

European School of Nuclear Medicine — 21st Seminar, April 18–19 2002, Prague, Czech Republic

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This Seminar took place in the ILF Hotel in Prague with participants from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and other countries. The local organiser was Dr Jozef Kubinyi from the University in Ostrava, Czech Republic. The lectures were given by Prof. G. Lucignani from Milan, Italy, Prof. R. Sixt from Gothenburg, Sweden, Prof. R.P. Baum from Bad Berka, Germany and Dr S.E.M. Clarke from London, United Kingdom.

The lecture by Prof. Lucignani was devoted to cardiology, with particular emphasis on myocardial viability, myocardial stunning and hibernation. Prof. Sixt's presentation was about paediatric nuclear medicine, focusing particularly on renal disorders, but also on paediatric brain SPECT issues and other interesting paediatric applications. Perhaps the best presentation in this Seminar was the excellent lecture by Prof. R.P. Baum, the renowned expert in PET clinical applications. This lecture was extremely well thought through, extremely well organised, excellently prepared in terms of slide presentations and possibly most heartily applauded by the audience. However, as R. Milikan once said, "In science, never fall in love with your theory". Prof. Baum is definitely in love with PET, whereas, in this author's personal opinion, some conventional NM studies, especially receptor studies (octreotide, depreotide, etc.) can still compete with PET and at much lower cost.

This might be a matter of dispute. Nevertheless, Prof. Baum was undoubtedly the Star of this Seminar. Dr Clarke presented a very well-organised lecture on thyroid diseases, although its first part, on the basics of thyroid physiology and basic pathology, was in this author's subjective opinion too simplified and should have been directed rather to students than to NM specialists, who were the audience of this Seminar. In contrast, the second part of her lecture, focusing on RN therapy and thyroid tumours, was very interesting, both in terms of theoretical basis and practical conclusions. An MCQ examination completed the Seminar. As a Pole, the author is proud that the participant from Gdańsk, Poland, Dr Krzysztof Kędziora, took second place in the test, which was rewarded with a nice prize of a set of bottles of (very good) Czech sparkling wine.

Several words should be devoted to the organisation of the Congress. *Chapeaux bas* to the organiser of the Seminar, Dr Józef Kubinyi from Ostrava. This distinguished gentleman presented a perfect example of how to organise such a meeting. Of course, the beauty of Prague, one of the nicest European capitals, was itself a great help to Dr Kubinyi and his team, but homage to the perfect organisation and to Dr Kubinyi himself should be paid in every aspect. The social programme was excellent. In particular, the farewell meeting in "U Kalicha" pub, the favourite place of Good Soldier Švejk from a famous novel by Jaroslav Hasek, deeply fell into the memory of the Seminar's participants.

Thanks to Dr Kubinyi, thanks to ESNM and thanks to the City of Prague. This meeting will stay for a long time in every participant's memory.

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