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**NEWS IN ANGIOLOGY AND
VASCULAR SURGERY IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN REGION**

The 21st Mediterranean Congress of Angiology and Vascular Surgery took place in Genoa Italy

from 1-3d of December 2011 in the prestigious Museo del Mare. President of the Congress was Prof Coraldino Campisi. Co-Presidents were Claudio Brunelli and Domenico Palombo. As usual, the Congress was, under the auspices of the International Union of Angiology. It was also under the auspices of the Latin-Mediterranean Chapter of the International Union of Lymphology. The main topics were: Vascular and Endo-Vascular Surgery, Cardio-Vascular Medicine and Lymphology. . **Genoa** is the city of Doges and of the sixteenth century splendour as well as a place of culture. It has a wonderful medieval centre with beautiful churches and palaces, as well as museums and towers owned by noble families. Genoa surprises the visitor with its narrow paths and alleyways, leading up hills. But the authentic heart of the town is the ancient historical port, the **Porto Antico**, from where the city expanded its control over the seas and started the discoveries of unexplored lands. In order to commemorate the great exploit by **Christopher Columbus**, the old piers and docks underwent renovation in 1992. The Museo del Mare, which was the venue of the Congress, is situated in the old Port and is the largest maritime museum in the Mediterranean region, while the Grand Hotel Savoia, where the official dinner took place, is situated in the historic centre of Genoa, dominating the **Aquaverte Square**.



Fig 2: The President of IUA Prof Simkin, the President of the Congress Prof Campisi, the President of MLAVS Prof. Angelides and the Founder of MLAVS Prof Balas



Fig 3: The President of MLAVS at the entrance of Museo del Mare.

The scientific program was excellent. It was equally divided in two large rooms, the **Vespucci saloon and the auditorium**, and was composed of forum lectures, jointed symposia, round tables, and paper sessions which covered the up to-day vascular and endovascular surgery, as well as cardiovascular medicine, phlebology and lymphology in a step by step manner. The main symposia gave an answer to what is new in carotid and peripheral arterial disease, what's new in aortic surgery (thoracic, thoraco-abdominal and abdominal aorta), as well as what are the latest steps and new horizons in angiology, cardiovascular medicine, phlebology and lymphology. It is of importance to say that the way it was presented Lymphology in this Congress, was something new for many participants. The amazing was that this "extended" lymphology did not affect at all the other vascular components of the scientific program and it was definitely something that was missing from previous MLAVS Congresses. All summaries are included in the last issue of **ANGIOLOGY** (sublimate), and anyone can read them and use them as reference.

Finally, at the opening ceremony, which took place in the Museo del Mare, apart from the welcome addresses there were two inaugural lectures: (a) **The Mediterranean League in the scientific world of Angiology and Vascular Surgery: past present and future**, delivered by the President of MLAVS N. Angelides and (b) the "Balas Lecture" under the title Present role of Genoa to translate **Lymphology and Lymphatic Surgery from Mediterranean Countries to all over the World**, was delivered by the President of the Congress C. Campisi. For historical purposes the summary of the :

lecture on the occasion of the Mediterranean's League twenty one Congresses follows:

A quick glance at the history of the Mediterranean League of Angiology and Vascular Surgery. (by N. S. Angelides, President of the League). The history of the Mediterranean League started in 1989 in Corfu, the beautiful island of the Ionian Sea. **Prof Balas** was organising there one of the many spectacular Medical Congresses he used to organise. During this International Congress, Prof Balas arranged a Meeting on the veranda of the Corfu Hilton with Professors Strano, Novo, Biasi, Deriu, Castellani, Fernandes, Dalainas,, Ulutin and myself. He proposed the founding of a Scientific League to promote Angiology and Vascular Surgery in the Mediterranean region, in a friendly and co-operative spirit, in order to meet regularly, and promote Angiology and Vascular Surgery in this part of the world, under the auspices of the IUA. This meeting led to the foundation of the Mediterranean League of Angiology (MLAVS). The League's principal aim is to foster friendship, to discuss and co-ordinate vascular matters around the Mediterranean Sea and to stimulate in a positive manner the International Union of Angiology. Prof Balas suggested that the League should function under the auspices of the International Union as a bridge between the National Vascular Societies of the Mediterranean Countries and the Union, having a close contact with them and improving their activities. Early in 1990 a constitutional Meeting took place in the Hotel Gala Di Volpe of Milan, organised by **Prof Biasi**. During this Meeting the constitution and bylaws of the Mediterranean League were decided upon and the first executive Board was established. According to article 1, MLAVS will function as a non profit making organisation with the main intention to co-ordinate and guide the scientific activities of Angiology and Vascular Surgery in the Mediterranean region. Among the activities of the League will be the organisation of a Vascular Congress per year, which will take place always in a different Mediterranean Country. It was decided the Corfu Meeting of 1989 to be declared as the 1st MLAVS Congress. Later, in 1990, **Prof Ulutin** organised the 2d MLAVS Congress in Antalya.



