

32th Breast Diseases scientific meeting

September 28th 2023 at the Academy library

AUTHOR:

ŽELJKO SOLDIĆ

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 32th Breast Diseases scientific meeting that was held on September 28th 2023 at the Academy library. Welcoming speeches were held by **academician Vida Demarin**, Secretary of the Department of Medical Sciences, **academician Zvonko Kusić**, and Željko Soldić, president of the Organizing committee.

Academicians Vida Demarin and Zvonko Kusić emphasised the importance of improving service quality and treatment outcomes through multidisciplinary. Our gathering brings together an increasing number of specialties dealing with breast cancer. We are on the threshold of a very interesting era in oncology, gene expression profiling in tumors, treatment guided by comprehensive gene profiling, new effective drugs such as conjugates of antibodies and drugs and targeted therapy. All of the above will improve the treatment outcomes of our patients. We hope that we have justified the trust that Academician Prpić showed us and that we can successfully continue the tradition that has lasted for more than three decades.

In a comprehensive introductory lecture, **Ljiljana Vukota**, representative of the Patient Association *Sve za nju*, spoke about the importance of psycho-oncology and the support that patient associations provide to our patients.

Karolina Bolanča Čulo spoke about algorithm of radiological diagnosis of the breast diseases according to the age of the patient. **Snježana Ramić** talked about the role of testing of hereditary BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene variants in breast cancer patients: who and how to test and the technical issues. **Snježana Tomić** answered a very important question that we encounter in everyday clinical work - HER2 low status in breast cancers - a pathologist's view. **Andrej Roth** talked about the advances in the surgical treatment of local recurrence of the disease. **Katarina Antunac** talked about the role of De-escalation of axillary radiotherapy - has the time come? **Marijana Jazvić** spoke about, rarely discussed but important topic in oncology, breast cancer and fertility preservation. **Tajana Silovski** presented the progress made in the treatment guided by comprehensive gene profiling in patients with advanced breast cancer. **Branka Petrić Miše** presented treatment modalities of Triple negative breast cancer - neoadjuvant/adjuvant treatment. **Martina Bašić Koretić** spoke about new possibilities of endocrine treatment. **Ingrid Belac Lovasić** discussed algorithms in the treatment of HER2 positive advanced breast cancer. **Josipa Flam** presented optimal duration of adjuvant endocrine therapy.

An important part of the meeting were the dynamic panel discussions with leading experts in breast cancer patient care, who tried





to resolve dilemmas and answered key questions that we encounter in our daily work.

All 12 lectures presented at the 32th Breast Diseases scientific meeting was published in a special edition volume of the Croatian 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. 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.

In the last few decades, great progress has been made in the treatment of breast cancer, which has enabled patients to live longer and with better quality. We are on the cusp of a very interesting era in oncology, multigene tumor profiling, treatment guided by comprehensive gene profiling, new effective drugs such as antibody-drug conjugates and targeted treatment targeting specific mutations. Diagnostics is becoming more and more precise, and the possibilities of radiotherapy and surgery as local forms of breast cancer treatment are increasing.

Twelve lectures and multidisciplinary panel discussions by leading experts and scientists in the field of breast cancer make this meeting traditionally one of the most respected medical meetings in the Republic of Croatia.