

Fifth Inflammation Forum INFORM 2014

Moscow, April 4–6, 2014

The annual scientific meeting on inflammation research known as Inflammation Forum INFORM is organized by Pfizer in the Central and Eastern European countries. The Fifth Inflammation Forum INFORM 2014 took place in Moscow on April 4–6, 2014.

More than three hundred participants from a number of countries gathered together in the Radisson Hotel in Moscow. The hotel is a typical Soviet style building which served for decades as the hotel “Ukraina”.

The meeting was opened on Friday afternoon (April 4, 2014) by the organizers, Radu Vasilescu and Emre Aldinç, regional directors for Europe. The introductory remarks were delivered by Ori Elkayam (Israel) and Petr Arenberger (Czech Republic). They were also moderators of the first session. Unfortunately, Robert Moots was unable to come to Moscow and his lecture was only transmitted. His lecture in fact was the second in order, but due to a close relation to the basic medical sciences it constituted a good logical sequence of topics. The first lecture was delivered by Josef Smolen (Austria). He was discussing the evolving treatment landscape for inflammatory diseases. It was an interesting introduction to the main field of the meeting. After a short break, the next two lectures were presented in the form of a discussion, each by two lecturers. The problem of treatment strategies in inflammatory disease in the light of basic evidence was presented by Josef Smolen (Austria) and Norbert Wikonkál (Hungary), and topics related to psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis were discussed by Frank Behrens (Germany) and Nilgün Atakan (Turkey).

The second day of the conference was opened by Professor Dmitry Karateev, and he chaired a session consisting of two lectures. The first lecture on immunogenicity was delivered by Gert Jan Wolbink (The Netherlands), and the second one on biosimilars was presented by Junb Schellekens (The Netherlands).

After a coffee break, the participants were divided into two groups focused on either rheumatology or dermatology. The rheumatology parallel session was chaired by Ihsan Ertenli (Turkey) and Howard Amital (Israel). The first two lectures were delivered by Ori Elkayam (Israel) and Eugeniusz J. Kucharz (Poland) and discussed considerations for vaccination in patients treated with biological drugs. The next two lectures were an update on spondyloarthropathies and were delivered by Jürgen Braun (Germany) and Nurullah Akkoç (Turkey). The last part of the rheumatological session was a local insight into data obtained from national registries. Short lectures were delivered by Catalin Codreanu (Romania), Dmitry Karateev (Russia), Umut Kalyoncu (Turkey) and Zoltán Szekanecz (Hungary).

The dermatology parallel session was chaired by Alin Nicolescu (Romania). The first part was focused on psoriasis. Armon Cohen (Israel) presented drug survival in psoriasis, and Nilgün Atakan (Turkey) presented comorbidity in psoriasis with a special emphasis on metabolic syndrome. The second part of the session was based on national registers, and lectures were delivered by Sibel Doğan (Turkey), Arnon Cohen (Israel) and Norbert Wikonkál (Hungary).

The next part of the conference was a round table discussion of such subjects as difficulty of diagnosis of joint damage (Tatiana Korotaeva, Rus-



Photo 1. Moscow, Red Square, April 3, 2014. Participants from Poland.

sia), paradoxical skin lesions (Catalin Popeseu, Romania), infections (Howard Amital, Israel), comorbidity (Ori Eikayam, Israel and Simona Radnic, Romania) and malignancies (Salih Pay, Turkey and Magda Parvu, Romania). Additionally, Isabelle Logeart (from Pfizer, Europe) delivered a lecture on tofacitinib lifecycle. Closing remarks of the conference were presented by Dmitry Karateev (Russia).

The conference was attended by a number of rheumatologists and dermatologists from various countries, including a group of Polish physicians. On the evening of the first day of the meeting, the participants enjoyed a dinner in the Restaurant GlaSS.

The meeting took place in the Raddisson Ukraina located at the end of New Arbat Street, so after the lectures it was possible to visit the main tourist attractions of the city of Moscow.



Photo 2. Visit to the unique old medical book shop in Moscow, April 4, 2014. From left: Larisa Arpadevnaia Liubimeva, Robert Pieczyrak, Anna Kotulska, Olga Vladimirovna, Eugeniusz J. Kucharz.

Eugeniusz J. Kucharz