

## NEWS

### 19<sup>th</sup> Ljudevit Jurak International Symposium on Comparative Pathology, Zagreb, Croatia, June 6-7, 2008

<http://www.kbsm.hr/Jurak/symposium19.html>

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The 19<sup>th</sup> Ljudevit Jurak International Symposium on Comparative Pathology was held in Zagreb, Croatia, on June 6-7, 2008, under the auspices of the European Society of Pathology and Academy of Medical Sciences of Croatia. The Symposium was organized by University Department of Pathology, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital, Zagreb, Croatia (Head: Professor B. Krušlin) and Institute of Pathology, Leopold Franzens University of Innsbruck, Austria (Head: Professor G. Mikuz). The Symposium offered a good opportunity for experience exchange and comparison of results of investigations concerning human as well as veterinary pathology.

After opening ceremony, the Ljudevit Jurak Award Ceremony for contribution to the advancement of comparative pathology took place. The awards were presented by Professor V. Nikolić, representative of the Academy of Medical Sciences of Croatia to Professors H. Denk (Graz, Austria) and D. Ježek (Zagreb, Croatia).

The main topics of the Symposium were Pediatric Pathology and Advances in Pathomorphology Techniques. Memorial lecture on Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy in Pediatric Patients was pre-

sented by Dr. Barbara Bauce from Padua (Italy). Second memorial lecture on Hepatitis in Childhood was presented by Prof. Helmut Denk from Graz (Austria). Other invited speakers were Asst. Prof. C. Sergi from Innsbruck (Austria), Prof. M. Dominis and Dr. Z. Mišak from Zagreb (Croatia), who presented lectures on Kidney Tumors, Lymphomas and Inflammatory Bowel Diseases in Children. Free papers were presented mainly as posters; Dr. Maja Vlahović also held a lecture on the effects of epidrug 5-azacytidine in developmental processes. The authors from Croatia and Spain presented recent data on the diagnosis, protocols, histopathologic and immunohistochemical findings in different human and animal diseases.

During the Symposium, slide seminar on Pediatric Surgical Pathology was organized and presented by Prof. G. Mikuz from Innsbruck (Austria).

At the end of the Symposium, poster discussion and poster presentation award session took place. The Poster Presentation Award was presented to Dr. I. Turković *et al.* for their poster on the study entitled "5-Azacytidine seems not to disturb odontogenesis in rat embryonic mandible transplants to ectopic site".

The next Symposium will be held on June 5-6, 2009. The main topic will be Pathology of the Male Genital Tract. All data on the Symposium can be found at our web site: <http://www.kbsm.hr/Jurak/symposium.htm>.

*Tanja Leniček*



**23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Adriatic Society of Pathology,  
Dubrovnik, Croatia, June, 27-29, 2008**  
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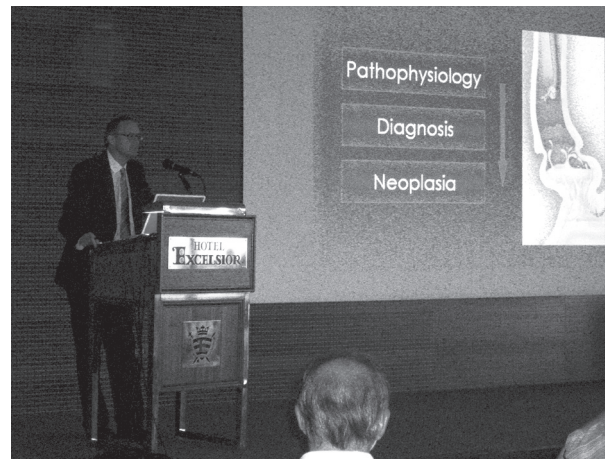
On June 27-29, 2008, Hotel Excelsior in Dubrovnik hosted two international meetings, organized by the Ljudevit Jurak University Department of Pathology: the IMPACTS Group Technical Meeting and the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Adriatic Society of Pathology. IMPACTS is an international group composed of 24 molecular pathology laboratories throughout Europe collaborating within the European Union FP7 project entitled "Archive's tissues: improving molecular medicine research and clinical practice". Forty participants, mainly pathologists and molecular biologists, attended the meeting, which was held on June 27. The main topic was the preservation of DNA, RNA and proteins in tissues and development of a common protocol designed to meet this purpose. There

were many short presentations and two longer ones: Prof. Gianni Bussolati of Turin presented the use of vacuum in the pre-processing stage; and Prof. Giorgio Stanta of Trieste as project coordinator addressed the possibilities of formalin substitutes in the preservation of DNA, RNA and protein structure. In conclusion, the Dubrovnik meeting was successful and it opened a new set of topics for the next IMPACTS meeting, which will be held in Porto at the end of 2008.

