

Prof. Francesco Amenta, of the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Health Products of the University of Camerino, was appointed last 7 March as President of the Board of Directors of CIRM, the International Radio-Medical Centre. He was born in Nuoro on July 20, 1953, graduated in Medicine and Surgery on July 27, 1977, and specialized in Neurology on July 28, 1981, is a full professor at the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Health Products of the University of Camerino, where he is responsible for the Clinical Research, Telemedicine and Telepharmacy Center. He is the author of over 350 publications in international journals and is involved in post-graduate training activities in the field of telemedicine and electronic health. He is the Director of the 2nd level University Master in eHealth, now in its 7th^{edition}, and of the International Master in Oil and Gas Telemedicine and Telepharmacy, intended for the specialized training of health workers who work in oil fields and platforms. Prof. Amenta gained part of his experience in telemedicine and electronic healthcare at CIRM, where he was a doctor on call from 1979 to 1984. From 1995 to 2004 he held the position of head of the Studies and Research Section of the Center and since 2004 he has been the Scientific Director of the Foundation. The CIRM Board of Directors, which will lead the Foundation, a historic structure of Italian telemedicine, is composed of President Amenta, Medical Director Agostino Di Donna and Prof. Sergio Pillon, elected by the CIRM benefactors, Dr. Alessandro Franchi, representative of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport and Prof. Maria Carla Gilardi, representative of the Ministry of Health.

CIRM was founded in 1935 and since then, from its headquarters in Rome, it has provided, 24 hours a day, every day of the year, medical assistance and advice in Italian or English to ships and aircraft without a doctor on board. On board cargo ships, no doctors or specialized paramedics are generally available, so technology (telemedicine) must be used to treat illnesses or injuries. For centuries, except for ships with a doctor on board, the treatment of diseases and the protection of the health of those on board have been entrusted to the captain and the notions of hygiene and medicine that he has learned. The possibility of providing medical assistance to ships through telecommunications systems began after 1897 when Guglielmo Marconi (the first president of CIRM) developed radiotelegraphy. In the years immediately following, the first coastal radio stations were created, and ships were equipped with radio stations. After an initial phase of spontaneous initiatives, specialized centres for medical assistance via radio (also called radio medical assistance) at sea were established. CIRM, which represents the Italian *Telemedical Maritime Assistance Service (TMAS)*, is therefore the "guardian" of the health of sailors, of all nationalities and at sea throughout the world. There are about twenty similar organizations in the world, but the Italian one stands out for some significant peculiarities, such as the number of cases assisted annually, the users and the radius of action of its activities which are planetary and a commitment to study and research activities.