



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY REPORT 2021

LOOKING AHEAD
TO 2022



Bambino Gesù
FONDAZIONE



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PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA UNDERPINNING THE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY REPORT

The 'social' reporting of the activities of organisations and companies was initially a voluntary process. Today that process covers specific characteristics and requirements that also apply in the Italian charity sector, and the associated principles and guidelines have served as the basis for drafting this Social Responsibility Report. This report is also based on the provisions of Legislative Decree No 117/2017 and the guidelines laid down in the Decree of 4 July 2019 for organisations in the charity sector.

In representing the dynamics of organisational events from a broader and more general perspective compared to the accompanying financial statements, this document therefore has the objective of providing a concise, clear and transparent picture of the Foundation's activities, highlighting the impact of the actions implemented and the network of relationships with the various stakeholders at all levels and in a range of spheres, and is thus of value to all individuals and bodies that have a permanent interest in

the activities of an organisation such as the Foundation.

The intention of the document, as in the previous financial year, is to describe in as much analytical detail as possible the reasons why certain projects and initiatives are or have been supported, indicating the corresponding costs and the related impacts in terms of effectiveness and added value deployed in areas of particular interest and social relevance that specifically relate to the sphere of healthcare and humanitarian support, in line with the Foundation's institutional mission.

This document also constitutes a tool for reporting on the management responsibilities, institutional conduct, behaviours and social results associated with the activities carried out that have impacts on the healthcare environment within the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital, and aims to reflect the underlying spirit of the concept of accountability, understood as responsibility specifically focused on the principles of transparency and compliance that guide the Foun-

dation's actions. In that sense, its purpose is to fulfil the obligation to provide information to supplement the purely economic and financial information contained in the financial statements, although it does include a summary of the salient data. In this way, the Social Responsibility Report details the value generated by the organisation, providing comparisons of the results achieved over time.

The result is an account of the identity and system of reference values embodied by the Foundation and how these are reflected in strategic choices, management behaviours, results and effects. Reference has been made, in particular, to the core principles of social reporting – relevance, completeness, transparency, neutrality, relevance in terms of time, comparability, truthfulness, verifiability and reliability.

The data presented in this document refer to the financial year of the Bambino Gesù Foundation non-profit organisation (Onlus) and its financial statements as at 31 December 2021.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRWOMAN

Hospitality and treatment in the third millennium

At the close of the 2021 financial year, I feel a certain degree of pride and emotion in reporting to the community that supports the Bambino Gesù Foundation to express my satisfaction with the results achieved this year, especially with regard to certain important projects. But I also share a feeling of regret and sorrow at having to observe the shifts in daily life taking place on a global scale, marked by the harmful effects of conflicts, struggle and warlike events that deny the dignity of human beings and the very progress of human civilisation, making any actions based on solidarity and support daunting and increasingly difficult.

The institutional mission of both the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital and the Bambino Gesù Foundation means the two organisations are extremely active in the field of humanitarian assistance, patient management and treatment, without geographical, political or ideological boundaries, providing 'help' – in the broadest sense of the term, and therefore not only in terms of health – to anyone, anywhere.

The culture of patient hospitality and care has always been based on inclusive and universal moments that transcend ideological, political, cultural or religious beliefs, focusing on the value of the 'person', shaped by individu-

al needs and requirements but also by a profound sense of what underscores the culture of universal brotherhood that has guided the evolution of human progress.

The events that have primarily influenced human affairs since 2020 pose questions to which it is extremely complex to even attempt to provide answers, let alone find possible plausible justifications. An extraordinary series of events and situations is becoming dangerously ordinary, and previously absurd and unthinkable facts and outcomes must now be 'metabolised' and included within our daily routine. This continually forces us to review our agenda of facts and events and thus to reposition priorities, conduct, customs, behaviours, readiness to act and these factors ultimately have an impact on the fundamental building blocks of human projects and progress.

It is in these complex moments of daily life that there is a real need to be aware of one's own being, one's own role and one's own potential. We must take on the burden of being not only witnesses to the values we share, but also real actors for good, committed to helping and supporting each other, to driving ideas and projects that must have the capacity to stem the shift, to providing unequivocal support to those who need it and to restoring a sense of community, of help and of human solidarity, doing justice to the history and undeniable progress of humankind.

The Foundation's achievements for 2021 illustrate this very approach, and the pages that follow provide confirmation of the results achieved, despite the difficult times and daunting circumstances, in international humanitarian initiatives, patient hospitality projects, support for scientific research and technological innovation, solidarity and aid activities, and the development of international partnership scenarios.

In terms of the symbolic value of the initiatives carried out, however, it is most definitely the Passoscuro Paediatric Palliative Care Centre that best represents the cohesion and operational synergy between the Hospital and the Foundation. A large part of 2021 was committed to implementing this initiative, and indeed a considerable portion of 2022 and 2023 has been allocated for completion of the necessary activities. This is a commitment to children in need of care and support at a time when traditional treatments may no longer be able to provide the hoped-for relief, but where, for this very reason, there is a need for doctors, nurses, facilities, spaces and initiatives to envelope these small patients in a warm, caring environment, much as they would be wrapped up in the warm, embracing folds of a pallium, a mantle or cloak.

Another project that demonstrates the central role played by the Foundation, as of 2022, in an equally important area in terms of social action and care needs – especially for adolescents, whose experience of the existential impacts of these complex times, in terms of both post-pandemic and other factors, is often quite dramatic – concerns the creation of a centre for the treatment and care of paediatric patients suffering from eating disorders. Here again, the Foundation is attempting to establish a high-quality treatment scenario in an area that has been left somewhat 'orphaned' in terms of structured care at both residential and semi-residential level.

Our ongoing commitment and the increasing humanitarian needs we face can only create a renewed sense of motivation and impetus and, thanks to the growing support of donors, this will enable the Foundation to continue to support the development projects implemented by the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital in the future.

Mariella Enoc





ABOUT US

NAME OF THE ORGANISATION

Fondazione Bambino Gesù Onlus

TAX ID

97531780589

LEGAL HEADQUARTERS

Passeggiata del Gianicolo, snc
c/o Villino Sion - 00165 Roma

OPERATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

V.le di Villa Pamphili, 100 - 00152 Roma

WEB SITE

www.fondazionebambinogesu.it

HISTORY OF THE FOUNDATION

The Foundation was created in its current form in 1996 when the Cari Bambini (Dear Children) Foundation was established by Pope John Paul II to support the hospital care provided for children at the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital, which was itself founded in 1869 and is now accredited as a Scientific Research and Healthcare Institute (Istituto di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico (IRCCS)).

More recently, the Foundation acquired new articles of association and the name Fondazione Bambino Gesù on 4 September 2000.

The Foundation is based in the Vatican City State, but has consolidated its operational presence in Italy through the establishment of a secondary site, which has enabled it to pursue its designated mission of supporting humanitarian initiatives to aid the care and research activities carried out by the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital and helping children in need of hospital care who are not covered by the Italian National Health Service.

Since 2008, with the establishment of the secondary site, the Foundation has been entered in the Register of Legal Entities held at the Prefecture of Rome and in the Register of Non-profit Organisations maintained by the Lazio Regional Government under its current name Fondazione Bambino Gesù Onlus. In November 2015, the Foundation completely renewed its Governing Board, which approved new articles of association geared towards transparency in the entity's operations.

Since 2020, the following individuals have been members of the Foundation's Governing Board: Mariella Enoc (Chairwoman), Massimiliano Atelli, Pierluigi Betturri, Maite Bulgari, Ferruccio De Bortoli, Moroello Diaz Della Vittoria Pallavicini and Giuseppe Mascarucci.

The Foundation's economic activities are subject to audit by the Board of Statutory Auditors. The financial statements are certified by the auditing firm Deloitte.





IDENTITY, MISSION AND VALUES

Supporting the efforts of doctors, researchers and health workers and those who work every day to provide a better quality of life for children and their families.

Building an enclave of Christian solidarity backed by principles of healthcare, support, patient management and treatment based on the demands and needs of families and children, who will therefore always find the door to the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital open, regardless of where they come from.

In the context of its genesis and institutional purpose, the Bambino Gesù Foundation is a non-profit organisation involved in initiatives and activities rooted in social action and solidarity:

- promoting and supporting the scientific research activities of the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital, contributing to guaranteeing the availability of a range of resources aimed particularly at supporting projects with a significant medical and scientific focus, in the context of the Hos-

pital's IRCCS structure;

- supporting the development of healthcare services provided by the Hospital for Italian and foreign minors who are disadvantaged due to their physical, psychological, economic, social or family situation, addressing the complex nature of the urgent requests for paediatric care and treatment that now arrive from all over the world. It is often the case that only the Hospital has access to the appropriate and adequate resources, skills and diagnostic, therapeutic and interventional options that would otherwise not be feasible;

- implementing projects with a significant focus on ethics, values and social function, which guarantee appropriate support for the Hospital's activities within the changing landscape of the demands of the social care and healthcare environment, and if necessary acting as a driver in coordinating processes designed to implement new initiatives for which specifically dedicated fundraising efforts can be harnessed.

The values that guide the work of the Foundation are the following:

INTERNATIONAL SCOPE

- The commitment to give full support to cooperative partnerships and synergies based on international research and treatment agreements is an important operational mechanism for the Foundation, which operates with an increasingly outward-looking and international focus, with the aim of garnering attention and resources from the most highly qualified and authoritative entities in the sphere of international donations, which in turn have a desire to promote and support serious, credible projects in the fields of health protection and humanitarian aid.
- The provision of hospitality for the neediest children with serious illnesses from countries with fewer resources has now become a core strategic focus in the Foundation's activities, making it possible to specifically allocate an ever-increasing range of resources. The implementation of this strategy has yielded very important results in terms of addressing medical and healthcare needs, confirming the need for a positioning for the Foundation aimed at identifying this complex and often dramatic scenario of healthcare demands and providing an appropriate response.
- The implementation of missions in the field of training and technical support, to freely transfer knowledge and experience in the paediatric field, constitutes an equally strategic aspect oriented towards international situations and countries with a more limited degree of medical specialisation. This follows on from the idea of a universal healthcare mission that is also achieved by pooling and transferring as much as possible of the wealth of skills, knowledge and experience that is constantly exploited in the day-to-day running of the Hospital, with its multidisciplinary healthcare excellence.

TRANSPARENT RELATIONSHIPS WITH DONORS

The ethical and values-based approach applied to the Foundation's activities incorporates a particular focus on social reporting of its actions, which is reflected primarily, in operational terms, in management activities aimed at maximum transparency in all phases of the donation process: donors are promptly informed of the transfer of the funds collected to the Hospital – in line with any allocation constraints – and, once the activities have been completed, they are informed of the outcome and the results achieved.

A FRUGAL APPROACH TO ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT

Based on a lean management model designed to ensure the swift introduction of each initiative and phase of activity, organisational and management austerity is a distinguishing feature of the Foundation's operations, resulting in a structure characterised by very low expenditure, which thus ensures that the funds raised are allocated to the development activities envisaged by the Hospital, which is regularly informed of the donations received and the associated allocation constraints.



COOPERATION BETWEEN THE BAMBINO GESÙ FOUNDATION AND THE BAMBINO GESÙ CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL (IRCCS)

The Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital and the Foundation: a partnership based on solid values

Since their inception, the values shared by the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital and the Foundation have developed in common, firmly anchored in the ethical, ecumenical and Christian solidarity principles and values of the Holy See. They have built a first-response entity that has gradually become more and more integrated and multifaceted in terms of medical care and scientific excellence, to the point that it has become an international benchmark for paediatric patients.

The Hospital and the Foundation are therefore bound by an indissoluble common mission, in a relationship that connects assumptions with goals, values with operating methods, and resources with objectives. They work together for the good of

children, nurturing a shared network of relationships and regulatory and procedural safeguards designed to ensure the sustainability of healthcare action in addressing important goals for treatment, care and research in the medical and healthcare fields and those of new therapies, new drugs and modern methodologies and technologies for approaching children's health needs. At the same time, they represent a national and international beacon for services related to humanitarian aid and patient hospitality.

THE VALUE OF DONATING TO A HUMANITARIAN AND HEALTHCARE MISSION

The dynamic, ongoing nature of the complex activities undertaken each day in managing the Hospital represents a process that requires continued support, involving the construction – brick by brick – of a system that safeguards the health

of children. This process cannot be seen as finite or specific but is rather part of a chain of medical, welfare and scientific actions and developments that continue the history of these organisations, which dates back more than 150 years, taking them into a future characterised, especially after the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic and its far-reaching global effects, by a need for acts and actions based on solidarity and mutual support that must now be seen on an international scale.

The Foundation's institutional role in support of the Hospital therefore falls within a timeline that is absolutely consistent with situations, related demands and corresponding requirements for assistance in which the Hospital's daily operations represent a focus on paediatric health that very often crosses over to include humanitarian and family issues, while still finding care responses in a much broader sense based on solidarity and reflecting the Foundation's parallel spectrum of activity.

ORGANISATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL RECIPROCITY

The close link between the Hospital and the Foundation has facilitated the development of a common approach, integrating the management of processes

and procedures to ensure that the various possible forms of aid and support provided by those who donate to the Hospital through the Foundation are completely lawful, transparent and functional.

