

The 22nd December Scientific Symposium “Skin of the World: Dermatological Challenges in the Era of Migration”

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The 22nd December Scientific Symposium, entitled “Skin of the World: Dermatological Challenges in the Era of Migration”, was held on 5 December 2025 at Hotel Academia in Zagreb, under the auspices and co-organisation of the Class for Medical Sciences of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, together with the Department of Dermatology and Venereology of University Hospital Centre Sestre milosrdnice, the School of Dental Medicine of the University of Zagreb and the Catholic University of Croatia. The Symposium was officially opened by academician Vida Demarin.

The one-day meeting brought together dermatologists and other specialists from all Croatian hospital university centres and collaborating institutions, with contributions spanning inflammatory, infectious, oncologic and occupational dermatoses in migrants and persons with skin of colour. Through case-based oral

presentations, speakers discussed acute dermatologic emergencies in migrants, diagnostic pitfalls of “grey” lesions and pigmentary disorders, phenotypic variability of atopic dermatitis and psoriasis across different racial and ethnic backgrounds, as well as contact dermatitis in migrant workers exposed to new environmental and occupational allergens.

Particular attention was given to scabies and other infectious dermatoses facilitated by overcrowding and limited access to care, travel-related parasitic diseases such as cutaneous larva migrans and leishmaniasis, and malignant and pre-malignant conditions including Kaposi sarcoma and cutaneous lymphomas in vulnerable populations.

A dedicated panel session focused on posters that further illustrated clinical, epidemiological and psychosocial aspects of dermatologic care in migrants, including an analysis of foreign patients





treated at the Department of Dermatology and Venereology of University Hospital Centre Sestre milosrdnice, and the specific challenges posed by language barriers, incomplete medical documentation and cultural differences in health-seeking behaviour. The symposium concluded with the presentation of the scientific monograph "Skin of the World: Dermatological Challenges in the Era of Migration", edited by Academician Mirna Šitum and published by Medicinska naklada. The scientific monograph was reviewed by academician Josip Madić and assistant professor Iva Blajić. The volume compiles 32 case-based and review chapters authored by Croatian and international experts, reflecting the rich clinical material and multidisciplinary dialogue initiated at the meeting and providing a comprehensive reference for dermatologic practice in an increasingly mobile and multicultural world.