Fig 4: The President of MLAVS Prof Angelides and the incoming President of IUA Prof. Rostocil

In 1991 the 3d MLAVS Congress was organised by **Prof Balas** in conjunction with the 7th EUROCHAP. This Congress took place on the island of Rodos and was a big success becoming the landmark of the MLAVS era. During this Congress a pilgrimage to the Island of Kos was organised and a reconfirmation of the Hippocrates oath took place at the sacred altar of his Asclepeion, during a typical ancient Greek ceremony. Back in Rodos the tavern HIPPOCRATES proved to be a hot spot for the participating doctors probably due to its name but mainly to the excellent Greek food that was served!

In an effort to boost further the Mediterranean League **Prof Balas** organised the 4th MLAVS Congress in Corfu, the "birthplace" of the League. A lot of eminent Professors participated in this Meeting, which incorporated in the program some open air sessions by the sea. These proved to be very popular until the weather changed from sunny to rainy! But despite the rain, the open air sessions continued to function successfully in semi-covered areas.

The 5th MLAVS Congress was organised by **Prof Castellani** in Ajaccio Corsica. This Congress was devoted to vascular discrepancies. Short case presentations and extensive discussions was the structure of most of the sessions while keynote lectures were delivered in between by famous vascular surgeons. Among the participants were E. Diethrich, Larry Hollier, P. Balas, and John Jones. The highlight of this Congress was a trip by boat around Corsica and an excellently organised cheese party on the mountains of the island.

The 6th MLAVS Congress was organised by **Prof F. Pitzus** in Cagliari, Sardinia. Cagliari is a beautiful typical Italian city but the venue of the Congress took place in Fortevillage, a well protected huge area by the sea with an extension towards the hills of south Sardinia. Something unusual to remember from this Congress were the “man face” rocks.

I was the organizer of the 7th MLAVS Congress in Limassol Cyprus. The decision taken was to leave the scientific program “light” in order to make space for excursions and fun. The weather was beautiful, the environment tempting and the region inside and around Limassol full of side-seeing, ancient and modern. The grand finale of this Congress was the official dinner in a well preserved area of a nearby hill, with lots of fireworks and plenty Cypriot dishes and wine. Mr Eastcott and his wife Bobby as well as Averill Mansfield and Sir Peter Bell were included in the participants.

The 8th MLAVS Congress was organised in Alexandria Egypt by **Prof Emad Hussein**. The venue took place in the Helnan Palestine Hotel, an old palace surrounded by a high wall and well protected admission points. The Opening ceremony took place in the well preserved castle of Alexandria, and the big attraction was the entrance of soldiers galloping on fine Arabic horses, moving in between the local dancers. A huge balloon stood in the middle of the yard, mentioning the MLAVS event with big lighted letters.

The 9th MLAVS Congress was organized in conjunction with the 12th European Congress by **Prof Fernandes** in Vilamoura, Algarve, Portugal. Vilamoura is a small but active town with a huge marina, hundreds of taverns and restaurants, a casino and above all a tempting sea with sailing facilities, not far away from the Spanish borders. We had intensive scientific sessions throughout the mornings and free afternoons that allowed excursions and exercise.

