

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DIVING AND  
HYPERBARIC MEDICINE**

**XV International Congress of Hyperbaric Medicine (ICHM)  
31<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the European  
Underwater and Baromedical Society (EUBS)**

**BARCELONA, SPAIN, 7-9 SEPTEMBER 2005**

A Joint Meeting of the International Congress of Hyperbaric Medicine (ICHM) and European Underwater and Baromedical Society (EUBS) was organized between 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> September 2005 in Barcelona, Spain. Dr Jordi Desola from CRIS-UTH Barcelona was the Chairman of the Organizing Committee EUBS and the President of the ICHM.

The EUBS is one of our great international societies, and was founded in 1973. Every year delegates from all over the world - not only European countries- attend the EUBS meetings, which are always organised by prestigious institutions. The ICHM is the oldest event in the field of Hyperbaric Medicine; the first congress was organized in 1963 by Prof. Boerema. Since then, the ICHM has been held every three years, changing continent every time. These two prestigious institutions agreed to share a common meeting in 2005. However they were not offering two simultaneous congresses, but rather a large meeting of these two societies that have agreed to share a large unified conference.

Thanks to this idea, the number of participants was impressive – more than 400 persons from all continents. The final number of attendants was higher than the simple addition of the average number of participants of the EUBS and ICHM meetings separately. There is no doubt that having a Joint Meeting was a good idea. Each institution has been reinforced by the other. A positive feed-back extended the importance of EUBS among many attendants from the entire world not familiar with European institutions; simultaneously, our European colleagues not aware of the existence of the ICHM discovered the real importance of the oldest world institution in the field of hyperbaric medicine.

There were several invited lectures:

- THE DEVELOPMENT OF DIVING MEDICINE IN EUROPE. THE ROLE OF DIVING DOCTORS - David Elliott (United Kingdom)
- PAST AND PRESENT USE OF HYPERBARIC OXYGEN IN ACUTE MYOCARDIAL ISCHEMIA: A REVIEW George Hart (United States)
- HYPERBARIC MEDICINE PRACTICE IN CHINA: PRESENT AND FUTURE PROPECTIVES & DEVELOPMENT Chunjin Gao (China)
- HYPERBARIC MEDICINE AND THE COCHRANE COLLABORATION: HOPE OR DESPAIR ? Mike Bennet (Australia)

There were 42 oral presentations and 92 posters presented. All papers were divided into several sessions dedicated to: Basic Research, Diving Research, Breath-hold Diving, ENT Disorders, Hospital Based Centres for Hyperbaric Medicine, Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy, Diving Physiology and Pathophysiology of Dysbaric Injuries.

There were also other satellite activities organized together with the Conference:

- ECHM Workshop on Quality Assurance in Hyperbaric Centres
- Joint Meeting of the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society (UHMS) Chapter and of the Spanish Society (Reunión Iberoamericana de Medicina Hiperbárica y Subacuática)
- IXth International Meeting on High Pressure Biology
- International Up-dated Course on Hyperbaric Medicine
- Biomedical Seminar Refreshing Course on EDTC Standards for Fitness to Professional Dive.

All programs and abstract are still presented on the website: <http://www.barcelona-2005.com> and this domain will be active until September 2006.

Next Annual Scientific Meeting of the EUBS is planned to be on 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> August 2006 in Bergen, Norway and the next Meeting of the ICHM will take place in 2008 in China.

(Contributed by Jacek Kot)