

## NEWS

### International Symposium on Art and Science in Life Potential Development 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023, Croatia

Twenty four years ago in Croatia, in the exclusive convention halls in the hotels Amphora and Palace, and in the beautiful interior of the Old Theatre (the oldest preserved public Theatre in Europe) in the city of Hvar on the island bearing the same name, one of the cradles of Renaissance cultural movement in this part of Mediterranean, the first International Symposium on “Arts and Science in Life Potential Development”, was held from 23rd until 28th of May 1999.

As far as is known, it was the first conference of this kind in Croatia and worldwide, that gathered participants from various disciplines in the fields of art and sciences (Biomedicine, Humanist studies, Social Sciences, Anthropology, Education, Theology, Engineering and Technology, Visual and other arts – music, drama, dance...). Over 150 participants attended from all corners of the globe. The International symposium was organized by the Croatian Association of Psychosocial oncology in cooperation with the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences University in Zagreb, University Clinic for Tumors in Zagreb, Croatian League Against Cancer, and Department of Music Therapy – Maryville University St. Louis, USA. The Symposium was held under the auspices of the Croatian Ministry of Science and Technology, Union International Against Cancer, Croatian League Against Cancer and was supported by the Open Society Institute in Croatia.

In the program of the first International Symposium, the term sophrology was considered as an innovative concept and a blend of Eastern and Western practices and philosophies, and as the complementary science of the new epoch which studies the human conscience, its modifications, and the means of varying it with a prophylactic, therapeutic and teaching aim. On that occasion, as well, a summary of the contents of the first World Congress of Sophrology was made, which was organized two years earlier in the *Centre de Rencontre Internationales* in the Principality of Monaco (from 8th – 11th March 1997) by the French Society of Sophrology, Japanese Society of Sophrology, Columbian Foundation for the Development of Sophrology in Bogota, and other institutions, under the auspices of the Princess Antoinette de Monaco.

Since then, the international symposium has been held ten times in various venues in Croatia, attended by numerous participants from various universities, clinics and professional associations from Croatia and abroad. These international gatherings were held every two to three years depending on the circumstances, and under the auspices of the Croatian Ministry of Science and Education, the Croatian Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the Croatian League Against Cancer, Union Inter-

national Against Cancer, the European Consortium of Universities EcARTE, the University in Split, European Union of Sophrology, and also with the support of the President of the Republic of Croatia.

#### *Verba volant scripta manent*

An ancient Roman proverb says “*Verba volant, scripta manent*” (Spoken words fly away, written words remain). In this light, the works of many of authors which participated at these gatherings are appreciatively printed as symposium proceedings that were published in bilingual and / or trilingual editions- in Croatian, English and French. Some of these books are shown here in Figure 1.



Fig. 1: International symposium proceedings.

In these papers, the authors presented the results of their research and other activities in various fields, for example: Existential Spiritual Approach in Supportive Therapy; Oriental Culture, Habits, Traditions and Cancer in India; Body-Image Assessment and Acoustic Analysis of Prosodic Features of Voice; The Pictorial Media in Art Therapy Workshops; From Psychopathological Expression to “Art Brut”; Education in Psycho-oncology; Short-term Art-psychotherapy, Sophrology and Stress Hormone Secretion in Breast Cancer Patients; Homo Symbolicus and Homo Religiosus; Terpsichore – Clinical Dance; Aesthetics in Existential Experience; Africa and Philosophy of Art, Music and Pain Management; Interdisciplinarity and Deontology; Growth Hormone Replacement Therapy in Patients With Cushing’s Disease; Lifestyle and Gastric Cancer; Complementary Supportive Therapy in Pediatric Oncology; Sign Language and Deaf Culture; Creativity and Cosmic Responsibility of Man; Passion, Love & Eternity of Life etc. In these papers, Art and Science are presented on the same path in the discovering and support of life potential development. While on the one hand, the hierarchical relations in science are manifested in the development of traditional and new scientific disciplines, on the other hand the pri-

meval and magic power of various arts constantly enters the metaphysical field of experience, as a form of life energy and self-realization of an individual.

### **Announcement and Invitation to Attend the 11th International Symposium on Art and Science in Life potential Development**

We find ourselves in a time where we are confronted with the consequences of a global pandemic, ecological disasters, predictable and unpredictable consequences of various other events, separation syndrome, as well as the loss of hostility in man and his incessant need for peace and dignity. Under these circumstances, life as a mysterious and elusive whole and reality represents a constant stimulus for contemplation and research in various fields of art and sciences.

Therefore, the Croatian Association of Psychosocial Oncology, Sophrology and Art in Therapy, in cooperation with other universities and other institutions in Croatia and abroad, invite you to attend the 11th International Symposium on Art and Science in Life Potential Development, which is planned to be held from 4th – 8th October 2023 in Croatia. The Symposium is planned to mark 30 years of activity of the Croatian Association of Psycho-social Oncology, Sophrology and Arts in Therapy, and to mark the 24th anniversary of these unique international and cultural gatherings.

