

The 22nd Congress of the Polish Society of Rheumatology

Katowice, September 3–5, 2014

Congresses of the Polish Society of Rheumatology are organized every third year in various Polish cities. The city of Katowice has hosted the Congress three times. The first meeting of Polish rheumatologists in Katowice took place in 1954. It was the 5th Congress of the Society. In 1976, the 12th Congress of the Polish Society of Rheumatology was the second Congress organized in the city of Katowice. Forty years after the 5th Congress in 1954, once again, the city became “the capital” of Polish rheumatology.

The 22nd Congress of the Polish Society of Rheumatology was organized for the first time under the Honorary Patronage of the President of the Republic of Poland, Bronisław Komorowski.

The Opening Ceremony took place in the Concert Hall of the Academy of Music in Katowice. The Band of the Coal Mine “Wesota” in traditional miners’ uniforms played the National Anthem, and participants of the Congress were greeted by Prof. Eugeniusz J. Kucharz, president of the Society (term 2014–2017) and chairman of the Organizing Committee, as well as by Prof. Piotr Wiland, former president of the Society (term 2011–2014).

The Opening Ceremony was attended by the Deputy Lord Mayor of the City of Katowice, Mrs. Anna Siejna, and a representative of the President of the Silesian Medical Chamber, Dr. Rafał Kielkowski.

The Congress in Katowice was attended by the Director of the Institute of Rheumatology in Warsaw, Dr. Piotr Bednarski.

An invitation to take part in the Congress was accepted by the president-elect of the European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR), Prof. Gert Rüdiger Burmester, the president of the American College of Rheumatology (ACR), Prof. Joseph Flood, and the president of the League of Euro-Asian Rheumatologists (LEAR), Prof. Galymzhan Togizbayer. It was a historical moment when leaders of three large associations of rheumatologists attended the Congress of the Polish Society of Rheumatology.



Photo 1. Three presidents of the large associations of rheumatologists were awarded with the Medal of the Polish Society of Rheumatology during the Opening Ceremony of the Congress, Katowice, September 3, 2014. From left: Piotr Małeckı, Magdalena Kopeć-Mędrek, Beata Maciążek-Chyra, Anna Kotulska, Eugeniusz J. Kucharz, Galymzhan Togizbayer (president of the League of Euro-Asian Rheumatologists), Joseph Flood (president of the American College of Rheumatology), Gert Rüdiger Burmester (president-elect of the European League Against Rheumatism), Piotr Wiland.



Photo 2. Foreign guests of the Congress were awarded with the Medal of the Polish Society of Rheumatology, Katowice September 3, 2014. From left: Daniela Cepoi-Bulgac, László Czirájék, Melvin C. Britton, Marc Andrejeski, Piotr Wiland, Eugeniusz J. Kucharz.

After the welcome address, Prof. Piotr Wiland, the former president, summarized achievements of the last three years of the Society, and Prof. Eugeniusz J. Kucharz, the current president, presented an outline of his perspective on the future activity of the Polish Society of Rheumatology.

The highest distinction of the Polish Society of Rheumatology, an honorary membership and the Medal of the Society, were awarded to six eminent Polish rheumatologists. The following rheumatologists received the honorary membership: Gerard Jonderko, Danuta Kapořka, Janina Kierat, Henryk Pytko, Antoni Skura and Marian Wójcik.

The decree of the Executive Board of the Society was read by Dr. Beata Maciążek-Chyra, the past secretary general of the Society, and diplomas were presented by Prof. Piotr Wiland and Eugeniusz J. Kucharz. Short biographical notes of new elected honorary members of the Polish Society of Rheumatology will be published in a separate report.

The foreign guests of the Congress received the Medal of the Society. Their names were read by Dr. Anna Kotulska, the secretary general of the Polish Society of Rheumatology. The first Medals were awarded to the special guests, the presidents of the European League Against Rheumatism, the American College of Rheumatology and the League of Euro-Asian Rheumatologists. The following rheumatologist or individuals contributing to the development of rheumatology received the Medals: Mark Andrejeski (USA), Alejandro Balsa (Spain), Melvin C. Britton (USA), László Czirájék (Hungary), Daniela Cepoi-Bulgac (Moldova), Lia Chiřlari (Moldova), Marina A. Gertsen (Belarus), Ivica Lazúrová (Slovakia), Karel Pavelka (Czech Republic), Ann Rosenthal (USA), Tuulikki Sokka-Isler (Finland). Prof. Lilianna Groppa (Moldova) and Prof. Dmitri Karateev (Russia) canceled their travel to Katowice at the last moment due to very important reasons.

