

Report from the 26th Annual Congress of the Croatian Society for Rheumatology with International Participation

Izveštaj s 26. godišnjeg kongresa Hrvatskoga reumatološkog društva s međunarodnim sudjelovanjem

Rovinj, 24th – 27th October 2024 / Rovinj, 24. – 27. listopada 2024.

SUMMARY

Since the very beginning of medicine, the method of sharing experiences, knowledge and insights was crucial in order to achieve the best possible everyday clinical practice. This is especially important in the case of rare diseases such as idiopathic inflammatory myopathies or immune-mediated myopathies, which were the main topics of this year's 26th Annual Congress of the Croatian Society for Rheumatology with International Participation.

SAŽETAK

Za što bolju svakodnevnu kliničku praksu, otkako je medicine, važno je dijeljenje iskustava, spoznaja i saznanja. Navedeno je posebno bitno u slučaju rijetkih bolesti kao što su i idiopatske upalne miopatije odnosno imunosno posredovane miopatije, glavna tema ovogodišnjeg, 26. po redu, godišnjeg kongresa Hrvatskoga reumatološkog društva s međunarodnim sudjelovanjem.

The wonderful, scenic region of Istria once again hosted a Congress that now traditionally takes place in October with the participation of rheumatologists, clinical immunologists and doctors of related specialties from Croatia and other European countries.

The opening ceremony of the Congress was preceded by interactive workshops. B. Karanović, MD (UHC Zagreb) held a workshop on the diagnostics and treatment of adults with primary immunodeficiencies for the second year in a row, and this year a capillaroscopy workshop was also held under the mentorship of Assoc. Prof. M. Radić, MD, PhD (UHC Split) and Prim. M. Barešić, MD (UHC Zagreb). Some of the new, but well-attended, workshops were "RadionicANA" (in English: *Workshop ANA*) on the interpretation of antinuclear antibody (ANA) findings in everyday clinical work (A. Barić, MD et al., UHC Sisters of Mercy Zagreb) and "Intraartikularne infiltracijske tehnike u kliničkoj praksi" (in English: *Intra-articular infiltration techniques in clinical practice*) under the mentorship of A. Šegota, PhD (UHC Rijeka) et al.

On the evening of the first day, Srđan Novak, MD, PhD from UHC Rijeka, the newly elected President of the Croatian Society for Rheumatology, officially

Krasna zemlja, Istra mila, ponovno je u već tradicionalnom listopadskom terminu, ugostila reumatologe, kliničke imunologe i liječnike srodnih struka kako iz Hrvatske, tako i iz drugih europskih zemalja.

Otvorenju kongresa su prethodile interaktivne radionice. Dr. B. Karanović (KBC Zagreb) je drugu godinu za redom održao radionicu o dijagnostici i liječenju odraslih osoba s primarnim imunodefijencijama, a i ove je godine također održana i kapilaroskopska radionica pod mentorstvom izv. prof. dr. sc. M. Radića (KBC Split) i prim. dr. M. Barešića (KBC Zagreb). Nove, ali itekako posjećene, radionice su bile „RadionicANA“ o interpretaciji nalaza antinuklearnih antitijela (ANA) u svakodnevnom kliničkom radu (dr. A. Barić i sur., KBC Sestre milosrdnice) te „Intraartikularne infiltracijske tehnike u kliničkoj praksi“ pod mentorstvom dr.sc. A. Šegote (KBC Rijeka) i suradnika.

U predvečerje prvoga dana je prof. dr. sc. Srđan Novak iz KBC Rijeka, novoizabrani predsjednik HRD-a, službeno otvorio kongres, nakon čega je slijedilo počasno predavanje u spomen dr. Dragi Čopu. Ove je godine čast da ga održi pripala prof. dr. sc. Branki Marinović (Klinika za dermatovenerologiju, KBC Zagreb) koja nas je upoznala s novim saznanjima o dijagnostici i liječenju

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uz dopuštenje urednika gospodina Bralića.



PHOTO 1. The Congress was opened by the new President of the Croatian Society for Rheumatology, Prof. Srđan Novak, MD, PhD.

SLIKA 1. Kongres je otvorio novi predsjednik Društva, prof. dr. sc. Srđan Novak

PHOTO 2. An honorary lecture in memory of Prim. Drago Čop, MD, *Cutaneous lupus erythematosus: new findings in 2024*, held by Prof. Branka Marinović, MD, PhD.

