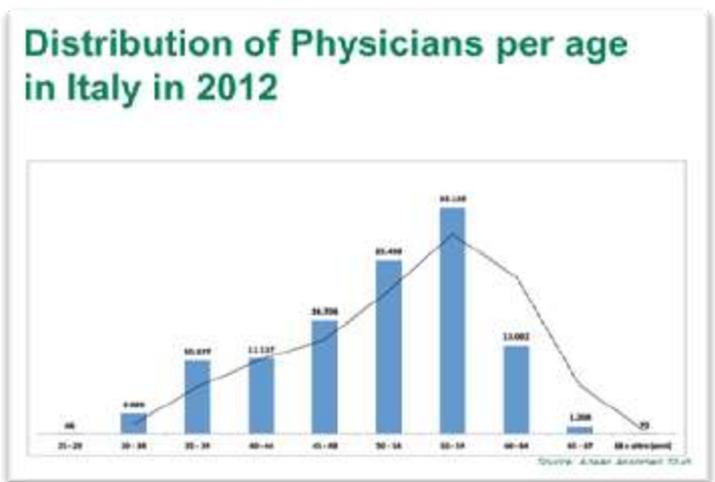
Percentage of places assigned to private funded Universities on total Medicine assigned places		
A.A.	EU	Extra EU
2014/2015	7%	11%
2015/2016	7%	14%
2016/2017	7%	16%

Source: data processed by AUM database



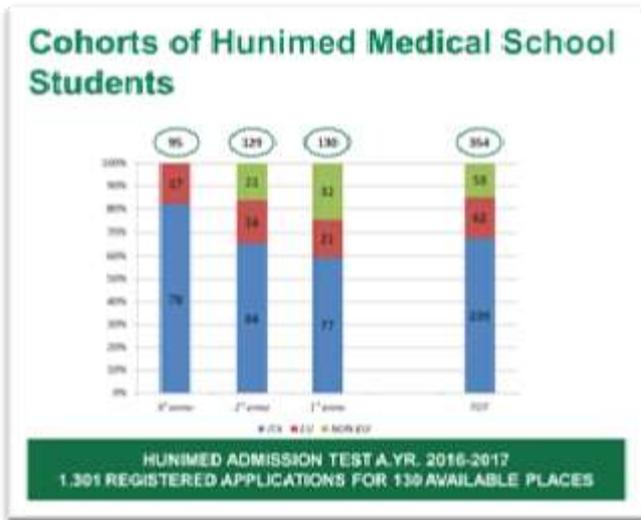
A Degree in Medicine, despite the critical issues concerning a very long career path, nevertheless maintains a strong relationship with the world of work, as shown by the data of the recent AlmaLaurea report on the employment status of Italian graduates.

If we add to this the data from a study that examined the situation of practicing physicians in Italian hospitals, projected over the next decade, we can clearly see that most of our doctors' age is in the range between 50 and 60, being one of the highest in European Community Countries.



We can therefore expect a peak in retirements in a few years and thus a significant increase in the demand for doctors, estimated at more than 50,000 units. To this regard, even if it is true that Italy has still an issue of Brain Drain, I think time has come to see the labor market as a whole on a European basis, especially in the field of science that is getting more and more global. This would help not to negatively emphasize the migration of our young graduates, framing their moving abroad as a more physiologic circulation of talents. For young people, in fact, given their greater aptitude for mobility, this circulation could be also be seen as an additional safeguard against the risk of not finding a job or of losing it at home.

To reverse this problem, Universities are essential to attract talents and to their growth, either by an effective selection of the incoming students and creating the most favorable conditions to achieve these goals during the years of study. The professional and scientific success of a graduate is the success of the University that educated and trained him or her.



In this context, we have positively evaluated the data of the recent admission tests both for EU and Non-EU students, the latter accounting for a significant increase in enrolments.

At the end of the registration process – often very long and complex – we recorded a foreign student rate of 40% from several and different countries all over the world.

This *melting pot* of students is certainly the most stimulating part of our educational project but requires a great deal of care and attention, in particular concerning the selection and orientation processes, to which we’re trying to give concrete solutions by focused actions, such as Induction Weeks, Counselling Service, Near-to-Peer Mentoring Programs.

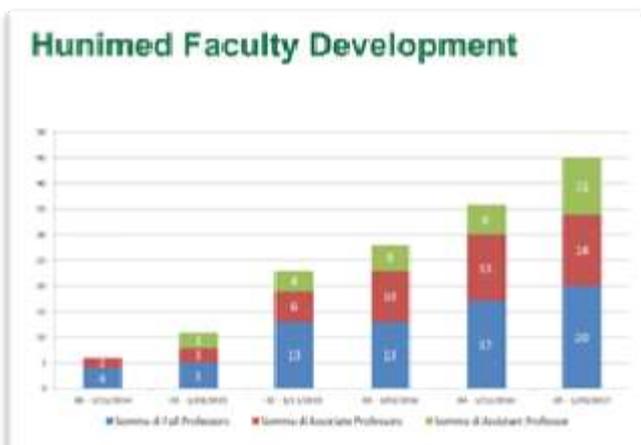
An international course with students from very different cultural backgrounds requires great attention to how to teach effectively and how to assess and support the growth of each student, and these are our priorities.

