

REVIEW REPORT ON THE 1ST CONGRESS OF THE POLISH SOCIETY OF ONCOLOGICAL RADIOTHERAPY

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The 1st Congress of the Polish Society of Oncological Radiotherapy (PSOR), organised by the Main Executive Board of PSOR in co-operation with the Kraków Branch of the Oncology Centre – M. Skłodowska-Curie Institute, was held in Kraków on May 27-29, 1999. Professor Stanisław Korzeniowski, M.D. was the Chairman, and Andrzej Radkowski was the Secretary of the Organising Committee, whereas Professor Jan Skołyszewski was the Chairman of the Science Committee of the Congress. The Congress enjoyed the honorary of His Eminence, Franciszek Cardinal Macharski.

The main problems considered at the Congress included radiotherapy of the lymphatic system and the technical and dosimetry aspects of the newly installed units for radiotherapy.

The invited paper on "Radiotherapy of malignant tumours of the lymphatic system" was delivered by Professor Stanisław Korzeniowski (Kraków). Other papers dealt with advances in the pathological diagnosis of lymphomas (Olga Mioduszevska, Warsaw), the role of bone marrow grafts in the therapy of lymphomas (Aleksander Skotnicki, Kraków), and radiotherapy of lymphomas in childhood (Anna Skowrońska-Gardas, Warszawa).

In the session devoted to oral presentations, the authors presented and discussed the results of radiotherapy applied singly or in combination with other methods in patients with Hodgkin's disease and those with non-follicular lymphomas.

The final session on the first day was arranged by the Brain LAB company and was dedicated to some selected problems of stereotactic and conformal radiotherapy. The crowning touch to the first day of the Congress was the ceremony devoted to the 40th anniversary of Professor Jan Skołyszewski's professional career. On this occasion, Professor Marian Reinfuss, President of the Main Executive Board of the Polish Oncological Society, gave an address.

The first day wound up with a performance given by the students of the State College of Drama, and with a gettogether meeting of the participants.

The second day was started with an English language session by some invited speakers. The following papers were read: "The total

body irradiation" by Ann Barret from Glasgow (Scotland), "New advances in biology and modern treatment of Hodgkin's disease" by Henning Bredenfeld from Cologne (Germany), "Localised and advanced Hodgkin's disease: toward a common strategy? An EORTC Lymphoma group point of view" by Patrice Carde from Paris (France), and "New approaches to follicular lymphoma" by Ama Rohatiner from London (England).

The key subject matter of the Congress was continued in the three subsequent sessions consisting of 21 oral presentations. The second day ended up with a social event held in the gardens of the Archeological Museum.

The last day of the Congress saw three poster sessions, of which two were concerned with problems discussed at the Congress, and the third one included "free" topics. A total of 41 posters were presented. The poster session and the Congress concluded with the announcement of the results of contests for the best presentation by a young researcher, the best poster and the best oral presentation. The respective winners were: Anna Mucha from Gliwice, Rafał Suwiński from Gliwice and Beata Sas-Korczyńska from Kraków. The prizes were funded by three companies: MDS Nordion, Nucletron, and Varian/Candela.

There is no doubt that the subject matter of the Congress, the general standard of the presentations and the discussions, as well as very high attendance of more than 200 participants have proved that the idea that led to the establishing of a Polish Society of Radiation Oncology distinct from the Polish Society of Oncology, to embrace medical, physical and radiobiological professions engaged in the problems of radiation therapy turned out to be both sound and useful.

Splendid weather along with excellent organisation, as well as the unforgettable atmosphere of the old imperial and Royal Kraków, have all contributed to the great success of the Congress which turned out to be an important scientific and social event.

Bogdan Gliński

Radiotherapy Clinic

Oncology Centre-M. Skłodowska-Curie Institute,
Kraków Branch