The Foundation's procedures (single register, accounting records, tracked donation methods) guarantee unambiguous tracking of each donation, and the synergistic relationship with the areas of the Hospital responsible for control has made it possible to create a monitoring network that ensures the timely disbursement of resources for use by the projects and activities to which they are specifically allocated. The Hospital also applies appropriate reporting methods, which also enable the Foundation to produce reporting specifically for its stakeholders.

Specifically, in October 2019 the Hospital revised the processes relating to the acquisition, management and reporting of donations that identify the Hospital as the beneficiary of such donations either directly or through the Foundation, to ensure that those processes are more integrated and organised. As a result, all donations made to the Foundation by individuals or legal entities (in cash, bequests or testamentary dispositions, or other donations) intended to support the Hospital's activities are collected, catalogued, assessed, accepted and reported by the Foundation, with the sole exception of '5 per 1000' donations, which continue to be carried out by both the Hospital and the Foundation. The Foundation operates a Single Donation Register (RUD), in which all donations made and received directly by the Foundation are recorded in chronological order, and which the Foundation then evaluates in terms of suitability for the Hospital, along with all donation proposals that may designate the Hospital as the final beneficiary. Activities associated to reporting and communication to donors are also recorded in the Register.



The funds collected are used to:

- a)** support scientific research activities;
- b)** support healthcare projects;
- c)** contribute to the construction of new buildings;
- d)** purchase technological equipment;
- e)** provide hospitality for families of hospitalised children;
- f)** provide humanitarian care;
- g)** support international training activities;
- h)** support the health school platform;
- i)** fund the Paediatric Palliative Care Centre;
- h)** support other activities.

Alongside the close relationship that impacts the two entities' operating methods, in 2021 the Foundation also adopted a Code of Ethics based on the same values and principles as the similar document adopted by the Hospital. In line with its policy of strict compliance with privacy regulations, the Foundation also adopted a specific Organisational Model that refers to similar procedures and approaches and therefore has the professional appointed by the Hospital in the role of Data Protection Officer (DPO).

THE VALUE OF CONTINUITY OVER TIME

The global scope of diseases and viruses

and the changes in communication tools – especially digital tools – are today driving the Foundation to adapt its mission of supporting healthcare activities by extending the scope of its outreach activities far beyond Italian borders. This means looking outward, reaching out more and more to provide answers and contribute work and actions wherever there is a need and a cry for help asking for treatment and assistance for children of the world and their often struggling families. As a result, the Foundation's institutional support action is also oriented towards international scenarios and the search for possible partnerships and donors that act in a consolidated and systemic manner to provide global support for worthy initiatives with a genuine humanitarian, treatment and healthcare focus, such as those carried out each day by the Hospital.

The status of IRCCSs among the most highly accredited institutions – and therefore benchmarks in the field of research that are all the more important because this research is also translational, and thus has direct beneficial effects on the care of the young – confers further added value on the Hospital, a particularly highly ac-





credited institution, as a recipient of donations and resources allocated for important projects in which the Foundation is involved as a reference hub.

The provisions of Legislative Decree No 288 of 16 October 2003 define IRCCSs very specifically as 'national organisations with autonomy and legal personality that, according to standards of excellence, pursue research, primarily of a clinical and translational nature, in the biomedical field and in the area of the organisation and management of healthcare services, along with highly specialised diagnostic and healthcare services'. These are characteristics that are particularly relevant to the Hospital and its daily life as a whole.

A DAILY REMINDER

Behind everything, and applying to the entire universe made up of the Foundation and the Hospital and their activities, as a daily point of reference, are the powerful founding principles based on ethical, moral, ecumenical and Christian solidarity values, captured in the iconic image

rendered in a message from Pope Francis about care and treatment for children several years ago:

“

Those who care for the little ones are on God's side, do not forget: those who care for the little ones are on God's side and defeat the culture of waste!

In the sick person is Christ and in the love of those who stoop to his wounds is the way to meet him!

”



NETWORK OF RELATIONSHIPS AND STAKEHOLDERS

Strengthened by the values-driven scope of its initiatives, the Bambino Gesù Foundation has succeeded over time in building an extensive network of internal and external contacts, which contribute to the full and continuing deployment of its activities. From this perspective, it is possible to feel an ongoing sense that values are being capitalised on to create relationships that represent a real major asset, using the impetus generated by the satisfaction and motivation derived from the results of the various projects to sustain the links that tie the partners to the Foundation in a virtuous relationship based on cooperation and support that just keeps going!

DONORS

These are the Foundation's great resource: natural and legal persons, organisations and companies that, through their contributions, support the Hospital's development and solidarity projects. A summary of the donations received in 2021 by the Foundation and transferred by it to the Hospital is provided later in this document.

THE HOSPITAL AND ITS EMPLOYEES

The Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital is the largest paediatric hospital and research centre in Europe, a point of reference for the health of children and young people from all over Italy and abroad. The Hospital is the Italian centre for Orphanet, the world's

largest database for rare diseases, with 39 member states. Healthcare services are provided at five centres: the Hospital's historical site on the Janiculum Hill, the San Paolo Fuori le Mura and Viale Ferdinando Baldelli sites in Rome and the Palidoro and Santa Marinella sites on the Lazio coast. This represents a total of 607 beds, including 40 intensive care and 22 neonatal semi-intensive care beds, which will be supplemented from March 2022 by the Paediatric Palliative Care Centre, to which the Foundation has contributed significantly.

The Hospital's employees help the Foundation in seeking the best allocation of resources, promptly identifying new needs to interpret the wishes and needs of patients and their families.



An intense and extensive exchange of reports and proposals then serves as the mechanism for the development of projects of scientific relevance that are of specific interest and that will result in translational effects, providing a concrete demonstration of the Foundation's commitment to ensuring their economic sustainability.

ASSOCIATIONS

First and foremost, this includes the voluntary associations that not only contribute to improving patient care and management in the Hospital but also do their utmost to promote fundraising. The Foundation then allocates the funds raised based on the most urgent needs. There are also numerous contacts with cultural and sports associations, professional associations and local authorities. The purpose of these contacts is to guarantee appropriate services to patients and their families and to promote fundraising initiatives for the Foundation in support of the Hospital's various activities.

PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

The Hospital provides care and treatment for patients from all over the world, supporting research into rare diseases, cancers and transplants, while the Foundation rais-

es funds to ensure proper care is provided for family members, supports children without financial means in need of costly operations, and disseminates knowledge about best healthcare practices free of charge.

FOUNDATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

Regular relationships are maintained with the foundations at the major Italian children's hospitals (Meyer, Gaslini), with national and international foundations (Heal, Ania, Enel Cuore) and with local and national institutions (Italian Cystic Fibrosis League, etc.).

MEDIA AND SOCIAL NETWORKS

This covers a set of modern, highly interactive tools and systems, through which the Foundation is able to publicise relevant news and the events it organises and to describe the activities it implements and involve the public through the internet in the performance of those activities. The Foundation regularly contacts the community of donors, patients' families and relevant associations by means of a newsletter providing reports on donations received and illustrating the Foundation's events and programmes. The upgrading of the Foundation's website continued in 2021 and it is now completely new, and fundraising activities now also use the Foundation's new dedicated app.

CORPORATE BODIES

These are the Governing Board and the Board of Statutory Auditors, which were appointed at the beginning of 2020. These bodies were presented last year and continue to guide and support the Foundation.

WORKING GROUP

The Foundation operates with a small working group of five professionals coordinated by the Secretary General according to the structure described in the section on the organisational structure.



CORPORATE BODIES

The Bambino Gesù Foundation has the following institutional bodies for the purposes of its governance activities: a Chairperson, a Governing Board and a Board of Statutory Auditors. The chair-

person is appointed by the Holy See, by a specific act of the Secretary of State. The Vatican Secretary of State also appoints the members of the Governing Board and the Board of Statutory Auditors.

GOVERNING BOARD

| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Mariella Enoc _____ | Chairwoman |
| Massimiliano Atelli _____ | Board Member |
| Pierluigi Betturri _____ | Board Member |
| Maite Bulgari _____ | Board Member |
| Ferruccio De Bortoli _____ | Board Member |
| Moroello Diaz Della Vittoria Pallavicini _____ | Board Member |
| Giuseppe Mascarucci _____ | Board Member |
| Maria Grazia Salviati _____ | Permanent Invited Member |

CHAIRWOMAN

The Chairwoman of the Governing Board of the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital is an ex officio member of the Foundation's Governing Board and is also the Chairwoman of the Foundation and of its Governing Board, without prejudice to the possibility of resignation. The Chairwoman is the legal representative of the Foundation before third parties and in legal proceedings, and has the associated signatory powers, coordinates the Foundation's activities and oversees the full achievement of its goals, convenes and chairs the meetings of the Governing Board, ensures that the resolutions adopted are implemented, carries out acts of ordinary administration, and adopts and implements irrevocable, urgent measures of extraordinary

administration that are necessary to ensure the proper functioning of the Foundation.

GOVERNING BOARD

The Governing Board holds all powers for the ordinary and extraordinary administration of the Foundation, approves the annual budget forecast and the proposed annual financial statements, decides on the strategy, objectives and fundamental programmes related to the Foundation's activities, decides whether to accept contributions, donations and bequests, and decides on purchases and sales of movable and immovable property.

The current Governing Board was appointed for the three-year period 2020-2022 and

will hold office until the proposed financial statements for 2022 have been approved.

BOARD OF STATUTORY AUDITORS

The Board of Statutory Auditors verifies that the accounts are properly kept and monitors the Foundation's financial management. The current Board of Statutory Auditors was

appointed for the three-year period 2020-2022 and will hold office until the proposed financial statements for 2022 have been approved. The members of the Board of Statutory Auditors are as follows: Maurizio Zelli (Chairman), Francesco Alati and Chiara Borghi. The latter was replaced by Gianni Artegiani in 2021 following her resignation.



MARIELLA ENOC (CHAIRWOMAN)

Mariella has always held positions of responsibility directing and managing healthcare facilities. She was formerly Chair of Confindustria Piemonte, Deputy Chair of the Cariplo Foundation and the Cini Foundation, and a board member in various organisations (Social Housing Foundation, Filarete Foundation, University of Eastern Piedmont 'A. Avogadro'). She has been Chairwoman of Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital since 2015.



MASSIMILIANO ATELLI

A graduate in law and with a PhD in economic law, Massimiliano qualified as a lawyer and is a temporary university lecturer in civil law, banking law, and information and communication law at various Italian universities. He has been a judge at the Court of Auditors since 2003. In 2015-16, he was an advisor to the Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry into counterfeiting, commercial piracy and illegal trading.



PIERLUIGI BETTURRI

Born in Rome, Pierluigi first pursued a technical education and then studied architecture. After working for the State Railways, he turned his attention to amateur and youth sports and the restaurant sector. In the early 2000s, he set up the Configno Museum, of which he is the director, and founded the Orie Terme Nature Oasis. Since 2012 he has been Chairman of Trastevere Calcio, a Serie D football team.



MAITE BULGARI

A graduate in communication sciences and with a PhD in philosophy, Maite worked as a journalist first in Spain and then in Italy, in the print media and for radio and television stations. Since 2003, she has made numerous documentary films dedicated to illustrious people in Italian cinema. She has been active for many years in promoting and supporting activities to reduce poverty.



FERRUCCIO DE BORTOLI

Ferruccio is an Italian journalist. He was twice editor-in-chief of the *Corriere della Sera*, from 1997 to 2003 and from 2009 to 2015, as well as editor-in-chief of the *Sole 24 Ore* from 2005 to 2009. Since 2015 he has been Chairman of the Vidas Association in Milan. He is currently Chairman of the Longanesi publishing house.



MOROELLO DIAZ DELLA VITTORIA PALLAVICINI

A graduate in law, Moroello soon devoted himself to the family business in the real estate, wine and agriculture sectors. With his brother Sigieri, he is a major shareholder in several companies in the financial and energy sectors. He was formerly National Chairman of the Italian Historic Houses Association and is a board member of the AIRC Foundation for Cancer Research and a member of the General Council and Committee of the Cini Foundation.



GIUSEPPE MASCARUCCI

A graduate in law, Giuseppe has worked for a number of well-known law firms. Since 2001 he has been employed in the Secretariat of State, where he is responsible for certain legal aspects. He is a member of the Supervisory Board of the Vatican Printing Press – *L'Osservatore Romano* – Photo Service, and Manager of the Coordination Centre for the Protection of Images and Coats of Arms (CCTIS).

Massimiliano Atelli resigned at the beginning of 2022 to take up another public office. Mr Atelli deserves the Foundation's thanks for his valuable work in identifying new contacts for the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital and the Foundation.



ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Foundation operates using a particularly lean organisational structure in order to ensure operational efficiency, timely delivery of services and containment of costs. This structure includes a Secretary General and a working group of five people, each of whom is responsible for a certain area of activity but is also responsible with the other working group members for conceiving, setting up and defining institutional fundraising campaigns, planning and implementing charity meetings, implementing marketing projects and partnerships with organisations and companies aimed at

fundraising, and monitoring the progress of donations and the related evaluations. In 2020, the role of Fundraising Activities and Social Communication Manager was still included within the Foundation's structure, but this role has been eliminated in the new organisational set-up to strengthen the autonomy and responsibility of individuals and to promote the integration and sharing of actions and projects.