SLIKA 2. Počasno predavanje u spomen na dr. Dragu Čopa „Kutani eritemski lupus – što je novo u 2024. godini?“ – prof. dr. sc. Branka Marinović

opened the Congress, which was followed by an honorary lecture in memory of Primarius Drago Čop, MD. This year, Prof. Branka Marinović, MD, PhD (Department of Dermatology and Venereology, UHC Zagreb) had the honour of giving this lecture. During her presentations, she introduced us to new findings on the diagnosis and treatment of skin manifestations of lupus, that has the leading role in the sphere of systemic inflammatory diseases that are in the centre of interest of rheumatologists. The first day of the Congress came to an end with a lecture on 70 years of *Reumatizam*, the official journal of the Croatian Society for Rheumatology. The past and present of the aforementioned journal were the topics presented by the prior editor-in-chief, Prof. Simeon Grazio, MD, PhD (UHC Sisters of Mercy Zagreb), and plans for the future were relayed by Assistant Professor Ivan Padjen (UHC Zagreb), the new editor-in-chief of the *Reumatizam* journal.

Idiopathic inflammatory myopathies

The main topic of this year's Congress were idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IIM), which, according to some authors, are more frequently known as immune-mediated myopathies (IMM) due to the sometimes histologically absent inflammatory infiltrate.

IIMs are a heterogeneous group of autoimmune diseases of the skeletal muscles, and less commonly of the myocardium, which are systemic in nature because they also affect other organs or organ systems such as



PHOTO 3. Prof. Srđan Novak, MD, PhD with Prof. Simeon Grazio, MD, PhD (in the middle) and Assist. Prof. Ivan Padjen (first on the left), prior and current editors-in-chief of the *Rheumatism* journal.

SLIKA 3. Prof. dr. sc. Srđan Novak s prof. dr. sc. Simeonom Graziom (u sredini) i doc. dr. sc. Ivanom Padjenom (prvi s lijeva), bivšim i sadašnjim glavnim urednicima *Reumatizma*.

kožnih manifestacija lupusa, bolesti koja je korifej sistemskih upalnih bolesti kojima se reumatolozi bave.

Prvi je dan kongresa zaključen predavanjem o 70 godina *Reumatizma*, stručnog časopisa HRD-a. O prošlosti i sadašnjosti časopisa nam je pričao dosadašnji glavni urednik, prof. dr. sc. Simeon Grazio (KBC Sestre milosrdnice), a s planovima za budućnost nas je upoznao doc. dr. sc. Ivan Padjen (KBC Zagreb), novi urednik *Reumatizma*.

Idiopske upalne miopatije

Glavna su tema ovogodišnjeg kongresa bile idiopske upalne miopatije (idiopathic inflammatory myopathies – IIM) koje se prema pojedinim autorima, zbog katkad histološki odsutnog upalnog infiltrata, sve više nazivaju i imunosno posredovanim miopatijama (immune mediated myopathies – IMM).

IIM su heterogena skupina autoimunih bolesti skeletne muskulature, rjeđe i miokarda, a koje su sustavne naravi jer zahvaćaju i druge organe ili organske sustave poput kože ili pluća (1,2). Skupinu čine entiteti poput polimiozitisa, dermatomiozitisa, amioopskog dermatomiozitisa, miozitisa inkluzijskih tjelešaca, imunosno posredovane nekrotične miopatije (IMNM; posljedično anti-HMGCR ili anti-SRP protutijelima), antisintetaznog sindroma te miopatije u sklopu sindroma preklapanja. Miozitis su rijetke bolesti s incidencijom od 0,2-2 na 100 000 osoba-godina i prevalencijom od 2-25 na 100 000 osoba, a upravo zahvaljujući podizanju



PHOTO 4. Main topic moderators (from left to right): Assoc. Prof. Mislav Radić, MD, PhD, Prim. Marko Barešić, MD, Assoc. Prof. Frane Grubišić, MD, PhD.

SLIKA 4. Moderatori glavne teme (s lijeva na desno) izv. prof. dr. sc. Mislav Radić, prim. dr. Marko Barešić, izv. prof. dr. sc. Frane Grubišić



PHOTO 5. Prof. Armen Yuri Gasparyan and the participants of the Peer review updates, peer review credits and social media platforms workshop.

SLIKA 5. Prof. dr. sc. Armen Yuri Gasparyan i polaznici radionice „Peer review updates, peer review credits and social media platforms“

the skin or lungs (1,2). This group consists of conditions such as polymyositis, dermatomyositis, amyopathic dermatomyositis, inclusion body myositis, immune-mediated necrotizing myopathy (IMNM; it can be associated with anti-HMGCR or anti-SRP antibodies), antisynthetase syndrome, and myositis overlap syndrome. Myositis is the name for a group of rare conditions with incidence rates ranging from 0.2 to 2 cases per 100,000 person-years and a prevalence from 2 to 25 per 100,000 people. Due to raising awareness

svijesti o njima i ranijem postavljanju dijagnoze je mortalitet niži no ranije. Ipak, morbiditet je i dalje velik, posebice uslijed kardiovaskularnih i respiratornih komplikacija te nerijetko činjenice da su ova stanja dio paraneoplastičkog fenomena, odnosno poruka za malignom. Iako se službeno „cancer associated myopathy – CAM“ definira kao ona nastala unutar 3 godine od dijagnoze IIM, prema podacima iz literature rizik maligne bolesti je viši u odnosu na opću populaciju čak i nakon 10 godina od postavljanja dijagnoze.

about this group of rare conditions and their earlier diagnosis, mortality rates in patients suffering from these conditions is lower than before. However, morbidity is still high, especially due to cardiovascular and respiratory complications and the fact that these conditions are often part of a paraneoplastic phenomenon, which means that they include signs and symptoms characteristic of malignancy. Although cancer-associated myositis (CAM) is defined as malignancy occurring within 3 years of IIM diagnosis, according to data from literature, the risk of malignant disease is higher compared to the general population even after 10 years following disease onset.

