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The abstract by Dr. Di Vizio was unfortunately missing in the Abstracts Book of the 17th European Congress of Pathology. The correct text for the abstract P-196 is the following:

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LOW EXPRESSION OF ITF IN COELIAC MUCOSA

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The intestinal Trefoil Factor (ITF) is secreted by goblet cells through the small and large intestine and may interact with mucin glycoproteins (MG) in the protection of intestinal epithelium.

Aims: To investigate immunocytochemical expression of ITF and MG in coeliac duodenal mucosa (CD) under untreated and treated conditions.

Methods: 51 jejunal biopsies (45 adults with CD and 6 healthy controls) were retrieved from the files of the Department of Anatomic Pathology of the Medical School of "Federico II University" of Naples - Italy. 18 CD patients were on gluten-rich diet (untreated), 30 on gluten-free diet (treated). Paraffin sections were incubated with antibodies specific to ITF and MG; non immunized serum was used as negative control. Immunostaining was evaluated analysing the number of stained and non-stained goblet cells and the staining intensity in cells and in the glicogel, both graded from 0 to 3.

Results: Compared to treated CD patients and controls, untreated CD patients had low ratio of positive to negative cells and less intense staining for ITF ($p < 0.001$), not for MG. In treated CD patients, ratio of positive to negative cells and staining intensity for ITF, not for MG, was inversely related to the severity of the mucosal damage ($p < 0.001$). Ratio of positive to negative cells and staining intensity for ITF and MG in treated CD patients were similar to the controls.

Conclusions: Expression of ITF is downregulated in jejunal mucosa of CD patients. We are in progress to investigate changes in transcripts of ITF and MUC2 genes in coeliac mucosa and intestinal epithelial cell lines co-cultured with myofibroblast and/or T cells.