Given the successful implementation of the new work organisation in 2020, it is also proposed for the two-year period 2021-2022.



FRANCESCO AVALLONE (SECRETARY GENERAL)

A graduate in law, specialist in psychology, company manager, lecturer in work and organisational psychology, former Deputy Vice Chancellor of Sapienza University of Rome and Chancellor of Unitelma Sapienza, Francesco has promoted research, programmes and interventions on wellbeing and organisational development.

The Secretary General works directly in cooperation with the Chairwoman of the Foundation.

On the instructions of the Chairwoman, he prepares the documents relating to the Governing Board's resolutions and maintains relationships with the Governing Board, the auditors and the auditing firm. He also prepares the draft pre-

liminary and final financial statements.

He maintains relationships with the staff of the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital and with the various categories of donors, in particular to gain support for the Hospital's major development projects.

He supervises administrative and financial activities, with a particular focus on transparency and reporting of funds collected.

He coordinates the people who have been engaged in 2021 in the following specific activities:



MONICA CITTI

Monica is responsible for weekly updating of the Single Donations Register and preparation of transfers to be made to the Hospital. She maintains contact with donors by preparing thank-you notes for contributions made and receipts for donations that are also valid for tax purposes. She works on the monthly reconciliation of the Foundation's income and expenditure according to the various fund allocation categories.



ANTONELLA COLTELLA

Antonella is responsible for setting up and promoting campaigns for new companies and those that are already loyal supporters. She promotes and manages direct marketing activities. She organises ceremonies and events and manages relationships with communications agencies for the production of printed and multimedia material. She also updates the file of institutional donors.



SILVIA COTALI

Silvia manages and updates the website, determining the information to be published. She maintains the email inbox info.fond@fondbg.it and manages related correspondence. She manages relationships with management control and the Hospital structures concerned to ensure the success of donations and handles requests for solidarity-related wedding favours, wedding lists, birthday wish lists, etc.



MORENA PECCARISI

Morena independently manages the reporting of incoming and outgoing financial flows as well as relationships with the Foundation's credit institutions. She manages contacts with the Board of Statutory Auditors, the auditing firm and the competent Vatican bodies. She prepares the preliminary and final financial statements and handles the reporting of '5 per 1000' donations to the relevant ministry.

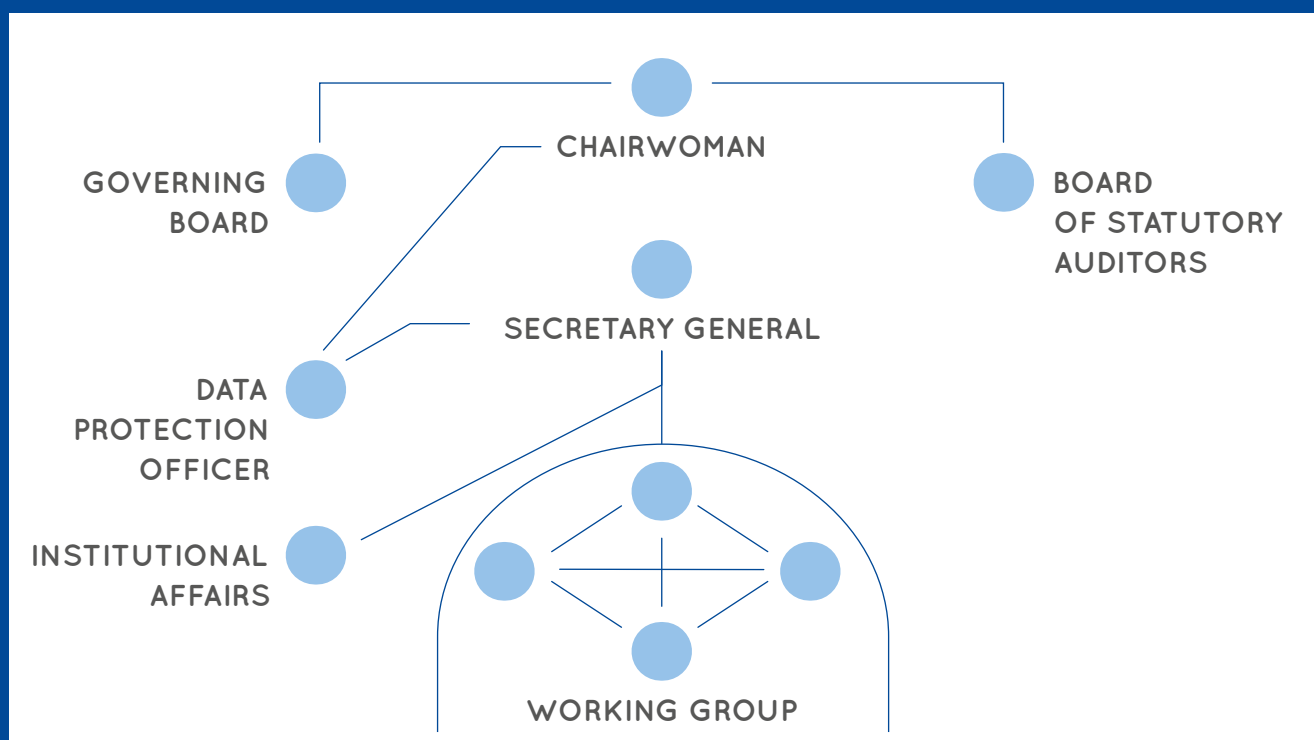


The Secretary General coordinates the activities of the individuals described above, who form the working group responsible for promoting activities aimed at identifying resources to support the Hospital's development projects. The working group is responsible for maintaining contacts with foundations, associations and organisations to generate support for the Hospital's major development projects. This group also manages cases concerning donations

and bequests intended for the Foundation and prepares the Foundation's contracts and agreements with donors, suppliers and other parties.

To carry out his various institutional activities, the Secretary General relies on the assistance of Giuseppe Melone, Administrative Manager of the Hospital.

A simplified graphic representing the organisational structure of the Bambino Gesù Foundation is shown below:



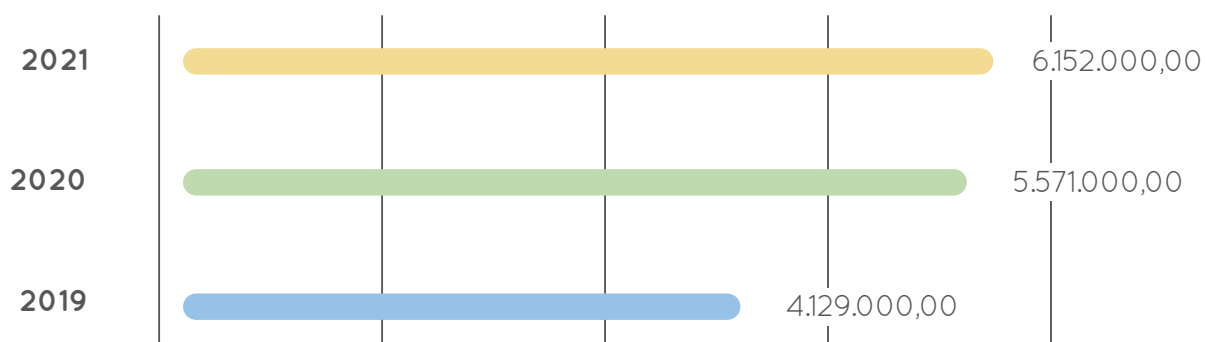
ANALYSIS OF DONATIONS

All donations made to the Foundation by individuals or legal entities intended to support the Hospital's activities are collected, catalogued, evaluated, accepted and reported by the Foundation.

In 2020 the Foundation introduced a Single Donation Register (RUD), in which all donations made and received directly by the Foundation are recorded in chrono-

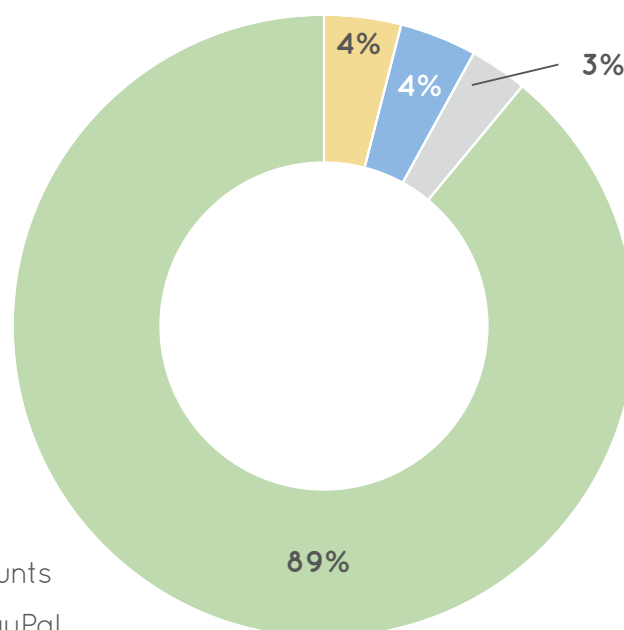
logical order, and which the Foundation then evaluates in terms of suitability for the Hospital. Activities associated with reporting and communication to donors are also recorded in the Register.

The following graphic shows the trend in donations collected over the last three years.



89% of the amounts donated were in the form of bank transfers. The remaining 11% was paid through postal current accounts, cheques, postal payment slips, credit cards and PayPal.

- Bank transfers
- Cheques
- Postal current accounts
- Credit cards and PayPal

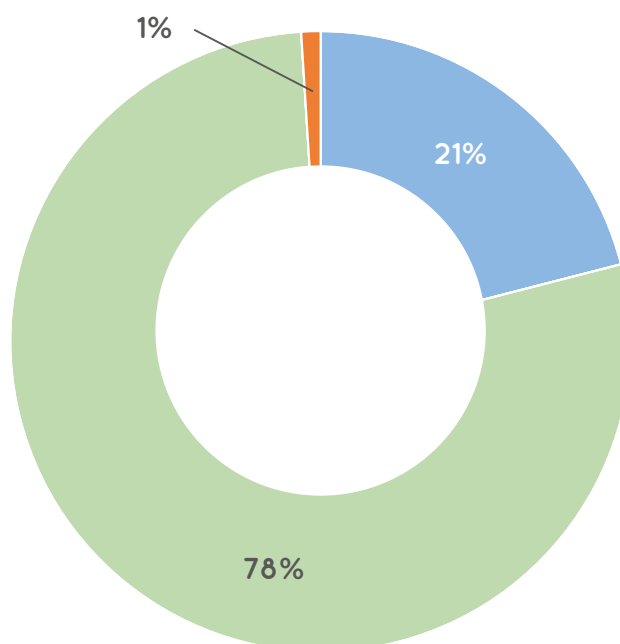


In 2021, 3,468 donations were recorded, mostly from individuals and, to a lesser extent, from foundations, associations and companies.

78% of donations are tied to a specific Foundation project. 21% are unrestricted donations and the remaining 1% is linked to the purchase of solidarity-related gift products.

- Foundation activity
- Unrestricted
- Solidarity-related purchases

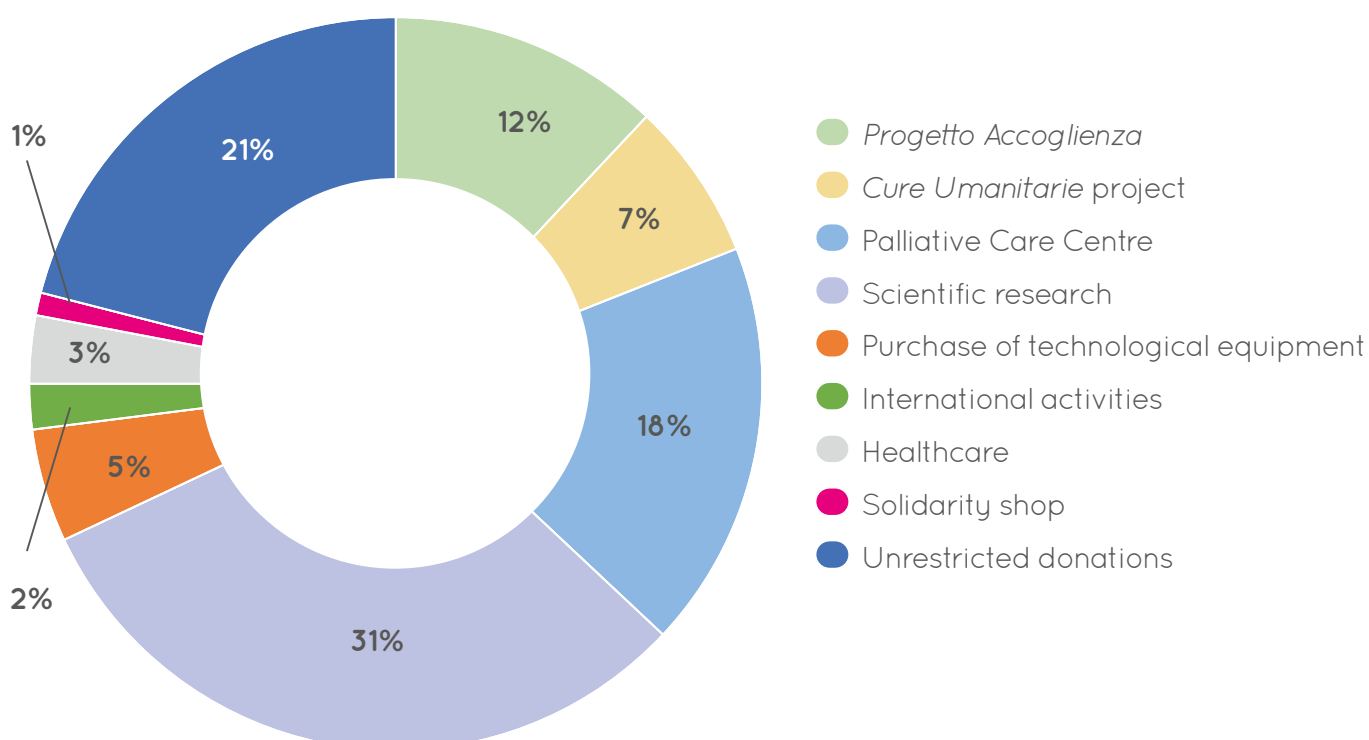
ALLOCATION OF THE DONATION



Among the projects supported by the Foundation, scientific research and the construction of the Paediatric Palliative Care Centre received the most do-

nations. The allocation of donations received to the Foundation's various projects is shown in the graphic below.

ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY THE FOUNDATION



To allocate donations where there are allocation constraints, such as support for a particular research project, the Foundation carries out a feasibility analysis on the proposals received, verifying that the requirements for legality are met (no anonymous donations, no cash donations, no pending charges, compliance with the code of ethics, ability of the donor to dispose of the object of the donation and free availability of the asset to be donated, absence of conflicts of interest between the donor and the Hospital and the Foundation and their employees). It then requests approval by the Hospital's Management Control Department after the appropriate checks have been completed.

If, on the other hand, an allocation constraint concerns assets subject to evaluation by the Purchasing Evaluation Committee (CVA), such as the purchase of equipment, this donation must first be submitted to the CVA so that the relevant opinion can be provided. In the course of 2021, the Bambino Gesù

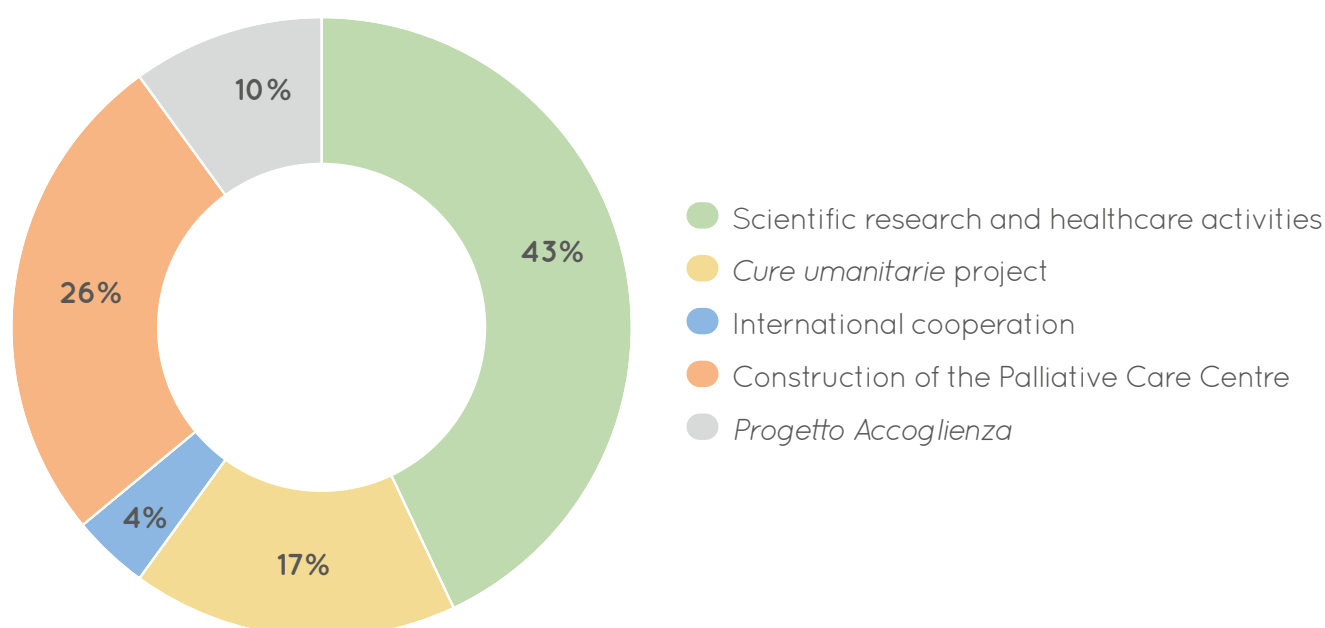
Foundation transferred amounts to the Hospital or supported activities of the Hospital totalling more than €5 million through donations received in various capacities.

The contribution to support scientific research and healthcare activities amounted to approximately €2.4 million, while the contribution for the care and treatment of children as part of humanitarian aid amounted to €0.9 million, with €0.2 million being raised for international cooperation initiatives.

At the same time, the Foundation committed to the construction of the Pasoscuro Paediatric Palliative Care Centre in an amount of approximately €1.5 million.

It also contributed €0.6 million to support Progetto Accoglienza, a project dedicated to families of patients admitted to the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital experiencing major financial difficulties.

OPBG SUPPORT



ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

Before presenting the various activities carried out by the Bambino Gesù Foundation to support the development projects undertaken by the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital, it might be valuable to make a few brief remarks on the changes in the economic and social scenario, with particular regard to the healthcare context.

RECOVERY FROM COVID-19

As we emerge from the Covid crisis, the world economy is showing signs of recovery driven by a relaunch effect due specifically to the dramatic cuts made during the period 2020-2021.

As far as Europe is concerned, because of the policies and measures included in the Next Generation EU programme and thus the Italian National Recovery and Resilience Programme (NRRP), there are signs of strong recovery, although these are somewhat uneven and thus a clear reflection of the conditions and imbalances in the pre-existing systems in individual countries. Healthcare policies, actions and public investments are therefore seeking a more rigorous operational context and may represent a mandatory step that will

lead the country towards new modern approaches and sustainable management of public spending.

For Italy, the impact of the relevant European funds is around €235.1 billion between 2021 and 2026, representing an historic opportunity to redesign the foundations of the national economy and ensure substantial impetus for a new growth paradigm that the Bank of Italy estimates at around 5 percentage points of GDP growth over the four-year period 2021-2024.

Unfortunately, as of early 2022, the multiple, global effects of the conflicts in Eastern Europe are starting to have an impact, and this is subverting geopolitical structures, orders and modes of operation and cohesion between international bodies and diplomatic relations between countries. All of these factors have devastating consequences, not only in terms of the number of war victims but also in terms of political and economic development and support projects and programming for areas of the planet and entire nations. At European level, this may also create a need to review the foundations and future projections of the Next Generation EU plan itself and the corresponding NRRP.

THE NEW NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE FUNDING SCHEME

A glance at the current list of national healthcare requirements, the funding of which is now recognised as particularly important, shows a growing total allocation figure for public and accredited healthcare in Italy (Source: Chamber of Deputies data), which the 2022 Budget Law (Law No 234/2021) has set at €124,061 million for 2022, with forecasts of €126,061 million for 2023 and €128,061 million for 2024. A new understanding of public health expenditure is emerging. As a result of the pandemic, such expenditure is now seen as having the strategic value of an investment rather than mere public expenditure, an opportunity to reorganise, restructure and strengthen a National Health Service that has shown, in dealing with Covid-19, objective critical failings and development delays that have built up over time, especially as a result of the gradual reduction in health expenditure for more general economic policy reasons. Thus, since 2020, as a result of the pandemic, there has been a paradigm shift and, thanks in part to the supranational policy of suspending the Stability and Growth Pact within the Euro-



pean political and economic framework, this shift has managed to avoid simplistic modifications in progress, something that has happened in the past. The public burden of financing the Italian national health system is therefore shifting from the idea of 'expenditure' to the more constructive and concrete concept of 'investment', emphasising its social function as intended by the Legislature. Significant amounts of the expenditure in this area certainly represent a line of funding dedicated to 'restoration', intended to support healthcare facilities that have suffered the most limitations in their ordinary healthcare activities as a result of Covid-19 and the necessary re-conversion of care and treatment areas, a uniform restructuring with a view to strengthening and structural reorganisation of regional systems, and finally the establishment of a national research asset that promotes existing potential and skills, and the development of production facilities that decrease the country's dependence on international production, as in the case of vaccines, for example. Within this framework that is increasingly complex but also potentially includes factors subject to significant change, lie the activities of the Bambino Gesù Foundation in support of the Hospital's development projects, which will be presented in the following pages.



SUPPORT FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

RESEARCH AS A NEW OPTION IN GUARANTEEING SAFETY OF TREATMENT

The issue of health protection and of policies and programming intended to enhance its scope and the available tools, with a view to increasing resources and thus ensuring the sustainability of the system, has been marked in the last two years by the revolution in the general healthcare context brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition to its dramatic effects in terms of victims and the disruption caused to economic and production systems, this crisis has highlighted a series of critical issues not only in health systems but also in underlying welfare systems and care democracies on a global scale. In this sense, the fundamental role of research and innovation has been highlighted, providing initial tools and transitional solutions, both scientifically and for the economic and productive recovery of the countries of the world, and therefore not only in terms of health.

RESEARCH AT BAMBINO GESÙ CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Over the years, the Hospital's research activities have become extremely important internationally, gaining increasing credibility and impact factors that place it at the top of the world rankings. And it is worth bearing in mind that the Hospital's area of

operation covers only the paediatric world and its associated pathologies and treatment requirements, with a particular emphasis on rare diseases, which means that the scientific results achieved provide even greater specificity and added value.

Supporting the development of scientific research in all the Hospital's sectors of excellence in order to find increasingly effective and personalised therapies for the treatment of young patients is certainly one of the Foundation's objectives in its support of the Hospital.

It is an imposing, complex and integrated entity, with a modern structure, absolute scientific credibility and global recognition, and with access to extraordinary means and resources.

Scientific activities are carried out by hundreds of researchers working in research areas such as genetics and rare diseases, multifactorial and complex diseases, immunology, infectious diseases and paediatric drug development, onco-haematology, and clinical, management and technological innovation.

Specific reporting on the Hospital's research activities, both for stakeholders and for all possible external parties that may have an interest for various reasons, is pro-

vided in a specific Scientific Annual Report, produced by the Hospital's Scientific Management Division. This constitutes the cohesive, specific and comprehensive technical document covering these activities, in addition to the information that can be inferred from the Hospital's financial statements.

The resource requirements for research are constantly growing, especially as the associated complexities increase, and more generally because of the need to provide adequate responses to the new challenges facing the health of the paediatric population, for example for the study of rare diseases, medical genetics, the possible consequences of Covid-19 in infants and children, new therapies for the treatment of cancer, research on organ and haematopoietic stem cell transplants, and translational research projects, aimed at providing increasingly timely and targeted therapies for the treatment of many diseases.



THE BAMBINO GESÙ FOUNDATION AND SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH

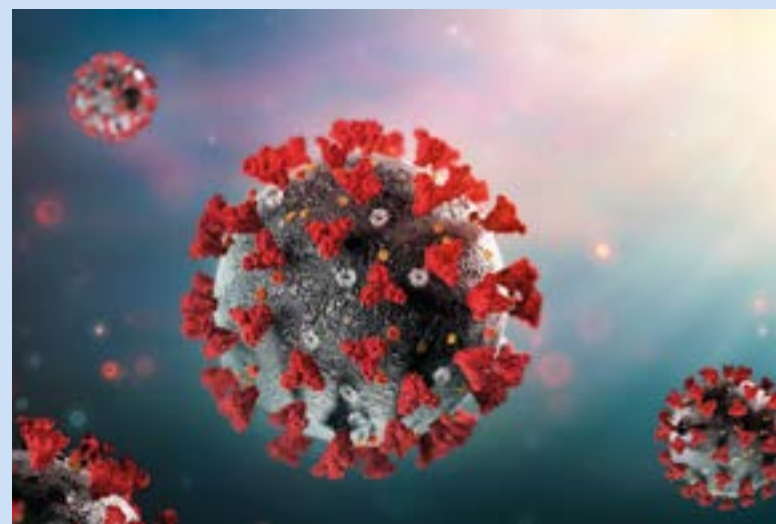
The culture, mission and objectives of the Hospital and the Foundation are driven entirely by goals and objectives based on health, philanthropy and humanitarian ideals, and are therefore focused solely on placing research at the heart of changing processes in healthcare and treatment, with the aim of extending the positive ex-

ternalities of research as far as possible in a sense of ensuring democracy of care, which has always been the main goal of the two institutions in both healthcare and spiritual terms.

