

Harmony in Dermatology and Venereology – Successfully Approached

On behalf of the Local Organizing and Scientific Committees, it is my pleasure and honor to thank all the attendees of the 7th EADV Spring Symposium that was held in Cavtat, Croatia, May 13-16, 2010. The 7th EADV Spring Symposium gathered dermatologists and venereologists from all parts of Europe and the world. Therefore, Croatia was proud to host this major EADV event for the first time on our home soil. There were attendees from 78 countries from all continents. The logo of the 7th EADV Spring Symposium was 'Harmony in Dermatology & Venereology', inspired by the need of co-existence of the fields of skin and venereal diseases. The Symposium had a rich scientific program emphasizing the profound and complex influence of skin health on all aspects of human life. The topics of prevention and management of skin diseases offered an opportunity to physicians and scientists to meet and share the perspective of dermatology and venereology. In addition to the scientific program, about 1800 attendees visited Dubrovnik surroundings, lovely in spring, and also some other places offering various possibilities to spend memorable days and to learn about the rich cultural heritage, tumultuous history of the region at the crossroad of civilizations, and Croatia's splendid natural landscapes.

Most people have heard of Dubrovnik, the crown jewel of the Adriatic, but to discover Cavtat across the bay is like being told a precious secret. Situated on a peninsula wrapping around this bay is Hotel Croatia, consistently ranked as the top five-star resort on the Croatian coast.

As is with any good secret, the truth is hidden at first glance. Approaching Hotel Croatia, the venue of the 7th EADV Spring Symposium, you may not realize what lies beneath the trees it has been built amongst, as this top resort has been constructed to blend into its natural surroundings, not to be im-

posing on the eyes or to hinder your relaxation in one of the most beautiful places on the Earth.

The town of Cavtat was once an ancient Greek settlement and birth town of Vlaho Bukovac, a famous Croatian painter. Today, it is a quaint fishing village that mixes restaurants, cafes and shops for tourists in a comfortable way. For those wishing to visit the much-heralded walled city of Dubrovnik (visible across the bay), though without always competing with the crowds that descend each season, it is just a short drive, or, perhaps even more pleasant, boat ride away. The Hotel Croatia makes the perfect starting point for discovering the southern Croatian-Dalmatian coast, and from the international airport just five kilometers away (even closer to Cavtat than Dubrovnik).

Dubrovnik, a magnificent city from the UNESCO List of Cultural Heritage, has amused attendees with its almost two kilometers in length, Dubrovnik city walls that are among the best preserved and most attractive on this planet, and a walk along them is an absolute must. The defenses were built between the 8th and 16th century. The walls were strengthened by myriad towers and bastions, and were never breached – the Republic of Dubrovnik only fell after Napoleon's armies were invited in on condition that they would respect its independence. History meets in Dubrovnik from the antique Greek-Roman period to the dynamic Mediterranean atmosphere nowadays. Bernard Shaw once said: 'Those who seek paradise on Earth should come to see Dubrovnik!' We also point out that Cavtat (antique Epidaurus) is the world-renown 'Pearl of the Mediterranean', situated in Dalmatia, the southern region of Croatia, on the famous Adriatic Sea, internationally renowned for the breathtaking sceneries of its beautiful coast, thousands of islands and peninsulas overwhelmed with rich and unique vegetation.

This 7th Spring Symposium brought together a rich scientific program on the prevention and management of skin and venereal diseases. The highlights of the scientific program were introduced by the opening lectures by Professor Amir Muzur, entitled 'Milestones in the History of Croatian Dermatology and Venereology' and Professor Stephan Beissert entitled 'Nowadays and Future of Dermatovenerological Research'. At Plenary Session, the world and European distinguished experts offered their considerations on the topics: Professor Johannes Ring: 'Allergy, Environment and the Skin'; Professor Christopher Griffiths: 'Brain Skin Interactions'; Professor Georg Stingl: 'Immunotherapy for Skin Diseases in the Molecular Era'; Professor Gregor Jemec: 'Novel Imaging Techniques for Diagnosis of Skin Disorders'; Professor Jean-Hilaire Saurat: 'Exogenous Acne Revisited'; Professor Keith Radcliffe: 'STIs in Europe: Progress, Challenges and Opportunities'; Professor Rudolf Happle: 'What's New in Clinical Dermatology'; Professor Erwin Tschachler: 'What's New in Venereology'; and Professor Peter Steijlen: 'What's New in Pediatric Dermatology'. The important topics were: Update on Melanoma Management; Skin Conditions and Endocrinology; Psoriasis; Syphilis – the Resurgence of an old

Problem; Pearls in Dermatological Surgery; Novel Drugs and Adverse Reactions in Dermatovenerology; Botulinum Toxin: Use and Misuse; Practical Considerations in Cutaneous Lymphomas; Hair and Nail Diseases; Skin Diseases in the Mediterranean; Bullous Diseases Revisited; Approaches to Wound Healing and Leg Vein Treatment; Management of Chronic Urticaria; Vitiligo; What's New in Phototherapy; Atopic Dermatitis; Sexually Transmitted Infections; Office-Based Cryotherapy; Dermatoses in the Genital Area; Biologicals in Psoriasis; HIV Infection in Dermatology; Psyche and the Skin; Laser Therapy; and Facial Rejuvenations. Dermatovenerological problems were tackled in the President's Symposium; 4 Case Report Sessions; Poster Forum; 7 Focus Sessions; 4 Forum Sessions; 12 Workshops; 12 Symposia; What's New Session; and 7 Satellite Symposia. Harmony in Dermatology and Venereology was successfully approached at the 7th EADV Spring Symposium in Cavtat.

Croatian dermatovenerologists hosted EADV Symposium successfully and with great pleasure, hoping that all participants found the scientific program useful and their stay in Croatia a pleasant experience.

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