

2nd Dubrovnik Cardiology Highlights — an ESC Update Programme in Cardiology

Hrvatska, Dubrovnik, Hotel Excelsior, 29. 9. - 2. 10. 2011.

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Od 29. rujna do 2. listopada 2011. godine u hotelu Excelsior u Dubrovniku je održan međunarodni znanstveno-stručni skup iz kliničke područja kardiologije s nazivom Dubrovnik Cardiology Highlights pod okriljem Europskoga kardiološkog društva. Ovo je drugi takav sastanak u Dubrovniku koji je uz Rotterdam, Davos i Rim nova lokacija za bianualno organiziranje vrhunskoga kardiološkog okupljanja u kategoriji tzv. "Update" kongresa. Prof. Miličić, kojemu je kao direktoru ovih sastanaka povjereno njihovo organiziranje svake dvije godine počevši od 2009. god., predložio je da Dubrovnik Highlights postane zajednički projekt Europskoga i Hrvatskoga kardiološkog društva, pa je time Hrvatsko kardiološko društvo jedino nacionalno društvo u sklopu članica Europskoga kardiološkog društva koje s njime u suradnji organizira neki kardiološki skup koji se ponavlja u dogovorenim vremenskim razmacima predstavljajući "brand" europske kardiologije.

Na ovogodišnje Dubrovnik Highlights sudjelovalo je ukupno 68 pozvanih predavača među kojima 44 iz različitih zemalja Europe i svijeta. Valja naglasiti da je među njima bilo više vodećih stručnjaka i znanstvenika iz svih područja kardiologije. Ostali predavači bili su ugledni hrvatski kardiolozi. Kongres je okupio više od 620 sudionika iz 22 zemlje Europe i svijeta. Valja naglasiti da su među predavačima sudjelovali i čelnici Europskoga kardiološkog društva te neke legende odnosno doajeni svjetske kardiologije, kao npr. profesori Peter Sleight iz Oxforda te Stevo Julius i Bertram Pitt iz Ann Arbor University, Michigan, SAD. Cilj ovoga sastanka je bio prezentirati najnovije smjernice u prevenciji, dijagnostici i liječenju kardiovaskularnih bolesti te njihovoj implementaciji u kliničku praksu, zatim predstaviti najnovija znanstvena dostignuća u kliničkoj ali i bazičnoj kardiologiji te diskutirati s vodećim svjetskim kardiolozima o najnovijim postignućima, njihovoj primjeni kao i o budućnosti kardiologije. Osim sjajnih uvodnih predavanja u sklopu svečanosti otvaranja Kongresa (profesora Juliusa, Pitta i Sleighta), sva su ostala predavanja trajala točno 15 minuta s predviđenim dodatnim vremenom za raspravu. Kongres je obuhvatio sve najvažnije kardiološke teme — od prevencije preko metoda kardio-

From 29 September to 2 October 2011, an international scientific and expert conference in clinical area of cardiology entitled Dubrovnik Cardiology Highlights under the auspices of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) took place in Excelsior Hotel in Dubrovnik. This is the second such meeting in Dubrovnik, which is besides Rotterdam, Davos and Rome a new location for the biannual organization of the top Cardiology conference in the category of the so-called "Update" Congress. Prof. Miličić acting in a capacity of Director who has been charged with the task to organize such meetings every two years since 2009, suggested that Dubrovnik Highlights should become a joint project of the ESC and Croatian Cardiac Society (CCS), and thus the CCS is the only national society among the members of the ESC that in cooperation with it organizes a conference on Cardiology, which is repeatedly organized at agreed intervals representing the "brand" of the European Cardiology.

This year's Dubrovnik Highlights was attended by a total of 68 invited lecturers, including 44 lecturers from various countries from Europe and the rest of the world. It is worth mentioning that there were a great number of leading experts and scientists from all areas of cardiology among them. Other lecturers were renowned Croatian cardiologists. The Congress brought together more than 620 participants from 22 countries from Europe and the world. It should be noted that some leaders of the ESC and some legends or doyens of international cardiology, such as Professor Peter Sleight from Oxford, Stevo Julius and Bertram Pitt from Ann Arbor University, Michigan, USA participated at this conference among those lecturers. The aim of this meeting was to present the latest guidelines in prevention, diagnostics and treatment of cardiovascular diseases and their implementation in clinical practice, present the latest scientific achievements not only in clinical, but also basic cardiology and discuss the most recent achievements, their application and the future of cardiology with the world's leading cardiologists. In addition to some great introductory lectures in the opening ceremony of the Congress (Professor Julius, Pitt and Sleight), all other lectures lasted for exactly 15 minutes

vaskularnog oslikavanja, zatim novosti u farmakoterapii te najnovija postignuća u kardiovaskularnim intervencijama i kardijalnoj kirurgiji.

