

June 2, 2009

To: Participants in the **Nanotechnology for the Study of Cellular and Molecular Interactions** conference  
From: Barbara Hickernell, CAE, ECI Director

We're looking forward to your participation in this conference. Please read this note as there are items in it which may be helpful to you before your arrival at Il Ciocco.

**HOTEL INFORMATION:** Il Ciocco International Conference Center in Castelvecchio Pascoli (Lucca), Italy.  
Phone: +39-0583-7191. Do check out their web site ([www.ciocco.it](http://www.ciocco.it)) as it will give you an overview of the property and, for those who are driving, maps.

**TRANSPORTATION:** The complimentary Il Ciocco bus will be at the Pisa airport on Sunday, June 14 at 2:00 pm. Please note that there will be no bus pick-up at the train station as Pisa has instituted new anti-pollution laws. For those coming into Pisa by train, there is a shuttle between the train station and airport. It leaves approximately every 10 minutes.

At the airport, please be in front of the door by the baggage claim area. The bus may or may not be labeled Il Ciocco but there will be a hostess with a sign indicating Il Ciocco and/or Engineering Conferences International (ECI). The airport is small and the bus should be easily seen.

If you arrive on Sunday morning, consider checking your luggage and taking a cab to the Leaning Tower for some sightseeing while you wait for the bus departure time – but don't miss the bus! (Pisa attractions are quite close.) Otherwise, there are places at the airport where you can get a bite to eat, sip a cappuccino and people-watch.

(The bus back to the airport on Thursday will leave at 1:30 pm. Check out before lunch – the hotel will store your luggage.)

**TRAIN/TAXI TO IL CIOCCO:** If you plan to arrive at Il Ciocco on your own by train, you can get train information at [www.trenitalia.com](http://www.trenitalia.com). The train route you will need is "Pisa – (Lucca) – Barga-Gallicano" and it will take approximately 90 minutes. After Lucca the train is a slow, small valley train – a commuter line with very few trains on Saturday or Sunday. Be certain that you validate your ticket in the small yellow machines that are on the train station platforms. The stop before Barga-Gallicano is Fornaci di Barga. Barga/Gallicano is approximately 5 km from the hotel. You can call Il Ciocco to have them send a taxi for you (tel: 0583-7191). A taxi to the hotel is about 15-20 euro.

If your timing is such that you need to take a taxi from Pisa, you can make arrangements with the hotel to have a taxi meet your plane. The cost of a taxi is approximately 125 euro from Pisa and more from Florence. This amount can be billed to your hotel room as incidental expense if prior arrangements are made through Il Ciocco.

If you prefer not to wait for the bus, you are welcome to share a taxi to Il Ciocco, but ECI cannot reimburse you.

**AUTOMOBILE:**

From Rome and Bologna – Take Motorway A-11 until the next exit for Lucca

From Genoa – Take Motorway A-12 to Viareggio, then the A-11 until Lucca

From Milan – Take Motorway A-15 to Viareggio, then A-11 until Lucca

The distance from Lucca to Il Ciocco is approximately 40 km. At Lucca take route SS445 towards Barga/Aulia/Castelnuovo (and Garfagnana – the brown tourist sign). As you leave Lucca you will be driving on a road with trees bordering it closely on both sides – shortly after this you will come to a major intersection with a large store on the right and a left turn only lane – take this left turn toward Castelnuovo. If you miss this turn drive a short way up to Ponte a Moriano, cross over the bridge and keep on this road until you reach Ponte di Campia. At the stop sign make a right turn, crossing back on the river. Then take the road that goes up toward the right and up the hill (not the sharp right which you take back down along the river). You will go through the small town of Castelvecchio Pascoli and see a suspended light over the middle of the road and also a red and white sign on the right hand side telling you to make an immediate left to Il Ciocco. Continue up the mountain to Il Ciocco. If you happen to drive up the right side of the river, you will go through Barga toward Castelvecchio Pascoli (about 5 km) and make a right turn at the sign (which will be on your left) to Il Ciocco. This route is longer and narrower; however you can make a stop at picturesque Devil's Bridge.

**TOLLS:** If you take the autostrada in Italy, you can pay your toll by major credit card if you are in the VIACARD lane. Insert your autostrada toll ticket and then your credit card. No need to fumble for change.

**CURRENT EXCHANGE RATE:** If you are changing US dollars for euro, one euro will cost you approximately \$1.42 at current exchange rates.

**ARRIVAL AT IL CIOCCO:** When the bus arrives at Il Ciocco, you should go directly to the hotel registration desk and get your room key. (They will ask for your passport and will return it to you the following day.) The ECI registration/check-in desk will be open at 4:30 pm. There will be a sign in the hotel lobby directing you to the conference registration area. For most people it's been a long trip and we'll make ECI check-in as easy as possible. It will help if you have already paid your conference fee. At 6:00 pm is the opening plenary session and that will be followed by a welcome drink at 7:30 pm and dinner at 8:00 pm.

**MONDAY:** The breakfast room at Il Ciocco opens at 7:30 am and the technical session begins at 8:30 am. At the beginning of the session on Monday morning is when we'll make the pertinent announcements. (If you are bringing a guest or accompanying person, be certain to tell that person the Il Ciocco breakfast room is open until 10:00 am so that they may "sleep in" should they choose to)

**TUESDAY OPTIONAL EXCURSION TO LUCCA FROM IL CIOCCO FOR PARTICIPANTS AND GUESTS:**

Sign up at the Il Ciocco hotel reception. The trip must be paid for in cash (euro)  
Tuesday, July 16 – Lucca (depart Il Ciocco at 12:45 and leave Lucca at 18:45)

(Depending on demand, we may also have an optional excursion to Barga.)

