

18th World Congress on Controversies in Neurology (CONy)

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The 18th World Congress on Controversies in Neurology (CONy) was held this year from March 21 to 23 in London, Great Britain, home to some of the most famous research centers in the field of neurology and neuroscience. At the opening ceremony, the organizers extended a warm welcome to all participants: Prof. Amos D. Korczyn, MD, PhD, Prof. Natan M. Bornstein, MD, PhD, and Prof. Anthony Schapira, MD, PhD, followed by a short address by the president of the Association of British Neurologists, Richard Davenport, MD.

The scientific part of the congress began with a plenary lecture on antibody-mediated diseases by Prof. Angela Vincent, MD, PhD and its core consisted of three days filled with all-day debates, divided into thematic units, in which eminent neurologists from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina actively participated. Thus, on the first day, there was talk about neuroimmunology, Alzheimer's disease and dementia, and Parkinson's disease, which was lectured by Prof. Vladimira Vuletić, MD, PhD, on the subject of disease-modifying therapy. The second day was filled with sections on novelties in the treatment of headaches and stroke, in which academician Vida Demarin, MD, PhD, Prof. Marina Roje Bedeković, MD, PhD, and Zrinka Hrgović, MD, took part as chairs, moderators, and lecturers. Epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) were reserved for the last day of the congress. A significant contribution to the constructive discussions on this topic was made by academician Osman Sinanović, MD, PhD, as an invited lecturer, and Assoc. Prof. Ervin Jančić, MD, PhD, as chairman of the ALS section, Prof. Željka Petelin Gadže, MD, PhD, (ambassador for Croatia for this congress), Assoc. Prof. Nataša Pejanović Škobić, MD, PhD, and Andreja Bujan Kovač, MD, PhD, in the role of moderators of the section and chairmen in the field of epilepsy.

Scientific works covered 10 topics: Alzheimer's disease and dementia, epilepsy, headaches, multiple sclerosis, neurodegenerative diseases, neuroimmunology, neuropathology, Parkinson's disease, sleep and stroke. Accepted posters, a total of 107, were presented during guided tours, and among them were three works by authors and co-authors from Croatia: Juvenile absence epilepsy and Myasthenia gravis: a case report (Marin Begović), Angelman Syndrome – a case report (Katarina Popadić), When is VNS the best treatment solution in pharmaco-resistant epilepsy caused by gray matter heterotopia – a case report (Asja Hodžić).

During the remaining plenary lectures by eminent experts, participants had the opportunity to hear about sleep disorders, functional disorders, Alzheimer's disease, anti-amyloid drugs, and aphantasia. At the closing ceremony of the congress, apart from the organizers, Prof. Ivan Rektor also addressed the attendees, inviting them to the next congress to be held in Prague, Czech Republic.

In conclusion, the distinctive debate concept of the CONy congress proved once again to be a recipe for success, providing participants from over 60 countries from all over the world with a unique platform to exchange experiences and the latest knowledge in the field of neurology, in a pleasant academic atmosphere.



Prof. Marina Roje Bedeković (left) in the role of chairman of the section on stroke and academician Vida Demarin (right) in the role of moderator of the debate on the topic: "Should GLP-1 agonists be used to reduce stroke risk in non-diabetic obese individuals?"



Participants from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina with the president of the Congress Organizing Committee Prof. Amos D. Korczyn (from left to right): Asja Hodžić, Marin Begović, Assoc. Prof. Nataša Pejanović-Škobić, Katarina Popadić, Andreja Bujan Kovač, Prof. Željka Petelin Gadže (ambassador for Croatia for CONy), academician Osman Sinanović

Introductory speech by Prof. Željka Petelin Gadže as the moderator of the epilepsy debate on the topic: "Should polytherapy be used early, after one drug has failed to control seizures?"



Reception for invited congress participants (from left to right): Prof. Marina Roje Bedeković, Assoc. Prof. Lidija Dežmalj Grbelja, academician Osman Sinanović, Assoc. Prof. Nataša Pejanović Škobić, Vlasta Vuković Cvetković, Prof. Natan M. Bornstein, academician Vida Demarin, Prof. Željka Petelin Gadže, Prof. Amos D. Korczyn, Prof. Vladimira Vuletić