

PREFACE

Lung transplantation is one of the greatest achievements in modern medicine. In comparison with transplantation of other solid organs, transplantation of the lung is the most demanding and that was the reason why fully implementation of this procedure was the latest accomplished goal in transplantation medicine. Lung transplantation offers new hope to patients with severe respiratory diseases and significantly improves survival and quality of life. In majority of patients, bilateral lung transplantation is standard procedure, but in some cases, unilateral lung transplantation or lung and heart transplantation is indicated.

The most common indications for lung transplantation are: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, cystic fibrosis and pulmonary arterial hypertension. Lung transplantation has become standard treatment option for end-stage of these diseases in experienced centers. Lung transplantation program in Croatia started in 2003, and full implementation was accomplished in 2011 through co-operation with University Hospital AKH in Vienna.

The intention of *First Croatian Symposium on Lung Transplantation* which was held in November 2014 was to present and emphasize the most important indications and updated status of lung transplantation program in Croatia. As a part of this Symposium state-of-the art lectures regarding indication, pre-evaluation, transplantation surgical procedures, post-transplantation care, immunosuppressive treatment and pulmonary rehabilitation were presented.

Symposium was organized jointly by Department of Medical Sciences of Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts and Croatian Thoracic Society. The chairpersons of the symposium were academician Zvonko Kusić and academician Marko Pećina on behalf of the Academy and professor Walter Klepetko and professor Miroslav Samaržija on the behalf of Croatian Thoracic Society. Speakers in the Symposium were distinguished experts from Croatia, Austria and Slovenia.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee:
Miroslav Samaržija and Marko Jakopović