

18th December Scientific Symposium “Youth Dermatovenereology - Growth, Growths and Others”

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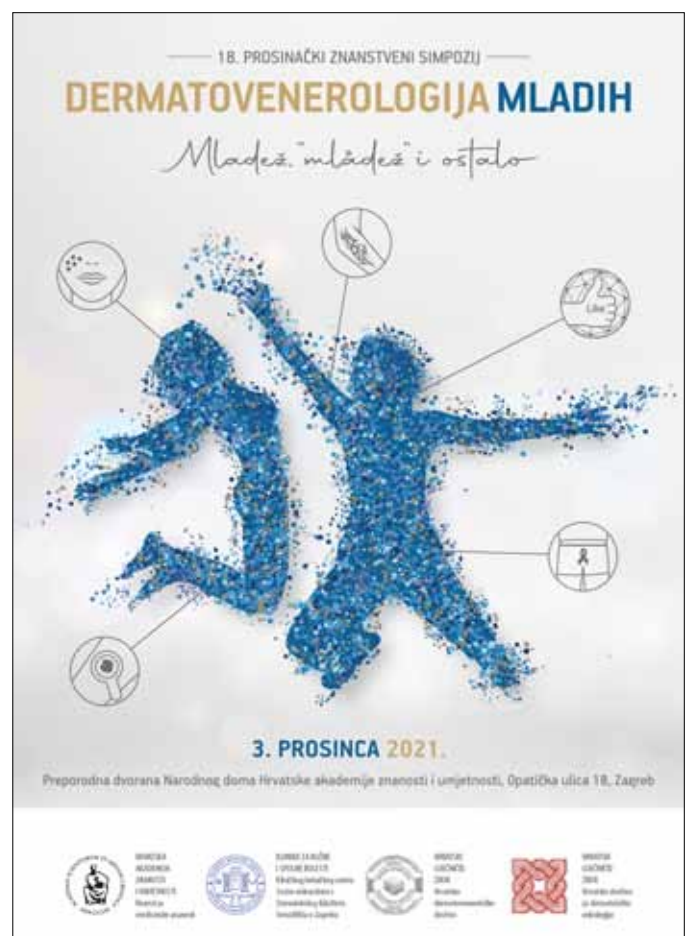
The traditional scientific dermatovenereological Symposium is regularly held on the first Friday in December and therefore called the December Symposium. This year it was held on December 3rd, 2021, for the eighteenth year in a row, and entitled “Youth Dermatovenereology - Growth, Growths and Others”. The Symposium was organized by the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Department of Medical Sciences, Department of Dermatology and Venereology Sestre milosrdnice UHC, Croatian Society of Dermatological Oncology of the Croatian Medical Association and the Croatian Dermatovenereological Society of the Croatian Medical Association. The Symposium was held, as usual, in the historical Revival Stateroom in the National Hall of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts located in Zagreb's old upper town. The participants were welcomed by Academician Mirna Šitum, president of the organizing committee of all eighteen December Symposia, along with Academician Marko Pečina who participated in the organization of all December Symposia as well. The Symposium was opened by Academician Vida Demarin on behalf of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Department of Medical Sciences.

The first session covered various entities from general dermatovenereology of adolescents with a special focus on current therapeutic options. Dr. Iva Dediol gave a lecture on psychological aspects and quality of life of adolescents with various congenital lesions, and Asst. Prof. Ines Sjerobabski Masnec talked about acne and seborrheic dermatitis, the most common skin diseases of adolescence with significant psychosocial impact on young people. Prof. Liborija Lugović Mihić discussed atopic dermatitis, the most common and complex allergic skin disease manifesting in a great number of children and adolescents, while Prim. Vedrana Bulat addressed psoriasis and the specifics of its treatment in adolescence. Prof. Branka Marinović presented a lecture on autoimmune dermatoses and Prof. Michael Skerlev discussed the trending topic of sexually transmitted diseases in adolescents. These topics captured great attention and prompted a very productive discussion by many participants.

The following session addressed dermatological oncology and youth under the title “Growth, growths and more...” (*cro. Mladež, „mladež“, madež...*, alluding to a common linguistic error among the general population when referring to moles). In the Republic of Croatia, the same word is often used for moles and for young people, however with a different accent, which is an incorrect term for nevus. The lecturers of this session were internationally recognized Croatian dermato-oncologists. Asst. Prof. Marija Buljan presented a talk on the genesis of nevi, peculiarities of nevi shape, clinical and

dermatoscopic characteristics in young people, while Academician Mirna Šitum discussed melanoma in childhood and adolescence, a rare dermato-oncological entity, with special reference to cases from the Referral Center for Melanoma of the Ministry of Health. Prim. Sanja Poduje gave a lecture on the clinically and pathohistologically intriguing entities known as Spitzoid lesions, which are often difficult to differentiate from melanoma, and Prof. Larisa Prpić Massari held a lecture on the misconceptions and prejudices of young people towards sun protection as an imperative for the prevention of malignant skin tumors.

The final, incredibly interesting session was entitled “Challenges of Growing Up in the “New Age” of “Generation Z”” from the dermatological aspect. The term “Generation Z” indicates a generation of young people growing up in the era of digital technologies and dependence on social media, earning the nickname “Gen-Tech”. We have chosen several topics specific for this generation from a dermatological aspect. In a dynamic presentation, Prim. Nives Pustišek presented all forms of psychodermatological disorders in young people, while Dr. Maja Kovačević dedicated her



lecture to the current beauty trends in young people. All lectures, except the last one, were given by renowned dermatovenerologists from the Department of Dermatology and Venereology Sestre milosrdnice UHC, Department of Dermatovenerology UHC Zagreb, Department of Dermatology and Venereology UHC Rijeka and Children's Hospital Zagreb. The last, informative lecture on the impact of media and social networks on the perception of health and beauty of the skin in young people was given by Helena Jerković, clinical psychologist from the Department of Dermatology and Venereology Sestre milosrdnice UHC.

This December Symposium, as in all previous years, prompted great interest from dermatologists, oncologists, family physicians and psychologists who actively engaged in lively discussions contributing to the overall success of our traditional Symposium.