The 10th MLAVS Congress was organised in hotel Davit Intercontinental in Tel Aviv by **Prof E Antebi**. The first announcement characterised correctly this Congress as the 10th MLAVS one. However, at the second as



Fig 5: The house of Christopher Columbus

announcement it was announced wrongly as the 9th MLAVS. The executive Meeting decided to take a midline position and characterised the Congress as the 9thB MLAVS Congress in order to keep the continuity with the others. Despite of this discrepancy the Congress proved to be an interesting one from the scientific point of view with high quality lectures and symposia. The road to Golgotha, (Via Dolorosa), the Jerusalem wall, the church of the Holy Sepulchre, and the spectacular view of the Mediterranean Sea from the venue of the Congress made it remarkable. During this Congress Prof Giorgio Biasi stepped down from the position of Secretary General and I was unanimously elected to that, succeed him.

The 10th MLAVS Congress was a landmark as it was organised in year 2000 by **Prof Manresa** in Barcelona. Barcelona itself is a magnificent town with some excellent spots. The fact that the Congress was organised in conjunction with the National Spanish Vascular Society attracted hundreds of Spanish vascular surgeons to the various sessions giving the opportunity to the non-Spanish speakers to see the town and admire its beautiful environment. The grand finale of this congress took place in the ancient palace in front of which the “dancing waters” in the pools followed the music in a wonderful way,

The 11th MLAVS Congress took place in the Homerion Cultural Centre of Chios Municipality, organised by **Prof A. Tripolitis**. Chios is a Greek island of the Aegean Sea with a beautiful coastline and mountains of moderate height in the middle, scattered with pine trees and.

beautiful villages. The late Prof Strandness was participating in this Congress, still full of energy and fresh ideas. Prof Tsakou Saroglou, one of the many ship owners of Chios, spared her personal yacht to all the participants for a trip in the Aegean Sea which ended with a big festivity at her excellent summerhouse.

The 12th MLAVS Congress took place in the beautiful environment of the Coral Bay resort in Pafos Cyprus, under **my** presidency. It was an intensive but otherwise relaxing Congress with a lot of excursions on the seashores where Aphrodite, the goddess of love, was born and on the nearby mountains of Troodos which are covered with pine trees and cedars. Mr Eastcott, Sir Peter Bell, Mr J. Wolf, Prof Castellani, Prof J. Fernandes, Prof A. Nicolaides were some of the invited speakers. Otherwise, local food, excellent local wine and the Greek music and dances created an unforgettable atmosphere.

The 13th MLAVS Congress was organised in 2003 in Grand Hotel "Villa Politi" in Syracuse by **Prof Andreozzi** who made every possible effort to build a uniquely excellent Congress. Syracuse is a beautiful Italian town with a strong ancient Greek flavour. Among other monuments, it has a well preserved Greek theatre and the legendary spring of Aretousa. As the legend says, Aretousa was a beautiful Greek girl, who fell in love with a handsome boy called Achelooos. For this reason she did not accept the proposal of the father of gods to become his mistress and she was punished by him and transformed into a spring in Syracuse. Achelloos, who could not live any longer without Aretousa begged goddess Athena to help him. She then decided to transform him into a river in west Greece. Achelloos River, run his waters down to the seashore and then under the Ionian Sea and managed to reach Syracuse where he appeared near Aretousa spring. She immediately recognised him and poring her waters in the sea mixed them with Achelloos. Amazingly, at that particular area, one can find non salty drinkable water which according to the legend resulted from the mixture of Aretousa and Achelloos. At this Meeting the Executive Board of MLAVS was also invited to the Historical Town Hall.



Fig 6: The Marina infrant of the Museo del Mare

The next 14th MLAVS Congress was organised in Portoroz by **Prof Poredos** in Grand Hotel Emona. Portoroz is a unique city situated by the sea moving uphill where the houses are surrounded and semi covered by high trees. The nearby villages, stretch to the seashore and have a lot of seafood restaurants and taverns. The scientific program was excellent and the tempting Adriatic Sea was used twice for excursions which ended in plentiful banquets.

The 15th MLAVS Congress was initially designed to be held in Corsica but due to local difficulties it was finally organised by **Prof Novo** in Palermo. Palermo is a large city presenting a different patchwork of periods and styles. Its historic centre fuses ancient splendour with, to some extent, modern misery. According to Bufalino, Palermo is a paradise disguised to hell and a hell disguised to paradise! The conventional centre was in Cinici near Palermo. The scientific meetings and the official functions took place there. There was the late Prof Strano who congratulated all the prize winners with his permanent gentle smile.

