

7th Croatian Symposium on Vascular Medicine - CROVASCULAR 2022

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The 7th Croatian Symposium on Vascular Medicine (CROVASCULAR 2022), after almost two years of anti-COVID-19 measures, took place on March 4th 2022 in a live form. The impressive classicist interior of the Revival Hall, located in the National Home Palace in Zagreb, served again as a perfect venue for leading academic scientist, physicians, residents, medical students and all others interested in angiology to exchange, improve and refresh their knowledge in the field of vascular medicine.

CROVASCULAR, a unique national symposium covering all the clinical aspects and cutting-edge research in the field of angiology (vascular medicine) was introduced in 2015, on the 25th anniversary of the Department of Angiology at *Sestre Milosrdnice* University Hospital Centre, Zagreb, Croatia. It was the place where the vascular team principle was recognized even before it was recommended by international guidelines. Moreover, at the *Sestre Milosrdnice* University Hospital Centre the first Croatian Prospective Peripheral Artery Disease Registry (CRO-PAD) was created in 2010, with the aim

to collect, organize and present data about patients with peripheral vascular diseases¹⁻⁸. The purpose of this single-centre prospective database was to evaluate risk factors, prognosticators, longitudinal outcomes, and therapeutic development in order to improve patients' healthcare and disease outcomes. Accordingly, Referral centre for peripheral and polyvascular artery disease of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Croatia was recently established at *Sestre Milosrdnice* University Hospital Centre.

The president of the Organizing committee and head of the Department for Vascular Diseases, *Sestre Milosrdnice* University Hospital Centre prof. Mislav Vrsalović, in his welcome speech highlighted the importance of early diagnosis and treatment of vascular diseases, not only because of the better quality of life, but also because of potential decrease in total cardiovascular mortality for those patients. In addition, he was pleased with the fact that meeting was organized onsite, after two years of almost exclusively virtual meetings.



Figure. Prof. Ivan Pećin, prof. Kristina Selthofer-Relatić, acad. Vida Demarin, prof. Mislav Vrsalović, acad. Zvonko Kusić, acad. Davor Miličić, prof. Diana Delić-Brkljačić, prof. Davor Vagić, prof. Luka Zaputović, prof. Miljenko Kovačević, prof. Ivo Lovričević, prof. Ljiljana Banfić (standing from left to right) in the Revival Hall, National Home Palace of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts (Zagreb) during 7th Croatian Symposium on Vascular Medicine - CROVASCULAR 2022.

7. znanstveni simpozij „HRVATSKI VASKULARNI DAN“
7th Croatian Symposium on Vascular Medicine

CROVASCULAR 2022

4. ožujka 2022.

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On behalf of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts and Croatian Cardiac Society, in their welcome speech, acad. Vida Demarin and acad. Davor Miličić expressed the joy to meet the colleagues face-to-face again and highlighted the importance of this symposium which is recognized beyond the Croatian borders. Prof. Davor Vagić, director of *Sestre Milosrdnice* University Hospital Centre in his welcome speech highlighted the hospital's long tradition in vascular medicine, dating back in the 1960s.

The four sessions of the symposium provided an excellent forum for gathering experts in the field of angiology and served as a platform for experience exchange, discussion, and debate on the latest advances in prevention, diagnosis and treatment of vascular diseases.

At the very beginning of the conference the state-of-the-art lecture was given by prof. Aleš Blinc from the University Hospital in Ljubljana (Slovenia) entitled “Arteriosclerosis and atherosclerosis of the lower limbs” with the focus on cardiovascular risk associated with both entities.

For the first time, the Croatian Cardiac Society's Young Cardiologists Working Group, actively took part in the symposium. The collaboration resulted in the second session named “Vascular puzzle”. Among experienced speakers, the session gave an opportunity for younger specialists to present some challenging clinical scenarios and cover up-to-date diagnostic and therapeutic approach in line with the current European guidelines. The third session was organized in collaboration with the Croatian Society for Vascular Surgery and included the topics on aortic aneurysms, critical limb ischaemia, together with venous pathologies like endovascular treatment of post-thrombotic syndrome and peculiarities of venous thromboembolism in oncology patients. This session was an excellent example how multidisciplinary approach (vascular team) is nowadays *conditio sine qua non* in optimal management of vascular patients. The last session was dedicated to diabetes and peripheral arterial disease from the family care physicians', diabetologists' and vascular surgeons' perspectives. The result was an interesting and fruitful discussion on different aspects in management of vascular patients either from primary or secondary and tertiary care level.

In the end, prof. Vrsalović summed up the most important take-home messages and invited the physician colleagues and trainees

involved in vascular medicine next year to the 8th Croatian Symposium on Vascular Medicine - CROVASCULAR 2023.

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