

News and views

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VIIIth Congress of the Hungarian Nuclear Medicine Society (MONT), Pecs, May 2th–15th, 2002

This Congress took place in the Medical Faculty of the University of Pecs. The President of the Congress was Prof. Katalin Zambó, the Head of the Nuclear Medicine Department in the Medical Faculty at the University of Pecs. The meeting had a turnout of more than 300 delegates from Hungary as well as from Austria, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Poland, Romania, Serbia and the USA. The proceedings were presented in both oral and poster sessions and there were 116 presentations in total.

An important part of the meeting featured programme lectures by Prof. Bergstroem (Sweden), Prof. Cuocolo from Naples, Prof. Henze from Kiel (Germany), Prof. Szabo from John Hopkins University (USA) on molecular imaging, Prof. Gjedde from Aarhus (Denmark) and Prof. Baum (Bad Berka, Germany) on RN neuroimaging.

Hungarian nuclear medicine is probably the most important nuclear medicine community in the Central European region for many reasons. Gyorgy Hevesy, one of the founders of nuclear medicine was Hungarian. This is followed-up with a strong intellectual background in the domestic manufacture of gammaceras, the only manufacturing centre in the CE region as well as the very high quality production of radiopharmaceuticals. Hungarian scientists' international position is strong and their internationally run projects are numerous. The PET centre in Debrecen was the first one established in Central Europe.

Pecs itself is a very interesting place. Pecs, Roman Sopianae, also known in history as “Quinque Ecclesiae” — The Five Churches, is situated in what is probably the most Mediterranean-like area of Hungary, with its warm and mild climate as well as numerous interesting monuments of the ancient past. The university is the oldest in Hungary and one of the oldest in the world. Its magnificent cathedral is considered to be the most beautiful in Hungary and its three mosques are a reminder of the Turkish period of the city's history. A very nice element of the social programme was a dinner in the magnificent wine cellars of Villany which is one of the best wine-producing areas in the country.

This Congress was also a site of elections of a new President of Hungarian Society of Nuclear Medicine and a new Board

of Hungarian SNM. A new President of Hungarian SNM was elected Dr. Győző Jánoki from Budapest.

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Congress of Nuclear Medicine — Serbia and Montenegro, Vrnjačka Banja, 24th–27th September, 2003

Serbian nuclear medicine is recovering. This is good news for everybody interested in the development of nuclear medicine in Central Europe, both from inside and outside. This once strong medical community, after some years of coping with numerous problems following turbulent historical events, is expanding, internationalising and is eager and willing to occupy an important position in the professional and scientific of life European nuclear medicine. These would be the basic conclusions of any external observer of this Congress.

This Congress took place in Hotel Breza, Vrnjačka Banja, the most famous Serbian Spa. The President of the Congress was Prof. Slobodan (“Bobi” to his friends) Ilić from the University of Nis, who is also the President of the Serbian and Montenegrin Society of Nuclear Medicine.

Prof. Ilić has done a very important thing. He has made a Serbian & NM Nuclear Medicine Congress really international, with the proceedings performed mostly in English, (also by the Serbian authors) and with the participation of lots of lecturers from the IAEA, Bosnia, Britain, Germany, Korea, Macedonia, Poland, Slovenia, Ukraine and USA.

In total, 39 abstracts were presented concerning clinical/*in vivo* topics, and a further 32 dealt with *in vitro*/radiochemistry, through 6 oral and 2 poster sessions. This was accompanied by two plenary sessions with 7 invited lecturers, “The Milovan Antic Award” session with 7 papers and two book promotions. An important part of the meeting was the featuring of programme lectures on the current trends in nuclear medicine by Prof. Lee (Korea),

as well as Prof. Padhy (IAEA) on nuclear oncology, Prof. Srivastava (New York) on recent advances in therapeutic radiopharmaceuticals, Dr Vijnamuri (Liverpool) on risk stratification, Prof. Knapp (Germany) on PET in oncology, Prof. Al-Nahhas (London) on PET in thyroid carcinoma, Prof. Hojker (Slovenia) on radionuclide hyperthyreosis treatment and Prof. Lass (Poland) on pre-graduate nuclear medicine education and bone metastases therapy.

