

REPORT FROM THE 2nd EUROPEAN SECTION MEETING
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCES
(October 8th-10th 2015, Belgrade, Serbia)

The beautiful city of Belgrade (Republic of Serbia) was hosting the 2nd European Section Meeting of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences (IACS), which was held in period October 8th-10th, 2015 (Hotel Crowne Plaza). The 2nd European Meeting was organized by the European Section of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences and the Serbian Association for Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology Research, but it was endorsed by the Serbian Physiological Society, Faculty of Medicine University of Belgrade, Faculty of Medical Sciences University of Kragujevac, and the Hypertension, Infarction, Stroke and Prevention Association of Serbia. In addition, this meeting was sponsored by the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences (Headquarter, Winnipeg, Canada), Serbian Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Serbian Medicines and Medical Devices Agency, and companies: Actavis (Belgrade, Serbia), Teva (Belgrade, Serbia), Mitsubishi Rayon Cleansui Co. Ltd. (Tokyo, Japan), and Pivotal Therapeutics (Woodbridge, Ontario, Canada). The meeting was announced at the web sites of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences, European Section of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences, and the Serbian Physiological Society. 2nd European Section Meeting of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences with general topic entitled “Heart Diseases: How New Research May Lead to New Treatments” was accredited for continuing medical education program by the Health Council of Serbia as a first class rank meeting with a maximal number of credits for invited speakers, oral presenters, poster presenters, and participants - physicians and pharmacists. In addition, three day - course for health practitioners with final single choice quiz was accredited also (topics: new drugs and technologies, clinical practice guidelines, and life style management in cardiovascular diseases).

Co-chairs of the Program and Organization Committee were Dragan M. Djurić, Institute of Medical Physiology “Richard Burian”, Faculty of Medicine University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia, and Vladimir L.J. Jakovljević, Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medical Sciences University of Kragujevac, Kragujevac, Serbia. Honorary co-chairs were Naranjan S. Dhalla, Executive Director IACS, Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences, St. Boniface Hospital Research Centre, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada, and Andras Varro, President European Section IACS, Department of Pharmacology and Pharmacotherapy, Faculty of Medicine University of Szeged, Szeged, Hungary.

The meeting had research- and clinically-based sessions directed by the program committee, special sessions on continuing medical education and public awareness, and most importantly, keynote lectures which enlightened us on recent cardiovascular developments and innovations. The scientific program included a broad mix of topics from molecular, cellular and integrative aspects of cardiovascular sciences, and it was going ahead to the scientific problems covered by the international scientific community. The meeting included the following sessions: opening of the meeting and welcome messages, advances in cardiac dysfunction and heart failure research, advances in arrhythmia research, advances in neurocardiovascular research, advances in cardiovascular biology and cardiovascular genomics, novel approaches in cardiovascular therapy, advances in cardiovascular surgery and cardiovascular monitoring: when basic meets clinical research, advances in cardiovascular risk management, prevention and rehabilitation, and IACS awards session with concluding remarks. During this event, it was held a official meeting of the IACS - European Section Council.

A collection of abstracts presented at the meeting was published in English, cataloged at the Serbian National Library, and edited by Dragan M. Djurić and Vladimir Lj. Jakovljević. The Abstract book (with final program) was included 105 abstracts with authors (and participants as well) from 21 countries (Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Czech Republic, Cuba, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Turkey, USA, and Serbia). Out of total number of abstracts, 59 were selected for oral presentations, while 46 were accepted for poster sessions. The International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences in association with the European Section provided different awards from educational grants for speakers (funds for accommodation and hospitality for eight speakers in two scientific sessions, namely Sir Magdi Yacoub Symposia and George Jackowski Young Investigator Award Competition), and for poster presenters as well (Guy Vassort Poster Award Session - awardees: Stephanie Caligiuri (Winnipeg, Canada), Vivien Demeter-Haludka (Szeged, Hungary), Szilvia Deri (Szeged, Hungary), Maja Zivković (Belgrade, Serbia), and Elizabeth Roth Poster Award Session - awardees: Teodora Hartai (Szeged, Hungary), Alexandra Petrus (Timisoara, Romania), Tamara Nikolić (Kragujevac, Serbia), Adrian Sturza (Timisoara, Romania). Two individuals selected from the invited speakers list were awarded with Bohuslav Ostadal Award (Agrawal K. Devendra, Omaha, USA) and with Jan Slezak Award (Tatiana Ravingerova, Bratislava, Slovak Republic) for excellence in cardiovascular research. Dragan M. Djurić (Belgrade, Serbia) was awarded with Lifetime Achievement Award in Cardiovascular Science, Medicine and Surgery. Vladimir Lj. Jakovljević (Kragujevac, Serbia) was awarded with Distinguished Leadership Award in

Cardiovascular Sciences. Lifetime Achievement Award in Cardiovascular Science, Medicine and Surgery presented to Frank Kolbel (Prague, Czech Republic).

Certain number of presentations were selected to be published as a full-length papers in a special issue of the Canadian Journal of Physiology and Pharmacology (in 2016), which is affiliated with the Canadian Society of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, the Canadian Physiological Society, and the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences.

It should be also noted that social program was interesting and that the participants, as they said, had nice memories of bohemian quarter “Skadarlija”, tower “Avala” near Belgrade, fine restaurants (namely “Lovac”, “Milosev konak” and “Kumbara”), and unforgettably enjoyed delicious Serbian cuisine, folk and international music. Belgrade is not only the international city but really the very historical place where the most of participants found typical Serbian spirit of life also.

Cardiovascular sciences are undergoing many important changes during last decade. By using novel techniques we are gaining better understanding of mechanisms of normal functions and diseases of cardiovascular system, and enabling us to make better diagnoses. Physiologists, geneticists, molecular biologists, epidemiologists, nutritionists, pharmacologists, clinicians etc. are providing us with novel tools and knowledge that is improving our work; as cardiovascular scientists we have many interactions with other disciplines, and the evolution of our field has impact on medical decisions in everyday practice. We are sure that the general topics for the IACS Belgrade 2015 meeting really gave a contribution to the cardiovascular medicine. It is not easy to keep up with everything that is ongoing, but the IACS tries to serve also the educational needs for cardiovascular specialists. Moreover, the European Section of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences feels strongly about the role of science in the developments that steer our practice. Thus, educational needs are always integrated in cardiovascular scientific progress.

On behalf of the Program & Organizing Committee

Dragan Djurić and Vladimir Jakovljević