The aforementioned findings, as well as numerous other data, were presented to us during the morning of October 25th by our colleagues from various Croatian centres under the watchful eye of three moderators: Assoc. Prof. Mislav Radić, MD, PhD (UHC Split), Assoc. Prof. Frane Grubišić, MD, PhD (UHC Sisters of Mercy Zagreb) and Prim. Marko Barešić, MD. Moreover, Prof. Jasminka Milas-Ahić, MD, PhD (UHC Osijek) spoke about the pathophysiology of IIM, while Prof. Joško Mitrović, MD, PhD (UH Dubrava) chose to cover the topic of the clinical features and differential diagnosis of these conditions. In the diagnosis of IIM, there are several useful diagnostic techniques, such as muscle biopsy, which was a topic presented by Prof. Daniela Marasović Krstulović, MD, PhD (UHC Split), Assoc. Prof. Miroslav Mayer, MD, PhD (UHC Zagreb) and Prim. Leo Pažanin, MD (Ljudevit Jurak University Department of Pathology and Citology, UHC Sisters of Mercy Zagreb), and electromyoneurography (EMNG), which was a topic mentioned in the lecture given by Prof. Ervina Bilić, MD, PhD (Department of Neurology, UHC Zagreb). As it was mentioned before, in addition to muscle pathology, these conditions also affect other organ systems, and one of the more common and severe clinical manifestations is interstitial lung disease, which was a topic discussed by Prim. Ana Hećimović, MD, PhD (Department of Lung Diseases, UHC Zagreb). Prof. Srđan Novak (UHC Rijeka) presented the well-known facts as well as new findings in pharmacotherapy, and Prof. Nadica Laktašić Žerjavić, MD, PhD (UHC Zagreb) talked about a very important part of treatment when it comes to patients suffering from these diseases, which is rehabilitation. During the final part, the main topics, experiences and data related to clinical practice were shared by the representatives of author groups from three university hospital centres. The lecturers were Krešimir Rukavina, MD (UHC Zagreb) with the topic of "Profil protutijela u bolesnika s idiopatskim upalnim miopatijama i povezanost s malignim bolestima – iskustva tercijarnog centra" (in English: *Antibody profile in patients with idiopathic inflammatory myopathies and their correlation with ma-*



PHOTO 6. Lecturers and moderators of the Section of lectures given by invited lecturers (from left to right): Prof. Srđan Novak, MD, PhD, Prof. Daniela Marasović Krstulović, MD, PhD, Prof. Sandra Meisalu, MD, PhD, Prof. Jasminka Milas-Ahić, MD, PhD, and Prof. Gyorgy Nagy, MD, PhD.

SLIKA 6. Predavači i moderatori Sekcije pozvanih predavanja (s lijeva na desno): prof. dr. sc. Srđan Novak, prof. dr. sc. Daniela Marasović Krstulović, prof. dr. sc. Sandra Meisalu, prof. dr. sc. Jasminka Milas-Ahić i prof. dr. sc. Gyorgy Nagy

Ove, kao i brojne druge podatke i informacije, su nam tijekom prijepodneva 25. listopada izložili kolege iz brojnih hrvatskih centara uz budno oko trojice moderatora, izv. prof. dr. sc. Mislava Radića (KBC Split), izv. prof. dr. sc. Frane Grubišića (KBC Sestre milosrdnice) i prim. dr. Marka Barešića. O patofiziologiji IIM je govorila prof. dr. sc. Jasminka Milas-Ahić (KBC Osijek), dok se prof. dr. sc. Joško Mitrović (KB Dubrava) posvetio kliničkoj slici i diferencijalnoj dijagnozi ovih stanja. U dijagnostici IIM su nam itekako korisne dijagnostičke metode poput biopsije mišića o kojoj su govorili prof. dr. sc. Daniela Marasović Krstulović (KBC Split), izv. prof. dr. sc. Miroslav Mayer (KBC Zagreb) i prim. dr. Leo Pažanin (Klinički zavod za patologiju i citologiju „Ljudevit Jurak“, KBC Sestre milosrdnice) te elektromioneurografija (EMNG), tema predavanja prof. dr. sc. Ervine Bilić (Klinika za neurologiju, KBC Zagreb). Kako je spomenuto, osim mišićne patologije, ova stanja zahvaćaju i druge organske sustave, a jedna od češćih i težih kliničkih manifestacija je intersticijska bolest pluća o kojoj je govorila prim. dr. sc. Ana Hećimović (Klinika za plućne bolesti, KBC Zagreb). O poznatim činjenicama ali i novostima u farmakoterapiji nas je informirao prof. dr. sc. Srđan Novak (KBC Rijeka), a o itekako bitnom dijelu liječenja ovih bolesnika, rehabilitaciji, je govorila prof. dr. sc. Nadica Laktašić Žerjavić (KBC Zagreb). U završnici glavne teme, iskustva i podatke iz kliničke prakse su podijelili predstavnici skupina autora iz tri KBC-a, a predavači su bili dr. Krešimir Rukavina iz KBC Zagreb s temom „Profil protutijela u bolesnika s idiopatskim upalnim miopatijama i povezanost s malignim bole-



