

## MIND & BRAIN – 62<sup>nd</sup> International Neuropsychiatric Congress, Pula, Croatia - May 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 2023

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The 62<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of our traditional Mind & Brain - International Neuropsychiatric Congress was held again in Pula from May 18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> 2023.

The Congress was organized by International Institute for Brain Health and Department of Medical Sciences of Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, together with Society for Neuropsychiatry, Faculty of Dental Medicine and Health - J.J. Strossmayer University of Osijek, Croatian Society for Personology, Personality and Eating Disorders, Central and Eastern European Stroke Society (CEESS) and Croatian Stroke Society under endorsement of the World Federation for Neurology (WFN). The Congress was accredited by Croatian Medical Chamber and the Croatian Council of Physiotherapists.



Due to our traditionally excellent scientific program, bridging neurology and psychiatry and adjacent disciplines, there were 300 registered participants. Similar to previous years our program was interesting for participants outside from Central European countries, e.g. South Africa, Israel, United States of America, Ireland, Italy and Australia. In-person format gave us excellent opportunity for discussion in more human environment.

First day of the Congress was reserved for registration and networking activities. The Opening of the Congress involved special guests the mayor of Pula (Mr. Filip Zoricic) and the president of Istria Region (Mr. Boris Miletic) who opened the Congress. The scientific program on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May started with Plenary sessions.

During Plenary session Vida Demarin and Radwa Khalil presented inspiring lectures on arts influence on brain and possibilities of creative therapy on neuroplasticity and neurorehabilitation. Further plenary lectures on Friday were related to less common disorders such as restless legs syndrome, myasthenia gravis and the relationship between botulinum toxin and depression. Plenary session on Saturday was primarily related to psychiatric themes and its relationship with neuroinflammation, and gut-brain interactions. The special lecture was intended as a memorial to the scientific research in schizophrenia of our honorary Kuratorium member prof. Gerd Huber. Academic lecture was given by Leontino Battistin on reflections of a clinician to the actual trends in clinical neurosciences.

After Plenary session the Congress was divided into two parallel sessions on following topics: Graz Stroke Symposium, Old-age psychiatry symposium, Neurodegenerative Symposium, Pula Multiple Sclerosis Symposium, Migraine Symposium, Sport's Psychiatry Symposium, Epilepsy Symposium, Medical Ethics Symposium, Free Topics Symposium. A Workshop on multidisciplinary approach to acute stroke was organized. The Psychopathology Summer School with focus on schizophrenia was led by prof. Karl Bechter, prof. Martin Brüne and prof. Dominique Endres. Poster session involved 41 poster presentation. Three best posters from neurology and three from psychiatry were awarded by prizes, the first two prizes given by the City of Graz, and second and third prizes were given by INPC Kuratorium and International Institute for Brain Health. Satellite Symposia were rich with recent data on the newest therapeutic possibilities and achievements. The last day was reserved for Kuratorium, Central and Eastern European Stroke Society and International Institute for Brain Health meetings and closing ceremony.

Altogether after these four days our Mind & Brain congress was very successful with lots of interactions and vivid discussions. Em-

inent lecturers from many parts of the world shared their enormous knowledge and expertise with young colleagues, widening the perspectives and opening the new paths and the new directions, following the founding idea of this congress: Pula School of Sciences and Humanity.  
Save the date for the next year!

