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Congress Report

BANTAO—Second Congress of the Balkan Association of Nephrology, Dialysis, Transplantation and Artificial Organs, Struga, Republic of Macedonia, 6–8 September 1997

The second Congress of BANTAO was sponsored by the European Society for Artificial Organs (ESAO), International Society for Artificial Organs (ISAO), International Faculty for Artificial Organs (INFA) and the European Renal Association/European Dialysis and Transplant Association (ERA/EDTA). It was held in conjunction with the Second Congress of the Macedonian Society of Nephrology, Dialysis, Transplantation and Artificial Organs.

The congress was attended by 130 physicians from the states of former Yugoslavia and 70 physicians from other Balkan countries. There were also a number of guests from Europe and the USA. The congress was held under the patronage of the president of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr Kiro Gligorov, Prof. M. Polenakovic was the Congress President, Prof. H. Klinkmann (Dean of the INFA) was the President of the Scientific Committee and Dr A. Sikole the Secretary General. The main goal of BANTAO is to promote scientific and technical cooperation in the fields of renal disease and artificial organs between the regions on the Balkan Peninsula, to give an opportunity for exchange of experience and knowledge between the experts in the area and to engage in collaborative projects in order to demonstrate that cooperation is possible even on the turbulent Balkan peninsula. The scientific programme consisted of 23 guest lectures, 54 oral and 80 poster presentations covering six topics, i.e. epidemiology of renal diseases, acute renal failure, renal replacement therapy, systemic disease, progress in nephrology and drugs and the kidney.

Guest speakers comprised H. Klinkmann (Glasgow), M. de Broe (Antwerp), E. Akoglu (Istanbul), G. Vayonas (Thessaloniki), O. Better (Israel), A. Mandal (USA), D. Falkenhagen (Krems), S. Stefoni (Bologna), Schulman (Nashville), Vienken (Oberursel), R. Vanholder (Ghent), Czachor (Dayton), F. Berthoux (St. Etienne), A. Basci (Izmir), S. Cameron (London), F. Valderrabano (Madrid), P. Schena (Bari), F. Kokot (Katowice), I. Ledebo (Lund), H. Kayser (Wuppertal), W. Gmelin (Bad Homburg), P. Scigalla (Mannheim).

The congress was a resounding success and it has therefore been decided to organize the next meeting in Belgrade in 1998 and in Izmir in 1999.

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