The Adriatic Society of Pathology (ASP) is an association of pathologists from several countries of central and south Europe. The ASP meeting is held annually at the end of June in one of the towns at the Adriatic Sea. Each year it is organized by a different pathology department. This year's topics were gastrointestinal pathology and head and neck pathology. The opening lecture entitled "Pathologists without frontiers" was presented by Dr. Agostino Faravelli, who spoke about a project designed to develop surgical pathology laboratories in the Sub-Saharan Africa. Within this project, through satellite connection, pathologists from the *Patologi Oltre Frontiera* organization educate cytotechnicians and pathologists in Sub-Saharan Africa.

On the second day of the meeting there were three lectures. Felix Albert Offner from Feldkirch spoke about Barrett's esophagus, Nina Gale from Ljubljana held a lecture on clear cell salivary gland tumors, and Maria Pia Foschini from Bologna spoke about resection margins in pharyngeal and laryngeal carcinoma.

On the last day of the meeting, professors G. Bussolati and G. Stanta held two lectures entitled "Pitfalls in immunohistochemistry" and "Archive's tissues: a shortcut for molecular medicine". Also, there was an award for the best among 24 oral presentations presented by





authors from Croatia, Slovenia, Hungary, Italy, Romania and Spain. This year's award was presented to Dr. Maria Comanescu from Department of Pathology, Clinical Emergency Hospital in Bucharest, Romania.

In conclusion, the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASP meeting was professional, yet friendly, as all previous meetings. The next ASP meeting will be organized by the Institute of Pathology from Innsbruck. Its venue will be in the vicinity of Trieste.

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## HISTORICAL REVIEW

The name of Teodor Wickerhauser has already been mentioned on numerous occasions in this section, referring to his work and activities, as he certainly was the most eminent physician in Croatian medicine in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Many of his disciples have also written about him and dedicated him a book, which was presented in the section On Notable Books in Our Medical History<sup>1</sup>.

This time, I will cite recollections of Dr. Franjo Durst, his disciple and founder of University Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, on an important event at our Hospital, i.e. recording the thousandth laparotomy procedure. This text, cited according to Durst's recollection<sup>2</sup>, shows that Prof. Teodor Wickerhauser, being an excellent surgeon, was a man of high moral principles and strong character.

"... Considering this a priori negative W's attitude against any polypragmacy – I remember an episode during my service at his department, which vividly illustrates his understanding of the great responsibility and liabilities of the head of surgical profession. I hope it will not be taken as indiscretion if I tell about it on this solemn occasion. It was some 35 years ago, on a day when the number of laparotomy procedures performed at W's department reached just 999. The next day, in the morning, the thousandth laparotomy was to be carried out.

Čačković called all of us current and former Wickerhauser's coworkers for a meeting to be held that day in the evening, in a separate room at Grand Hotel, keeping the true cause and purpose of the meeting secret only to W. When we all gathered there, Čačković stood up, held quite a long speech on the importance of the event and congratulated W on such a great success achieved within a relatively short time. We all applauded enthusiastically. However, W's face had turned serious already during Čačković's speech; when he finished, W stood up and expressed his thanks briefly, concluding as follows: "If any credit for this goes to me, then I think it lies in the fact that their number (of laparotomies) was not even greater". These words of his have remained etched on my memory and I recollected them on several occasions later in my life when I saw and read in various reports about numberless operative procedures that were by the need and indication definitely in discrepancy with the number of the procedures performed."

### References

1. Sušec T. On notable books in our medical history. Acta Clin Croat 2008;47:117.
2. Durst F. Wickerhauser kao ginekolog. In: Proslava 80-godišnjice života prof. dra T. Wickerhausera. Lijec Vjesn 1938;60:654.

*Tanja Sušec*

