

THE CHAIR OF DERMATOVENEREOLOGY AT ZAGREB SCHOOL OF MEDICINE UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB (1921 – 2006)

On the occasion of the 85th anniversary of its foundation, dermatovenerology as a teaching discipline in Zagreb was celebrated on November 17, 2006 at University Department of Dermatology and Venereology, Zagreb University Hospital Center and School of Medicine, organized by the Chair of Dermatology and Venereology, Zagreb School of Medicine. The event gathered renowned experts, led by Professor Nada Čikeš, Dean of the School of Medicine; Academician Željko Reiner, Director of the Zagreb University Hospital Center and president of the Academy of Medical Sciences of Croatia; Professor Aleksej Kansky, past president of the Chair of Dermatovenerology (1980-1990); Professor Vladimira Barišić-Druško, actual president of the Chair of Dermatovenerology, Osijek School of Medicine; Academician Dragan Dekaris from Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts; and many prominent medical and pharmaceutical experts.

The 85-year academic development of the Chair of Dermatology and Venereology at Zagreb

School of Medicine was presented by Professor Jasna Lipozenčić, actual head of the Chair. She emphasized enthusiastic efforts of prominent experts from the Zagreb School of Medicine hospital department who were involved in the development of academic Croatian dermatovenerology over time (Mašek, Šavnik, Kogoj, Čajkovac, Bošnjaković, Krajina, Brnobić, Kansky, Dobrić and Lipozenčić), that have resulted in the currently well recognized quality of dermatology and venereology science and practice in modern Croatian medicine.

Professor Dobrić evoked the famous description of the spongiform pustule of Kogoj from 1927, an eponym named after him and distinguished from other pustular diseases.

Dermatology and Venereology have been recognized as a teaching discipline, and the respective Chair has established its authority through 85 years of work and endeavors of many internationally renowned experts.

Prof. Jasna Lipozenčić, MD, PhD

FIFTEENTH EADV CONGRESS ON THE ISLAND OF HISTORY

This year's EADV Congress venue Rhodes (October 3-8, 2006) welcomed nearly 6500 attendees. It is near the homeland of Hippocrates (the island of Kos), the "father of medicine" and Hellenistic philosopher who has bequeathed some terms to dermatology, e.g., "alopecia" and "exanthema" as well as standard therapy for many centuries. The scientific program of the 15th EADV Congress was based on the pathophysiological mechanisms of skin diseases, as Hippocrates pleaded for understanding the suffering patient and his disease.

As Professor Johannes Ring, past President of EADV said, EADV has put special emphasis on the high level of postgraduate education. So, there were combined scientific sessions with young researchers presenting original data in the form of poster or free communication, with courses and symposia devoted to education. Dermatologists in private practice benefited from the scientific program with due accounts of novel treatments, recipes, instruments and techniques to use them upon return to their office. What was special at the Rhodes EADV Congress? Promising future: new techniques in molecular biology as well as new diagnostic/therapeutic tools in dermatology, such as polymerase chain reaction, protein and DNA microarrays, antibody based therapies; protein microarrays can be used for profiling of IgE antibodies in the diagnosis of type-1 related allergic diseases; DNA-based methods to investigate the genetic background of different dermatoses (e.g., in basal cell carcinoma, Darier's disease, different hair and nail disorders); there has been an exciting increase in the knowledge of the central role of the immune system in the pathogenesis of psoriasis; more specific, immunologically directed therapeutic strategies (biologicals) for psoriasis treatment have been developed (infliximab, etanercept, efalizumab); nucleic acid based molecular



techniques have been introduced in the diagnosis of cancer as well; many studies have assessed the presence of tyrosinase mRNA by reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) in peripheral blood from melanoma patients as a specific marker for circulating melanoma cells; infectious diseases represent an important health problem, especially because of the growing resistance to the antibiotic treatment and photodynamic therapy could be a viable alternative for skin infections (ALA plus visible light against yeasts and dermatophytes); treatment options of AIDS Kaposi's sarcoma are increasing (antiretroviral therapy HAART), liposomal doxorubicin (20 mg/m² every 2-3 weeks), paclitaxel (100 mg/m² every two weeks), and irinotecan, matrix metalloproteinase inhibitor (e.g., COL-3), herpesvirus G protein coupled receptor as a new therapeutic target for the treatment of Kaposi's sarcoma; revisited and reclassified specific dermatoses of pregnancy (pemphigoid gestation (PG), polymorphic eruption of pregnancy (PEP), intrahepatic cholestasis of pregnancy (ICP), atopic eruption of pregnancy (AEP)); there is much evidence suggesting that the epidemic of atopic dermatitis has stopped in parts of the western world; teleconsulting is relatively new in dermatology (videoconferences and store-

and-forward-systems and images sent by e-mail or shared on a web-hosed system), but teledermatology is changing the way of health service delivery and teleconsulting by specialized centers will be soon the gold standard of medical care; diagnostic and therapeutic procedures in leukocytoclastic vasculitis (LcV), (immune-complex-mediated LcV (corticosteroids, colchicin as a first line therapy in chronic or relapsing LcV and dapsone as a second line therapy).

