

CHRONIC HEART FAILURE AND MECHANICAL CIRCULATORY SUPPORT

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Mechanical heart and circulation support devices have become a standard in the treatment of patients with chronic heart failure, particularly the ones who require long-term circulation support. The use of these devices has so far significantly helped in the optimisation of the treatment and will eventually gain even better results. The interest for this type of therapy is rapidly increasing, in Croatia as well as worldwide. We had hence decided to organise a symposium entitled *Chronic Heart Failure and Mechanical Circulatory Support* at the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Zagreb, in co-operation between the Academy Department of Medical Sciences and the Department of Cardiac Surgery, Dubrava University Hospital. The Symposium was held on 26 March 2010 at the Academy Palace.

Experts from two Croatian university hospitals (Dubrava University Hospital and Zagreb University Hospital Centre), together with several experts from Germany and England, presented the basic and clinical aspect of short-term and long-term mechanical circulatory support. The Symposium was organised with generous help of the respected company *Thoratec*.

The Symposium resembles the aim of the Academy, especially the one of the Department of Medical Sciences, i.e. endeavouring to get incorporated into the modern technological trend, typical for the 21st century.

We warmly thank the members of the Department of Medical Sciences of the Croatian Academy, as well as the Department's former Secretary and the current President of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Zvonko Kusić. Finally, our thanks also go to the Editor-in-Chief of the Academy's journal *Rad*, Marko Pećina, Fellow of the Croatian Academy, for his effort in editing this issue of the Journal.