The opening lecture of the Congress was delivered by Prof. Joseph Flood, the president of the American College of Rheumatology. The lecture was entitled "The biology of gout". An artistic performance by Andrew Sikorowski and his daughter Maja was the last part of the Opening Ceremony.

The second day of the Congress began with a lecture on the role of registers in rheumatology (Piotr Wiland). The lecture was followed by two sessions under a joint title: "Advances in Rheumatology". The first session was chaired by Jacek Szechiński, Galymzhan Togizbayev, Marina A. Gertsen and Eugeniusz J. Kucharz. The following lectures were delivered: "Calcium pyrophosphate deposition disease: an update" (Ann Rosenthal), "Translational science in rheumatology" (Gerd Rüdiger Burmester), "The ACR: an inside view" (Mark Andrejeski).

The second session was chaired by Anna Filipowicz-Sosnowska, Piotr Wiland and Daniela Cepoi-Buglac and consisted of the lectures by László Czirájék "Scleroderma-like syndromes" and Ivica Lazúrová and Karim Benhatchi "Autoimmune thyroid disease and rheumatoid arthritis".

The lunch time of the second day of the Congress was fulfilled by scientific sessions sponsored by pharmaceutical companies. The session "Value of time: early diagnosis and efficient management of rheumatic disorders" (AbbVie) began with the lecture delivered by Iwona Sudoř-Szopińska "The role of imaging tech-

Photo 3. During the Opening Ceremony of the Congress, the foreign guests were awarded with the Medals. Katowice, September 3, 2014. From left; Anna Kotulska, Beata Maciążek-Chyra, Marina A. Gertsen, Lia Chrişlari, Piotr Wiland, Eugeniusz J. Kucharz.



niques in early diagnosis of rheumatic diseases". The lecture was followed by two others: "Polish perspective on biological treatment according to the EULAR 2013 recommendations" (Bogdan Batko); "T2T means better: a common goal of physician and patient" (Małgorzata Tłustołowicz).

The next sponsored session was focused on the medicine RoActemra and was organized by Roche Company. The following lectures were delivered: "EULAR 2014, News on RoActemra" (Piotr Wiland), "Current methods for evaluation of management efficacy in rheumatoid patients receiving RoActemra" (Sławomir Jeka) and "RoActemra as the first biological medication after failure of methotrexate" (Marek Brzosko).

Two foreign lecturers took part in the Pfizer sponsored session entitled "Clinical aspects of therapy with biologics". Alejandro Balsa delivered the lecture "Immunogenicity with biologic drugs used in the treatment of inflammatory diseases and its clinical implications", and Karel Pavelka talked about ATTRA registry data.

The session sponsored by Alvoogen consisted of one lecture delivered by Tuulikki Sokka-Isler: "Biosimilar – getting a fresh perspective in biologic treatment".

The afternoon scientific program of the second day of the Congress consisted of four sessions. The first one was chaired by Zbigniew Zdrojewski and Leszek Szczepański. Three lectures were delivered: "Current strategy of management of rheumatoid arthritis (Witold Tłustołowicz), "What should a rheumatologist know about hypertension management?" (Zbigniew Gacjong), "Ocular involvement in rheumatic diseases" (Edward Wylęgała).

Topics related to rheumatology discussed by other subspecialists were also presented in the next session. Damian Kusz delivered a lecture on implantation of endoprostheses of the joints and Aleksander Sieroń on treatment of long-lasting wounds. The session was chaired by Ewa Tuszkiewicz-Misztal and Stanisław Sierakowski.

The next session included the following lectures: "Advances in management of osteoarthritis" (Małgorzata Wiśniewska), "Pain management in rheumatic diseases" (Witold Tłustołowicz), "Rehabilitation as a part of complex management of rheumatic diseases" (Anna Kuryliszyn-Moskal).

The last session was devoted to ultrasound tools for diagnostics and was chaired by Sławomir Jeka and Przemysław Kotyla. The session consisted of the following lectures: "The role of ultrasonographic evaluation in diagnostics of seronegative spondyloarthritis" (Renata Sokolik), "Vascular wall damage mimicking temporary arthritis" (Aleksandra Juskiewicz), "Application of ultrasonography in diagnostics of crystal-induced arthropathy" (Jacek Feliciński), "Effect of radioisotopic synovectomy in hypertrophic exudative synovitis of the knee joint" (Joanna Zalewska), and a report of the Imagine Technique Division of the Polish Society of Rheumatology (Sławomir Jeka).