In other words, global attention must be paid to the acquisition of both technical and non-technical (or so-called “soft”) skills.

The new Campus, which is rapidly growing, will be the ideal setting for all these initiatives since the next academic year.

Last summer our first seven students have received their medical Degrees, thanks to an agreement with the University of Milan. This was the first cohort enrolled in MiMed six years ago, that attended and completed the Degree program here at Humanitas, deciding then to accept the opportunity of joining our University.

You will shortly hear Dr. Giulia Mulazzani tell about her personal experience.



Over the past year, the Faculty has seen a significant increase both in absolute numbers and in its various components. After an initial period, during which hiring was naturally focused on the top positions, a recruitment program has now been opened to Assistant Professors, to broaden our base with doctors having a strong vocation for research and

significant international experience.

Considering how young our University is, we have not yet appeared in the most prestigious international rankings (THE, SCImago, etc.). However, Hunimed Research output by Impact Factor value, significantly contributes to our Scientific Institute excellent performance.

To this regard, we cannot for sure rely on (or be obsessed by) ranking only, because they are not entirely reliable, frequently heavily biased and not comparable, but students and people are looking closely at these lists in making their choices.

Concerning our three-year Degree Courses, in addition to our Nursing School, aiming to a more effective professional characterization, we have opened a Degree Course in Physiotherapy. As expected, confirming the national appeal of this course, we had a very high number of applications and the first 20 students started their educational and professional program this academic year. An International Advisory Board was asked to set out the framework and the path of the course according to the best European experiences.

We have also obtained good results from our Master's courses in clinical settings: the first courses awarded diplomas just last week. The Excellence Track in Experimental Medicine— our own MD-PhD project – is growing with more students selected on merit base each academic year.

Our Post-Graduate Schools have begun their teaching activities and practical training, two of these in aggregation with other Universities in our Region. We are pleased to note that the enrolled doctors belong for almost two-thirds to the first decile of the national ranking, a reflection of the quality and reputation of our faculty members and training network (which includes the group's facilities in the Region).

Some Ministerial regulations of the Post-Graduate process, which have caused inefficiencies in this area, should anyway still be addressed for correction, including: the selection process, which offers options in subject areas that are too different from each other; the difference between ministerial and external founded contracts; the non-homogeneity of the rules of engagement throughout the country and in the different hospitals and regional settings.

And for the near future? We have been discussing and drawn up a three-year Strategic Development Plan that particularly emphasizes research and educational innovation. Research will mainly focus on the field of Precision Medicine, both in preclinical and clinical settings. This field is of great interest, as witnessed by significant initiatives in different Countries.

We would like to contribute to the success of this revolution in Medical Science in the coming years, focusing our efforts on those area highlighted in the slide.

The new planned educational initiatives reflect our interest in covering those fields of Medical Sciences in which significant advances are expected. These initiatives include structured partnerships with high level scientific institutions, both Italian and foreign we are progressively setting up.

As Dr. Rocca mentioned in his greetings about the Watson project, I would only like to stress that the challenging aspect of this reality is how it can link education to the world of Artificial Intelligence and Information Technology to improve its effectiveness.



The original goal of Artificial Intelligence was to develop techniques which simulate human intelligence, either the reasoning process itself or its outcome. Now the techniques are used to support interactions with the learner. The focus has moved from reasoning as the learner to reasoning with the learner.

And the next big step will be the Master

Algorithm, an algorithm that can learn anything from data.

Some experts are quite sure – maybe from a super-optimistic point of view – that “machine learning can potentially take in a cancer’s genome with the patient’s genome and medical history, predict which drug or combination of drugs to use or even design a new drug specifically for that cancer”. But we need better machine learning algorithms and patients to share their data so that the algorithms can learn from it.

For sure another stimulating field for ourselves and our students!

And let me conclude with the last reflection: this new Precision Medicine has been also called P4 (Predictive, Personalized, Preventive and Participatory); let me underline again the importance of the last P – Participatory – because it reminds to all of us the importance of the centrality of the doctor-patient relationship, whose aim is to establish a dialogue and an alliance of mutual trust that leads to the proper and most effective care possible as it was since the very beginning of our art!

It is therefore with renewed pride and a bit of emotion that I declare 2016-2017 academic year of Humanitas University open.