As Professor Ring said: "Dermatovenerology faces presently a variety of challenges. The most actual themes of interest are skin cancer/oncology, allergy and environmental hazards, infectious disease and "new venerology", genetic dermatoses and skin hygiene with prevention of loss of skin functions including aesthetic dermatology, general dermatology with autoimmune and inflammatory disease (like psoriasis), always stays in the centre of our endeavours".

During his two-year presidency, EADV achieved many things: new statutes, clear finan-

cial structure, the Academy moved to Switzerland, the EADV Board introduced new Task Forces on various and diverse areas of dermatovenerology, witnessed outstanding congresses like last year in London and two Spring Symposia in Sophia and in Saariselkä, and looking forward to the next big congress in Vienna (2007) and Spring Symposium in Istanbul (2008), had strong alliance with sister European societies of ESDR, EDF and UEMS in an European liaison committee, layer partnership with ILDS and special welcoming the newly designated board members from countries of Eastern Europe (12 members, among them Prof. Lipozenčić from Croatia).

Professor Andreas Katsambas, President of the 15th EADV Congress, made great effort for full success of the Congress, which it really proved to be. As the new EADV President, he will steer EADV successfully into the future.

Prof. Jasna Lipozenčić, MD, PhD

Kod zimskog sporta

NIVEA-CREME
ili
ULJE

Pred nastupom izleta natarite temeljito sva mesta lica, koja su izložena svijetlu i zraku sa Nivea-cremom ili Nivea-uljem i ponovite to prema potrebi na putu. Time smanjujete pođibao opekline sunca i ledenjaka, a ne treba se bojati, da će Vam se koža osušiti. Nivea-creme i Nivea-ulje davaju Vam osim toga onu prekrasnu brončanu kožnu boju, s kojom se rado vraćate kući sa zimskog sporta. Samo Nivea-creme ili Nivea-ulje sadržavaju u sebi eucerit prikladan i nježan za kožu i na tome -e temelji njihovo jedinstveno djelovanje.

and P. Beaudel & Co. d.o.o. Maribor

By winter sport use Nivea cream or oil; year 1935.
(from the collection of Mr. Zlatko Puntijar)

HORMONAL INFLUENCE IN CHRONIC IDIOPATHIC URTICARIA

The management of chronic idiopathic urticaria (CIU) is very difficult. Decreased serum dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA) and its sulfate derivative DHEA-S have been suggested to be important and involved in immune and inflammatory responses (1-3). We do not know whether lower serum concentration of DHEA-S observed in CIU but not in healthy individuals is the cause or the effect of urticarial processes. It has been suggested that during inflammatory response, the adrenal steroid production is changed in the direction of cortisol relative to DHEA and DHEA-S (1,4). DHEA-S deficiency is a feature of some autoimmune diseases that is also observed in CIU patients. Adrenal androgens have been reported to exert immunoregulatory effects. As for now, we can only speculate about the role of DHEA-S deficiency in urticarial inflammation as a primary or secondary event in CIU.

References

1. Kasperska-Zajac A, Brzoza Z, Rogala B. Lower serum concentration of dehydroepiandrosterone sulphate in patients suffering from chronic idiopathic urticaria. *Allergy* 2006;61(12):1489-90.
2. Daynes RA, Araneo BA, Dowell TA, Huang K, Dudley D. Regulation of murine lymphokine production in vivo. II. Dehydroepiandrosterone is a natural enhancer of interleukin 2 synthesis by helper T cells. *Eur J Immunol* 1990;20(4):793-802.
3. Dillon JS. Dehydroepiandrosterone, dehydroepiandrosterone sulfate and related steroids: their role in inflammatory, allergic and immunological disorders. *Curr Drug Targets Inflamm Allergy* 2005;4:377-85.
4. Schwartz KE. Autoimmunity, dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA), and stress. *J Adolesc Health* 2002;30S:37-43.

Prof. Jasna Lipozenčić, MD, PhD

ACTIVITY OF THE SUPPORTIVE INITIATIVE FOR THE GLOBAL MANAGEMENT OF ALLERGY Madrid, November 18, 2006

The incidence of allergy has been increasing on our continent. One of four persons has or will have an allergic reaction. Nowadays, it is necessary to fight against environment, to pay due attention to social, occupational and family environment through training specialists and general practitioners, educating patients by providing them with practical information on allergy, and to cope with hostile environment in order to upgrade the quality of life. The Supportive Initiative for the Global Management of Allergy (SIGMA) under the UCB Institute of Allergy (IOA) as an independent European nonprofit organization established in 1987 to combat allergy under the supervision of Scientific Advisory Board made up of eminent European specialists in the field of allergy, is active in various directions. SIGMA Meeting in Madrid was held on November 18, 2006, with experts in the field of scientific research in allergy as lecturers, who

held very interesting presentations: Are allergies today a global epidemic? (Adnan Čustović); Urticaria guidelines: reality and practicality (Alexander Kapp); and The links between rhinitis and asthma (Pascal Demoly). There were workshops by countries, held by Todor Popov and presentations by country chairmen on their local action plans (Neven Tudorić from Croatia). The Croatian group (five specialists) took an active part in the meeting and proposed to organize five workshops in 2007 in collaboration with IOA as well as conferences, to issue publications about allergy, and to promote research in the field of allergy. The Croatian IOA member group look forward to undertake activities within the SIGMA project in the future.

Prof. Jasna Lipozenčić, MD, PhD