

# News and views

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## **XII<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Hungarian Society of Nuclear Medicine, Gyula, April 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

This Congress took place in the Honguest Erkel Hotel, Gyula, Hungary, with delegates from Hungary and guests from Austria, Croatia, Germany, Italy, Slovakia, Switzerland, the USA and Yugoslavia.

Proceedings took place in two or three parallel sessions — in total there were more than 120 oral and poster presentations and programme lectures, including excellent presentations on PET by Prof. P. Lind from Austria, on inflammatory imaging by Prof. J. Locher from Switzerland and on recent trends in US nuclear medicine by Prof. P. Kirchner from the USA.

The Congress left a very positive impression of Hungarian nuclear medicine — at least from the point of view of the author, a Polish observer. This was an impression of energetic, up-to-date and interesting people, with excellent and high-quality international contacts. Among the presentations there was a significant number of presentations on PET, both clinical and radiopharmaceutical, and on really new radiopharmaceuticals, as well as a significant number of papers on sentinel node imaging — many more than in corresponding regional congresses. The international position of Hungarian nuclear medicine seems to be of a high

quality, as the invited lecturers were not only just the guests but also day-to-day co-workers of Hungaro-international scientific projects. I was also impressed by the significant and positive impact on the nuclear medicine scientific life of traditionally strong industry — Hungarian companies in imaging devices and in radiopharmacy.

Hungary is undoubtedly one of the regional leaders in the CEE area in nuclear medicine, if not indeed, traditionally, the best.

Perhaps this role could be better appreciated if broader regional co-operation had been underlined. The author was a little surprised that during a congress held in a city localised almost on the Romanian border, no guests from Romania were present. Also I saw no guests from the Czech Republic and only a few from neighbouring Slovakia and Croatia. I was the only guest from Poland, a country with a long tradition of friendship with Hungary, and I was a little bit sad that we are so close, but yet so far at the same time.

An abundant social programme accompanied the Congress. The opera evening, conducted by Prof. Csernay from Szeged, with the participation of the best singers from Hungary, was a particularly interesting event.