

News from 5th Italian-Croatian Symposium on Psoriasis

**Hotel Savoia, Trieste, Italy,
November 19, 2010**

The 5th Italian-Croatian Symposium on Psoriasis was a successful, traditional biannual meeting organized by Professors Giusto Trevisan and Jasna Lipozenčić in Hotel Savoia in Trieste, on November 19, 2010, attended by sixty participants. This 5th Symposium was focused on the etiopathogenesis, genetics and clinic of psoriasis, and in particular on psoriasis in pediatric patients, current management of psoriasis ranging from naphthalan therapy through systemic therapy to experiences with biologicals.

Key Notes

We have learned about the new important genetic markers in psoriasis and acquired an insight into the precise pathways that control psoriasis. The immunopathogenesis of this Th1 cytokine inflammatory disease and the role of cell cytotoxicity were also pointed out. The coexistence of psoriasis with HPV and of other viral infections with autoimmune bullous skin diseases as well as the association of psoriasis with metabolic syndrome were presented in important lectures from which we have learned much more about psoriasis. Interesting were presentations of ultrasonography and magnetic resonance in the diagnosis of psoriatic arthritis.

The important part of this memorable Symposium was the management of psoriasis, presenting experiences with naphthalan, topical preparations, methotrexate, biologicals, from cyclosporine and efalizumab to infliximab and other systemic therapies for difficult forms of psoriasis. Treatment of demyelinating diseases with biologicals and treatment options for pediatric psoriasis were especially interesting.

After closing remarks, there was meeting of the Psoriasis Scientific Board, at which co-opted new members were co-opted in the Italian-Croatian/Croatian-Italian Board: Paolo Gisondi (Verona), Carlo Boni-



Figure 1. Presidents of the Symposium - Professors Lipozenčić and Trevisan



Figure 2. Attendees of the Symposium listening to the lectures

fati (Rome), Larisa Prpić-Massari (Rijeka), and Gordana Krnjević-Pezić (Ivančić Grad).

We decided that a report on the successfully organized 5th Italian-Croatian Symposium on Psoriasis will be written by Jasna Lipozenčić and Giusto Trevisan for *Acta Dermatovenerologica Croatica*, by Romana Čeović for the Newsletter on Psoriasis, and by Dr. Franco Kokelj for the Italian journal. It was concluded our Society of Psoriasis could be named Italian-Croatian/Croatian-Italian Task Force for Psoriasis. Professor Lipozenčić will inform Professor Dubertret on the in-

clusion in EUROPSO as a legal and accepted part of the European Society of Psoriasis.

The next, 6th Croatian-Italian Symposium on Psoriasis will take place in Croatia, November 2012, in Zagreb or Rijeka. After Board Meeting, Professor Trevisan had arranged wonderful dinner for all participants.

On November 20, 2010, the Symposio sulla Psoriasi delle Schole delle Venezie was organized by Professor Trevisan and Pasquale Patrone, where experiences with ustekinumab, etanercept, adalimumab were presented and illustrated by case reports.

Professor Giusto Trevisan
Professor Jasna Lipozenčić

Lawrence Charles Parish MD, MD (Hon) Serves as Alpha Omega Alpha National Honor Society Visiting Professor at New Jersey Medical School

A return to New Jersey Medical School almost one quarter century after serving as the first Marcus T. Block MD Memorial Visiting Professor of Dermatology in 1987 was delightfully documented when Prof. Parish stepped off the train from Philadelphia in Newark, where he was met by AOA Secretary-Treasurer W. Clark Lambert, to serve as Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Visiting Professor for its New Jersey Medical School chapter.

Prof. Parish had an excellent lunch as guest of Dean Robert L. Johnson in the Dean's Conference Room along with AOA Member and Vice Dean Maria Soto-Greene and a delegation of medical students, house officer members, and faculty members. Later, Prof. Parish delivered Dermatology Grand Rounds entitled "Evidence based care of decubitus ulcers" followed by another one-hour presentation for the general medical school community entitled "Global Medicine: from the Amazon to the Nile". He interacted with AOA student inductee Zain Husain, who matched in dermatology at the Washington Medical Center and AOA Vice President, Laju M. Patel, who will be remaining at NJMS for dermatology, plus AOA junior inductees who include pre-dermatology medical students Osamah Choudhry and Patrick Henry McDonough. Dermatology residents Sean C. McElligott, Neil Sandhu, Aaron J. Morgan, Ani L. Tajirian and additional pre-dermatology students James S. Rankin, Bobby Reddy and Cindy Wafee were introduced to Prof. Parish too.

The Spring Induction Dinner followed at an elegant family-owned Portuguese restaurant in Newark's renowned Ironbound Section. The chapter inducted 15 juniors, 22 new seniors, two house officers, one faculty member and one alumnus. Vice President Laju M. Patel administered the AOA Oath, with chapter president Amit Sharma – who matched in dermatology at Harvard – sending his regards from the Department of Dermatology at the All India Institute



Figure 1. AOA Visiting Professor Lawrence Charles Parish MD, MD (Hon) being honored by AOA Chapter Vice President Laju M. Patel and Councillor Robert A. Schwartz MD, MPH (left to right).

of Medical Sciences in New Delhi. Vice Dean Maria Soto-Greene extolled the virtues of voluntary faculty in honoring Mario R. Capiro with the AOA Voluntary Faculty Recognition Award. The keynote address, introduced by W. Clark Lambert, was delivered by AOA Visiting Professor Lawrence Charles Parish, MD, MD (Hon), who enchanted the audience with a history of enhancers of female beauty. Chapter Councillor Robert A. Schwartz introduced alumnus inductee Marinos A. Petratos, Charter Class of 1960, a pioneer in aesthetic medicine who still practices in both Manhattan and Athens, Greece, and prides himself on assisting deserving Americans of Greek lineage with scholarships he initiated as president of the Hellenic Medical Society of New York. He urged those in attendance to recall the school's proud history as the Seton Hall College of Medicine, the medical school of a great university itself then one hundred years old when he and the medical school began in 1956. Professors Parish and Petratos both did their internship at Philadelphia General Hospital a few years apart and reminisced about knowing each other for fifty



Figure 2. Chapter Secretary-Treasurer W. Clark Lambert MD, PhD, AOA Visiting Professor Parish, and Chapter Councillor Robert A. Schwartz MD, MPH (left to right).

years amid the changes in dermatology within the past half century! All in all, it was a great day and a memorable occasion.

Professor Robert A. Schwartz
Professor Clark Lambert

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(from the collection of Mr. Zlatko Puntijar)