

NEWS

International Postgraduate Course: 16th Summer Stroke School Healthy Lifestyle and Prevention of Stroke, Dubrovnik, Croatia, May 30 – June 4, 2005

The traditional International Postgraduate Course that has been regularly held at the Interuniversity Center Dubrovnik since 1990 was organized by the Croatian Stroke Society, Croatian Society for Neurovascular Disorders, Croatian Medical Association, Academy of Medical Sciences of Croatia, and School of Medicine, University of Zagreb.

Course directors are: Professor Vida Demarin, University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia; Professor Roman Haberl, University of Munich, Munich, Germany; Professor Kurt Niederkorn, University of Graz, Graz, Austria; Professor Tanja Rundek, Columbia University, New York, NY, USA; and Professor Zlatko Trkanjec, University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia.

This year nearly 40 participants from Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany, and Croatia (from Bjelovar, Dubrovnik, Duga Resa, Karlovac, Labin, Osijek, Slavonski Brod, Vinkovci and Zagreb) attended the Course. The Course traditionally started by Professor Vida Demarin who presented the achievements and activities during the past year, followed by a lecture held by Marina Roje-Bedeković on the history of Dubrovnik medicine and the role of Marin Getaldić in it.

Lectures held during this year's Course were very interesting and educational, ranging from the organization of stroke units and network of stroke units in Austria presented by Professor Michael Brainin, through lectures on the burden of stroke, new classification of TIA and stroke, and new approach in the treatment of intracerebral hemorrhage held by Professor Vida Demarin, to the role of genetic factors in the pathophysiology of stroke held by Professor Zlatko Trkanjec.

The prevalence and characteristics of cerebrovascular disease in patients with diabetes mellitus type 2 were addressed by Professor Dragutin Kadojić, followed by Vlatka Vuletić who gave a lecture on the knowledge of

stroke risk factors and warning signs among adults in Slavonski Brod. Professor Roman Haberl addressed modulation of endothelium function by statins, sartans and dipyridamole.

An especially motivating lecture on vertigo was delivered by Professor Roman Haberl, with presentation of procedures for the diagnosis and treatment of patients with different forms of vertigo. Vascular dementia and the role of cognitive evoked potentials in vascular dementia were addressed by Marina Roje-Bedeković and Ivan Mikula, respectively. After discussing vertigo and vascular dementia, Professor Zlatko Trkanjec gave a lecture on vascular parkinsonism, followed by a lecture by Mislav Budišić on the possibilities of transcranial color coded Doppler system in the early diagnosis of Parkinson's disease.

Training session on thrombolysis held by Professor Roman Haberl included almost every participant in the discussion about indications and contraindications for intravenous thrombolysis. Presentations of interesting stroke cases given by Vlasta Vuković, Smiljana Sunara and Andrijana Bogoje provoked spirited discussion among the participants.

Nikola Barić addressed unilateral posterior inferior cerebellar artery stenosis accompanied by patient presentation. At the end of this year's Course, Professor Vida Demarin held a lecture on the new treatment options for migraine, followed by presentation of Recommendations for Treatment of Primary Headaches, compiled by the Task Force of the Croatian Society for Neurovascular Disorders of the Croatian Medical Association.

Besides interesting lectures, a number of workshops on various aspects of prevention, diagnosis and care of stroke patients were organized during the Course. The workshops enriched the Course events by providing an opportunity for fruitful discussion. The participants took the opportunity to exchange information with renowned experts on the many issues related to stroke.

The Course ended with closing words by Professor Vida Demarin, Director of the Course, who thanked the

participants for having come to Dubrovnik, and expressed her wish and hope for the next gatherings in the years to come. The Course participants were presented their certificates of attendance.

The condensed, rich and multifaceted professional program of the Course was accompanied by social and culture events, providing the participants with pleasant opportunities for friendly and informal gathering in beautiful Dubrovnik.

Zlatko Trkanjec

