

Brno. Professor Zvyagina from Odessa talked about new treatment modalities for cognitive disturbances in patients with cerebrovascular diseases. Professor Haberl from Munich emphasized the importance of major developments in the pharmacological and surgical prevention of stroke in the last twenty years. Professor Kadojić discussed **speech disturbances in patients with ischemic stroke**. Assistant Professor Dikanović gave an interesting lecture on sexual dysfunction in stroke patients. An interesting insight in the effect of NADH in stroke rehabilitation was presented by Danijela Štorga-Tomić. This year, the special topic was Fabry disease. Professor Demarin presented neurologic manifestations of Fabry disease, while Professor Kes discussed the nephrologic aspects of Fabry disease. Nikola Barić and Vladimira Vuletić presented data on the relation between body mass index and common carotid artery intima-media thickness and cerebral vasoreactivity in healthy subjects and those suffering from type 2 diabetes mellitus. Hans van Elst gave an update on recent advances in ultrasonography, new and improved ultrasound soft-

ware possibilities, which help greatly in vascular age assessment. Professor Trkanjec from Zagreb held a workshop on the overlapping of stroke and dementia. Professor Sinanović's workshop topic were sleep disorders in cerebrovascular diseases.

Many interesting case reports on patients suffering from Fabry disease were presented and discussed. On the third day, there was a Joint Meeting of two Summer Schools (Summer Stroke School and Adriatic Summer Epilepsy School). It was held at the Island of Šipan and the intention was to point out common aspects of the two most common neurologic diseases.

Overall, it was a remarkable week of education giving us an opportunity to make new friendships with colleagues from all over the world. Besides the working part, the rich social program was offered to the Course participants. The participants were overwhelmed with the beautiful town of Dubrovnik and its surroundings, especially those visiting Dubrovnik for the first time. The great lectures, wonderful location and friendly atmosphere – what more can you wish for?

Sonja Antić

The 51st International Neuropsychiatric Pula Congress

This year's remarkable congress with a very long tradition and international participation entitled The 51st International Neuropsychiatric Congress took place on June 15-18, 2011 in Pula, Republic of Croatia. The Congress was held under personal auspices of President of Republic of Croatia, His Excellency Professor Ivo Josipović. The Congress was organized by the South East European Society for Neurology and Psychiatry International Neuropsychiatric Pula Congresses Kuratorium, with Vida Demarin, Fellow of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Professor of Neurology, Head of the University Department of Neurology, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital in Zagreb, as Secretary General. Honorary President of the Kuratorium is Professor of Neurology (ret.) Boško Barac.

Last year, The Neuropsychiatric Pula Congress celebrated its 50th anniversary, and as it probably has the longest tradition in the fields of neurology and psychiatry, it is important to remember that its tradi-

tion started in 1961 as a rather small gathering of only some 60 neuropsychiatrists, mostly from Zagreb and Graz. The founders of these meetings are now founding honorary members of the Congress Kuratorium: H. Bertha, Graz; R. Lopašić, Zagreb; A. Rosenzweig, Zagreb; G. Grinschgl, Graz; P. Kartin, Ljubljana; H. Lechner, Graz; F. Marguth, Munich; N. Peršić, Zagreb; J. Ristić, Beograd; W. Scheid, Köln; and O. Stochdorf, Munich.

The aim of many scientists and specialists who took part in any of The Neuropsychiatric Pula Congresses is to promote and improve collaboration not only between neurology and psychiatry but also between countries in their closer and wider neighborhood. Over years, these meetings have grown into the largest scientific and professional event in this part of Europe, with eminent speakers and approximately 400 participants every year.

This year's academic lecture (Chronic cerebrospinal venous insufficiency (CCSVI); evidence and open questions) on behalf of Professor Zamboni was held by his close associate from Ferrara, Sandra Morović, who carried out and discussed some new and interest-

ing findings about chronic cerebrospinal venous insufficiency in patients with multiple sclerosis. The 51st International Neuropsychiatric Congress consisted of the main topic lectures in neurology and psychiatry, workshops, satellite symposia, headache school, teaching course and poster sections. This year's lecture and discussion topics were not only widespread neurologic and psychiatric disorders such as epilepsy, migraine headache, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, stroke and atrial fibrillation, cognitive disorders in neurologic diseases, quality of life in neurodegenerative disorders, depression, forensic psychiatry, cognitive psychiatry, etc., but also some common neurologic and neurosurgical topics such as cerebral arteriovenous malformations and neurosurgical procedures in the treatment of pharmacoresistant epilepsies.

