

22nd Annual Meeting of the Alpe Adria Association of Cardiology

Hotel Admiral, Opatija, Croatia
June 4-7, 2014

Dear colleagues,

The Alpe Adria Cardiology Association celebrates its 22nd anniversary in 2014. Just to remind, the Association was founded as a result of the initiative of a few distinguished cardiologists from the Alpe Adria region, being aware of the common tradition, history and culture, as a motive for a scientific networking among cardiologists within the Alpe Adria region.

Besides, the Alpe Adria Cardiology was also aimed to stimulate young cardiologists and cardiology fellows to present their scientific results and their presentation skills before international peers. Therefore, we were quite happy this year to have an opportunity to select 91 abstracts for the Final Programme. These abstracts, received mostly from younger representatives of the Alpe Adria cardiac community, represent a wide variety of cardiology topics. The best abstracts will be presented as short oral communications, and the others in a form of moderated poster presentations. Finally, the best original contributions will be awarded during the Closing Ceremony of the Congress. Beside a scientific content within this Abstract Book, The Congress will also contain about 40 invited lectures given by the leading names in cardiovascular medicine from the Alpe Adria region and wider.

The Alpe Adria Cardiology annual congresses varied a lot in their attendance, quality of organization and scientific content. However, we keep most of them in our memory as remarkable scientific and social events. Despite the fact that the Alpe Adria Association lives practically only through its annual meetings, those meetings helped many of us to get to know each other, as well as to communicate and collaborate in many other ways and occasions, e.g. by inviting each other to national congresses and other local meetings, collaborating within the ESC, etc. Therefore, each year we

repeatedly conclude that the Alpe Adria Cardiology should be kept alive and be further developed.

Croatia, as one of the founding countries of the Alpe Adria Cardiology Association, organizes the Alpe Adria congress for the fourth time: for the first time it was the 2nd Alpe Adria Cardiology Meeting on Brijuni Islands 1994 (Ivo Čikeš, President), for the second time it was the 9th Alpe Adria Meeting in Cavtat 2001 (Šime Mihatov, President), for the third time it was the 14th Alpe Adria Meeting, again in Cavtat (Davor Miličić, President), and this, 22nd Meeting is being held in Opatija — a pearl of the northern Adriatic and a traditional meeting place of the Croatian Cardiac Society. I feel really pleased and honoured to chair the Alpe Adria Cardiology Congress for the second time, after 8 years, and want to wish a warm welcome to the Founding Fathers of the Association, to the Faculty members, chairmen and invited speakers, to all the presenters and to all participants.

I hope that this Congress will be a strong motive for all of us to creatively continue our collaboration through the Alpe Adria Cardiology Association, as a challenge and an added value for each of our national cardiac societies, for individual cardiologists within the Alpe Adria region, but also as a way how to enrich a broader, European, and even global cardiology context with our experience.

Sincerely yours,



Professor **Davor Miličić**, FESC, FACC
President, 22nd Alpe Adria Cardiology Congress
Councillor, ESC Board
President, Croatian Cardiac Society



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