This entire scenario can only give weight to the Foundation's specific future actions in identifying more and more resources to be made available to support the Hospital's important social and healthcare mission, including particular functional characterisation of variants and a focus on global research on the current status of Sars-Covid-19, oncology and rare diseases.

The main research projects funded by the Foundation in 2021, determined in close cooperation with the relevant areas of the Hospital, and in particular Scientific Management and Management Control, are the following:

- **Various projects in the field of neuro-oncology** (referent Angela Mastronuzzi);
- **Sarcoma project** (referent Giuseppe Maria Milano);
- **Analysis of methylation profiles of paediatric brain tumours** (referent Evelina Miele);
- **Adaptation of cell cultures for research laboratories** (referent Bruno Dalla Piccola);
- **Mitochondrial DNA deletion diseases** (referent Carlo Dionisi Vici);
- **Holistic biometric validation of human body scoliosis diagnoses** (referent Angelo Gabriele Aulisa);
- **Assessment of the variability of SARS-CoV-2 and infection dynamics in a paediatric setting** (referent Carlo Federico Perno).



THE SARCOMA PROJECT

Sarcomas are a very heterogeneous group of diseases, accounting for about 11% of all paediatric cancers. Every year, the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital diagnoses around 300-350 cases of onco-haematological disease and of these 30-35 are sarcomas.

Fortunately, these diseases are treatable and can be cured in about 2/3 of cases, while the remainder have a more complicated prognosis. It is these specific patients who have been included in a research project initiated in 2017 called the Sarcoma Project. This is a study essentially focused on two broad areas:

- improving the diagnostic approach, to better investigate the condition using new techniques, such as molecular analysis and DNA methylation;
- developing new therapeutic technologies that enable an improved prognosis.

To date, 150 patients have been examined and it has been possible to identify subclasses of sarcomas – which used to be referred to as undifferentiated and for which we used a 'standard therapy'. Today, however, thanks to methylation profiles, ad hoc treatment has been intensified for this specific type of tumour once identified.

On the therapeutic side, experimental cell therapy studies are under way. These involve manipulation of lymphocytes within research laboratories to make them capable of seeing and recognising a certain molecule expressed by that particular tumour and attacking it. Lymphocytes are our sentinel cells, guardians that move around in our blood and detect every single thing that is 'wrong' and attack it until it is destroyed.

The fact that new means of attacking lymphocytes – the famous CAR T-cell therapy, which has already yielded excellent results in both leukaemia and neuroblastoma – have been found has also made it possible to develop this therapeutic approach for sarcomas.

The expected outcome with this therapy is very important because it not only makes it possible to attack the tumour directly, but also to understand its side effects and make them manageable or predictable.

These factors represent the beginning of a study that still has enormous scope for development and unexplored potential.

THE DYNAMICS OF SARS-COV-2 TRANSMISSION IN CHILDREN

During the Covid-19 crisis, both public opinion and the scientific community focused heavily on elderly patients, as this was the population group most affected by the virus. But two important factors should not be underestimated: first, the fact that the virus infects children to the same extent that it affects adults. Second,

the fact that children also needed hospitalisation and even the youngest children died from Covid, especially those considered more fragile, such as onco-haematology patients and those with genetic defects.

Based on these considerations, there is a need to characterise this virus in children,

studying an area hitherto little explored. The study – Assessment of the variability of SARS-CoV-2 and infection dynamics in a paediatric setting – has the primary objective of determining the distribution of SARS-CoV-2 variants in the paediatric and adolescent population, identifying the clusters of the epidemic and the role they played in its spread. To carry out the research, a Droplet Digital PCR machine has been acquired. This is a cutting-edge system that few centres in Italy possess: it is extremely flexible and quantifies and characterises viruses, bacteria and everything else needed for microbiology, precisely and very effectively.

Following on from the original 400 subjects, 1,291 patients have been recruited. At the time of enrolment, 821 (82.8%) patients

had mild SARS-CoV-2 disease, followed by 108 (10.9%) patients with moderate/severe disease, and 62 (6.3%) asymptomatic patients. 184 patients required hospitalisation (median, 4 [3-9] days).

At least six viral lineages circulated widely in the paediatric population during the different waves of the pandemic. When the viral load of the individual SARS-CoV-2 variants identified was assessed, a higher viral load was observed in patients infected with the omicron and delta lineages.

The information gathered and the data obtained so far have made it possible to expand the available knowledge regarding the transmission dynamics of SARS-CoV-2 and the role of children in community transmission.



These are just a few of the major research projects: in total, several dozen have been funded for a total amount of more than €2 million.

Some funding comes from foundations and associations that have long supported the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital (Ania,

Terzo Pilastro, Heal, Associazione Il Grande Cuore di Flavio, La Vita è un dono, Luigi Comini Onlus) and from contributions from individuals who wish to remain anonymous. Other projects received direct support from the Foundation, which used unrestricted donations for this purpose.

SUPPORT FOR TECHNOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

In the approach to global health that has been strongly supported internationally, technologies have been recognised as playing a fundamental role in the development and recovery of the world's poor countries. One example of this is the enormous potential of telemedicine, which is capable of eliminating, in certain diagnostic and even therapeutic fields, distances and gaps in development that would otherwise be impossible to bridge.

Technologies in healthcare are thus becoming a strategic factor in implementing a vision of health as a state of bio-psycho-social well-being and as a fundamental human right for all individuals throughout the world.

The option of large-scale use of medical and information technology techniques for diagnosis and treatment harnesses, through technology, the possibility of improving clinical aspects usually linked to the place of treatment and rendering them more easily usable: from diagnosis (including instrument-based diagnosis) to the management of medical records, high-definition image diagnostics, and even the results of laboratory analyses. This is an entire set of information concerning the patient, which can be managed and channelled to improve the impact of the treatment event on the patient and at

the same time optimise hospital and local resources, increasing the added value of medical and healthcare networks and the perception by patients of the presence of the healthcare system as a real part of their lives and human relationships.

Evaluations of the use of technologies – when not determined by short-sighted choices based solely on economics, which prevent them being viewed as an investment rather than as a mere cost entry – aim to implement and innovate such technologies with respect to what already exists, opening up possibilities for a more proactive care process, which generates a virtuous cycle even before the onset of possible pathologies, shifting an important focus of care towards prevention and well-being. On the other hand, advances in early diagnosis are now being combined with technologies capable of supporting the onset of diseases before they actually occur, with these technologies increasingly emphasising the adage that prevention is better than cure. The doctor-patient relationship has therefore been strongly influenced by new digital technologies, thanks to the tools made available by the application of technology to the world of healthcare: e-health is now a reality, bringing important innovations to the medical field that the

various branches are then approaching and adopting according to their specific needs and opportunities as they become possible.

Certainly, over time, the contribution of technologies to diagnosis and therapy has been increasingly maximised, to the extent that this is now a typical feature of those healthcare fields where complexity is a factor in everyday activities.

Big data platforms, system interoperability, the potential of artificial intelligence and so-called augmented reality (especially in the field of robotic and 3D surgery but also in robotic neurorehabilitation), DNA sequencing, the potential of media possible from 3D printers, with the common denominator of innovative tools and increasingly reliable diagnostic and surgical possibilities, are just a few examples of how the advent of technology, by enabling innovations in healthcare

fields where they were previously unimaginable, is now an absolute factor for success in medical care.

At a European institutional level, an important milestone in this sphere was reached in December 2021, with the adoption by the European Commission of the regulation on health technology assessment, which – when enforceable, expected in 2025 – aims to ensure greater availability of innovative health technologies, ranging from medicinal products to medical devices and medical equipment, and thus methods for prevention and treatment. This is therefore a specific regulation that represents a necessary set of rules to ensure the efficient use of resources in relation to a correct assessment of health technologies, clearly driven by a desire for greater prudence and appropriateness of investments and thus sustainability in the long term, as well as ever greater quality of care.

Specifically, the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital has for years now been espousing the value of technologies and development of new and modern methods of diagnosis and treatment, acting with a commendably pioneering spirit in a context that is not always easy because of the need to reconcile the opportunities presented by technologies in their early stages and dynamically emerging knowledge bases that have yielded returns in terms of their soundness for health purposes, and the Hospital is now positioned at the highest international level given the technological assets it possesses in both diagnostic and operational areas. Progress is therefore moving inexorably towards the structured advent of innovative technologies in healthcare. With their associated media, these technologies are



Cadwell Cascade IOMAX intraoperative neurophysiological monitoring system.

improving people's living conditions in real terms, contributing – especially in periods such as the pandemic – to providing infrastructure systems for the delivery of more timely and better quality services to cope with emergencies and, at the same time, showing the absolute necessity of assigning health technologies and their turnover a central role, which requires considerable commitments of resources to restructure and maximise investments in healthcare.

For its part, the Bambino Gesù Foundation, applying the same strategic development guidelines as the Hospital, has guaranteed specific financial support for this complex area, which encompasses, from time to time, projects that impact more generally on the full range of healthcare equipment, medical devices, drugs, diagnostic systems, medical and surgical procedures, care pathways, and structural and organisational systems that define the perimeter of healthcare.

Over the years, the Bambino Gesù Foundation has therefore established, with the Hospital, a specific process logic to support endowment requirements, which are always driven by appropriate assessment and admission safeguards in relation to the acquisition of equipment and technologies, closely linked to the Hospital's activities and its research projects and deser-



Mabtech IRIS Spot analysis.

ving of support and funding in the context of the assessments and procedures applied by the Hospital's Purchasing Evaluation Committee.

In close contact with the relevant areas of the Hospital, in particular Medical and Scientific Management and Management Control, specific activities relating to the preliminary evaluation of individual purchases are carried out, and these are then appropriately monitored and reported.

Hence, in 2021, thanks to the foundations, associations and companies that have chosen to support the Bambino Gesù Foundation and thus contribute to the Hospital's growth objectives, it has been possible to purchase important state-of-the-art technological equipment that is indispensable not only in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases but also in prevention, surgery and rehabilitation of young patients.

Among our equipment donors, special mention should be made of the Italian Air Force, which, as part of the 'Un dono dal cielo' (A gift from Heaven) charity project to support the Gaslini Children's Hospital in Genoa, the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital in Rome and the Santobono-Paulsilon Children's Hospital in Naples, donated several pieces of equipment to our paediatric institution, including the Cadwell Cascade IOMAX system and the CUSA® Clarity ultrasonic tissue ablation system for the treatment of malignant and benign tumours.

Another piece of equipment, also acquired thanks to the support of Conad Nord



Ovest, consists of highly sophisticated instrumentation for the Hospital's Innovative Cell Therapies Unit.

The system is useful for applied research aimed at assessing the immune response in Covid-19 patients and is called MABTECH IRIS.

Conad continued to support the Bambino Gesù Foundation in 2022, making a substantial contribution to the Progetto Accoglienza, which will be described later in this document.

A further piece of equipment acquired as part of the Biobank Project supported by the Ania Foundation is a live imaging platform used for research projects.

The system (the Essen Bioscience Incucyte® SX5) is used for the integration of imaging and biobank data, as it allows the characterisation of cell lines before they are stored. It is of interest to all research areas within the Hospital working on cell characterisation projects and identi-

fication of new biomarkers.

In 2021, the Bambino Gesù Foundation committed to supporting the renovation of the building intended to house the Pasoscuro Paediatric Palliative Care Centre. Some donors have declared themselves willing to contribute to the work but unavailable to participate in the renovation costs, preferring to make a gift of equipment. The Foundation, which guarantees all donors the right to specify how their donations will be used, has honoured that request by endowing the new centre with equipment donated by various entities and, in particular, by the Air Force, again within the framework of the 'A gift from Heaven' project, and the Lazio Regional Command of the Guardia di Finanza, with contributions also from the Mediolanum Onlus and Polli - Stoppani Foundations.



Essen Bioscience Incucyte® SX5



SUPPORT FOR HEALTHCARE PROJECTS

Many donors wish to pledge their contribution to support a specific department within the Hospital.

These donations help the Hospital to respond more efficiently to the demand for services and to create a better environment for patients and those caring for them.

To this end, the Hospital draws up and updates a list of wishes and needs that includes those stated by patients and the

real needs of each department.

In some cases, the donor expresses his or her pledge by indicating the department followed by the name of the doctor he or she got to know and appreciate. In other cases, the pledge concerns a specific piece of equipment or apparatus to be allocated to the department. In still other cases, the contribution is aimed at supporting a line of research specifically followed by the chosen department or unit.

THE ABBRACCIA LA RICERCA CAMPAIGN

Abbraccia la Ricerca (Embrace Research) aims to support specific research projects – and the associated implementation of essential medical technologies and equipment – investigating various areas to better understand the course of diseases and to be able to administer increasingly customised and timely therapies.

Scientific Research is one of the points of excellence of the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital. In this context, the Bambino Gesù Foundation is committed to supporting the Hospital in carrying out important research projects, with particular reference to the current health crisis and to the areas of cancer and transplants.





SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES: PROGETTO ACCOGLIENZA

It is a well known fact that when a child falls ill, the whole family needs care and attention. Alongside the invaluable work carried out by numerous associations, the Foundation supports the activities of the Hospital, which is involved in hospitality activities using its own facilities, and also provides playrooms, spaces for mothers and cultural mediation services in 52 languages. The families hosted come from all over Italy and from the most disadvantaged countries in the world, and need assistance because of their children's serious illnesses (tumours, transplants, complex operations, neuro-rehabilitation therapies) that require longer hospital stays and clinical care.

We are talking here about children with serious illnesses, such as onco-haematological conditions or rare and ultra-rare diseases, or those who have sustained war injuries.

Through this project, the Bambino Gesù Foundation provides a voice for the real

needs of patients and their families, offering them moments of normal everyday life wherever possible, where they can feel welcome in a home 'far from home' and therefore even warmer and more welcoming. Collective accommodation services create valuable opportunities for socialising and sharing of individual circumstances and stories. Reunification of families is also facilitated during stays in these accommodation facilities, for single days or short periods.

Hospitality does not only mean providing housing assistance. It also means finding a few moments of serenity by being welcomed as if in someone's home and not feeling alone and overwhelmed by the illness affecting your children, being open to all cultures, traditions and religions while respecting diversity, being treated using an interpersonal style based on listening, consideration, recognition and support, being accepted without prejudice in terms of illness and background.

Either within the framework of international cooperation agreements or in response to appeals from organisations, institutions or families from all over the world, every year the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital welcomes several dozen 'humanitarian' patients, namely children who have no form of coverage of their medical expenses, because they are not Italian or European Union citizens and are not supported by humanitarian or charitable organisations. The costs are borne entirely by the Foundation, which has launched a specific social campaign called Frammenti

di Luce (Fragments of Light).

In 2021, despite the difficulties related to the pandemic, 97 such patients were supported and treated from the following countries: Albania, Armenia, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Burundi, Congo, Cuba, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Russian Federation, Georgia, Guatemala, Haiti, Iraq, Israel, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Kosovo, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Moldova, Mongolia, Nigeria, Palestine, Peru, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, Serbia, Syria, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Ukraine, Uganda, Venezuela and Vietnam.

CURE UMANITARIE PROJECT





FRAMMENTI DI LUCE CAMPAIGN

This is the name of the social campaign dedicated to providing hospitality and treatment for children in humanitarian cases. It covers children with serious illnesses in need of urgent treatment that cannot be provided in their countries of origin. They have no form of coverage of their medical expenses, because they are not Italian or European Union citizens and are not supported by humanitarian or charitable organisations. It is a project that aims to implement actions based on real and concrete solidarity with countries where the most marginalised populations have no access to health services and mortality levels are still unacceptable.

Light is a symbol of this social project, capable of reinforcing the role that each of us has – or can have – by becoming a light in support of providing hospitality and treatment for suffering children who come from so many parts of the world to ask our institutions for help.



INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

TRAINING OF HEALTH PERSONNEL IN THIRD COUNTRIES AND THE MEDTRAINING PLATFORM

Over the years, the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital has developed cooperation projects in various countries around the world, offering training courses and in some cases highly specialised health services. As part of its international activities, the Hospital provides care and treatment for children in conflict-affected or highly disadvantaged developing countries. Cambodia, Jordan, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Central African Republic, Libya, Iran, Paraguay, Ecuador and El Salvador are the ten countries in which it operated in 2021, through a structured service supported by the Bambino Gesù Foundation.

It is not just a matter of providing healthcare to children, but also of bringing knowledge and professional practices that can be transferred to local staff through training courses. The spirit that drives international activities is 'gifting knowledge', so that the work done in these countries is not an end in itself or simply support in a state of emergency.

For this reason, the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital created an e-learning platform specifically dedicated to developing countries in 2020, in order to en-

sure better access to quality training. The paediatric platform Medtraining makes this training available to a much wider pool of users, offering free access to healthcare facilities and professionals.

To cope with contexts where technological infrastructure is limited and technological equipment (PCs, classrooms, etc.) is not available to the entire population, whereas the use of smartphones is widespread, the platform has been configured to allow access from any device without the need for a particular computer technology. The training courses provided through the platform are based on the content of the training projects that the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital is developing in various countries around the world. With its multilingual interface (English, French, Arabic, Spanish), it is able to cover training needs on five continents.

Through its international projects, the objective of the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital is to enable local staff and institutions to become independent, aware of their own abilities, and able to continue providing care and assistance independently.

VITE CORAGGIOSE TUTTI I FIGLI DEL MONDO

This is a commitment supported by the Bambino Gesù Foundation, designed to benefit doctors, nurses and other qualified staff working permanently in the countries where projects are active. Behind every result achieved is the passionate, committed work of many people, the constant striving for excellence and innovation, and the small patients treated and cared for in their difficult and painful journey towards a hoped-for recovery.

The campaign focused on research on rare and ultra-rare diseases was transformed in 2019 into an action campaign to benefit education and treatment for children in their home countries. Indeed, on the international front, the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital has set up major cooperative health projects in 12 countries around the world (Cambodia, China, South Korea, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Jordan, Haiti, India, Central African Republic, Russia, Syria and Tanzania), offering training courses in 20 different paediatric specialisms and highly specialised health services.

This includes activities aimed not only at treating children locally but also at ensu-

ring independence in treatment and assistance for doctors and health workers in the countries involved.

This context also includes the Health School Platform project. The design of this project, started in 2020 and further developed in 2021, envisages an e-learning course dedicated to developing countries and aimed at all areas of paediatrics. This is a commitment supported by the Bambino Gesù Foundation, to help doctors, nurses and other qualified staff working permanently in the countries where projects are active.



DONAZIONI INTERNAZIONALI PROJECT

‘A BRICK IN THE FUTURE OF PAEDIATRIC HEALTHCARE’

The pandemic has emphasised the global scope of diseases and viruses, creating new social burdens and responsibilities and extending the Foundation's action into international contexts and the search for possible partnerships and donors that will act systemically to support worthy global initiatives genuinely based on a need for humanitarian assistance, care and treatment.

The Hospital, on the other hand, and with it the Foundation, has always acted as a champion of values based on mercy and Christian charity, embodying the Church's ecumenical message every day in the provision of medical and scientific treatment, and constituting a point of transition from the concept of salvation towards a world of unconditional help and support that forms an integral part of the care system. Being an IRCCS, and therefore a reference facility in the field of research that is all the more important because it is also translational, gives the Hospital further added value.

In that sense, in July 2021, the Foundation competed the process of recognition of

an Equivalency Determination (ED) with the NGO Source, which provides greater credibility on the international scene and demonstrates that the organisation is the equivalent of a US public charity. This then qualifies the Bambino Gesù Foundation for certain funding, potentially making it possible for US funders to make grants to the Foundation in line with the provisions on the use and reporting of funds under US standards.

In recent years, American companies have chosen to make a concrete commitment to the communities with which they interact, based on a direct relationship between their stability and the economic and social conditions of the context in which they operate. In this way, the philanthropic focus has assumed a significant social value, providing answers to the unmet needs of the population.

THE PROJECT

The idea behind the initiative is to offer the Foundation as a point of reference, internationally, to promote projects and forms of aid and support for the Hospi-



tal's activities, and in this sense to launch a campaign of contacts to be activated and promoted, aimed at building solid relationships and operational interactions with international individuals and institutions. This will involve talking about the Foundation and above all the Hospital – its history, its strength in being part of a highly ethical and value-based context with significant symbolic value, its historical role, its global significance as a healthcare provider, its achievements in the fields of medicine, care, research, modern treatments (new drugs, transplant methods, advanced surgery, new methodologies and diagnostic and therapeutic pathways, etc.), and especially its worldwide humanitarian care activities, its organisation for providing hospitality for patients and families, and its pioneering role as a point of reference for values and principles relating to children's rights in

the sphere of treatment and care.

After careful evaluation and selection of possible partnerships, contacts and relationships will be forged in 2022 that will hopefully consolidate the key components of economic sustainability necessary for international institutions, a vital element of which continues to be the support of projects that contribute to the achievement of their own missions and philanthropic aims. This process is fully in line with the mission of the Hospital and the Foundation, which implement high-value projects that meet these prerequisites of an important social function, representing a significant vehicle through which the profits generated by donating companies flow to the community to support activities that are objectively in the public interest, and also based on ethical principles and the redistribution of value.



BEQUESTS AND MEMORIAL DONATIONS

The *Io scelgo il futuro* (I choose the future) project is dedicated to the Bequests Campaign, which was developed with the intention of offering answers to the increasingly frequent requests for information about bequests or living donations and, at the same time, giving those who wish to do so the opportunity to feel as if they are actively involved in building a future focused on giving strength and support to the new generations who turn with confidence to the Hospital. There are a range of activities supported by the Bambino Gesù Foundation: from scientific research to the provision of hospitality for patients and families experiencing financial difficulties, from hu-

manitarian care offered to children from many parts of the world to international missions to provide both healthcare and training of local medical and nursing staff, from technological innovations to clinical assistance.

Making a living donation or a testamentary bequest to the Foundation means helping children and young people to walk their path – made more vulnerable by disease – with courage and hope. It means supporting the efforts of doctors, researchers and health workers and those who work every day to provide a better quality of life for children and their families from all over Italy and from the poorest nations in the world.

IO SCELGO IL FUTURO CAMPAIGN

This social project is dedicated to the Bequests Campaign, which was developed with the intention of offering answers to the increasingly frequent requests for information about bequests or living donations and, at the same time, giving those who wish to do so the opportunity to feel as if they are actively involved in building a future focused on giving strength and support to the new generations who turn with confidence to the Hospital. There are a range of activities supported by the Bambino Gesù Foundation: from scientific research to the provision of hospitality for patients and families experiencing financial difficulties, from humanitarian care offered to children from many parts of the world to international missions to provide both healthcare and training of local medical and nursing staff, from technological innovations to clinical assistance. Making a living donation or a testamentary bequest to the Foundation means helping children and young people to walk their path – made more vulnerable by disease – with courage and hope. It means supporting the efforts of doctors, researchers and health workers and those who work every day to provide a better quality of life for children and their families from all over Italy and from the poorest nations in the world.



SPECIAL PROJECTS: THE PASSOSCURO PAEDIATRIC PALLIATIVE CARE CENTRE

The Paediatric Palliative Care Centre is a particular example of the parallel, synergistic commitment between the Foundation and the Hospital, but also of the swift response provided by those institutions when a private initiative is focused on aspects of particular social relevance and general interest. At national, regional and then local government level, the two institutions showed immediate support for the project, which involved a particularly significant investment in the strategic scope of the national health offer. This was intended to address the demand for healthcare and treatment from many families requiring a suitable and adequate response to their specific needs, to guarantee respect for the dignity of persons and to ensure policies based on equity in the provision of healthcare. It is the constitutional principle laid down in Article 32 on health protection, in terms of essential levels of care, that drives the sensitivity of both institutions

in relation to the accreditation of the Paediatric Palliative Care Centre.

On a general level, it was the Hospital's expertise and history of success and its very high quality professional and healthcare assistance that made the project credible and completely feasible right from the start, with the first stage of completion in March 2022. The facility bridges an important gap with respect to those forms of care and assistance to be provided for children who need an alternative response to being discharged and returning home, when the management of the patient becomes too complex or when the family itself asks for help in this regard.

The very special vision of the project and its truly unique and delicate scope of action have given the whole enterprise a very special character, based on the Hospital's specific intention to go beyond the common perception of a palliative care centre as the place for 'end

of life' care, to create an enclave of decency and courage, where real conversations can take place about issues that people are often afraid even to whisper about.

The related fundraising operation has therefore become a highly symbolic and deeply resonant process, supported by the numerous donors who have responded with varying intensity but who have been moved in all cases by the idea of adding their own brick to the more complex architecture of the project. This reflects the very special value and uniqueness that the Hospital recognises in each individual child, each paediatric patient, and drives it to ensure that those patients and their families can find the answers and the special, targeted assistance they need during a very delicate treatment phase that involves much more than simple care.

The response to the regulatory provisions, requirements and structural standards has been high-level, as are all the fittings and equipment, and the project has created a complex structure capable of delivering quality standards in a very specific paediatric universe. This is a context where, instead of joy, smiles and happiness, healthcare operators must instead grapple with tears, pain and an awareness of the substantial future ineffectiveness of treatment, where only 'caring' remains as a possible treatment modality, but where this must be provided in a way that ensures the dignity of the human person, both those suffering and those taking care of them and standing by their side.

The admonition from Pope Francis, in caring for children who suffer, remains a fundamental model for a value-based, Christian approach. This is supported

by the high-level institutional appeal by the World Health Organization (WHO) aimed at guaranteeing an approach that improves the quality of life of the sick and their families dealing with incurable diseases, based on pathways that can relieve suffering through the early identification and optimal treatment of pain and other problems of a physical, psychological, social and spiritual nature.

This is also backed up by what has become a typical philosophy of the Hospital:

'While there are therefore, unfortunately, children who cannot be cured, there are never 'incurable' children!'

In this sense, while it is certainly true that palliative care at home would be the preferred option, with the patient and his or her family being cared for directly within the home, practical experience reveals a more complex picture requiring much more specific and appropriate care settings, which cannot be provided in the context of family life and becomes progressively more inadequate.