The Evening Dinner gathered participants in the Marysin Dwór Restaurant in Katowice. Greetings were presented to the president of the Organizing Committee, Eugeniusz J. Kucharz, referring to his fortieth anniversary of work in medicine after graduation. The Elektryczne Gitary rock group was playing and encouraged the audience to dance.



Photo 4. Foreign lecturers accepted the invitation to take part in the Congress. Katowice, September 3, 2014. From left: Anna Kotulska, Beata Maciążek-Chyra, Tuulikki Sokka-Isler, Ann Rosenthal, Piotr Wiland, Ivica Lazúrová, Małgorzata Widuchowska, Eugeniusz J. Kucharz.

The last day of the Congress was opened by a lecture of Stefan Mackiewicz on the development of rheumatology from clinical to molecular medicine. The session was chaired by Marzena Olesińska and Włodzimierz Maśliński.

The morning session chaired by Lidia Ostanek, Elżbieta Życińska-Dębska and Jacek Pazdur was focused on systemic sclerosis. The first lecture summarized known factors indicating the severe course of the disease (Anna Kotulska, Eugeniusz J. Kucharz). The next lecture was delivered by Małgorzata Widuchowska (co-authors: Magdalena Kopeć-Mędrek, Anna Kotulska, Małgorzata Krawczyk-Kuliś, Klaudia Gieszczyk, Marta Biedroń-Machura, Anna Lis-Święty, Sławomira Kyrz-Krzemień, Katarzyna Mizia-Stec, Władysław Pierzchała, Ligia Brzezińska-Wcisto, Eugeniusz J. Kucharz) and presented experience of the Medical University of Silesia in management of patients with systemic sclerosis with autologous stem cell transplantation. The last lecture discussed organ-specific therapy of the disorder (Stanisław Sierakowski).

The next session began with a lecture on the relationship between hematology and rheumatology (Sebastian Grosicki, Anida Grosicka) and was followed by a lecture on pharmacotherapy of osteoarthritis, including so-called SYSADOA (Piotr Wiland) and the current state of safety of administration of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (Ewa Stanisławska-Biernat) as well as a lecture on inflammatory myopathy (Paweł Hrycaj). The session was chaired by Małgorzata Bykowska, Jerzy Świerkot and Ewa Stanisławska-Biernat.

Systemic connective tissue diseases were a subject of the next session. The first lecture was delivered by Krystyna Zawilska: "Coagulation disorder with a special emphasis on antiphospholipid syndrome". The second lecture discussed the current state of systemic lupus erythematosus diagnostics and therapy (Maria Majdan) and was followed by lectures of Zbigniew Zdrojewski ("Renal involvement in patients with rheumatic diseases") and Marzena Olesińska ("Mixed connective tissue disease"). The session was chaired by Jacek Szechiński, Bogdan Batko and Jolanta Lewandowska.

Mariusz Puszczewicz delivered a lecture on the diagnostic value of antibody detection, and his lecture was followed by others on various aspects of pharmacotherapy of rheumatic diseases: "Biosimilars" – Jerzy Świerkot, "Application of statins in rheumatology" – Przemysław Kotyla, "The intestine and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs" – Robert Pieczyrak and "Optimization of administration of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs" – Eugeniusz J. Kucharz. The session was chaired by Irena Fiedorowicz-Fabrycy and Aleksandra Zoń-Giebel.

The lunch-time session of the second day of the Congress was also sponsored by pharmaceutical companies. The session sponsored by the company Adamed was chaired by Wojciech Jagielski. The first lecture on cardiovascular safety of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs was delivered by Krzysztof Rell and Filip Szymański. The second lecture on individual selection of drugs for individual patients was presented by Wojciech Jagielski.

The session sponsored by the company Medac consisted of two lectures: "Subcutaneous methotrexate – an integrated drug delivery system" (Eugeniusz J. Kucharz), "Optimization of medication with leflunomide" (Piotr Wiland).

The sponsored session of GSK was chaired by Piotr Wiland, and a lecture by Valter Koscielny entitled "Belimumab in managing SLE" was delivered.

