

The Italian Society of Hygiene, Preventive Medicine and Public Health (S.It.I.) is an organization dedicated to the promotion and protection of collective human health and wellbeing. It was founded in 1878 by **Gaetano Pini** and named in 1921 Italian Society for Hygiene by **Achille Sclavo**. Membership has grown up to more than 3,000 today, with many of them working in local Departments of Prevention, Districts and Health Directions of Hospitals on the whole Italian territory. The headquarter is based in Rome; the organization counts on 15 regional Sections. S.It.I. Officers are the President, the National Board (Giunta Esecutiva) and the Secretary/Treasurer. The President (at the moment **Carlo Signorelli**, professor of Hygiene & Public Health at the University of Parma) is the chief officer and official representative of the Society. The mission of the Society is to achieve advances in the fields of epidemiology, public health, community health, health services organization, management and health economics, to encourage the evolution and development of cultural and professional activities of prevention and the role and qualifications of its practitioners and operators at central and peripheral level, to promote health education activities aimed at increasing the level of sanitation of the population and promote the activities of continuing education programs. The S.It.I. collaborates with institutions, practitioners, associations, foundations and other scientific associations to promote research in the field of hygiene & public health and prepares books, guidelines, protocols, operational and multicenter studies. In summary S.It.I. is dedicated to letting the professional voice of public health be heard. This role of advocacy is performed at national, regional and local level.

S.It.I. web sites are:

<http://www.societaitalianaigiene.org/>;

<http://www.vaccinarsi.org/>;

<http://www.igienistionline.it/cms/>;

S.It.I. web site for information on vaccine prophylaxis is: <http://www.vaccinarsi.org>

Principal papers published recently of public health topics are:

- The 2014 lifetime immunization schedule approved by the Italian scientific societies. *Epidemiol Prev.* 2014 Nov-Dec;38(6 Suppl 2):131-146
- Deaths after Fluad flu vaccine and the epidemic of panic in Italy. *BMJ.* 2015 Jan 14; 350:h116.
- L'epidemiologia molecolare nelle infezioni correlate all'assistenza: documento di indirizzo della Società Italiana di Igiene, Medicina Preventiva e Sanità Pubblica (SItI). *Ig Sanita Pubbl* 2015; 71(3): 241-243.
- Vaccines: building on scientific excellence and dispelling false myths. *Epidemiol Prev* 2015; 39(3): 189-201.
- New Italian immunisation plan is built on scientific evidence. *BMJ* 2015; 351:h6775