PHOTO 7. The always well-attended poster presentation.

SLIKA 7. Uvijek dobro posjećena poster sekcija

lignancies – a tertiary centre experience), Prof. Daniela Marasović Krstulović, MD, PhD (UHC Split) with the topic of “Kardiološke manifestacije u idiopatskim upalnim miopatijama – iskustva tercijarnog centra” (in English: *Cardiac manifestations in idiopathic inflammatory myopathies – experiences of a tertiary centre*) and Filip Mirić, MD (UHC Rijeka) with the topic of “Klinička obilježja pacijenata s antisintetaznim sindromom – iskustva jednog centra” (in English: *Clinical features of patients with antisynthetase syndrome – experience of the single centre*).

After lunch, in the afternoon, our resident and specialist colleagues under 40 years of age had the opportunity to present their works as part of the “Mlada reumatologija” section (in English: *Young Rheumatology*), which was moderated by Assistant Professor Ivan Padjen (UHC Zagreb), Ivona Božić, MD, PhD (UHC Split) and Filip Mirić, MD (UHC Split). The reference to the main topic was provided by the lecturers on behalf of a group of authors: Antica Mihaliček, MD from the UH Dubrava, who spoke about the experiences with interstitial lung disease in patients with IIM who were treated at the said hospital, Valentina Juraga, MD from the UHC Sisters of Mercy Zagreb, with the topic of clinical and laboratory characteristics of patients with IIM treated at that centre in the past three years, Ivan Vlak, MD with a cumulative overview of the experiences from the UHC Split related to the follow-up and treatment patients with IIM, and Mirna Lucić, MD from the UHC Osijek who presented the case of a patient with oropharyngeal dysphagia as part of statin-induced myopathy. We also had the chance to hear about other topics from other presenter such as Lucija Prtenjača, MD from the UHC Zagreb, who covered the topic of the follow-up and treatment of patients with

stima – iskustva tercijarnog centra“, prof. dr. sc. Daniela Marasović Krstulović iz KBC Split s temom „Kardiološke manifestacije u idiopatskim upalnim miopatijama – iskustva tercijarnog centra“ te dr. Filip Mirić iz KBC Rijeka s temom „Klinička obilježja pacijenata s antisintetaznim sindromom – iskustva jednog centra“.

Nakon okrijepe uz ručak, u poslijepodnevnom satima, u sklopu sekcije „Mlada reumatologija“, koju su moderirali doc. dr. sc. Ivan Padjen (KBC Zagreb), dr. sc. Ivona Božić (KBC Split) i dr. Filip Mirić (KBC Rijeka), kolege specijalizanti i specijalisti mlađi od 40 godina, imali su priliku predstaviti svoje radove. Poveznicu s glavnom temom dali su predavači u ime grupe autora, dr. Antica Mihaliček, koja je govorila o iskustvima iz KB Dubrava s intersticijskom bolesti pluća u oboljelih od IIM, dr. Valentina Juraga iz KBC Sestre milosrdnice s temom kliničkih i laboratorijskih obilježja bolesnika s IIM liječenima u tom centru u protekle tri godine, dr. Ivan Vlak s kumulativnim prikazom iskustava KBC Split u praćenju i liječenju oboljelih od IIM te dr. Mirna Lucić iz KBC Osijek prikazavši slučaj bolesnika s orofaringealnom disfagijom u sklopu miopatije posredovane uporabom statina. Odmak od glavne teme su napravili dr. Lucija Prtenjača s prikazom iskustava KBC Zagreb u praćenju i liječenju oboljelih od Behçetova sindroma i dr. Nika Nikolac iz KBC Rijeka prikazavši uporabu hiperspektralne slikovne dijagnostike (TIVITA) u procjeni mikrocirkulacije pacijenata s Raynaudovim fenomenom kao novu i potencijalnu dijagnostičku metodu u dijagnostici osoba s ovim fenomenom. Zadovoljstvo nam je istaknuti da je u sekciji sudjelovalo i dvoje inozemnih predavača, dr. Paul Studenic (Medical University of Vienna, Karolinska Institut) s temom „Innovative approaches to patient care upon collaborative research“ te dr. Jelena Čolić (Insti-



PHOTO 8. Pictured in the photo on the monitor: Kristina Frkeć Marović, MD, Marija Zubčić, nurse, President of the Croatian Association of Nurses, Technicians and Physiotherapists in Rheumatology and Immunology, and Assist. Prof. Željka Kardum, MD, PhD. The award was presented to the winner by the members of the Committee and the President of the Croatian Society for Rheumatology (standing, left to right), Prof. Simeon Grazio, MD, PhD, Prof. Jasminka Milas-Ahić, MD, PhD, Prof. Srđan Novak, MD, PhD and Prof. Joško Mitrović, MD, PhD.

