

NEWS

52nd International Neuropsychiatric Pula Congress (INPC)

The 52nd International Neuropsychiatric Pula Congress (INPC) was held on June 20-23, 2012 under the auspices of the Croatian president Prof. Ivo Josipović. The Congress was traditionally held in Verudela Hotels Brioni and Histria, organized by the Kuratorium International Neuropsychiatric Pula Congress, Sestre milosnice University Hospital Center, Zagreb, and for the first time this year Department of Medical Sciences of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts. The main sponsors of the Congress were the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia, the City of Graz, the City of Zagreb and Istria County. This year's Congress was attended by more than 350 participants from Croatia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Czech Republic, Italy, Hungary, Macedonia, Germany, Poland, Romania, Russia, the United States, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and Great Britain.

The main topics of this year's conference were: Recent achievements in restorative neurology and New advances in psychopathology – the interaction of biological and psychological factors, while the joint meeting of the International Neuropsychiatric Pula Congress in the Neuroscience Alps-Adria Section was dedicated to discussions about different therapeutic procedures. Besides the main topic, numerous symposia were also held during this year's Congress: round table and workshops in collaboration with the Central and Eastern European Stroke Society (CEESS), World Federation of Neurology, Research Group on Delivery of Neurological Services (WFRG ODNs) and Croatian branch of the Italian Cochrane Centre (CBICC) on the topic: Introduction to the Cochrane systematic review and application of evidence-based medicine in everyday practice, the meeting of the

European society of young neurologists and residents (European Association of Young Neurologists and Trainees, EAYNT), European Summer School of Psychopathology in Pula, the 5th Pula International Symposium on Epilepsy, the Neurootological Course on Vertigo, the European standards for doctoral studies in the field of neurology, a symposium on forensic psychiatry, the German symposium on the ongoing training in neuropsychiatry (Deutschsprachiges Neuropsychiatrisches Fortbildungs Symposium), a symposium on the quality of life of psychiatric patients, a symposium on connecting providers in neurorehabilitation, a symposium on the role and experiences of nurses in the care of patients with incontinence, a symposium on deep brain stimulation, interactive school about headache, and a symposium on palliative care.

On Wednesday evening, a traditional academic lecture was given by Professor Michael Chopp from the U.S. under the title: News in neuroplasticity. In his extremely informative and interesting lecture, Prof. Chopp presented the latest findings on neuroplasticity of the brain, neuronal regeneration and ways to make such findings usable as soon as possible in everyday clinical practice.

On Thursday, June 21, at the Congress opening ceremony, representatives of the Istria County, Pula, Pula General Hospital, County branch of the Croatian Medical Association and Croatian Medical Association held their welcome speeches, followed by the participants and guests addressing Professor Boško Barac, the longtime organizer of the conference and present Honorary President of the Organizing Committee (Kuratorium INPC). Academician Vida Demarin, President of the Organizing Committee (Kuratorium INPC), sincerely welcomed all participants, guests and sponsors of the event and wished them successful work of the Congress and pleasant stay in Pula.

During the Congress, poster sessions were held as well. A poster entitled "A near infrared spectroscopy-based study to evaluate muscle metabolism in multiple sclerosis" by Anna Maria Malagoni, Mico Lamberti, Michele Felisatti, Paolo Zamboni and Gabi Manfredini from the University of Ferrara, Ferrara, Italy, was elected the best poster in neurology, and a poster entitled "False-positive urine drug screen methadone in patients treated with quetiapine" by Damir Lasić, Boran Uglešić, Marja Žuljan Cvitanović, Daniela Šuš Domić and Lovre Uglešić from the Split University Hospital Center, Split, Croatia the best poster in psychiatry. The authors of the best posters will receive the award and cash prize for the best poster from the City of Graz in the amount of 500 € each.

Particularly interesting was the last day of the conference, Saturday, June 23, when various diagnostic and therapeutic procedures in the field of major neurologic and psychiatric diseases were discussed during the INPC and Neuroscience Alps-Adria Section joint meeting. Discussions were accompanied by extensive and fertile, and occasionally heated discussions, and

participants expressed their wish that similar discussions on the issues and dilemmas in the diagnosis and treatment of neurological and psychiatric diseases be organized in the forthcoming years.

After the debates ended, Vida Demarin thanked all the speakers, participants and sponsors, declared best posters and invited everyone to come to the 53rd International Neuropsychiatric Pula Congress, which will be held at the Brioni Histria Verudela, June 19-22, 2013.

This year's International Neuropsychiatric Pula Congress once again has proved that there is the need and interest to organize such conferences where multidisciplinary approaches to a number of interesting topics in the field of neurology and psychiatry are tackled and where, during more than half a century, the continuity of meetings that have become known as "The Pula School of Science and Humanism" has been maintained, as often emphasized by prominent speakers, honored guests and participants of the oldest international conferences in the field of neurology, psychiatry and neuropsychiatry.

Zlatko Trkanjec

23rd Summer Stroke School – Healthy Lifestyle and Prevention of Stroke

On June 4-8, 2012, our gorgeous City of Dubrovnik was the host of the 23rd Summer Stroke School with international participation. For the first time, the Summer School was held under the auspices of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts. The usual and proud auspices are the Inter-University Centre Dubrovnik, Croatian Stroke Society, Zagreb University School of Medicine, Central and Eastern European Stroke Society and Research Group on Delivery of Neurological Services (RGODNS) of the World Federation of Neurology (WFN).

Course directors: Vida Demarin, Fellow of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts (Zagreb, Croatia), Professor Roman Haberl (Munich, Germany), Professor Kurt Niederkorn (Graz, Austria), Professor Tanja Rundek (Miami, USA), and Professor Zlatko Trkanjec (Zagreb, Croatia) have shown once more that Croatia is one of the Europe's centers of knowledge. The Course gathered many experts from all around the

world to unselfishly share their clinical and personal experience and knowledge with the Course participants.

The aim of the Course was once again to support cooperation and promote exchange of knowledge and experience among participants from different countries. This meeting shed new light on the epidemiology of stroke, its primary and secondary prevention, diagnostics, therapy and rehabilitation. All participants had a unique opportunity to share their national stroke data and discuss specific stroke problems of their country. Countries of the East and West Europe had an opportunity to work together on solving the problems related to stroke, whether they were medical, economic, or of some other nature.

The diverse scientific program embraced different aspects of stroke, from the importance of spreading knowledge about stroke, a mirror neuron discussion, new risk factors of stroke, stroke importance in public health system, prehospital stroke protocols, unstable carotid plaque, emboli detection by transcranial Doppler, sex differences in stroke, importance of venous cir-

ulation, cerebral vasoreactivity in insulin independent diabetes mellitus, advances in ultrasound diagnostics, the role of mitochondrial medicine in cerebrovascular diseases, vascular dementia and importance of transient ischemic attack.

We also had a science day! Wednesday was the day of paper writing. We learned how to write, read and publish a paper through a step-by-step discussion of our own reports.

All the hard work was awarded by the rich social program in the evenings. A lecture on the importance of Mediterranean diet by Vida Demarin, Fellow of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, served as an introduction to a delightful dinner in the heart of Dubrovnik. We also visited Captain Stjepko's atelier and enjoyed local arts. To wrap it up, we had a Gala Dinner. Altogether, I believe to be speaking for all of us – we already look forward to the next year's meeting!

Sandra Morović