Od zanimljivosti valja možda izdvojiti predavanje jednoga od vodećih svjetskih molekularnih biologa, negdašnjega zagrebačkog studenta a danas profesora Sveučilišta u Torontu, prof. Igora Štagljar, koji je na Kongresu prikazao svoje najnovije, neobjavljene rezultate vezane uz istraživanja proteomike u bolesnika s akutnim infarktom miokarda. Od sadržaja koji se mogu ubrojati u "avangardu" suvremene kardiovaskularne medicine možda bi trebalo izdvojiti sekciju o primjeni matičnih stanica u kardiologiji, na kojoj su nastupili vodeći stručnjaci iz toga područja — kardiolozi i molekularni biolozi iz Izraela i SAD-a.

Dubrovnik Highlights bio je izrazito radni skup. Predavanja bi započinjala već u 8 sati ili čak i ranije ujutro, uz doručak serviran u Kongresnoj dvorani. Ručak i stanke za kavu bile su također organizirani tako da se nije trebala napuštati Kongresna dvorana, a radni dan završavao je oko 19:30 sati. Osim predavanja i rasprava, na Kongresu je bilo organizirano i interaktivno prikazivanje odabranih postera — izvornih radova sudionika. Međunarodno ocjenjivačko povjerenstvo na svečanosti u sklopu zajedničke večere podijelilo je šest nagrada za najbolji originalni znanstveni doprinos. Dobitnici su bili liječnici s Medicinskog fakulteta i Kliničkog bolničkog centra u Zagrebu, Sveučilišta u Ljubljani i Londonu te Kliničkog bolničkog centra *Sestre milosrdnice* u Zagrebu. Osim svega navedenoga, na Kongresu su bile održane i tri sekcije s prikazima zanimljivih kliničkih slučajeva/problema u izvedbi mladih kardiologa Klinike za bolesti srca i krvnih žila na Rebru.

Zaključno, Dubrovnik Cardiology Highlights doživio je brojne hvalospjeve domaćih i inozemnih gostiju i pohvaljen je kao sjajan projekt Europskoga kardiološkoga društva u sklopu nedavnoga sastanka Committee on Education in Cardiology Europskoga kardiološkoga društva. Valja još reći da je unatoč prelijepome vremenu u očaravajućem Dubrovniku posjećenost predavanja bila odlična. Tzv. socijalni život tj. Do-

with additional time provided for a debate. The Congress included all the most important cardiology topics — from prevention via methods of cardiovascular imaging, followed by novelties in pharmacotherapy and the latest achievements in cardiovascular interventions and cardiac surgery.

Regarding some interesting lectures, we may mention the lecture by one of the world's leading molecular biologists, former Zagreb student and now a professor at the University of Toronto, Prof. Igor Štagljar, who presented his latest, unpublished results related to research of proteomics in patients with acute myocardial infarction. Regarding the contents that may be included in the "avant-garde" of modern cardiovascular medicine, we should mention a section of application of stem cells in cardiology, the area covered where some leading experts in this area — cardiologists, molecular biologists from Israel and the U.S.A. who gave lectures.

Dubrovnik Highlights was primarily a working meeting. Lectures would begin at 8 o'clock or even earlier in the morning, with breakfast served in the Congress Hall. Lunch and coffee breaks were also organized, so that it was not necessary to leave the Congress Hall, and the workday ended around 19:30 p.m. In addition to lectures and debates, interactive presentation of selected posters — original papers by the participants was organized at the Congress. The international evaluation committee awarded six prizes for the best original scientific contributions at the joint ceremonial evening. The winners were physicians from the Faculty of Medicine and Clinical Hospital Centre Zagreb, University of Ljubljana, University of London, and Clinical Hospital Centre *Sestre milosrdnice* Zagreb. Besides the above mentioned, three sections with presentations of interesting clinical cases/problems took place which were performed by young cardiologists of the Cardiovascular Clinic from the Clinical Hospital Centre Zagreb.

To conclude, Dubrovnik Highlights Cardiology was very much praised by domestic and foreign guests as a great project of the ESC as a part of the recent meeting of the



Opening ceremony of the Dubrovnik Cardiology Highlights 2011.



B. Pitt (USA), R. Hatala (SK) and R. Kautzner (CZ).

mjenak dobrodošlice nakon svečanosti otvaranja te svečana večera bili su odlična prilika za neformalna druženja i nova profesionalna poznanstva i povezivanja. Jedina bitna sugestija sudionika za idući Cardiology Highlights 2013. mogla bi se sažeti kao ljubazna molba da se skup produlji barem za još jedan dan i planira malo slobodnoga vremena za uživanje u jedinstvenoj ljepoti Dubrovnika.

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Committee on Education in Cardiology of the ESC. It should be also mentioned that despite very nice weather in the enchanting Dubrovnik, the attendance of lectures was excellent. The so-called social life, that is, the Welcome reception after the opening ceremony and ceremonial dinner were an excellent opportunity for informal socializing and new professional acquaintances and connections. The only important participants' suggestion for the next 2013 Cardiology Highlights could be summed up as a kind request to extend the Congress by at least one more day and to plan some free time for enjoying the unique beauty of Dubrovnik.



Prof Otto Smiseth (Norway) and Prof Davor Miličić (Croatia) — the Congress directors.