The social programme was excellent. Vrnjacka Banja itself is a very pleasant place in the mountains, with spacious parks. Professor Ilić's secret weapon was a legion of not only very clever, but also very charming ladies. If a international nuclear medicine beauty contest was organized, Serbian nuclear medicine would probably come out at number one.

Serbian nuclear medicine is undoubtedly recovering. The place under the sun once called Yugoslavia used to have a very strong nuclear medicine community. As Serbia as a country tries to overcome the results of recent turbulent historical events, this interesting nuclear medicine community seems to be already back on its feet again. Congratulations to our colleagues and congratulations to Professor Ilić.

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XL Days of Nuclear Medicine of Czech Society of Nuclear Medicine, Pardubice, 2nd – 4th October, 2003

This Congress took place in a campus of the University of Pardubice and gathered the delegates from Czech Republic and Slovakia, as well as the lecturers from Holland, Poland, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

In total were presented 77 papers in oral sessions and 28 papers in poster sessions covering the whole field of nuclear medicine with particular emphasis on cardiology and oncology. One should remember that in Bohemia and Slovakia there are located 3 PET units with 4 PET devices, the highest number in the area and impact of this was seen at the Congress. An interesting section was devoted to educational problems in nuclear medicine, both in pre-graduate students' training and technologists education with lectures from Czech Republic, Holland and Poland.

An excellent exhibition with 17 booths reminded that we were in the country with strong industrial background and history, also in domestic manufacturing of very good radiopharmaceuticals by Lacomed Ltd., a company with many merits in education field.

Pardubice is essentially an industrial city, famous for the great horse-races "Velka Pardubicka", with nice Old City and a magnificent castle, where a very pleasant evening reception has been held.

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The 10th Meeting of the Berlin-Brandenburg Society of Nuclear Medicine, Caputh, 7th–8th November, 2003

The 10th Meeting of Berlin-Brandenburg Society of Nuclear in Medicine (*BBGN, Berlin-Brandenburgische Gesellschaft für Nuklearmedizin*) took place in Caputh, the picturesque village which lies on the bank of Lake Schwielower near Potsdam, in the region of Brandenburg, Germany. This little village occupies a remarkable place in the history of the physical sciences, as it was here where Albert Einstein lived from 1929 to 1932, when he was a member of the Prussian Academy of Sciences. In his house in Caputh, Einstein worked on a uniform theory of field, as well as being a devoted yachtsman who spent many happy hours sailing on the local lakes.

The German Society of Nuclear Medicine is probably the biggest in Europe. Therefore, particular regions (Lands) of the Federal Republic of Germany have their own regional nuclear medicine associations with their own meetings — like that of the BBGN.

This two-day conference was mostly focused on two topics: — what the cardiologist and as well as the pulmonologist can expect from nuclear medicine.

The conclusions were given in the form of short, highly professional and very up-to-date lectures which were some of the best and most precise I have ever heard. These lectures were not only focused on nuclear medicine procedures, but also on a broad spectrum of competing modalities, especially MRI. The lectures of M. Gutberlet on Cardio-MRT, W-S. Richter on nuclear cardiology and a series of three lectures from Berlin on lung imaging covered state-of-the-art advances and will stay for a long time in my memory.

Our visit to Caputh had another interesting aspect for us, the four Polish participants of this meeting, which was a renewal of regional cooperation. Here, I would like to thank Dr. F. Gottschalk from Frankfurt (Oder), the President of the BBGN for inviting us to this meeting. This might serve as a model for international/regional contacts for many other nuclear communities in the CEE area. Cooperation with the German nuclear medicine community, the biggest and probably the most important in Europe, is a chance and challenge for CEE NM societies.

For the author of this note, this meeting had was also of sentimental value. In former times, Polish nuclear medicine had a very good contacts with colleagues from the eastern part of Germany, the former GDR. I, myself, had a very good time at three SNM meetings there. During the last decade our contacts with German colleagues had become looser. Therefore, the renewal of contacts with our neighbours has a special value for me. The prospects for regional cooperation of the BBGN and the Poznan/Lodz regional chapters of the Polish SNM look encouraging. We are grateful to Dr. F. Gottschalk and Dr. R. Schöneich from Potsdam for creating the opportunity to meet.

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