ISAL (Institute for Research and Education in Algological Sciences) School.

ISAL (Institute for Research and Education in Algological Sciences) was founded in 1993 with the aim of promoting and disseminating knowledge, studies and practices in the field of Pain Management. The Institute organizes courses and conferences with physicians and specialists in the field of pain and it is a provider of ECM (credits for the “continuing medical education”) for the Italian Ministry of Health. The School is the first Italian Institute for postgraduate studies in the field of pain and pain management. The mission of the School is the education of expert physicians in pain therapy and the constitution of a network of evidence-based knowledge.

Since 1993, ISAL has organized 6 seminars in specialized techniques and 12 multi-disciplinary seminars, also through the support of a network of well recognized teachers. In more than 20 years of activity, about 500 Italian physicians graduated at the School. Among the teachers who have taught seminars at the School there are: Professor Agnati, Professor Varrassi, Professor Meglio, Professor Genazzani, Professor Cortelli, Professor Cruccu, Professor Caraceni, Professor Truini, Professor Iannetti, Professor Apollone, Professor Allegri, Professor Romualdi, Professor Ischia, Professor Arcuri, Dr De Conno, Dr Casali, Dr Zucco, Dr Bonezzi, Dr Maritano, Dr Andrea Fanelli. The School has participated in the constitution of the current Italian ruling class in the field of pain therapy by providing a lively environment for the development of the knowledge also thanks to the medical professionals who participated to the spreading of competence. A nursing culture on pain has been promoted as well, with the organization in 1991 of the first specialized congress with the participation of 2000 nurses coming from all Italian hospitals.

As founding member of SICD-Federdolore (the Italian Society of pain therapists), ISAL organized since 2004 several seminars and contributed, through its national network, to the activation of specialized workshops and courses for healthcare professionals. ISAL cooperated also with Emilia Romagna Region and the major scientific institutions in the organization of important debates on pain therapy in Italy.
The philosophy of the School is multi-disciplinary and provides both theoretical and practical skills to the scholars in order to prepare them to deal with all the conditions and to allow them to identify when to confront with other specialists and how to reach the best treatment for the people seeking care.

In 2005, ISAL Sicilia is born, with the headquarter in Taormina. Its aim is to create a network of experts in the regional hospitals. In 2007, ISAL promoted the first Italian-American Campus of Research in collaboration with the Unit of Pain Therapy and Palliative Care of the Rimini Hospital with the aim to engage professionals in the field of pain management with young researchers in a lively and rich cultural environment and to build international research networks. IASP’s former President Professor Howard Fields and Professor Antonello Bonci participated to the project.

The Scientific Coordinator of ISAL Foundation is Professor William Raffaeli. The members of the Scientific Board are: Marco Baciarello, Massimo Barbieri, Daniele Barillari, Antonello Bonci, Vanni Maria Romano Caruso, Giuliano De Carolis, Manuela De Gregori, Matteo Godina, Giulio Mignani, Stefano Palmisani, Antonietta Santullo, Cosetta Tani and Alberto Vignali.

The role of ISAL School in the international scientific community is sanctioned by the cooperation with the SIMPAR whose scientific committee is composed by the most important leaders in the field of pain therapy. The adequate development of competences of the School is guaranteed by a Didactic Committee elaborating and presenting coherent programs. The School considers unavoidable a multi-specialistic perspective and engages therefore in the cooperation with several specialists in order to provide a full and adequate competence to its scholars.

Currently, the School proposes two educational solutions for its students, a two-year specialistic course composed by 8 seminars and single seminars.