The 16th MLAVS Congress took place in Crete and was organised by Prof **Ch. Liapis**. The venue of the Congress was the convention centre in Chersonisos in the annex of Creta Maris Hotel. Prof Balas, the Academician Prof Skalkeas, Prof Veith, Sir Peter Bell and Prof Fernandes were among the lecturers. Several excursions were organised and the friendly atmosphere was so obvious that even amateurs tried their performance in a fast Greek dance!

The 17th MLAVS Congress was organised in Nicosia Cyprus in conjunction to the 17th EUROCHAP. This was the first Congress that I have organised as President of MLAVS. Prof Balas as founder of the League remained as Honorary President. This Congress was a big event with a lot of distinguished invited speakers, Prof Jacobson, Prof Greenhalgh, Prof Nicolaidis, Prof Novo, Prof Fernandes, Sir Peter Bell, Prof Poredos, Prof Schirger, and Prof Glociczky. The Minister of Education and the Minister of Health represented the Government at the official opening of the Congress and the choir "Voice of Kyrenia" sang their repertoire at the opening ceremony.

The 18th MLAVS Congress took place in Cairo and Alexandria, organised by **Prof Hussein** in conjunction with the 4th AFROCHAP. The venue was initially the Oberoi Mena House Hotel next to pyramids and later the Bibliotheca of Alexandria. Everywhere in Egypt the ancient and the new are mingling together. The desert and the pyramids was a great experience for the participants and so it was the visit to the National Museum of Egypt. Also, visiting the rebuilt Bibliotheca was an unforgettable experience and similarly unforgettable was the visit to the Al Halili area. The scientific Program was very good and the discussions about endovascular surgery continued in a "hot" way as in the previous meetings among the supporters of open surgery and those of the endovascular one.

The 19th MLAVS Congress was organised in conjunction with the 18th EUROCHAP in Palermo, Sicily. **Prof Novo**, President of this Congress, as well as Prof Bastounis, President of IUA and myself, as President of MLAVS, expressed our deepest sorrow for the death of Prof Antonio Strano, who was a leading personality and a well known scientist in the field of Cardiovascular Disorders. He was a bridge builder between different specialties and among scientists and clinicians across the Mediterranean Sea. The World Congress he had organized in Rome, IASACO Foundation and several other scientific initiatives played a major role in the development of Angiology and Cardiovascular Medicine. The Scientific



Fig 7: Prof Balas celebrating his birthday. A Spot from the official dinner.

program of this Congress was very interesting and the social events, as usual, friendly and of a high standard.

The 20th MLAVS Congress was organized in Rome in conjunction with the National Congress of the Italian Society of Vascular Disorders. **Prof Benedetti Valentini** was the President of this Congress assisted by Prof L. Antiniani; it took place in the majestic conference rooms of St John's Hospital. Prof Balas, Prof Fernandes and Prof Liapis were among the lecturers and the discussions were extensive about the new trends of endovascular surgery.

After this long step by step analysis of the consecutive MLAVS Congresses we are now coming to the 21st MLAVS Congress which has been organized professionally by **Prof C. Campisi** in Genoa Italy 1-3 of December 2011. As President of the Mediterranean League of Angiology and Vascular Surgery, I would like to thank on behalf MLAVS Prof. Campisi for all his efforts to overcome the difficulties that the economic crisis imposed on this Congress. Also, at this point, I would like to announce the 22d MLAVS Congress, which will take place in Civitavecchia Italy under the Presidency of **Prof Luigi Antiniani**.



Fig 8: The central square of Genoa

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Friday 2d December 2011 from 13.30 to
15.00 hours
at Museo del Mare, Genova, Italy**

The Executive Board meeting of the Mediterranean League of Angiology and Vascular Surgery was called to order at 13.30 hours on Friday 2d of December 2011, by the President of MLAVS N. Angelides.

