

31st Scientific Meeting on Breast Diseases

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The Committee for Tumors of the Department of Medical Sciences of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts and the Department of Oncology and Nuclear Medicine of Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital Center organized the 31st Scientific Meeting on Breast Diseases which took place on September 29th at the Academy library.

Welcoming speeches were given by **academician Vida Demarin**, Secretary of the Department of Medical Sciences, **academician Zvonko Kusić**, **professor Ana Fröbe**, Head of the Department of Oncology and Nuclear Medicine and **Željko Soldić**, Chairman of the Organizing Committee.

Since its inception, the Academy's Breast Disease Conference has brought together leading Croatian experts in the field to present and discuss the latest developments in the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer.

The meeting was opened by **Mario Škerija**, who presented recent trends in breast cancer incidence and mortality in Croatia. **Zoran Brnić** then gave a detailed overview of diagnostic options in axillary imaging. **Snježana Tomić** spoke about the dynamics of circulating tumor DNA levels in breast cancer, which is an increasingly important way to monitor disease, response to treatment and predict survival. She also discussed the clinical utility and benefits of next-generation sequencing in breast cancer. **Andrej Roth** spoke about breast reconstruction techniques in the adjuvant and neoadjuvant setting, stressing the importance of a multidisciplinary approach and individualization of patient care, while highlighting the safety of surgical procedures after neoadjuvant treatment. **Katarina Antunac** gave a lecture on the development and evolution of fractionation in adjuvant radiotherapy, and **Josipa Flam** tried to answer the controversial question whether systemic therapy and radiotherapy can be combined. **Marijana Jazvić** spoke about the novel role of immunotherapy in the treatment of metastatic triple-negative breast cancer, which is an important step forward in the treatment of this subtype, but also raises a whole range of questions related to the optimal timing of treatment initiation, biomarkers that can help us select patients, and the optimal sequencing of treatment. **Ingrid Belac-Lovasić** discussed the sequencing of treatment for HER2-positive advanced breast cancer, an increasingly complex topic due to new emerging therapies. **Martina Bašić Koretić** talked about new treatment options for hormone-dependent breast cancer and ways to advance treatment. **Tajana Silovski** spoke about the clinical utility of multigene profiling tests in early stage breast cancer and the de-escalation of adjuvant chemotherapy in premenopausal patients, although it has been found that patients with one to three positive axillary lymph



nodes benefit from adjuvant chemotherapy regardless of multigene test results. **Ana Tečić Vuger** then gave a comprehensive lecture on antibody-drug conjugate-based therapies in advanced breast cancer, and **Marija Ban** concluded the meeting with an interesting presentation of the clinical approach and treatment of a newer clinical biological entity, HER2-low breast cancer. All 12 lectures presented at the 31st Scientific Meeting on Breast Diseases were published in a special edition volume of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts. With interactive panel discussions and practice changing lectures, the annual Scientific Meeting on Breast Diseases once again demonstrated the importance of knowledge sharing and a multidisciplinary approach to bring major advances in the treatment of breast cancer, improving survival and quality of life for patients.