

Preface

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Colleagues,

As Minister of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia I am pleased to welcome all participants gathered for the International Workshop on Human Papillomaviruses and Consensus Recommendations for Cervical Cancer Prevention & Colposcopy Training.

It is a great honor to have experts and scientists from all over the world here in Croatia discuss an exceptionally important health risk factor, at this distinguished event.

Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) is known to play a significant part in the etiology of cervical cancer, which is the second most frequent malignancy in women worldwide. The mortality rate is growing, especially in younger women, so it is extremely necessary to carry out cervical cancer prevention programmes, as it is obvious that systematic and well-organized cervical cancer screening programmes can greatly reduce incidence and mortality rates from the disease.

The World Health Organization recommendation from 2006 bears witness to the importance of this issue, as it suggests that cervical screening should be presented with organized programmes. Additionally, the European Union Council declared in its recommendation from 2003 that all EU member-states should conduct organized cervical cancer screening programmes.

The development of science and technology, particularly HPV DNA testing, HPV RNA testing, HPV vaccination as well as the use of a selection of different other molecular markers, etc., allow you, as leading experts in the field, to make best possible Consensus Recommendations for Cervical Cancer Prevention.

This important scientific event will feature the latest advances concerning Human Papillomaviruses, cervical cancer screening and prevention through many remarkable lectures. It is also important to mention that the special issue of Collegium Anthropologicum, published on this occasion, includes interesting themes related to the most recent research findings, different aspects and experiences in the field. This will certainly be a considerable contribution in defining further guidelines in cervical cancer prevention in Croatia and abroad.

We are fully aware of how significant your scientific achievements are and how huge an impact your decisions will have in this very important field, therefore in improving the quality of life of this and future generations.

I sincerely wish you a memorable, inspirational and very successful gathering, in hopes that all of us will greatly benefit from this event.

Professor Dragan Primorac, MD, PhD
Minister of Science, Education and Sports
of the Republic of Croatia