

8th Croatian Symposium on Vascular Medicine - CROVASCULAR 2023

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On March 3, 2023, the annual Croatian Symposium on Vascular Medicine - CROVASCULAR 2023 was held for the eighth consecutive year in Zagreb, at the National Home Palace of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

The symposium was organised by the Department of Medical Sciences of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, the Sestre Milosrdnice University Hospital Centre Zagreb and the Croatian Cardiac Society.

This symposium traditionally gathers numerous experts in the field of vascular medicine to popularize angiology and raise awareness about the prevention and treatment of vascular diseases. The motto of the meeting was “holistic approach to the vascular patient”, and thus renowned cardiologists/vascular medicine specialists, interventional radiologists and vascular surgeons participated and contributed to interesting discussions after each session.

In his opening speech, the chairman of the Organising committee and head of the Department of Vascular Diseases and Arterial Hypertension at the Sestre Milosrdnice University Hospital Centre Zagreb, prof. Mislav Vrsalović, spoke. Prof. Mislav Vrsalović emphasised the importance of early detection and treatment of patients with polyvascular diseases, not only for improving the life quality of patients, but also for reducing cardiovascular morbidity and mortality. He stressed the importance of such meetings, where paradigms from current guidelines are eagerly discussed and included in everyday clinical practice. It is noteworthy that the first Croatian Prospective Peripheral Artery Disease Registry (CRO-PAD) was established at the Sestre Milosrdnice University Hospital Centre in 2010-8. The purpose of this single-centre prospective database was to assess risk factors, prognosticators, cardiovascular and limb events, as well as to develop therapies and improve patients' healthcare and disease outcomes.



Figure 1. Dr Bjorn Dario Franjić, prof. Vinko Vidjak, acad. Zvonko Kusić, acad. Vida Demarin, acad. Davor Miličić, prof. Diana Delić-Brkljačić, prof. Mislav Vrsalović, prof. Aleš Blinc, prof. Davor Vagić, prof. Miljenko Kovačević, prof. Ljiljana Banfić, prof. Goran Krstaić (from left to right) in the Revival Hall, National Home Palace of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts (Zagreb) during 8th Croatian Symposium on Vascular Medicine - CROVASCULAR 2023.

Acad. Vida Demarin opened the meeting on behalf of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts and expressed her satisfaction with the great interest in the Croatian Vascular Symposium and in vascular medicine in general. The president of the Croatian Cardiac Society, acad. Davor Miličić noted in his welcome speech that significant progress has been made in the detection and treatment of peripheral vascular diseases in recent years. Prof. Davor Vagić, director of the Sestre Milosrdnice University Hospital Centre, highlighted the hospital's long tradition in vascular medicine in his welcoming speech. He was also pleased that in 2022 the Sestre Milosrdnice University Hospital Centre was appointed as the Referral centre for peripheral and polyvascular artery disease of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Croatia.

The symposium sessions covered almost the entire spectrum of vascular medicine: prevention, diagnosis and treatment of peripheral arterial diseases, new findings in the field of venous thromboembolism, interventional and surgical treatment of the aorta, peripheral arteries and veins. The lecturers and moderators were eminent cardiologists, angiologists, vascular surgeons and interventional radiologists, from medical schools in Zagreb, Split, Rijeka, Osijek and Ljubljana.

The state-of-the-art lecture was given by prof. Aleš Blinc from the University Clinical Centre in Ljubljana, entitled "Thalidomide use in refractory arteriovenous fistulas". One of the sessions was organized in collaboration with the Croatian Society for Vascular Surgery and included the topics on aortic diseases. In addition, data on the epidemiology of vascular diseases in Croatia was presented to the Croatian cardiovascular community for the first time.

The last session was dedicated to challenging clinical scenarios and diagnostic and therapeutic dilemmas in the field of peripheral arterial and venous diseases.

In conclusion, prof. Vrsalović summarised the the most important findings and invited all physicians interested in vascular medicine to participate in the 9th Croatian Symposium on Vascular Medicine - CROVASCULAR 2024.

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Figure 2. Croatian Symposia on Vascular Medicine - CROVASCULAR 2015-2023.