

13th International BMP Conference – Dubrovnik (8th-12th October 2022)

AUTHOR:

SLOBODAN VUKIČEVIĆ

MARKO PEĆINA

The 13th International BMP Conference was held in Dubrovnik from 8th to 12th October 2022. The Conference was organized by Slobodan Vukičević (University of Zagreb School of Medicine) and the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts. The First International BMP Conference was organized by Prof. Hari Reddi in 1994 and was held at John Hopkins University School of Medicine (Baltimore, Maryland, USA). Since its inception, the venue of International BMP Conference has been rotated in three continents (North America, Europe, and Asia). Two BMP Conferences took place in Croatia; first in Cavtat (2006) and now in Dubrovnik (2022) (1).

The Conference program covered all areas in the BMP field with participations of more than 220 scientists from 15 countries. The Conference was attended by world-leading experts in the BMP field who delivered plenary lectures: Peter ten Dijke (Wageningen University, Netherland) presented the Marshall Urist Lecture, Eileen Shore (University of Pennsylvania School of medicine) the Charles Huggins Lecture and Carl-Henrik Heldin (Uppsala University) the EMBO Keynote Lecture. For more details on the novel scientific findings presented at the conference please read the review article in this volume of *Rad CASA on the State-of-the-Art of the BMP field* (2).

In addition to the excellent scientific work, at the 13th BMP Conference, the participants had the opportunity to enjoy several social, cultural, and gastronomic events that completed the experience and enabled informal socializing in a pleasant and fun environment (Figure 1).

Opening the conference on Saturday, October 8, Klapa Kaše from Dubrovnik performed melodies of old Dubrovnik songs. On the beautiful terrace of the “Lacroma” hotel, the conference participants had the opportunity to enjoy and get to know each other at the welcome cocktail evening, with delicious traditional Croatian food and wine.

On Sunday, October 9, the tour of the oldest monument of garden architecture in Croatia, the Arboretum in the small town of Trsteno, 25 km north of Dubrovnik city, owned by the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts has been organized. The sunset from the terrace of a Renaissance summer house with a view of

the Elaphite Islands of Dubrovnik’s waters in the oldest botanical garden in this area, dated back to the 15th century, was a unique experience. The baroque fountain with the Roman god Neptune and its bubbling clear water was a real refreshment as a prelude to an outdoor dinner in a beautiful botanical setting, and relaxing music as a refreshment prior to the evening session.

The visit to the old city of Dubrovnik in the time between the two lecture sections was organized on Monday, October 10. A walk along Dubrovnik’s walls and narrow picturesque streets was a unique experience. The centuries-old history, culture and architecture of the former Republic of Dubrovnik and the view of the “Slavic Athens” remained in everyone’s memory.

On Tuesday, October 11, a gala dinner was held in Konavoski dvori, located on the site of an old mill, right next to the river Ljuta. Traditional food and wine provided everyone with a unique gastronomic experience.

REFERENCES:

1. Simic P, Vukicevic S. Bone morphogenetic proteins: from developmental signals to tissue regeneration. *Conference on bone morphogenetic proteins*. *EMBO Rep*. 2007;8:327-331. doi:10.1038/sj.embor.7400943.
2. Stokovic N, Ivanjko N, Matic Jelic I, Milesevic M, Rumenuovic V, Blazevic V, et al. State-of-the-art of the Bone Morphogenetic Protein research field: 13th International BMP Conference. *RAD CASA Med. Sci*. 2022; 553=60-61 : 84-99. DOI: 10.21857/ydkx2coxn9.



Figure 1. (A) Performance of the music asamble Kaše at the opening ceremony of the 13th BMP conference. (B) Welcome cocktail on the terrace of Hotel Lacroma. (C-H) Conference participants visited a renaissance botanical garden, arboretum Trsteno (owned by C.A.S.A., "Croatian Academy of Sciences and Art), followed by a social gathering.