This is where hospice and in-patient centres come in, aimed at offering the best palliative care to the sick and their families, ensuring that patients are assisted in the final stages of life through adequate medical, psychological and spiritual support, and making it possible for



the process to be lived with dignity in the least traumatic and painful way possible.

However, a multidisciplinary and multi-professional approach cannot be improvised, and it is no coincidence that many professionals work together in multidisciplinary teams in such centres: doctors, psychologists, nurses, social workers, spiritual advisors, occupational assistants and even volunteers, who take on the delicate task of acting as bridging points, listening and supporting to ensure that every expectation, wish and hope of the sick person and his or her family is heard and respected. Furthermore, a unique and valued feature of the Passoscuro Centre is the fact that the design of the structural layout reflects the home environment as closely as possible, so patients can feel more in touch with their lives before they were affected by illness.



At a more health policy level, another significant motivation is the desire to see the 'Charter of Rights of Children with Incurable Diseases' affirmed as much as possible. This charter was created based on previous national and internatio-

nal charters on the rights of children in hospital, with the Hospital once again demonstrating its ability to anticipate the times and the needs of paediatric healthcare, based on a particular sensitivity rooted in the ecumenical and humanitarian tradition of the Christian message of solidarity and support. Specifically, the demand for palliative care still sees several tens of thousands of children in need of adequate care and assistance. The two institutions are stepping in to address this demand through the promotion of initiatives, which have served as a driver for the development and accreditation of the Passoscuro Paediatric Palliative Care Centre.

Thus, every time has its own specific events, and every event has its own specific protagonists, and the Hospital has positioned itself as the entity behind an initiative so socially relevant that it has attracted the full and total support of the Foundation, which has supported it and will remain committed to supporting it as this initiative continues. However, the success of the centre depends, as always, on harnessing the potential of the pool of possible donors and therefore of all institutional stakeholders, civil society, ordinary people, in short, everyone!

The idea of support, which provides relief and makes one feel in some way protected, the embodiment of an enveloping cloak or mantle (pallium), remains the basis of the project and its momentum for the coming financial years. The idea is to ensure that the centre is increasingly responsive to the complex care requirements that exist in this context.

INAUGURATION OF THE CENTRE ON 22 MARCH 2022

An important milestone in the synergistic

commitment made by the Hospital and the Foundation was reached with the inauguration of the Passoscuro Paediatric Palliative Care Centre on 22 March 2022. This was attended by important figures from the civil and religious spheres, such as the Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Governor of the Lazio Region and the Regional Councillor for Health, the Mayor of Fiumicino, and senior representatives from the Ministry of Health and the world of health and institutions in general, along with a significant media presence, which performed an important social function by publicising this event and its major healthcare and welfare significance.



After months of work by the Foundation, which acceded to the Hospital's request that it assume the role of financial support and coordination of the project, it was possible to provide the community with a facility that meets the relevant objectives in terms of healthcare, assistance and treatment, but which also addresses the need for social and support services for families affected by pathologies with unfavourable outcomes, for whom the capacity to offer services and suitable accommodation facilities should certainly be increased.

The Social Responsibility Report for 2020 provided some initial hints and informa-

tion about the project, which was expected to be completed in the course of 2021 and then inaugurated in March 2022 with the establishment of the first 20 residential modules. In addition to complying with technical and regulatory requirements and considerations, the facility has been designed using home- and family-style layouts and fittings, with the use of high-quality materials, furnishings, equipment and technologies, fully equipped bathrooms, armchairs or sofa beds, and dedicated kitchens so that food can be prepared to each child's taste, supplemented by customised meals provided by the centre. The renovation work involved both the indoor sections – where the original classrooms were removed to accommodate the first 20 residential modules for patients and their families – and the outdoor areas, where a large garden and park area has been created.

The Bambino Gesù Foundation has financed all current renovation work on the building to the tune of €3 million, with 70% of that amount already raised and made available. The next objective is a project based on certain key components, all of which are to be implemented in accordance with the parameters and specific requirements imposed for centres of this type. But these activities will be driven, in terms of the sensitivity and quality of the facilities and services offered, by the consistently high standards associated with maximum comfort of care typical of the initiatives carried out by the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital, and therefore relating to areas such as:

- increasing the scale of the facility from 20 to 25 residential modules;
- renovating the remaining spaces and associated installations;
- constructing a technologically well-

equipped multimedia space for play-related, recreational, theatrical and relational activities and meet-ups for patients, families and workers;

- constructing a new goods lift;
- creating a suitable dedicated parking area.

Additional resources will therefore be needed to complete this project (hopefully by 2022), making this centre a unique facility in Italy and a concrete indicator of excellence in healthcare and human endeavour.



DAYS SPENT IN MEDICAL 'NON-PLACES'

But how do you spend a day in a paediatric hospice? What do small patients and their families do, how do they spend their time?

The often bewildered and dazed gaze of families who suddenly find themselves in a situation that is so far removed from the idea of everyday life on which an ordinary family experience is based. Where should they turn?

Healthcare facilities are not, in anthropological terms, places where people would freely choose to live, even for short periods of time. They are not places driven by social relationships in which the safety and security of family life can be nurtured, but are created and structured to provide specific, dedicated responses to care and treatment needs, hopefully in extraordinary situations. They are therefore rightly included in the list of 'non-places', understood as places that are not ordinary, not chosen, where time is suspended and values temporarily neutralised, where reciprocal relational interactions are modified or reversed, based on a fully inclusive, empathetic and supportive model of caregiving.



THE MI PRENDO CURA DI TE CAMPAIGN

In Italy, there are approximately 35,000 girls and boys who unfortunately cannot return home immediately after being discharged from hospital because they require highly specialised care or need their parents to have acquired all the necessary skills to care for them.

Recognising a need that can no longer be ignored, the Lazio Region has chosen the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital to develop a paediatric palliative care centre that constitutes an important entity within the national healthcare offer and responds to the demand for healthcare and support from many families who continue to find that there is no

adequate response to their complex needs.

The Bambino Gesù Foundation decided to support all phases of the project, which involved the very rapid renovation of a building that was well suited because of its location to house a paediatric palliative care centre. The building is located in Passoscuro, a stone's throw from the Palidoro Hospital, in a location with good connections but also able to guarantee the necessary discretion and confidentiality.

Additional resources are needed to complete the work, which is expected to be finished by 2022.

SPECIAL PROJECTS: RESIDENCE FOR PATIENTS WITH EATING DISORDERS

As already discussed in the previous Social Responsibility Report, the Bambino Gesù Foundation had already decided, as part of its commitment to supporting health and people who are ill and particularly in need of care and support, in partnership with the Hospital, to introduce a series of initiatives aimed at paediatric patients with eating disorders.

Eating disorders have become a very worrying social and healthcare issue, representing particularly complex psychopathologies that have a substantial impact on the quality of life of sufferers (bulimia, anorexia, binge eating disorder, etc.). The physical and psychological consequences of altered eating behaviours can cause very serious damage, affecting aspects such as personality, mood and anxiety disorders, and currently, especially after the social upheaval caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, these have a significant effect on the paediatric age group up to 18 years.

Unfortunately, even today, one of the major critical failings of the Italian healthcare system is the absence of a functional link between hospital facilities and local networks, which would ensure appropriate, ongoing and effective management of patients in general, and of certain types of patients in particular, where the pathologies involved do not fall within paradigms that can be easily assessed in terms of recovery, but instead require further, post-hospitalisation phases involving lengthy home care pathways that are often not easy to manage, especially for family members.

The 'healthcare' chain, in its proper sense, is very often interrupted, or becomes inadequate after discharge from hospital in terms of handover to local structures.

The project in question is inspired by the Hospital's sensitivity to this issue and its awareness of the care needs in the paediatric area, specifically addressing this

particular sphere, and the intention is to create a residential facility capable of accommodating paediatric patients suffering from eating disorders. The aim is to develop a structure capable of providing a healthcare service that acts as a functional link between the Hospital and the local area, covering the transition of the diagnostic, therapeutic and care pathway that acts as a clearance point between the hospitalisation phase and the phase of full return to life in the family environment, within a clinically structured context. This would address needs that still fall within the scope of clinical, medical and specialist care but that can be provided as a broader, more articulated series of 'residential' services covering various aspects and content, and not confined to strictly healthcare-related issues.

These disorders currently represent a major public health problem, tending to occur particularly in pre-adolescence and childhood, and thus interfering with a healthy developmental process in both

biological and psychological terms.

In dealing with these disorders, two requirements emerge clearly.

The first concerns the need to disseminate a new culture of proper nutrition and prevention of eating disorders, to promote training activities for paediatricians and operators in the sector, as well as training and counselling activities for the parents of the minors involved and training activities for volunteers who intend to work in in-patient eating disorder facilities.

The second requirement relates to the need, at the healthcare level, to develop a multidimensional strategy for prevention, early diagnosis and therefore treatment during the hospital and post-hospital phases, highlighting a growing and unmet need for residential or semi-residential facilities, which are necessary as part of the intermediate treatment pathway or prior to a return to home life. This absence of facilities has obvious consequences in terms of supporting patients in a phase involving both possi-



ble prevention and post-hospitalisation, or in any case non-hospital residential treatment in a non-home environment.

In response to both of these needs, the Hospital and the Bambino Gesù Foundation have outlined a specific course of action and therefore involvement of potential donors, and have decided to maintain their commitment, continuing with the initiatives that have already been addressed by projects and focusing attention on two operational guidelines:

a) Establishment of a centre for the study and treatment of paediatric eating disorders;

b) Establishment of an in-patient facility (residence) to accommodate and treat paediatric patients with eating disorders as a unit within the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital, to be accredited by the Lazio Region, essentially devoted – based on the national and regional regulations in force – to implementing a nutritional psychology therapy and rehabilitation programme.

Significant fundraising is required for both initiatives, given the complexities associated with implementing and managing such projects.

The aims of this project have enormous impact, as it is intended to pursue the fundamental objective of supporting the implementation, maintenance, management and development of the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital's planned in-patient eating disorder facility.

In addition to this objective, the following further objectives have been identified:

a) promotion of studies and research into the care and treatment of paediatric patients with eating disorders through conferences, seminars, workshops and participation in national and international research projects.

b) training activities aimed at paediatricians and operators in the sector (for

example, in-person and distance learning activities, toll-free number for remote advice, etc.).

c) training and counselling activities for the parents of the minors involved (for example, face-to-face and remote meetings, telephone counselling by appointment).

d) activities to provide information and guidance on proper nutrition and the prevention of eating disorders: digital and printed materials aimed at middle and high school students, activation or upgrade of digital platform dedicated to the prevention of eating disorders, etc.

e) training activities for volunteers intending to work in in-patient eating disorder facilities;

f) performance of activities in in-patient facilities not supported by the National Health Service (such as recreational programmes and artistic, culinary and cultural workshops).

The management of facilities positioned at various points along the diagnostic-therapeutic-care pathway for patients with eating disorders is focused primarily on providing qualified, specialised responses to the existing problems through structural and functional links that are able to guarantee proper diagnostic, therapeutic and care management for this clinical condition.

The paediatric in-patient facility for patients with eating disorders that is being set up will be a unit within the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital that is moving in this direction.

The development of an in-patient facility dedicated to eating disorders for paediatric patients is in line with the health planning in place within the Lazio Region, representing a further vital and specific step in the delivery of significant, modern essential levels of care to

address the problems affecting our society. The prompt delivery of approaches to providing medical care constitutes the most successful lever in terms of treatment and hoped-for recovery.

This type of residential facility is regulated by the Lazio Region, which has established that all social and medical care activities are to be paid for by the National Health Service. The facility is essentially devoted to implementing a nutritional psychology therapy and rehabilitation programme, which is vital when the following conditions occur:

- serious clinical and/or psychological symptoms, such that the treatment programme must be carried out in a protected environment;
- ineffective outpatient programme, due to significant environmental interference;
- family and/or context conditions not appropriate for management of the patient at home.

The facility is thus an effective alternative to hospitalisation and/or psychiatric hospitalisation, with residential accommodation lasting between three and five months to enable a recovery of the behavioural equilibrium that can be accepted by the patient.

Once again, through this initiative, the Hospital has taken action in an area where there are limited healthcare options available.

There are no such facilities in Lazio and throughout southern Italy.

Treatment in a semi-residential facility or day centre for eating disorders is also being explored as another area of interest for patients who have difficulty modifying their eating habits with standard outpatient therapy and who have a family environment that enables cooperation with treatment guidelines.

The initial design being considered could accommodate 20 single rooms with bathroom that would provide adequate

space for a certain number of day hospital patients, in addition to dedicated spaces for interviews and common activities. This would need to be supplemented by a series of structural, layout and fitting-out works to ensure everything is compatible and compliant with regional requirements, including for the specific safety and prevention requirements for the protection of patients.

Other logistical aspects are also important in this regard, since it is desirable for a residential facility to be located at the shortest possible distance from the patient's place of residence, to allow the involvement of family members and to maintain social, professional, study and work ties. It is also vital to avoid, as far as possible, a fragmentation of the care network, while ensuring that patients have the opportunity to think of themselves as independent entities separate from their parents, and thus facilitate the necessary treatment transitions.

