

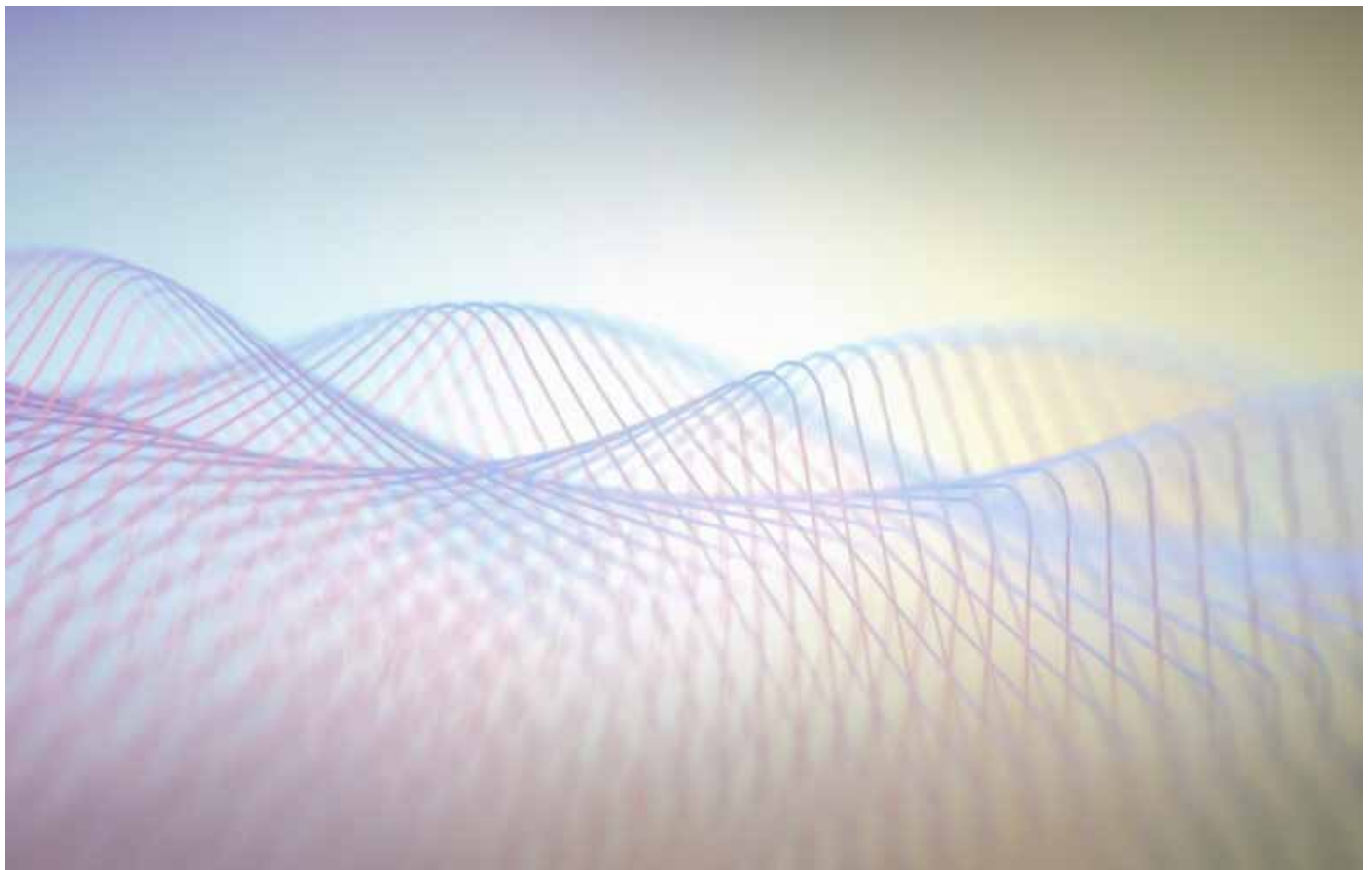
The twentieth “Prosinački” scientific dermatovenereological symposium “National program for the prevention and early detection of melanoma: twenty years of enthusiasm of Croatian dermatologists.”