The following points of the agenda were discussed:

*N. Angelides welcomed the Honorary President and the Members. The minutes of the previous Meeting of the Executive Committee held at Sala Folchi, St. Giovanni, Rome Italy on the 30th of October 2010 were moved seconded and unanimously approved.

*P. Poredos apologised for his previous long absence which was the result of illness and informed that now he is well and would like to continue his duties as Secretary General..

*N. Angelides expressed his sincere thanks to Prof C. Campisi and congratulated him for the excellent organisation of the 21st MLAVS Congress despite the financial difficulties.

*C. Campisi informed the executive members that there were more than 230 participants. He added that this Congress included a lot of lymphology among the usual up-dated presentation of the arterial and venous disorders and express his sincere thanks to the President of MLAVS will remain the first multinational Society fulfilling this aim.

*L. Antiniani, as President of the 22d MLAVS Congress, gave an account of the preparations and the preliminary announcement, already distributed. He then asked the executives for suggestions about topics of symposia and round tables. The

following suggestions were put forward: Anticoagulation therapy (Prophylaxis); Re-canalisation procedures in PAD and CLI (open and endovascular); Thrombophilia; Lymphatic disorders. Finally, the executive committee accepted L. Antiniani to prepare the preliminary program and discuss it with the MLAVS President. Also to collect an appropriate number of SME from the Italian Ministry of Health and the UEMS if possible.

*The web page was then discussed. L. Antiniani presented the revised MLAVS website (WWW.MLAVS.org) which has been enriched with some printed issues of MEDLET and other scientific information. N. Angelides suggested that it is of importance to increase the in-put to the web and also to call companies to advertise into the web for a certain amount. L. Antiniani anticipated that the web page is open to all angiologists and vascular surgeons and that he is ready to admit into the web page any relevant important contribution. He also accepted to get in touch with national and international pharmaceutical companies in order to persuade them to advertise in the web. After discussions the minimum fee was considered to be not less than 1000 Euro.

*P. Poredos commented that some of the National Representatives did not appear to the MLAVS Congresses for several years. He suggested that a letter has to be prepared by the President and distributed to them asking whether they will continue to represent their countries or to suggest a new national representative. This suggestion was unanimously accepted.

*Future MLAVS Congresses were then discussed. N. Angelides informed the Executive members that it was already decided that the MLAVS Congress in 2013 will be organised by Ch. Liapis, most probably in Santorini, Greece. In case that Ch. Liapis will not be able to organise the 2013 Congress due to the financial crisis, there was a proposal by Prof Balas this Congress to be organised in Volos Greece by Prof Athanasios Giannoukas. The 2014 MLAVS Congress it was already decided to be held in Madeira, by J. Fernandes e Fernandes. Furthermore, there was a written proposal by the Vascular and Endovascular Surgical Society of Cyprus to undertake any one of the future MLAVS Congresses. It was decided Cyprus to organise the 2015 MLAVS Congress or even an earlier one if there will be any cancelation. Finally the President suggested to continue in

the future the triple character of MLAVS (arterial, venous and lymphatic), equally distributed so that MLAVS will remain the first multinational Society fulfilling this aim.

*N. Angelides presented a copy of the last issue of MEDLET. He confirmed his intention to continue editing this official letter which will be incorporated in the MLAVS Web page.

*In the absence of S. Novo there was no final account about the participation and the financial situation of the 19th MLAVS Congress.

There being no further business to be discussed the Meeting of the Executive Board was adjourned at 15.00 hours.

FUTURE MLAVS CONGRESSES

22d MLAVS Congress in Civitavecchia, Italy,

October 4-6, 2012

President: Prof. L. Antiniani

23d MLAVS Congress in Volos-Larissa, Greece, 2013

President: Prof A. Giannoukas.

25th World Congress of IUA in Prague Czech Republic, July 1-5 2012.

President: Prof Karel Roztocil

21st EUROCHAP of the International Union of Angiology, Rome, Italy

Presidents: Claudio Allegra and Luigi Antiniani

September 26-28, 2013



Fig 8 Central spot of Genoa



Fig 9: Another spot of the old harbour and the uphill town of Genoa

This Edition of MEDLET (ISSN No 1450-2062) has been compiled by the President of MLAVS, Prof. N. Angelides.