The expected financial commitment, excluding furniture and equipment, has been estimated as approximately €850,000.

The direction and management of the facility will obviously be subject to the sole responsibility of the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital. Furthermore, the subjective suffering manifested in eating disorders requires complex treatment through integrated multidimensional, multidisciplinary and multiprofessional intervention, which ensures the cooperation of various specialists. This integrated approach is also indicated by international guidelines and recommendations from national scientific societies and indications on clinical appropriateness issued by the Ministry of Health in Italy. The purpose of this comprehensive system is to make it possible to determine and adapt the most appropriate psychotherapeutic, psychosocial rehabi-

ilitation and psycho-educational actions, where applicable within the family context.

The Hospital's long-standing skills and specific expertise in this field also enable it to act as an authoritative and appropriately structured point of reference to guide a project endowed with such an important social function.

The disorders in question represent pathologies from which patients do not always find it easy to extricate themselves, and, although the process of change is the responsibility of the person suffering from the disorder, much can be done indirectly to facilitate that pathway by caregivers and health service operators, and in particular by residential facilities, with their associated services and operators. These centres represent a valuable environment characterised by important skills and experience, in which active listening is the preferred tool in creating a physical and psychological space that is open and welcoming, where providing help for the patient is paramount

but where attention is also given to the development of creative processes that give patients a sense of being the centre of their universes, helping them to find themselves and fostering the conditions required to support their wellbeing, which has positive impacts on decision-making autonomy and personal responsibility.

The Foundation therefore intends to continue its efforts to develop the concrete outline for a project capable of meeting the strict structural and professional requirements imposed by the Lazio Region for authorisation of this type of healthcare facility and to provide all the physical, cultural and recreational activities that can facilitate a balanced return to the joys of life for the paediatric patients affected and for their entire families and surrounding environments.



SPECIAL PROJECTS: SUPPORT FOR THE BANGUI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

The Bambino Gesù Foundation has supported the local children's hospital on several occasions through the purchase of equipment, support for the remuneration of certain medical staff, and the building or maintenance of physical installations. The Foundation's commitment in Bangui has not only supported the renovation of the existing paediatric complex, which was completed in 2018, but also continued in 2021 by promoting the recruitment and training of staff working in the facility through internships in Italy at the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital for newly qualified specialists and professors from the Bangui Medical Faculty.





THE SOLIDARITY SHOP

Fundraising through the Foundation's solidarity shop is now an established formula. A growing number of people are celebrating a happy event or anniversary by making a donation and receiving a favour or gadget, thus combining a day of celebration with a real message of solidarity. This is a kind way in which the Bambino Gesù Foundation gives hundreds of people the opportunity to make a solidarity contribution in support of the many children in need and their families.

It is certainly not a virtual shop and is not part of the way in which the Foundation expresses itself and its values, but it does represent a means of accepting requests from many users who, in particular circumstances (births, first com-

munions, birthdays, name days, weddings, anniversaries), wish to link a tangible sign (a wedding favour, a greeting card, a parchment, etc.) to a humanitarian goal. Our donors have already understood – and they themselves promote – how such a simple and direct way of sharing one's joy can also become an opportunity to give hope to many children and young people, by asking them to support their own wedding or party solidarity list.

This is a real gesture that carries with it the Foundation's message of support and solidarity. These activities have now returned to pre-pandemic levels, and grow each year with the advent of new users.

THE FOUNDATION'S CODE OF ETHICS AND ORGANISATIONAL PRIVACY MODEL

Two important developmental moments for the Bambino Gesù Foundation took place in 2021, once again intended to facilitate maximum transparency and accountability.

Through resolutions approved by the Governing Board on 15 December 2021, the Code of Ethics and the Organisational Privacy Model for the Bambino Gesù Foundation were adopted.

The Foundation's decision to adopt a Code of Ethics is a concrete demonstration of its desire to have in place a tool to be applied alongside the rules of conduct variously dictated by the Vatican and Italian legislatures, which also provides an increasingly systematic and coherent response to a series of aspects rela-

ting to transparency, responsibility and, in short, accountability. These mechanisms are becoming more and more necessary for organisations that operate in the field of fundraising for charitable purposes with significant social impact, and are important factors in the transition towards national regulation of the charity sector and in project scenarios that extend the Foundation's commitment into more international spheres.

At the same time, as part of the process of establishing an increasingly structured organisational and functional profile, the Organisational Privacy Model was also adopted and is intended as a general organisational document containing all the information and operational guidelines on this subject, applicable both



internally and externally, with a view to creating a more formal and specific structure for the entire sphere of privacy and data processing, in the context of the relationships and interactions underlying projects, fundraising operations, campaigns, fundraising events and other relationships with third parties.

The Code of Ethics, in particular, is an official document that provides a clear and transparent definition of the set of values applied by the Foundation in achieving its objectives, and is at the same time the tool used to implement ethical behaviours within the Foundation, to be applied as the basis for clarifying and defining the set of principles to be adhered to by recipients in their mutual relationships.

On the other hand, in the context of management and operational, functional and interpersonal dynamics, compliance with the law, although a fundamental requirement, is often not sufficient, as the Foundation must ensure that all of its decisions and the conduct of those operating within it are based not only on compliance with the law but also on the observance of ethical rules, which are expressed in ethical commitments and responsibilities assumed by those who work in various capacities to achieve the Foundation's objectives.

Because it is a binding commitment, the Code of Ethics represents an effective means of preventing irresponsible or unlawful behaviour by those who work in the name and on behalf of the Foundation. It therefore introduces a clear and explicit definition of everyone's ethical and social responsibilities towards all those individuals directly or indirectly involved in the Foundation's activities (employees, guests, members of the Go-

verning Board, suppliers, social operators, citizens, institutions and associations), and must be considered, to all intents and purposes, an essential part of the contractual obligations undertaken in the context of relationships with the Foundation.

Formally making a commitment to conduct oneself on the basis of the principles of moral legitimacy, fairness, equality, protection of persons, protection of the environment, diligence, transparency, honesty, confidentiality, impartiality and protection of health therefore constitutes the value of the Code of Ethics in its highest sense.

The Code of Ethics sets out the values, principles and rules of conduct that characterise the activities of the Foundation in all its components, within the context of the mission pursued and, therefore, both internally and in external relationships within an overall framework that involves all stakeholders.

It is therefore also an integral part of the Foundation's control activities, and plays a significant strategic role in preventing unlawful behaviour and in consolidating a culture that increasingly values ethics, honesty, respect for rules and transparency. This process contributes to the achievement of the Foundation's mission and objectives, and to ensuring it operates properly and is reliable, credible and of good reputation.

These two documents are attached to the digital version of this Social Responsibility Report, while readers of the paper version can consult them on the Foundation's website.



FINANCIAL REPORTING AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2021

In 2021 the upward trend in donations collected and transfers made by the Foundation to the Hospital continued. Costs for services, on the other hand, are lower than in 2020.

To allow comparison with previous years, a table summarising the last six years is shown below.

| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Institutional revenues | 1,863,036 | 1,975,000 | 3,176,508 | 3,828,776 | 5,496,023 | 6,152,098 |
| Costs for services | 269,193 | 295,129 | 414,061 | 600,654 | 442,873 | 404,720 |
| Amounts transferred to the Hospital (*) | 1,336,134 | 1,428,547 | 1,690,885 | 3,413,874 | 4,744,736 | 5,207,699 |

(*) These also include the costs that the Foundation pays to third parties to accommodate the families of hospitalised long-term patients.



As detailed in this Social Responsibility Report, the funds transferred to the Hospital were allocated to support scientific research, the purchase of equipment of particular importance, the patient and family hospitality programme, humanitarian care, training projects within the framework of international activities, and the renovation of the building to house the Paediatric Palliative Care Centre.

The above figures have been reported to the Governing Board for acknowledgement, as the current rules provide for a different presentation of balance sheets and annual financial statements of non-profit organisations.

In fact, through Memorandum No 19740 of 29 December last, the Ministry of La-

bour and Social Policies clarified that the balance sheet requirements laid down by Ministerial Decree No 39 of 5 March 2020 for non-commercial charity sector entities also apply immediately to non-profit organisations registered in the relevant single registry. The Ministry of Labour has also specified that the financial statements for the year 2021 must be drawn up in accordance with the new requirements by charity sector entities considered 'in the broadest possible sense', thus including voluntary organisations, social promotion associations and non-profit organisations registered in their respective registers (in fact, these are considered charity sector entities on a transitional basis by Article 101(3) of the Charity Code).

The 2021 balance sheet submitted to the Governing Board for approval was, therefore, prepared in accordance with the new rules. The most important change, as far as the Foundation's activities are concerned, relates to donations with allocation constraints, which must be accounted for as assets until it has been determined that the constraint has been observed. Considering that a large proportion of donations reach the Foundation in December and that the procedures for reviewing donations and ensuring compliance with the internal rules for verifying that the associated constraints have been observed take several weeks to complete, it can happen that the balance sheet closes with an asset that will then be finally allocated in the following financial year.

This was the case in 2021, and the corresponding balance sheet, prepared according to the new rules, shows a surplus of €172,572. The full texts of the financial statements and annual report approved by the Governing Board at its meeting on 22 June 2021 are published separately.

CONNECTING WITH DONORS AND SOCIAL MEDIA. THE FOUNDATION'S SOCIAL CAMPAIGNS

Regular visitors to the Foundation's website (fondazionebambinogesu.it) will certainly have noticed that the site has been thoroughly revamped in 2021 in terms of graphics, content and communication methods. In fact, starting in 2020, the Bambino Gesù Foundation has been updating its browsing methods to make it even easier to access news and information and make online donations using credit cards, paypal and bank transfers.

Three new news items are published each week in the form of editorials, interviews, infographics, specific surveys, research results or equipment descriptions. And let's not forget the stories, the narrative of everyday life. Through the support of the Bambino Gesù Foundation, this becomes the 'lived experience' in the Hospital, a unequivocal testimony to the humanitarian commitment made by the Foundation and the Hospital.

All of the Foundation's fundraising projects are described and illustrated on our portal and, despite the pandemic, the site has maintained a consistent view rate.

In early 2021, the Bambino Gesù Foundation app was activated. This represents

yet another way to facilitate support for the Foundation's projects. The app can be downloaded from the Apple and Android stores.



The Bambino Gesù Foundation has been present on the main social networks since 2016. The Foundation regularly publishes various types of content and news on the different social media (depending on their specific design) about its activities and information on its projects, with videos, infographics and photographs. All authorised fundraising initiatives to support the Foundation are promoted. Of course, social media monitoring involves daily interaction with users, through both profiles and dedicated mailboxes.

In the previous pages, we have provided details of the campaigns promoted by the Foundation to support the Hospital's development projects. The current projects are:

ABBRACCIA LA RICERCA

To support scientific research and technological innovation (see page 36)

FRAMMENTI DI LUCE

To support family hospitality and humanitarian care (see page 39)

VITE CORAGGIOSE. TUTTI I FIGLI DEL MONDO

To promote international training activities in third countries and strengthen the Health School Platform (see page 41)

IO SCELGO IL FUTURO

Campaign dedicated to bequests and memorial donations (see page 45)

MI PRENDO CURA DI TE

To support the complete renovation of the building to house the Passoscuro Paediatric Palliative Care Centre (see page 51)

A donor can, in turn and in agreement with the Foundation, become the initiator of a fundraising campaign dedicated to one of

the Hospital's development projects.
For information: info.fond@fondbg.it

The various projects can be supported by means of a bank transfer to the account with IBAN code IT 05 B 03069 05020 100000016223 held at Banca Intesa Sanpaolo or by means of postal account No 1000425874. Both of these accounts are in the name of the Fondazione Bambino Gesù Onlus. Donations can also be made online through the Bambino Gesù Foundation website and app.

Supporting the efforts of doctors, researchers and health workers at the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital and those who work daily to provide a better quality of life for children and their families. This is our mission, because the health demands of young patients need immediate answers.





Bambino Gesù
FONDAZIONE



Bambino Gesù
FONDAZIONE

Contacts

info.fond@fondbg.it

+39 06.6859.2946

fondazionebambinogesu.it

 [fondazionebambinogesu](https://www.instagram.com/fondazionebambinogesu)

 [FondazioneBambinoGesùOnlus](https://www.facebook.com/FondazioneBambinoGesùOnlus)

 [fondazionebambinogesu](https://twitter.com/fondazionebambinogesu)

 [Fondazione Bambino Gesù](https://www.linkedin.com/company/FondazioneBambinoGesù)

SUPPORTING THE FOUNDATION

You can support the Foundation's activities in favour of the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital through:

BANK TRANSFERS

Made out to

Fondazione Bambino Gesù Onlus

IBAN IT 05 B 03069 05020 100000016223

Banca Intesa Sanpaolo

POSTAL CURRENT ACCOUNT

Held by

Fondazione Bambino Gesù Onlus

Account No 1000425874

ONLINE

At the site www.fondazionebambinogesu.it

5x1000

Tax ID 97531780589