The 4th International Epilepsy Symposium on Epilepsy Therapy was held within the frame of the Congress. It brought evidence-based facts about the treatment of the first seizure in children and adults. Benefits of neuroimaging methods during the seizures were discussed as well as neurosurgical procedures in the treatment of pharmacoresistant epilepsies.

During these four days, a great number of satellite symposia took place. Personalized approach to every patient in medicine is recognized as an everyday need and also a challenge for the health care system and the community. Vida Demarin, Fellow of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, emphasized the importance of such an approach in neurologic patients but there were also discussions about such an approach in cardiology, gastroenterology and especially palliative medicine. Psychiatrist Marijana Braš pointed palliative medicine as an example of a part of medicine that was at the very beginning oriented to the disease but now it is becoming oriented to every patient itself. At another satellite symposium, psychiatrists discussed some delicate problems and issues that appear in everyday work, such as reproductive rights of patients with mental disorders, manipulations with expertise in children, violation of mental integrity of the victims of physical violence, etc. There was also a symposium on rare diseases in neurology, where neurologists, among others Vida Demarin and Vanja Bašić-Kes, and an internist, Professor Petar Kes, gave their views on the topic.

There was a meeting of the European Association of Young Neurologists and Trainees, where young

neurologists could get information on the opportunities to bust up their career, train abroad and also had a chance to present their work and some interesting case reports.

The Joint meeting of Research Group on Delivery of Neurological Services of World Federation of Neurology, Central and Eastern European Stroke Society, Croatian Society for Neurovascular Disorders and INPC gave an opportunity to acquire additional knowledge about correlations between atrial fibrillation and stroke and the early secondary prevention of stroke in patients with atrial fibrillation through lectures by many reputable lecturers such as Professor D. Russel and others. Since stroke is the second most common cause of death worldwide and also the leading cause of disability, continuous education on stroke prevention, diagnosis and treatment is necessary. Prevention is still the best approach to stroke, so health promotion campaigns focusing on healthy lifestyle, reduction of risk factors such as high blood pressure, cigarette smoking, diabetes mellitus and elevated cholesterol should be conducted. Another joint meeting of the Pula Congress with Alps-Adria Neuroscience Section took place. Neurologists and neurosurgeons from Padua, Klagenfurt, Graz, Tuzla, Rijeka and Zagreb gave their views and experiences on the topic, considering the quality of life in patients with neurodegenerative disorders such as multiple sclerosis, dementia and language disorders as a consequence of cerebrovascular disease.

The ORPHEUS (Organization for PhD Education for Biomedicine and Health Sciences in the European System) workshop had the aim to present their former actions to create ORPHEUS standards for PhD in biomedicine and health sciences. Also, a candidate for PhD presented examples of different PhD standards in different universities and reported his own experience.

And the last but not the least, the social program of the Pula Congress has always been known for its convivial, sociable, warm atmosphere and cultural programs. After the academic lecture, opening of the Congress was enriched with a concert performed by eminent Istrian artists Mila Soldatić and Bruno Krajcar. An Istrian eno-gastronomy evening with selected Istrian wine, olive oil and Istrian cattle meat *boškarin* was the great ending of the second day of the Con-

gress. Gala dinner was held at beautiful seashore, and with nice weather, delicious Croatian food, music, great company and a chance to meet and catch-up with colleagues makes a memory that will last till the next year's meeting at The 52nd International Neuropsychiatric Congress.

Pula Congress covered many important neurologic and psychiatric disorders, and gave valuable contribution to the current knowledge on the prediction, diagnosis and treatment of these widespread conditions. It definitely has an extraordinary position in promoting the interdisciplinary and international collaboration.

Lucija Zadro-Matovina