Two other sponsored sessions were organized by the pharmaceutical companies Roche ("MabThera – current experience and new perspectives") and UCB ("Inflammatory spondyloarthropathies, new therapeutical opportunities"). The lectures were delivered by Włodzimierz Samborski, Bogdan Batko, Michał Nowicki, Mariusz Korkosz and Maria Majdan. Piotr Leszczyński delivered a lecture on denosumab during the session sponsored by the company Amgen.

The last session of the third day of the Congress consisted of the following lectures: "Vitamin D and its role in rheumatology" (Ewa Marcinowska-Suchowierska), "Current understanding of seronegative spondyloarthropathies" (Włodzimierz Samborski), "Biomechanical factors in inflammation and osteogenesis in patients with seronegative spondyloarthropathies" (Mariusz Korkosz), "Traditional therapy and new biological management of patients with systemic lupus erythematosus" (Piotr Leszczyński), "Pulmonary hypertension in patients with rheumatic disorders" (Otylia Kowal-Bielecka), "Vasculitides" (Marek Brzosko).

The presentations were supplemented by the poster session. The poster were available in electronic form. A few posters were selected for oral presentation. They were delivered as short communications by Jerzy Świerkot, Ewa Kontny, Aneta Chrzanowska, Agnieszka Romanowska, Ewa Wielosz, Anna Gruenpeter, Lidia Ostanek, Hanna Przepiera-Będzak and Ewa Walewska. The sessions of short communications were chaired by Beata Maciążek-Chyra, Jolanta Bucka, Wojciech Romanowski, Mariusz Korkosz, Tomasz Dziewit and Beata Dutkiewicz. The separate sessions of pediatric rheumatology included the following lectures: "Macrophage activation syndrome and other autoinflammatory diseases in pediatric rheumatology" (Piotr Buda, Piotr Gietka, Anna Wieteska-Klimczak, Anna Smorczevska-Kiljan, Janusz Książczyk), "Atherosclerosis in children with idiopathic juvenile arthritis" (Ewa Jednacz, Izabela Szczygielska, Lidia Rutkowska-Sak, Maria Marusak-Banacka), "Capillaroscopic evaluation of disturbed microcirculation in children and adolescents with Raynaud's phenomenon" (Anna Górska, Marta Bartnicka), "Total oxidant status and activity of superoxide dismutase in idiopathic juvenile arthritis" (Henryka Mazur-Zielińska, Michał Zieliński, Łukasz Pilarz, Dorota Karabowska, Ewa Birkner), "Libman-Sacks pericarditis" (Izabela Szczygielska, Ewa Jednacz, Elżbieta Hernik, Lidia Rutkowska-Sak), "Rituximab in therapy of granulomatosis with vasculitis" (Piotr Gietka), "Coexistence of the Grieg syndrome with monoarthritis in a 13-year-old girl" (Małgorzata Biernacka-Zielińska, Joanna Świdrowska, Jerzy Stańczyk, Elżbieta Smolewska), "The Caffey-Silverman syndrome" (Joanna Świdrowska, Małgorzata Biernacka-Zielińska, Jerzy Stańczyk, Elżbieta Smolewska), "Self-limited cutaneous mucinosis, a case report" (Beata Kołodziejczyk, Agnieszka Gazda, Lidia Rutkowska-Sak), "Pachydermodactyly, a case report" (Zbigniew Żuber, Małgorzata Sobczyk, Dorota Turowska-Heydel), "Infection with *Yersinia enterocolitica* as a cause of severe flare of systemic lupus erythematosus in a 16-year-old girl" (Elżbieta Smolewska, Małgorzata Biernacka-Zielińska, Joanna Świdrowska, Jerzy Stańczyk).

Two sessions devoted to pediatric rheumatology were sponsored by Pfizer and AbbVie.

