

## **IUGA REGIONAL SYMPOSIUM - LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA**

Urogynecology: From Science to Practice

### **FINAL REPORT**

#### **Background**

The dissemination of urogynecological knowledge into developing as well as developed geographic regions, and encouraging and motivating obstetricians and/or gynecologists to increase their knowledge of urogynecology by introducing methods of patient counseling, preventative measures, and new diagnostic and treatment modalities have been some of the major goals of IUGA. In line with this policy, the IUGA International Board launched a new IUGA educational initiative - REGIONAL SYMPOSIA - to be organized in different geographical regions where there is already a clinical urogynecologic presence. In order to ensure appropriate scientific and academic levels, it was decided that all symposia should be held in university settings with minimal support from industry, under the general patronage of IUGA.

#### **Location/Date/Local Host**

Ljubljana, Slovenia was appointed as the location for the first Regional Symposium, representing the southeastern European region. This 2-day symposium was held on Friday October 3 and Saturday October 4, 2008. The local host was Professor Adolf Lukanovic from the University Medical Centre Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia.

#### **Venue**

The 2-day symposium was held in the Grand Lecture Hall of the University Medical Centre Ljubljana, a state-of-the-art facility, in Ljubljana. There was no charge for the use of the venue (see budget). Audiovisual was provided by the facility (for a fee).

#### **Language**

The official language of the program was English. Translation was not provided.

#### **Registration**

A total of 90 registrants were in attendance. All registrations were done through the IUGA office via the online registration system or by faxed registrations. Registrants registered either before the date of the symposium, or onsite. Registrants included 14 speakers (no charge), 1 administrative person (no charge), 29 fellows/residents/trainees, 20 IUGA members, and 26 non-members. Registration Fees (which will be standard for all future Regional Symposia) were 50 Euro for Residents/Trainees/Fellows and Nurses/Physiotherapists, 100 Euro for IUGA members and 150 Euro for non-members. A Registration Desk was set up outside the venue where all registrants checked in to receive a badge/symposium material. The Registration Desk was manned by one IUGA administrator and 1 local secretarial assistant for the duration of the symposium.

#### **Program and Lectures**

The 2-day program commenced on Friday, October 3 at 08:30 with opening remarks by the local host, followed by a full day of lectures, and concluded at 17:30; on

Saturday October 4, lectures started at 09:00 with concluding remarks at 17:30 ending the symposium; lunch and coffee breaks were included on both days of the program.

The 25-minute lectures were presented by internationally renowned urogynecologists and included Paul Riss (Austria), George Ralph (Austria), Wolfgang Umek (Austria), Karl Tamussino (Austria), Engelbert Hanzal (Austria), Harry Vervest (The Netherlands), Rane Thakar (UK), Kari Bo (Norway), Mauro Cervigni (Italy), and Willy Davila (USA). Local Slovenian speakers included David B. Vodusek, Božo Kralj, Igor But, Adolf Lukanović (who also served as the local host) and Matija Barbič (see program).

The lecturers represented the field of urogynecology: its origins dating back in history, anatomic elements of the pelvic floor, physiology and pathophysiology of pelvic floor disorders, diagnostic methods and new treatment modalities, and the most recent research achievements in urogynecology - particularly in pelvic floor surgery. During the time allotted for formal discussion, as well as during informal dialog, the participants had the opportunity to exchange their opinions, clinical experience, and problems associated with the diagnosis and treatment of pelvic floor disorders (see program).

### **Certificate**

At the conclusion of the 2nd day, each participant received a certificate of attendance in exchange for their completed evaluation forms.

### **Educational Credits**

The Medical Chamber of Slovenia allotted 12 CME credits to the Slovenian participants. In addition, this symposium was endorsed by the European Urogynecology Association (EUGA).

### **Syllabus**

A spiral bound syllabus book of proceedings was professionally published and provided to all attendees and speakers.

### **Course Evaluations**

The evaluation forms were completed by 71% of participants (63/90). The majority of attendees were OB/GYN (75%), and were at the staff level (50%). Overall, 75% rated the program as excellent. Seventy percent rated the level of content as excellent and 75% rated the speakers as excellent; 79% rated the time for Q and A and 54% rated the length of the conference as excellent. The syllabus material, quality of the AV and facility with respect to learning were rated as excellent in 75%, 68%, and 70%, respectively. Overall organization was rated as excellent in 71% of attendees. No attendees noted any commercial bias (see evaluation summary).