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In organization of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Department for Medical Sciences, Department of Dermatology and Venereology, University Hospital Center Sestre milosrdnice and the University of Zagreb School of Dental Medicine, Croatian Association of Dermatological Oncology of the Croatian Medical Association, and the Croatian Dermatovenereological Society of the Croatian Medical Association, a traditional scientific dermatological symposium was held on Friday, December 8, 2023, in the “Vijenac” hall of the Archbishop’s Pastoral Institute, located at Kaptol 28A. This year marked the 20th scientific dermatological symposium, with a topic “National program for the prevention and early detection of melanoma: twenty years of enthusiasm of Croatian dermatologists.”

The symposium was attended by 160 Croatian dermatovenereologists, including 21 speakers from various dermatovenereological institutions in Croatia, coming from the major Departments of four Clinical Hospital Centers, dermatological practices in general and county hospitals, as well as private dermatological practices. The selection of topics presented at the Symposium highlighted the complexity of the dermatovenereological and dermatooncological profession and science, especially since many dermatooncological entities often go unrecognized and are diagnosed late in daily medical practice by physicians of various specialties. The special value of this year’s symposium topic was the exchange of experiences from clinical practice through the presentation of exceptionally complex differential-diagnostic issues and thera-



peutic challenges in dermatological practice. This seemingly clinical topic of the symposium, in each of its examples, particularly emphasized the need for a multidisciplinary approach to patients and for continuous monitoring of scientific insights that serve as a source of knowledge necessary in everyday patient care. The first part of the symposium was dedicated to malignant melanoma, ranging from the presentation of an extremely rare case of congenital melanoma to lectures on atypical clinical forms of melanoma, diverse clinical presentations of metastatic melanoma, and side effects of oncological therapies for metastatic melanoma on the skin. In this part of the symposium, individual clinical experiences confirmed the exceptional value of the adjunct clinical diagnostic method - digital dermoscopy in melanoma diagnosis, and an important presentation affirmed the not uncommon challenges in aligning clinical and dermoscopic findings with the final histopathological diagnosis of melanoma. The second part of the symposium featured presentations on patients with various types of non-melanoma malignant skin tumors that are rarely diagnosed. The presented cases included patients with angiosarcoma of the skin, Kaposi's sarcoma as a sign of HIV infection, and a case of a patient with the coexistence of T and B lymphoproliferative disease. Among the selected topics were entities of metastatic skin lesions associated with primary breast cancer, squamous cell carcinoma in skin lesions resulting from hidradenitis suppurativa, differentially diagnostically challenging "pink lesions," including the diagnoses of non-neural granular cell tumors, skin tumors of the ears and nodular skin lesions of infectious nature. All presentations were supported by an extensive collection of original photographic documentation. The importance of interdisciplinary cooperation and a multidisciplinary approach was clearly expressed in all topics, as it is the only correct way to a comprehensive approach to patients with oncological diseases in dermatology.

During the course of the symposium, a scientific monograph was presented "Dermatological Oncology in Clinical Practice - Towards the National framework for the prevention and early detection of melanoma 2023-2026," edited by Academician Mirna Šitum, published by the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts and Medicinska naklada. Additionally, new Guidelines of the Reference center of the Ministry of Health for melanoma for monitoring patients with melanoma were introduced.

The recent commemorative twentieth «Prosinački» scientific dermatovenereological symposium served as a congratulation and expression of gratitude to all enthusiastic dermatovenereologists who, for over 20 years, guided by the visionary idea of Academician Štampar that healthcare professionals must primarily act

among health-risk groups and conduct health education, work on public health activities for the prevention and early detection of melanoma and other malignant skin tumors in many regions of the Republic of Croatia. All the speakers at the symposium were actively involved in these public health activities, and the outcomes of their work unequivocally affirmed the necessity for instituting a new national program. This recognition was recently formalized through the decision of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Croatia for the new National melanoma prevention and early detection program 2023-2026.

The symposium, on behalf of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Department for Medical Sciences, was inaugurated by the respected Academician Vida Demarin, secretary of the Department for Medical Sciences, who, as a reviewer alongside Prof. Branka Marinović, also presented the scientific monograph.