

### **34<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING OF THE EUBS 3-7 September 2008, Graz, AUSTRIA**

The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting of the European Underwater and Baromedical Society (EUBS) on Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine was held between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> September 2008 in Graz in Austria. It was organized by Prof. Dr. Freya Smolle-Juettner, Dr. Beatrice Ratzenhofer and Dr. Wilfried Beuster.

There were several invited lectures presented by international experts in the field of hyperbaric oxygen therapy and diving medicine. In the HBO part, D. Mathieu (France) presented the overview of the impact of HBO on microcirculation and tissue oxygenation in the healthy and diseased tissues; J. Desola (Spain) discussed common errors in the diagnosis of carbon monoxide poisoning in primary assistance; Y. Melamed (Israel) presented evolving indications for HBO therapy in bone diseases and trauma; L. Ditri (Italy) summarized eight years experience in the treatment of avascular bone necrosis with HBO therapy with description of the COST-B14 action on femoral head necrosis; P. James (UK) tried to answer the intriguing question whether there is an optimum dose in oxygen treatment; N. Petri (Croatia) reported some experimental and uncertain indications for HBO from the archives of the Croatian Naval Medical Institute and E. Kolchina (RSFSR) discussed some aspects of HBO in Russia. In the diving medicine part, U. van Laak presented supra- and extraglottic airway management devices and discussed its value for in-water emergencies; G. Wolf (Austria) described paranasal sinus surgery in divers; R. Vala (Austria) described diving with the handicapped; I. Mekjavic (Slovenia) presented method for quantification of bubbles in lacrimal fluid after diving; B. Wienke (USA) summarized the Reduced Gas Bubble Model (RGBM) with results of testing and validation and A. Taher (Egypt) presented some reflections on “recent” technical diving accidents in the Sinai.

Moreover, there were 24 presentations (oral or poster) concerning diving medicine and 27 presentations (oral or poster) on hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

The Zetterström award, which is given every year to authors of the best poster presented at the conference, has been given to French group: E. Gempp, J. E. Blatteau, E. Stephant, J. M. Pontier, P. Constantin and C. Peng for a poster entitled “Spinal cord decompression sickness and MRI in scuba divers”.

There were also several half-day satellite meetings which enriched the scientific program of the conference. The European Committee for Hyperbaric Medicine (ECHM) organized the workshop on "HBO in otorhinolaryngology". During this workshop several presentations were given on the usage of HBO in the postradiation injury in otorhinolaryngology, on the HBO and sudden deafness, on ENT complications of HBO, on ENT diseases that are not presently accepted as indications for HBO, and on Belgian experience on HBO in Acoustic Trauma. The European Baromedical Association for nurses, operators and technicians (EBAss) organized the workshop on the "Risk analysis on HBO activities". Also the Divers Alert Network (DAN) had a one day meeting of divers, diving instructors and diving doctors, called the DAN Divers Day.

The city of Graz is the second-largest city in Austria after Vienna and the capital of the federal state of Styria. It has a long tradition as a student city, as there are six universities with over 40,000 students. The lovely Graz's "Old Town" is one of the best-preserved city centres in Central Europe and in 1999 it was added to the UNESCO list of World Cultural Heritage Sites. In 2003 Graz was sole Cultural Capital of Europe. Those circumstances created nice atmosphere for all meetings which were parts of the EUBS Annual Meeting.

The next 35th Annual Meeting of the EUBS will be held between 25<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> August 2009 in Aberdeen, UK. Key topics will include: health technology assessment and hyperbaric oxygen therapy, diving research and treatment of decompression illness and treatment of osteoradionecrosis and diabetic foot. More information about this forthcoming event can be found at <http://www.eubs.org>

(Contributed by Jacek Kot from National Center for Hyperbaric Medicine in Gdynia, Poland)