SLIKA 8. Nagradu za najbolje usmeno priopćenje su osvojile dr. Frkeć Marović i sur. Na slici na monitoru dr. Kristina Frkeć Marović, med. sestra Marija Zubčić, predsjednica Društva medicinskih sestara, tehničara i fizioterapeuta u reumatologiji i imunologiji i doc. dr. sc. Željka Kardum, a nagradu su joj dodijelili članovi povjerenstva i predsjednik Društva (stoje, slijeva na desno), prof. dr.sc. Simeon Grazio, prof. dr.sc. Jasminka Milas Ahić, prof. dr. sc. Srđan Novak i prof. dr. sc. Joško Mitrović.

Behçet's syndrome, and Nika Nikolac, MD from the UHC Rijeka who presented the use of hyperspectral imaging diagnostics (TIVITA) in the assessment of microcirculation in patients with Raynaud's phenomenon as a new and potential diagnostic method in the diagnosis of people with this phenomenon. We must also proudly note that two foreign lecturers also participated in this section, Paul Studenic, MD (Medical University of Vienna, Karolinska Institutet) with the topic of *Innovative approaches to patient care upon collaborative research* and Jelena Čolić, MD (Institute of Rheumatology, Serbia) with the topic of *The association of global hemostasis markers with the risk of new digital ulcer onset – circulating extracellular vesicles as a predictive marker of interstitial lung disease progression in systemic sclerosis: a prospective cohort study*. The first working day of the Congress was brought to a close by our long-time collaborators from the Rheumatology International journal, Prof. Armen Yuri Gasparyan, MD, PhD and Assist. Prof. Olena Zimba, who organized the workshop named *Peer review updates, peer review credits and social media platforms*, which was moderated by Prof. Simeon Grazio, MD, PhD.

tut za reumatologiju, Srbija) s temom „The association of global hemostasis markers with the risk of new digital ulcer onset – circulating extracellular vesicles as a predictive marker of interstitial lung disease progression in systemic sclerosis: a prospective cohort study“.

Prvi su radni dan kongresa priveli kraju naši dugogodišnji dobri suradnici iz časopisa *Rheumatology International*, prof. dr. sc. Armen Yuri Gasparyan i doc. dr. sc. Olena Zimba, radionicom „Peer review updates, peer review credits and social media platforms“, koju je moderirao prof. dr. sc. Simeon Grazio.

Međunarodni stručnjaci iz područja reumatologije su nas uveli i u drugi radni dan, kad su u prvoj sekciji moderatori bili: prof. dr. sc. Daniela Marasović Krstulović, prof. dr. sc. Jasminka Milas Ahić i prof. dr. sc. Srđan Novak. Prof. dr. sc. Gyorgy Nagy (Sveučilište Semmelweis, Mađarska) je održao o itekako svakodnevnoj i važnoj temi – trebamo li još uvijek glukokortikoidne u liječenju oboljelih od reumatoidnog artritisa i sistemskog eritemskog lupusa, s obzirom na to koliko drugih imunosupresivnih i imunomodulatornih lijekova danas imamo na raspolaganju. Jednako atraktivno predavanje, o kožnim manifestacijama dermatomiozitisa i njihovom značaju u kliničkoj praksi, je održala dr. Sandra Meislau, predsjednica Reumatološkog društva Estonije. Blok pozvanih inozemnih predavanja je zaokružio prof. dr. sc. Savino Sciascia sa Sveučilišta u Torinu, s temom suvremenih spoznaja o antifosfolipidnom sindromu. U poslijepodnevним satima su u sekciji usmenih priopćenja koje su moderirali prof. dr. sc. Jasminka Milas Ahić (umjesto odsutne prof. dr. sc. Jasenke Markeljević) i prof. dr. sc. Simeon Grazio pozvani regionalni eksperti govorili su o izazovima u liječenju teških slučajeva dermatomiozitisa (dr. Tatjana Zekić, KBC Rijeka), evaluaciji algoritma probira intersticijskih bolesti pluća u sklopu sistemskih bolesti vezivnog tkiva (dr. Kristina Frkeć Marović i sur., OB Zadar), potencijalnoj primjeni D-dimera kao pokazatelja upale u oboljelih od reumatoidnog artritisa (dr. Samir Mehmedagić i sur., KCU Sarajevo), učestalosti drugih HLA lokusa u oboljelih od aksijalnog spondiloartritisa (dr.sc. Adelmo Šegota i sur., KBC Rijeka), iskustvima KBC Zagreb u primjeni anifrolumaba u liječenju oboljelih od SLE (dr. Marija Šćepović – Ljucović i sur., KBC Zagreb), iskustvima KBC Rijeka u kombiniranoj primjeni rituksimaba i tofacitiniba u liječenju dermatomiozitisa s pozitivnim anti-MDA5 protutijelima (dr. Filip Mirić i sur, KBC Rijeka), perzistenciji i razlozima prekida terapije inhibitorima IL-17 ili TNF-alfa u pacijenata oboljelih od psorijatičnog artritisa liječenih u KBC Sestre milosrdnice (dr. Stipe Čavar u ime dr. Hane Skale Kavanagh i sur., KBC Sestre milosrdnice) te povezanosti C1q s aktivnosti SLE i zahvaćanjem bubrega u SLE (dr. Robert Marčec i sur., KBC Zagreb).

