

## 30<sup>th</sup> Scientific Meeting Breast Diseases

### AUTHORS:

ŽELJKO SOLDIĆ

MARIJANA JAZVIĆ

The Committee for tumors of the Department of Medical Sciences, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts and the Department of Oncology and Nuclear Medicine, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital Center organized the 30<sup>th</sup>, jubilee, Breast Diseases scientific meeting that was held on September 30<sup>th</sup> at the Academy library.

Welcoming speeches were held by academician Vida Demarin, Secretary of the Department of Medical Sciences, academician Zvonko Kusić, professor Ana Fröbe, Head of the Department of Oncology and Nuclear Medicine and Željko Soldić, president of the Organizing committee.

Academician Zvonko Kusić gave tribute to the late academician Ivan Prpić, founder of breast disease scientific meetings who recognized the importance of a multidisciplinary approach as the backbone of breast cancer treatment.

In the last three decades, the Academy's conference on breast diseases has become one of the best professional and scientific symposia in the Academy as well as Croatian medicine in general. This tradition has resulted in a reputable and high quality meeting where top scientists and clinicians involved in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer present the latest advances and treatment guidelines with a personalized approach to breast cancer.

In a comprehensive introductory lecture, Paula Podolski presented the enormous progress made in the treatment of breast cancer in the last 30 years. We are witnessing the great advances in the field of diagnostics, surgery, radiotherapy and systemic treatment. An increasing understanding of molecular pathways has led to the discovery and development of targeted and biological therapies.

Advances in molecular oncology have enabled genetic profiling of tumors resulting in significant paradigm changes. Mario Šekerija spoke about breast cancer during the COVID-19 pandemic, a major challenge in today's medicine. Snježana Tomić presented new data in hormone receptors determination in breast cancer, Mirta Zekan Vučetić talked about the role of breast MR in the neoadjuvant approach, and Ivan Milas discussed controversies regarding the optimal time for reconstruction after radical surgery when planning radiotherapy. Katarina Antunac spoke about an increasingly important concept in oncology related to treatment de-escalation, specifically the de-escalation of radiotherapy in selected patients. Marijana Jazvić presented treatment modalities of DCIS, which is becoming an increasingly common breast cancer entity after introduction of screening mammography. Natalija Dedić Plavetić answered a very important question that we encounter in everyday clinical work, referring to the need for genetic testing for germline BRCA mutations. Marija Ban spoke about a personalized approach in the treatment of early HER-2 positive breast cancer, and Ingrid Belac-Lovasić discussed endocrine resistance, which has been recognized as an important issue in the treatment of advanced luminal tumors. Martina Bašić Koretić talked about the advances in the treatment of brain metastases, with significant changes occurring with the introduction of new radiotherapy techniques and great progress in systemic therapies. Robert Šeparović spoke about the optimal neo/adjuvant treatment of triple-negative breast cancer.

An important part of the meeting were the dynamic panel discussions with leading experts in breast cancer patients care, who tried to resolve dilemmas and answered key questions that we encounter in our daily work.

All 11 lectures presented at the 30<sup>th</sup> Breast Diseases scientific meeting were published in a special edition volume of the Cro-



atian Academy of Sciences and Arts, which is important in the continuing education and improvement of the quality of work of health professionals involved in breast cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

It has to be emphasized that the 30<sup>th</sup> Breast Diseases scientific meeting is the first oncology gathering to be held predominantly live since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is extremely important at a time when we are all aware of the importance of direct contact and in-person interaction. The convention brought together around a hundred participants in accordance to epidemiological measures, while others were virtually involved.

The Breast Diseases scientific meeting, which traditionally reviews existing paradigms and latest breakthroughs and sets new standards in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer, has once again shown that diligent and continuous work based on scientific findings and a multidisciplinary approach brings great advances in breast cancer treatment, with great impact on patient survival and quality of life.