### **Opening Reception**

All of the symposium participants as well as the lecturers and organizers were invited to the opening ceremony, held on Friday evening at the National Art Gallery in downtown Ljubljana. Welcome addresses were given by both the President of the Slovene Society for Urogynecology, Professor Adolf Lukanović (local host), and by Dr. Willy Davila, Secretary/Treasurer of IUGA. The gallery curators, Ms. Katarina

Mohar and Ms. Anja Keber, invited all of the attendees on a tour of the exhibition of Slovenian expressionists. The walk among imposing works from the local masters of fine art was very impressive for all visitors. The pianist Beatrice Zonta accompanying the soprano singer Nataša Kranjc provided a beautiful musical recital at the completion of the gallery tour. Mr. Ojstrež catered the food which was very artfully presented. The Opening Reception was fully sponsored by industry.

### **Faculty Dinner**

All speakers and administrative support were invited to the Faculty Dinner which was held on Saturday October 4 in the evening. The dinner was held at Gostina A.S. restaurant which served fine local cuisine. The Faculty Dinner was sponsored by IUGA.

### **Industry Support**

Industry support included unrestricted educational grants by Novartis Pharma Services Inc., Schering-Plough CE AG, Pfizer, Johnson and Johnson d.o.o., Veldos d.o.o Novo Mesto, and Bayer d.o.o., each providing 1000 Euro. Industry support was paid directly to the local organizer and was used to fund the Opening Reception (see budget). All industry support was acknowledged and disclosed in the final printing of the syllabus book.

### **Future**

The next Regional Symposium will be held in Hong Kong, March 20-21, 2009 at the Prince of Wales Hospital, hosted locally by Dr. Symphorosa Chan.

## **PROGRAM**

### ***International Faculty***

Ranee Thakar  
Mayday University Hospital  
Surrey, United Kingdom

Harry Vervest  
Benschop, Netherlands

G. Willy Davila  
Cleveland Clinic Florida,  
Weston, FL USA

Paul Riss  
Abteilung fuer Gynaekologie  
Thermenklinikum Moedling  
Moedling, Austria

Karl Tamussino, Austria  
Medical University of Graz  
Graz, Austria

Engelbert Hanzal  
Univ.-Frauenklinik Wien  
Wien, Austria

Wolfgang Umek  
Medical University Vienna  
Wien, Austria

George Ralph  
Gynäkologieu.Geburtshilfe LKH  
Leoben  
Leoben, Austria

Kari Bo  
Norwegian School of Sport Sciences.  
Oslo, Norway

Mauro Cervigni  
San Carlo - IDI Hosp.  
Catholic University, Rome  
Rome, Italy

### ***Local Faculty***

David B. Vodušek  
SPS Nevrološka klinika  
Ljubljana, Slovenia

Igor But  
Clinic for Gynecology and Perinatology,  
University Clinical Centre Maribor  
Ljubljansk Maribor,  
Slovenia  
Matija Barbič

Božo Kralj  
Univerza v Ljubljani, Visoka šola  
za zdravstvo  
Ljubljana, Slovenia

**Local Host**

Adolf Lukanovič

**Industry Support**

Novartis Pharma Services Inc, Schering-Plough CE AG, Pfizer, Johnson and Johnson d.o.o., Veldos d.o.o. Novo Mesto, Bayer d.o.o.

**Educational Credits**

This program allows for 12 educational credits for physicians practicing in Slovenia.

**Endorsement**

This program is endorsed by the European Urogynecology Association (EUGA).

**SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME****Friday, October 3, 2008**

08.30 – 08.55 Welcome and Opening Remarks (A. Lukanovič, Chairman)  
08.55 – 09.20 History-taking: an overview (A. Lukanovič)  
09.20 – 09.45 Pelvic floor dysfunction: demographic and epidemiology (B. Kralj)  
09.45 – 10.10 Anatomy of the pelvic floor (W. Umek)  
10.10 – 10.30 DISCUSSION  
10.30 – 11.00 COFFEE BREAK  
11.00 – 11.25 Pregnancy and the pelvic floor (H. Vervest)  
11.25 – 11.50 Functional assessment of the pelvic floor and classification of genital prolapse (I. But)  
11.50 – 12.15 Neurophysiological testing of pelvic floor dysfunction (D. Vodušek)  
12.15 – 12.40 Urodynamic testing: indications and tests (M. Cervigni)  
12.40 – 13.00 DISCUSSION  
13:00 – 14:30 LUNCH  
14:30 – 15.00 Imaging (CANCELLED)  
15.00 – 15.30 Pathophysiology and evaluation of overactive bladder (M. Barbič)  
15.30 – 16.00 Treatment modalities of overactive bladder (I. But)  
16.00 – 16.30 Pharmacological treatment of overactive bladder (M. Barbič)  
16.30 – 17.00 DISCUSSION  
OPENING RECEPTION (NATIONAL ART GALLERY)

**Saturday, October 4, 2008**

09.00 – 09.25 Conservative treatment of pelvic floor dysfunction (K. Bo)  
09.25 – 9.50 Surgical treatment of stress urinary incontinence: overview (P. Riss)  
09.50 – 10.15 Retropubic urethropexy (M. Cervigni)  
10.15 – 10.40 Tape procedures (A. Lukanovič)  
10.40 – 11.00 DISCUSSION  
11.00 – 11.30 COFFEE BREAK  
11.30 – 11.55 Bulking agents (K. Tamussino)  
11.55 – 12.20 Surgical treatment of pelvic organ prolapse: overview (W. Davilla)  
12.20 – 12.45 Apical prolapse repair: vaginal approach (W. Davilla)  
12.45 – 13.10 Apical prolapse repair: abdominal approach (E. Hanzal)  
13.10 – 13.30 DISCUSSION  
13:30 – 15:00 LUNCH  
15.00 – 15.25 Cystocele repairs (K. Tamussino)  
15.25 – 15.50 Rectocele/enterocele repairs (G. Ralph)  
15.50 – 16.15 Childbirth and fecal incontinence (R. Thakar)  
16.15 – 16.40 DISCUSSION  
16.40 – 17.00 SUMMARY AND ADJOURN  
FACULTY DINNER (Gostina, A.S.)

PHOTOGALLERY



## EVALUATION SUMMARY

Hear about conference	N (%)	Specialty	N (%)	Level of training	N (%)	Commercial bias	N (%)
Brochure	8 (12)	Gyn	7 (11)	Nurse	1 (1.5)	None	18 (28)
Colleague	1 (1.5)	OB/GYN	47 (75)	Physiotherapist	2 (3.1)	Not reported	45 (71)
Email	11 (17)	Urogyn	6 (9.5)	Staff	32 (50)	No reply	0
Hospital	1 (1.5)	Urology	1 (1.5)	Trainee	20 (32)		
Journal	14 (22)	No reply	2 (3.1)	No reply	8 (12)		
Local host	2 (3.1)						
Other	6 (9.5)						
Website	15 (24)						
No reply	5 (7.9)						

	Overall Program (%)	Level of Content (%)	Overall Speakers (%)	Time Q&A (%)	Length of Conference (%)	Syllabus (%)	Facility conducive to learning (%)	Quality of AV (%)
1=POOR, 4=EXCELLENT								
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	1 (1.5)	0	3 (4.7)	3 (4.7)	3 (4.7)	1 (1.5)	1 (1.5)	3 (4.7)
3	15 (24)	19 (30)	13 (21)	10 (16)	14 (22)	15 (24)	16 (25)	17 (27)
4	47 (75)	44 (70)	47 (75)	50 (79)	34 (54)	47 (75)	44 (70)	43 (68)
No reply	0	0	0	0	12 (19)	0	2 (3.1)	1 (1.5)

	Ease of Registration (%)	Services provided on site (%)	Website (%)	Overall Organization (%)
1=POOR, 4=EXCELLENT				
1	3 (4.7)	0	3 (4.7)	0
2	10 (16)	3 (4.7)	4 (6.3)	1 (1.5)
3	7 (11)	17 (27)	17 (27)	17 (27)
4	42 (67)	43 (68)	34 (54)	45 (71)
No reply		1 0	5 (7.9)	0

**TOTAL EVALUATIONS = 63/90 (71%)**