International experts in the field of rheumatology introduced us to topics of the second day of the Congress, and the moderators in the first section were the following experts: Prof. Daniela Marasović Krstulović, MD, PhD, Prof. Jasminka Milas-Ahić, MD, PhD and Prof. Srđan Novak, MD, PhD. Prof. Gyorgy Nagy, MD, PhD (Simmelweiss University, Hungary) gave a lecture on an everyday and very important topic: are glucocorticoids still necessary in the treatment of patients with rheumatoid arthritis and systemic lupus erythematosus, considering how many other immunosuppressive and immunomodulatory drugs are available today? An equally interesting lecture on skin manifestations of dermatomyositis and their importance in clinical practice was held by Sandra Meislau, MD, President of the Estonian Rheumatology Society. The series of lectures by foreign participants was completed by Prof. Savino Sciascia, MD from the University of Turin, who presented the topic of modern findings related to the antiphospholipid syndrome. In the afternoon, the oral presentations were moderated by Prof. Jasminka Milas-Ahić, MD, PhD (on behalf of Prof. Jasenka Markeljević, MD, PhD, who was absent) and Prof. Simeon Grazio, MD, PhD. In those presentations, the regional experts spoke about the challenges in the treatment of severe cases of dermatomyositis (Tatjana Zekić, MD, UHC Rijeka), the evaluation of the screening algorithm for interstitial lung diseases as part of systemic connective tissue diseases (Kristina Frketić Marović, MD et al., Zadar GH), the potential use of the D-dimer test as an indicator of inflammation in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (Samir Mehmedagić, MD et al., Clinical Centre of the University of Sarajevo), the frequency of other HLA loci in patients with axial spondyloarthritis (Adelmo Šegota, PhD et al., UHC Rijeka), experiences in the UHC Zagreb related to the use of anifrolumab in the treatment of SLE patients (Marija Šćepović-Ljucović, MD et al., UHC Zagreb), experiences in the UHC Rijeka related to the combined use of rituximab and tofacitinib in the treatment of dermatomyositis with positive anti-MDA5 antibodies (Filip Mirić, MD et al., UHC Rijeka), persistence and reasons for discontinuation of therapy with IL-17 or TNF-alpha inhibitors in patients with psoriatic arthritis treated at the UHC Sisters of Mercy Zagreb (Stipe Čavar, MD on behalf of Hana Skala Kavanagh, MD et al., UHC Sisters of Mercy Zagreb) and the association of C1q with SLE activity and kidney involvement in SLE (Robert Marčec, MD et al., UHC Zagreb).

On Saturday, just like in the previous years, a poster session was held, in which our numerous young colleagues from the Republic of Croatia, as well as our colleagues from the neighbouring countries, got the opportunity to present their scientific works, the experi-



PHOTO 9. Lucija Prtenjača, MD won an award for the best paper in the Young Rheumatology section, and the award was presented to the winner by Prof. Srđan Novak, MD, PhD, and Assist. Prof. Ivan Padjen.

SLIKA 9. Dr. Lucija Prtenjača je osvojila nagradu za najbolji rad u sekciji Mlada reumatologija, a nagradu su joj dodijelili prof. dr. sc. Novak i doc. dr. sc. Padjen

Tijekom subote, kao i prijašnjih godina, održana je poster sekcija, gdje su brojni mladi kolege iz RH kao i kolege iz susjednih zemalja, u dinamičnoj i atraktivnoj atmosferi predstavili svoje znanstvene radove, iskustva svojih centara s pojedinim bolestima ili oblicima terapije te prikazali zanimljive medicinske slučajeve iz struke. Prvu poster-sekciju su moderirali prof. dr. sc. Branimir Anić i doc. dr. sc. Marina Ikić Matijašević, a drugu prof. dr. sc. Nadica Laktašić Žerjavić i doc. dr. sc. Ana Gudelj Gračanin.