You must sign up for any excursion by at least the day before the excursion as Il Ciocco needs to confirm an appropriately sized bus. If you are going to Lucca, please note that most Italian shops are closed in the afternoon so you should plan to sightsee before you shop. The cafes and historical points of interest are open. Many people enjoy a walk on the walls while others are content to have a cappuccino in a sidewalk café. (This is a rain or shine trip – if it rains umbrella vendors magically appear throughout Lucca!)

For those who have cars, we have a list of local hill towns you can visit in your free time.

**WEATHER:** You can check [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com) and get the latest information for Lucca, Italy (between Pisa and Il Ciocco). Currently the long-term forecast calls for sunshine with highs in the low 80s (F) and lows in the 60s (F). We always suggest that you bring a sweater for the conference room.

**SPEAKER INFORMATION:** We assume that all speakers will be making a Power Point presentation. The session room is equipped with a laptop PC and computer projector. A laser pointer and cordless microphone will be provided. Files can be transferred to the laptop from a memory stick. Please be certain that your presentation is loaded onto the computer the day before your presentation if you are scheduled to speak in the morning, or the morning you are speaking if you are scheduled for the afternoon.

Please provide your session chair with a *brief* biography for your introduction.

It is essential to the conference schedule that you keep to your given time – and be certain that you allow enough time for questions/discussion. Keeping in the tradition of these conferences, please be available during the conference for discussion and questions. Meals and social hours are perfect for discussions and questions.

**POSTER PRESENTER INFORMATION:** On Monday at 6 pm all poster presenters will give a 2-3 minute "soundbite" about their poster. Then presenters are asked to be by their posters for questions/discussion from 6:30-7:30 and again from 9:30-10:30. Posters will be available for viewing all week; however, this will be the time set aside for discussion/questions.

**POSTER BOARDS:** The Poster Boards are 4 ft by 8 ft. We will provide the tacks for hanging the posters. Please hang the posters before 6:00 pm Monday.

**FINAL PROGRAM:** This can be found at [www.engconfintl.org/9aa.html](http://www.engconfintl.org/9aa.html).

**E – MAIL:** There is internet access available on site. There will be an internet point near the Congress Hall. There will be wifi in the meeting room. If you want internet access in the lobby area, the cost of a card is 3 euro for 30 minutes; 6 euro for 60 minutes; 12 euro for 24 hours. In the bedrooms access via the TV costs 11 euro for 24 hours. (For those who are bringing their own laptops, you will be able to plug in with a network cable at the internet point near the Congress Hall.)

**MISCELLANEOUS:** The following are a few housekeeping items which you need to be aware of:

- If you have special **dietary needs** (e.g., vegetarian, allergies, etc.), please make sure we are made aware of them during registration so that we can give the Chef this information. Vegetarians will be given a card to identify themselves to the waitstaff.
- The pool will be open. Note that bathing caps are required in Italy and may be purchased on site.
- If you require **photocopying**, please make your arrangements at the hotel desk - the cost will be billed to your room incidentals.
- We encourage you to utilize **telephone calling cards** when you make long distance telephone calls as calls directly from any hotels are expensive.
- Bring electrical adapters with you.
- There are no shopping facilities at the hotel for toiletries.
- Spike Lee's recent World War II film ("Miracle at Santa Anna") about the US Army's all-black 92<sup>nd</sup> Division was filmed in the vicinity of Il Ciocco.

**Post conference train information and hotel reservations:** The Il Ciocco desk can help you make train and hotel reservations if you are extending your stay in Italy.

\* A **questionnaire** will be distributed on Wednesday. Please complete and return it, as your comments will be very useful to the planners of the next conference in the series.

\* **Tennis etc.:** There are tennis courts; however, they have only a couple of racquets to rent so it is best to bring your own (and your own balls) if you wish to play. However soccer balls, basketballs and bocce balls are available through the front desk. Horseback riding is available on the mountain – but the attendants speak only Italian. For all recreational activities, ask at the front desk

\* **ATM Machines:** There is an ATM machine at Il Ciocco and a bank at the bottom of the Il Ciocco hill with an ATM machine. Barga has several banks, all with ATMs.

\* **Local Hiking/Walking** – As you will see when you arrive, the area is quite beautiful and quite hilly. The chairs have programmed in periods of free time for you to fully enjoy the facilities at the hotel. For those who wish to take the shortcut hike/walk to Barga, we will have instructions. (Most people take a taxi to return to Il Ciocco as the last hill can pose a challenge – particularly in the heat.

Note: If you have not yet paid your conference fee, please fax the payment form with your credit card number to **Tressa Gaffaney** at 1-212-514-6030 or send her an email at [Tressa@engconfintl.org](mailto:Tressa@engconfintl.org)

The ECI representatives on site will be **Joye Bramble**, the technical liaison from the ECI Conferences Committee, and I.

**Kate Stebe, Denis Wirtz** and **Shouheng Sun** have put together an excellent program and we are looking forward to a superb conference.

ECI encourages and expects a great deal of interaction among participants.

We wish you a safe journey and look forward to seeing you at Il Ciocco.