#### *Venue*

Convention center "Holy Cross" is located on the island of Čiovo near the millennial city of Trogir, which was put on the list of UNESCO World Heritage in 2016, according to the National Geographic list, as the most beautiful island city in the world. It is close to the city of Split, a university and cultural center in the coastal part of Croatia, which also offers a diversity of attractions to fans of culture, arts, and science (Figures 2 and 3).



*Fig. 2. Holy Cross Convention Center, Čiovo.*



*Fig. 3: The city of Trogir.*

#### *Symposium program*

The Symposium program is planned in four symposium modules: 1) Art, Sophrology and Communication; 2) Psycho-social Oncology, Rehabilitation and Research in Complementary Supportive Therapies; 3) Bioethics, Gastronomy, Tourism and Recreation, and 4), Quod Libet:

##### 1) Art, Sophrology and Communication

Reflections on the Messages of Paul Gauguin; Anthropological traits of imagination; Creative Quantum, Transformation and Cure; Arts and Medicine; Fractal Drawing and Personal Growth; The Influence of Various Retinal Eye Diseases on Perception and Painting; Dance, Rituals and Traditional Healing in Ivory Coast and Nigeria; Music, Body Image and Pain Relief; Cerebral Palsy and Minuet by Boccherini in Dance Therapy; Umjetnost and Life Story Rudine Proda; Researches on the Art Academy University in Split, The Mission of EcARTE – the European Consortium of Universities for Arts in Therapy and Education; Workshops and Art-exhibitions.

##### 2) Psycho-Social Oncology, Rehabilitation and Research in Complementary Supportive Therapies

The Mission of the Croatian League Against Cancer; Rehabilitation Medicine and Rehabilitation Education (Applied Didactic); Supportive Therapy and Palliative Care for Children Being Treated in Oncology Units; Psychosomatic, Sophrology and Breast Cancer; Sport and People with Disabilities; Mission of the Spastic International ICPS; Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture; Workshops.

##### 3) Bioethics, Gastronomy, Tourism and Recreation

Hotel Management, Culture and Communication; Landscape and Gastronomy; Mission of the University Study at the Department of Tourism and Economy at the University in Split; Nutrition and Diet; Wine Varieties in Croatia with a Review on Gastronomic Delights and Health; Tourism and Recreation; Workshops; Performances.

#### 4) Quod Libet

Joy of Life and Existential Anxiety as "the Struggle of Living Being Against non-Being"; Eros, Culture and Psychoanalysis of Morality; Laugh and Life; Mission of the NATO Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Program; Fetish cult and Self-esteem; Quotes from The Qur'an, Music and Spiritual Messages; Sanctuaries, Pilgrimages and Well-being .

NOTE: Apart from all the suggested preliminary sub-topics listed above, all that are interested to attend are free to suggest any topic of their choice and area of interest and professional specialization, provided it relates to the general theme of the Symposium. Official languages of the Symposium are: Croatian, English and French.

The Organization Board of the Symposium and the International Co-chairmen Symposium Board (with members from Croatia, Costa Rica, Netherlands, Brazil, Bosnia & Herzegovina, China, France, Slovenia, Poland, Ivory Coast, France, Switzerland, Japan, Nigeria, Rumania, Albania, Estonia, Finland) are pleased to invite you to study this announcement, and to invite you to attend this unique, influential and traditional conference in Croatia. The content of the traditional International Symposium gives the participants exceptionally good possibilities to acquire knowledge about the culture of different parts of the World as well as some new insight into different professions other than your own.

#### *Further information*

For registration and registration fees, deadline for abstracts, submission form, hotel accommodation and other details, please contact the symposium secretariat through the e-mail: [hupohr@gmail.com](mailto:hupohr@gmail.com). The Symposium Secretariat of the Croatian Association of Psychosocial Oncology, Sophrology and Art Therapy (CAPO-SART) is located at the ERF (Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences) University Campus, Borongajska 83F, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia.

When you register, please notify us if you would like to make a presentation (or an art exhibition) or speech on a specific topic. Once registered you will receive all pertinent information relating to the symposium in Croatia.

After the 30th of April 2023, all information about the current 11th International Symposium in Croatia, is available on the web page

[symposium-2023.sophroartsience.hr](http://symposium-2023.sophroartsience.hr).

We do hope that you will be able to secure a place at this unique international gathering to be held in early autumn this year in Croatia. It may also be a unique opportunity to rest your body and soul acquiring new professional knowledge, contacts and friendships.

On behalf of the Symposium Secretariat,

Magdalena Kudelik and Miroslav Prstačić