A upravo su zanimljivi i kompleksni klinički slučajevi razbudili sudionike kongresa u nedjelju ujutro kroz format koji je nakon nekoliko godina objeručke ponovno prihvaćen na našem kongresu. Uz moderiranje izv. prof. dr. sc. Dijane Perković (KBC Split) i izv. prof. dr. sc. Miroslava Mayera (KBC Zagreb), kolegice dr. Tea Ahel i dr.sc. Katarina Borić, dr. Ana Šimac i doc. dr.sc. Marija Bakula, dr. Vinka Vukosav i dr.sc. Lea Šalamon, te dr.sc. Ines Doko Vajdić i doc. dr. sc. Iva Žagar su nam dale odgovore na pitanja koje izazove očekivati u bolesnika sa sindromom aktivacije makrofaga, kako liječiti i koje komplikacije očekivati u bolesnika sa sindromom antisintetaza, koje komplikacije možemo očekivati u primjeni blokatora TNF-a u bolesnika s uveitisom, te kako se može komplicirati aniklozantni spondilitis ako se se ne dijagnosticira pravovremeno.

Radni dio kongresa je zaokružen kratkim usmenim priopćenjima, koji dio su moderirali doc. dr. sc. Iva Žagar i prof. dr.sc. Joško Mitrović, o nizu atraktivnih tema: hipofibrinogemija inducirana tocilizumabom

ences of their centres with certain diseases or methods of therapy, and interesting medical cases from the profession in a dynamic and riveting atmosphere. The first poster presentation was moderated by Prof. Branimir Anić, MD, PhD and Assist. Prof. Marina Ikić Matijašević, MD, PhD and the moderators for the second poster presentations were Prof. Nadica Laktašić Žerjavić, MD, PhD and Assist. Prof. Ana Gudelj Gračanin, MD, PhD.

The interesting and complex clinical cases were quite a wakeup call for the Congress participants on Sunday morning, and they were presented in a way that was wholeheartedly accepted at our Congress after several years of use. With the help of Assoc. Prof. Dijana Perković, MD, PhD (UHC Split) and Assoc. Prof. Miroslav Mayer, MD, PhD (UHC Zagreb), who served as moderators, our colleagues Tea Ahel, MD and Katarina Borić, MD, PhD, Ana Šimac, MD and Assist. Prof. Marija Bakula, MD, PhD, Vinka Vukosav, MD and Lea Šalamon, MD, PhD and Ines Doko Vajdić, MD, PhD and Assist. Prof. Iva Žagar, MD, PhD gave us the answers to the questions of which challenges to expect in patients with macrophage activation syndrome, which complications to expect in patients with antisyntetase syndrome and how to treat them, which complications to expect in the use of TNF- α blockers in patients with uveitis, and which complications can occur in patients with ankylosing spondylitis if it is not diagnosed in a timely manner.

The working part of the Congress was completed with short oral presentations, moderated by Assist. Prof. Iva Žagar, MD, PhD and Prof. Joško Mitrović, MD, PhD, on a number of interesting topics: tocilizumab-induced hypofibrinogenemia in children with JIA (Branka Zadro, MD et al., Children's Hospital Zagreb), the role of Gd-IgA1, HMGB1, RAGE and PCDH1 in the pathogenesis of IgA vasculitis (Martina Held, MD et al., UHC Zagreb), long-term monitoring results of patients with IgA vasculitis associated with nephritis (Mario Šestan, MD et al., UHC Zagreb), methotrexate intolerance scoring (Marija Šenjug Perica, MD et al., Paediatric Department, Srebrnjak Children's Hospital, Zagreb), experiences in UHC Dubrava with IIM patients (Stela Hrkač, MD et al., UH Dubrava), the importance of HBOT in the treatment of patients with systemic sclerosis (Klara Svalina, MD et al., Polyclinic for hyperbaric and occupational medicine OXY, the Zagreb branch), the effectiveness of TECAR therapy in patients with axial spondyloarthritis (Prof. Simeon Grazio, MD, PhD on behalf of Hana Skala Kavanagh, MD (who was absent) et al., UHC Sisters of Mercy Zagreb), the importance of anti-TIF-1- γ antibodies in patients with dermatomyositis (Filip Mirić, MD et al., UHC Rijeka).

At the closing ceremony of the Congress, the best works were announced, and this year's laureates were:



PHOTO 10. Danijela Kolarić Matešić, MD (second on the left) won an award for the best poster, and the award was presented to the winner by Prof. Ana Gudelj Gračanin, MD, PhD, Prof. Branimir Anić, MD, PhD and Prof. Srđan Novak, MD, PhD.

