

## The Third International Congress on Controversies in Rheumatology & Autoimmunity (CORA)

Sorrento, 12–14 March 2015

The main idea of the CORA meetings is to present problems concerning the autoimmunity network. In Sorrento experts presented new and exploratory research and analysis on rheumatology, autoimmunity and clinical immunology. Lectures were held in the form of debates, and lecturers were asked to discuss subjects from different points of view.

Numerous prominent scientists took part in the lectures and discussions, including Claudio Vitalij, Maurizio Cutulo, Joahim Sieper, Hector Chinoy, Ricard Cervera, Zoltan Szekanecz, Nancy Agmon-Levin and, last but not least, Yehuda Shoenfeld, one of the initiators and the host of this event.

Of many topics arousing interest, the controversy surrounding the existence of the seronegative antiphospholipid syndrome led to a particularly lively discussion, as the audience witnessed a verbal duel between Guido Valesini and Vittorio Pengo.

The problem of the use of adjuvants in vaccines and the development of ASIA syndrome still remains controversial. Professor Yehuda Shoenfeld pointed out that while vaccinations undoubtedly represent progress of humanity and their effectiveness in combating disease should not be undermined, there is a risk associated with the impact of adjuvants used in vaccines. He concluded that science should strive to create the best vaccines and new adjuvants.

In oral presentations a lot of authors paid attention to new directions of immune-diagnostics. The reports of the search for new markers of RA were presented, pointing to the process of carbamoylation and the use of antibody assays for carbamoylated proteins. Carbamoylated proteins (CarP) could be early markers in rheumatoid arthritis and may have particular relevance for CCP negative patients.

The poster sessions presented works of many research centers around the world. Poland was represented by both rheumatologists and cardiologists.

The meeting took place in the unique setting of a picturesque Italian town with omnipresent lemon and orange trees. As the lecturers taking part in this event were experienced and recognized by the scientific world, performing sessions in the form of debates proved to be both interesting and involving for the audience. The participants will surely be encouraged to take part in further meetings conducted in the same form. The next CORA meeting is scheduled to take place in 2017 in Bologna.

*Maria Maślińska, MD*