Our traditional 32nd Summer Stroke School “Healthy Lifestyle and Prevention of Stroke and Other Brain Impairments” this year had to be organized again as a virtual event.

The Summer Stroke School is a part of academic program of Inter-University Centre Dubrovnik, organized by International Institute for Brain Health and Croatian Stroke Society, and co-organized by Department of Medical Sciences of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Central and Eastern European Stroke Society endorsed by World Federation of Neurology, World Stroke Organization, European Academy of Neurology, and European Stroke Organization. It is accredited with 4 ECTS credits and by Croatian Medical Chamber and Croatian Council of Physiotherapists.

Founder and Course Director is Vida Demarin, who successfully run the school together with Board Directors Roman Haberl, Kurt Niederkorn, and Hrvoje Budinčević. Unfortunately, this year prof. David Russell, a Board Director of our school passed away on April 21st, 2022. Prof. Russell was an expert in the field of neurosonology and stroke, and his contribution to our School was substantial. He shared his knowledge selflessly, and he was always open answering and explaining the neurological topics. He was fully committed to our School and Dubrovnik. He usually has said during our School that every day on our School in Dubrovnik was “just another day in paradise.”

The program of the school is traditionally inspiring and rich with recent knowledge, what was the reason that there were five hundred registered participants from different regions of the world. Live sessions with pre-recorded lectures and live discussion with Q&A sessions were organized each afternoon.

The opening by Vida Demarin included the introduction to 32nd Summer Stroke School and lecture on “Art and Stroke in Females”, Hrvoje Budinčević presented Stroke Action Plan for Europe. Anita Arsovskoa and Željko Živanović presented relationship between Stroke and COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccination. Other brain impairments such as dystonia, Alzheimer’s disease and Multiple Sclerosis were presented by Vladimirina Vulećia, Fran Borovečkia, and Svetlana Tomića respectively. Tuesday started with Marina Boban's lecture about diagnostic and treatment options in frontotemporal dementia. Lucie Esterl-Pfaffl gave a lecture about sleep deprivation and a risk for heart and brain. Dalius Jatuzis presented updates on dyslipidemia, statins and stroke, and diagnosis and treatment of cerebral venous thrombosis. Gordian Hubert presented opportunities and risks from thrombolysis after surgery. Ana Stuka spoke about stroke and epilepsy. Irena Dordeva presented lecture about ischemic stroke in young adults. The day finished with Svetlana Tomic lecture on treatment of advanced Parkinson’s disease.

Wednesday started with two lectures by Senta Frolo regarding treatment of acute stroke patients on DOAC-s, and initiation of DOACs in secondary stroke prevention in elderly. Bojana Žvano shared the experience of mechanical revascularization in Slovenian Telekap Network, Željko Živanović presented mechanical thrombectomy in posterior circulation stroke, and Hrvoje Budinčević presented opportunities of telerhabilitation in stroke. Natan Bornstein gave two lectures about stroke and diabetes, and dual antiplatelet therapy in secondary stroke prevention.

Recent advances in Neurosonology presented on Thursday by Kurt Niederkorn, Fabienne Perren and Hrvoje Budinčević. Prof. Vida Demarin
Ekaterina Titianova, our friend, colleague, supporter and a neurosonology and stroke expert was planned to attend and give lectures on this year School again, but she passed away on January 2nd, 2022. Bojana Žvan and Hrvoje Budinčević presented news in migraine treatment and stroke risk in patients with migraine, respectively. Nikola Barić gave a lecture on Alzheimer’s disease pathophysiology.

Friday started with Sandra Morović’s lecture on sport and brain plasticity, followed by Vida Demarin’s lecture on lifestyle changes and dementia prevention. A special workshop with Munich Neuro Quiz by Roman Haberl was updated and repeated. Roman Haberl prepared stroke article analysis too.

There were two satellite symposia discussing the recent therapeutic possibilities.

During this interesting program, participants were very satisfied with its content and online presentation, but all of us, from newcomers to longstanding lecturers were sad for not being live in Dubrovnik for third consecutive year. We deeply missed its unique atmosphere and sincere hospitality, but we do hope that we will meet there in person next year.