

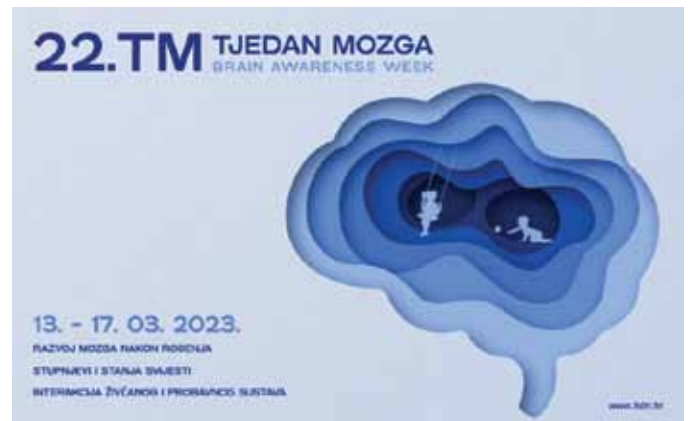
Brain Awareness Week 2023 - Symposium “Neurobiology, ontogenesis, and evolution of consciousness and self-consciousness in humans”

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The 22nd Brain Awareness Week in Croatia organized by the Croatian Institute for Brain Research and Croatian Neuroscience Society was held from March 13th to 17th. The main topics this year were postnatal brain development, levels of consciousness, and brain-gut interaction. As part of Brain Awareness Week, a mini-symposium “Neurobiology, ontogenesis, and evolution of consciousness and self-consciousness in humans” was organized by the Department of Medical Sciences of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Art, Croatian Neuroscience Society, Croatian Institute for Brain Research, Centre of Excellence - “Centre for basic, clinical and translational neuroscience”, and International Institute for Brain Health. The exact biological basis of consciousness and especially self-consciousness has not been resolved, so many interesting lectures helped us understand this topic better. Several invited speakers from Croatia participated in the symposium - Academician Ivica Kostović (introductory lecture “Developmental neurobiology of the emergence of consciousness and self-consciousness in humans”); professor Miloš Judaš, president of the Croatian Neuroscience Society (“The evolution of consciousness in the light of Damasio’s theory”); Professor Darko Chudy and Dr. Marina Raguz (“DBS in disorders of consciousness”); Professor Miro Jakovljević (“Self-awareness, self and empathy in normal and abnormal mind”); Professor Marko Radoš and Professor Milan Radoš (“Functional MRI as an indicator of brain areas involved in the biology of the self”). Professor Neven Henigsberg gave us a lecture on a popular topic: artificial intelligence (“What



are the limits of the artificial?”). “Disorders of consciousness in daily practice” was a very interesting clinical lecture held by Dr. Hrvoje Budinčević and Academician Vida Demarin. Professor Ante Sekulić gave us a lecture on an intriguing topic named “Biological basis of general anesthesia” and the lecture “Consciousness and memory” was held by Professor Goran Šimić and Professor Mario Vukšić. All lectures gave us an insight into the complex and intriguing topic of the neurobiology of consciousness and self-consciousness but also left many open questions for further research.

