

Report of the 9th Annual ECPD Summer School on Cardiovascular Diseases

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On June 26-30, 2017, the European Center for Peace and Development presented the 9th International Summer School on Cardiovascular Diseases at the Hotel Splendid in Budva/Becici, Montenegro. The program was attended by 25 registered participants, of whom 7 were first recipients of the Edwards Lifesciences Fellowships which were made possible for the first time this year by a grant from the Edwards Lifesciences Foundation (Irvine, California, USA). The seven recipients were chosen on the basis of their dedication to the medical/cardiovascular field, scholarship, and financial need from the Balkan region they reside in.



The program was opened by Academician Prof. Dr. Negoslav Ostojić, ECPD Executive Director, Academician Prof. Dr. Vladimir Kanjuh, President of the Program Committee of the School, President of the Board on Cardiovascular Pathology of the Serbian Academy of Arts and Sciences, President of the Serbian Atherosclerosis Society, as well as by Academician Prof. Dr. Nathan D. Wong, Director of the School,

University of California, Irvine, USA and Prof. Dr. Ian Graham, Co-Director of the School, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland. Further opening remarks were also given by Prof. Dr. Milan Nedeljkovic, Past President of the Cardiology Society of Serbia as well as by Professor Jeffrey Levett, National School of Public Health, Athens, Greece.

The opening lecture on the first day of the course was given by Academician Prof. Dr. Vladimir Kanjuh on morphologic-clinical correlations in cardiology and was the interactive prize winning lecture of the course, with his textbook titled *CARDIOLOGY* (2011) editors: Academician M. Ostojić, Academician V. Kanjuh and Prof. Dr. B. Beleslin) awarded to the top scoring student of the course, Dr. Mile Trifković from Bijeljina



(Bosnia & Herzegovina). The day was followed by lectures on cardiovascular disease prevention, specifically on lessons in preventive cardiology learned from epidemiology as well as on cardiovascular risk assessment and the role of global risk scoring, biomarkers, and subclinical atherosclerosis screening provided by Drs. Nathan Wong, Ian Graham, and Aleksandar Redzek. The second day completed the lectures on

prevention, including topics on lifestyle and cardiometabolic/diabetes risk management, lipid management, and auditing of cardiovascular risk factors. In addition, Prof. Dr. Milica Lazovic from the University of Belgrade spoke on rehabilitation of cardiovascular disease patients. The third day of course featured lectures on atrial fibrillation, hypertension, and heart failure given by Prof. Dr Ivan Tasic of the University of Nis and Prof. Dr. Mirza Dilic of the University of Sarajevo. Interventional cardiology, including discussions on treatment of NSTEMI, LA appendage closure, TAVI, and guidelines for revascularization comprised the fourth day and were given by Academician Prof. Dr. Miodrag Ostojic and Prof. Dr. Milan Nedeljkovic of the Clinical Center of Serbia. The final day of the program featured Academician Prof. Dr. Vladimir Kanjuh speaking on aortic aneurysms and on sudden arrhythmic death after which students received their course completion certificates.



Of note this year to increase student participation were several outstanding participant presentations, including those by Dr. Jadranka Plavsic on the preventive role of Serbian Institute of Sport and Sports Medicine, Dr. Tamara Kovačević Preradović on Echocardiographic global longitudinal strain (GLS) in assessment of left ventricular function, and Dr. Vladimir Mitov on the STEMI Network for Eastern Serbia.

Participants were also more engaged in the discussion of case studies as well as on specific key topics on the evaluation and management of cardiovascular disease.

It is the goal of the ECPD to continue to grow the summer school in terms of participants and renowned faculty and to provide the best short-course learning experience on the basics of prevention, evaluation, and management of cardiovascular diseases available in the Southeastern European and Balkan Region. Essential to achieving this is the continued cooperation among our key partners, including the Serbian, Republic of Srpska, Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Croatian Societies of Cardiology, European Society of Cardiology, American College of Cardiology, as well as philanthropic support from foundations and corporations in Europe and the United States, including Edwards Lifesciences Foundation and Amgen who have helped to support our summer school.

Academician Prof. Dr. Nathan Wong

Director of the ECPD International Summer School

On Cardiovascular Diseases