On the second day of the Congress a session of health professionals was organized. The session was chaired by Anida Grosicka. The session was opened by Anna Kuryliszyn-Moskal, who reported the collaboration of the Polish Group of Health Professionals with the European League Against Rheumatism. The following lectures were delivered in the first part of the meeting: "Rheumatoid arthritis" (Magdalena Kopeć-Mędrak, Anida Grosicka), "The rheumatoid foot" (Ewa Detko, Joanna Frąckiewicz, Karol Wądołowski, Bartosz Wnuk, Małgorzata Engelmann, Jacek Durmała), "Total palm surface as an index of progress in rehabilitation in patients with rheumatoid arthritis" (Mirosława Wolicka, Marta Kucia-Moczulska), "Rear gait" (Bartosz Wnuk, Ewa Detko, Karol Wądołowski, Joanna Frąckiewicz, Jacek Durmała). In the last part of the meeting of the health professionals the following lectures were delivered: "Educational needs of patients with systemic sclerosis evaluated with the Polish version of the RNAT questionnaire" (Matylda Sierakowska, Stanisław Sierakowski, Maria Majdan, Piotr Leszczyński, Katarzyna Pawlak-Buś, Marzena Olesińska, Wojciech Romanowski, Małgorzata Bykowska-Sochacka, Sławomir Jeka, Ewa Krajewska-Kutak), "Muscular and aponeurosis therapy in systemic sclerosis" (Karol Wądołowski, Joanna Frąckiewicz, Ewa Detko, Bartosz Wnuk, Małgorzata Engelmann, Jacek Durmała), "Acceptance of the disease and anxiety and depression in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus" (Zofia Kietbik), "Quality of life in patients with chronic heart failure after electrostimulation" (Małgorzata Engelmann, Karol Wądołowski, Joanna Frąckiewicz, Joanna Detko, Jacek Durmała), "Management of post-surgical scars" (Joanna Frąckiewicz, Karol Wądołowski, Ewa Detko, Bartosz Wnuk, Mał-



Photo 5. During the Congress the meeting of rheumatologists of Polish origin took place. Katowice, September 5, 2014, from left: Wiesław Dawiskiba (anesthesiologist and pain specialist, USA), Anna Kotulska, Małgorzata Dawiskiba (rheumatologist, USA), Eugeniusz J. Kucharz

gorzata Engelmann, Jacek Durmała), “Rehabilitation of the shoulder joint” (Mirostawa Wolicka).

Four separate sessions were organized by the patients’ associations. The first session was entitled “What’s new in rheumatology” and was chaired by Elżbieta Śliwińska and Mikołaj Penpicki. The participants were welcomed by Jolanta Grygielska (Federation “REF”) and Monika Zientek (Association “3majmy się razem”). Jolanta Grygielska discussed the celebration of the World Day of Rheumatism. Bogdan Batko delivered a lecture on rheumatoid arthritis and systemic lupus erythematosus, and Renata Sokolik presented psoriatic arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis. The second session was devoted to health promotion and was chaired by Jolanta Grygielska and Małgorzata Tugeman. The following lectures were delivered: “Psychological workshops” (Ilona Goszczyńska), “Common patient’s problems associated with medication with biologics” (Piotr

Wiland), “Rehabilitation in rheumatic disease” (Jacek Durmała, Bartosz Wnuk), “Diet for rheumatic patients” (Joanna Gruszka).

The third session focused on legal aspects related to rheumatic disorders. The session was chaired by Ewa Filus-Oberc and Monika Zientek. Two lectures were delivered: “Are patients’ rights respected in Poland?” (Bartłomiej Kuchta), “The National Health Program” (Bożena Moskalewicz).

The last session was chaired by Bożena Moskalewicz and Teresa Malarecka. A lecture on pain management was delivered by Eugeniusz J. Kucharz and was followed by a lecture by Monika Zientek on partnership in the process of disease management and presentation of the survey “I, the patient”.

The 22nd Congress of the Polish Society of Rheumatology was accompanied by an exhibition of pharmaceutical products and medical devices.

The meeting of rheumatologists of Polish origin living abroad was organized by Dr. Aleksandra Zoń-Giebel, and was intended to be an annual part of the national conferences organized by the Polish Society of Rheumatology.

On the second day of the Congress, the society together with the company AbbVie organized the run “Move improve”. The run was organized in Chorzów and was organized for the second time in the history of the Polish meetings of rheumatologists.

The Fine Art Academy in Warsaw organized during the Congress an artistic exhibition entitled “Perspectives: Art, Inflammation and Me” depicting the life of sick patients. The works of Pati Dubiel (sculptures), Sebastian Kubica (graphics) and Tomasz Woźny (photographs) were presented.

Participants of the Congress received every day a new issue of the Congress Newspaper, with photos and interviews of the participants. The foreign guests of the Congress attended the excursions to the Auschwitz Nazi Camp Museum and the city of Krakow.

The Congress was attended by about 700 participants. Organization of the meeting was a task of the Organizing Committee (Eugeniusz J. Kucharz, Aleksandra Zoń-Giebel, Przemysław Kotyla, Anna Kotulska) and the Congress Office Symposium.

Eugeniusz J. Kucharz