

MBC NEWS

REPORT: THE 1ST INSTRUCTIONAL COURSE ON BURN AND ADVANCED BURN LIFE SUPPORT, CROATIA

On Oct. 3-5, 2014, the 1st Instructional Course on Burn and Advanced Burn Life Support was held in Šibenik, Croatia. The course was organized by the Croatian Burns Section of the Croatian Society of Plastic, Reconstructive, and Aesthetic Surgery in association with the Slovenian Burns Section of the Slovenian Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and with the contribution of the Serbian Society of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery and the Society of Plastic, Reconstructive and Maxillofacial Surgery of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The course was organized under the patronage of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Croatia and was endorsed by the European Burn Association (EBA) and the Euro-Mediterranean Council for Burns and Fire Disasters (MBC).

The course objectives were to:

1. Define the magnitude and severity of the injury;
2. Identify and establish priorities of treatment;

3. Apply correct methods of physiologic monitoring;
4. Determine the appropriate guidelines for transfer of a patient including factor of time, facility and type of transport;
5. Provide primary treatment of the burn wound associated injuries and common complications within the first 24hrs post-burn;
6. Outline the principles of burn surgery, skin grafting, and skin substitutes;
7. Consider other types of injuries: radiation, cold and blast injuries; and
8. Discuss burn rehabilitation.

In addition to the well thought out scientific program, the participants enjoyed the beautiful Solaris Beach resort where the course was held, as well as the Gala Dinner at Šibenik's famous city hall located in the central square of the old town.



From left to right: Zdravko Roje, Rudolf Milanovic, Albin Stritar, Bishara Atiyeh, Fireman Frano Lucic (Burn Victim), Marko Margaritoni, Zoran Barcot, Reuf Karabeg, Hrvoje Tomicic.

REPORT: THE 21ST CONGRESS OF THE ITALIAN BURNS SOCIETY, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 18TH MBC ANNUAL MEETING AND THE 9TH INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN CONFERENCE

The 21st Congress of the Italian Burns Society (SIUst) took place at the Arsenal of Peace in Turin from 16-20 November 2014, in conjunction with the 18th MBC Meeting and the 9th International Humanitarian Conference.

The Opening Ceremony, held at the "Circolo dei Lettori", saw the elegant performance of singer Saba Anglana and his group. The performance included melodies laden with Mediterranean influences - notes from Africa, or maybe from Greece, Southern Italy or Spain - with the wind and sea, creating a delightfully bonding atmosphere among those assembled. The Director General of Turin's Science City, Mr. Gian Paolo Zanetta, was present along with the President of the Piemontese Foundation for Studies and Research on Burns, Prof. Gilberto Magliacani, the MBC President, Prof. Bishara Atieh, and the President of the Italian Society of Plastic Surgery, Dr. Fabrizio Malan. Also partly thanks to the Arsenal's distinct beauty, a positive climate was thus in place for the duration of the Congress, which was conducive to healthy discussion and positive relations between delegates from the 16 European, African and Asian countries.

Structured scientific sessions were held successfully with willing participation. Even the often crowded exhibition area - such as during lunch and coffee breaks - saw moments of in-depth discussion and scientific debate. The Symposia Lunches, provided by the main sponsors, were all greatly appreciated, both in terms of the quality of the program and the excellent choice of speakers.

Monday's program (17 November), which united the three scientific societies, was opened with a speech from Prof. Michele Masellis who retraced the history and achievements of the MBC. There were moments of keen participation and interest, such as during the EBA President, Peter Vogt's speech and then the entire session, directed by Bill Gunn, dedicated to Humanitarian Medicine. A particularly interesting part of the afternoon program came in the presentation by Ronan Le Floch on the new frontiers of antibacterial therapy with bacteriocidines. In the evening, the Medieval Village welcomed delegates on the banks of the Po for a brief guided tour of the monument and for the social dinner.

Tuesday morning's program (18 November) included two SIUst sessions on burn scars and teaching respectively, both of which incited stimulating and innovative contributions. Of particular note are the contributions of Tiziana Musso on scar pathophysiology and Roberta Cavalli on the possible use of nanotechnology in therapy. The parallel sessions of MBC free papers were characterized by broad participation and discussion. In the afternoon, IAHM provided a highly interesting session lead by Meena Cherian, who explained the WHO's agenda to make essential and emergency surgery available to those in low and middle income countries. Ernesto Olivero, founder and soul of SERMIG and Arsenal of Peace where the Congress was held, also made an appearance to greet the participants.

The afternoon program continued with two MBC sessions dedicated to intensive care and pediatric burns respectively. The program closed with the MBC's General Assembly, at which it was announced that the next MBC meeting will be organized



From left to right: B. Atiyeh, MBC President, M. Cherian, Director WHO Emergency & Essential Surgical Care Program, S.W.A. Gunn, IAHM President, M. Masellis, MBC General Director, M. Stella, MBC General Secretary.

by Ghanimè Georges in Beirut.

Wednesday's program (19 November) opened with a talk by Maria Adele Schirru, IPASVI President, on the continuing evolution of the role of nurses, and was followed by two sessions on skin banking and rehabilitation. The session on skin banking made direct comparisons of available options, centering on current issues which are heavily debated and rich clinical relapses, such as comparison between skin and cryopreserved glycerolata in the treatment of major burns and that between allograft and synthetic products in reconstructive surgery. The session ended with an overview of innovative products, some of which are already in use, partly under development by the Italian tissue banks. The session on rehabilitation provided a panorama of the organizational plans for national health care. In the afternoon, the two main attractions of the MBC sessions were provided by Philip Mariano and Athina Lavrentieva, who talked on acute renal impairment and nutritional support respectively. The following session, devoted to surgery, was characterized by contributions of high-value, among which special mention must be made to the talk by Jęfta Kozarski on microsurgery.

Afterwards the SIUst Shareholders' Meeting was held, during which new appointments were established: Alma Posadinu was appointed to the Presidency; Rosario Rannos, Antonella Citterio, Paolo Palombo and Edward Caleffi made up the new Executive Board; Francesca Cuzzi was appointed the representative of Nurses; Maurizio Governa, leaving behind the Secretariat, was appointed President-Elect for the following biennium, with Bruno Azzena becoming the new Secretary.

In the evening, some of the participants, as a social occasion, attended a jam session held in the premises of the Jazz Club.

The final day of the Congress was held on Thursday 20 November with the morning sessions provided by SIUst on surgery in acute and intensive care. Kicked off with a thorough talk by Maurizio Berardino on tracheostomy, the whole morning was conducive to comparisons and debates. The closing ceremony of the congress took place at 12.30. On stage, the President of the Congress, Maurizio Stella and the MBC's Honorary President, Bill Gunn thanked the Congress for their contributions and bid farewell to the ever-attentive audience.