SLIKA 10. Nagradu za najbolji poster je osvojila dr. Danijela Kolarić Matešić (druga s lijeva), a nagradu su joj dodijelili doc. dr. sc. Gudelj Gračanin, prof. dr. sc. Anić i prof. dr. sc. Novak

u djece oboljele od JIA (dr. Branka Zadro i sur., Klinika za dječje bolesti, Zagreb), uloga Gd-IgA1, HMGB1, RAGE i PCDH1 u patogenezi IgA vaskulitisa (dr. Martina Held i sur., KBC Zagreb), rezultati dugoročnog praćenja bolesnika s nefritisom u sklopu IgA vaskulitisa (dr. sc. Mario Šestan i sur., KBC Zagreb), skoriranje intolerancije na metotreksat (Marija Šenjug Perica i sur., Klinika za pedijatriju, Dječja bolnica Srebrnjak, Zagreb), iskustva KB Dubrava s oboljelima od IIM (dr. Stela Hrkač i sur., KB Dubrava), značaj HBOT u liječenju oboljelih od sistemske skleroze (dr. Klara Svalina i sur., Poliklinika za baromedicinu i medicinu rada „Oxy“, podružnica Zagreb), učinkovitost TECAR terapije u oboljelih od aksijalnog spondiloartritisa (prof. dr.sc. Simeon Grazio umjesto odsutne dr. Hana Skala Kavanagh i sur., KBC Sestre milosrdnice), važnost anti-TIF-1- γ gama protutijela u oboljelih od dermatomiozitisa (dr. Filip Mirić i sur., KBC Rijeka).

Uz svečano zatvaranje kongresa proglašeni su najbolji radovi, a ovogodišnji su laureati: dr. Kristina Frketić Marović i sur. „Procjena algoritma probira za intersticijske bolesti pluća povezane sa sistemskim bolestima vezivnog tkiva: presječno istraživanje jednog centra“ za najbolje usmeno priopćenje, dr. Lucija Prtenjača i sur. „Kliničke karakteristike i liječenje pacijenata s Behçetovim sindromom: podaci Kliničkog bolničkog centra Zagreb“ za najbolji rad mlade reumatologije, a u kate-



PHOTO 11. The 2024 Managing Board of the Croatian Society for Rheumatology (left to right): Krešimir Rukavina, MD (Secretary), Prof. Joško Mitrović, MD, PhD, Prof. Branimir Anić, MD, PhD, Prof. Jasminka Milas-Ahić, MD, PhD, (First Vice-President), Prof. Simeon Grazio, MD, PhD, Prof. Srđan Novak (President), Prof. Daniela Marasović Krstulović (Second Vice-President), Prof. Dijana Perković, MD, PhD, Prof. Miroslav Mayer, MD, PhD, Prof. Nadica Laktašić Žerjavić, MD, PhD, Prof. Frane Grubišić, MD, PhD, Assist. Prof. Ivan Padjen.

SLIKA 11 Upravni odbor Hrvatskog reumatološkog društva 2024. (s lijeva na desno): dr. Krešimir Rukavina (tajnik), prof. dr. sc. Joško Mitrović, prof. dr. sc. Branimir Anić, prof. dr. sc. Jasminka Milas Ahić (prva dopredsjednica), prof. dr. sc. Simeon Grazio, prof. dr. sc. Srđan Novak (predsjednik), prof. dr. sc. Daniela Marasović Krstulović (druga dopredsjednica), prof. dr. sc. Dijana Perković, prof. dr. sc. Miroslav Mayer, prof. dr. sc. Nadica Laktašić Žerjavić, prof. dr. sc. Frane Grubišić, doc. dr. sc. Ivan Padjen.

Kristina Frketić Marović, MD et al., *Evaluation of a screening algorithm for interstitial lung diseases associated with systemic autoimmune rheumatic diseases: a single center cross-sectional study*, for the best oral presentation, Lucija Prtenjača, MD et al., *Clinical manifestations and treatment of patients with Behçet's syndrome: a single centre experience (UHC Zagreb)*, for the best paper in the Young Rheumatology section, and Danijela Kolarić Matešić, MD et al., *Felty's syndrome, systemic lupus erythematosus or cytomegalovirus infection: report of a patient*, for the best poster.

After the award ceremony, it was time to pack our bags and head home with the sense of new knowledge, nice memories, optimism, and eager anticipation for the next 27th Annual Congress of the Croatian Society for Rheumatology with International Participation, which will be held in October 2025 in the ancient and celebrated city of Dubrovnik.

goriji postera za najboljeg je izabran onaj dr. Danijele Kolarić Matešić i sur. „Feltyjev sindrom, sistemski eritemski lupus ili citomegalovirus infekcija- prikaz bolesnice“.

Nakon dodjele nagrada došlo je vrijeme da spakiramo svoje kovčege te se uputimo domovima ispunjeni novim saznanjima, lijepim sjećanjima te optimizmom i žarkim iščekivanjem sljedećeg 27. kongresa Hrvatskoga reumatološkog društva s međunarodnim sudjelovanjem koji će se održati u listopadu 2025. godine u, vjekovnom i opjevanom, Gradu – Dubrovniku.

Krešimir Rukavina, dr. med.;
prof. dr. sc. Srđan Novak, dr. med.;
prof. dr. sc. Simeon Grazio, dr. med.