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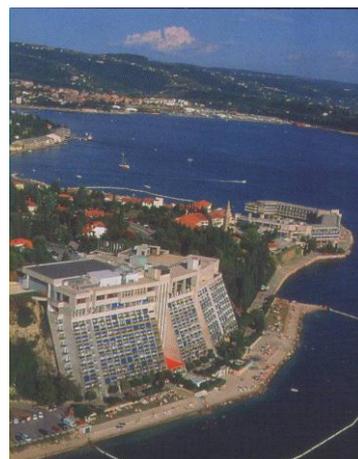


Fig 1. Portoroz-Slovenia

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NEWS IN ANGIOLOGY AND
VASCULAR SURGERY IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN REGION

The 14th Mediterranean Congress of Angiology and Vascular Surgery took place in the

Convention Centre of Bernardin - Grand Hotel Emona, in Portoroz. Within walking distance from Portoroz, there is one of the most beautiful towns in Slovenia, medieval Piran. Tartini square, with the statue of Giuseppe Tartini, a Piran-born and world famous violin virtuoso and composer is the lively administrative, cultural and social centre of the town. The "Venetian House", which is the most beautiful example of Gothic architecture in Slovenia, the church of St George which dominates the town, and the narrow streets around the terraced houses give Piran a special charm. The program of the Congress was rich and very interesting. It was composed of Round Tables, Lectures, Symposia, Oral Papers, Posters and Workshops.

Symposium 1, dealt with "What is new in Angiology?" "The role of inflammation in atherosclerosis" was analysed by Prof. Reiner. This was followed by an "Update of preventive antiplatelet therapy" by Prof. Michaelides, "Angiogenesis and new therapeutic options" by Prof. Antignani, "Perspectives for cell therapy of cardiovascular disease" by Prof Kipshidze, "Percutaneous venous valve replacement" by Prof. Pavcnik, and "Prognostic and clinical applications for endothelial dysfunction" by Prof. Lekakis. Finally, Prof. Castellani elaborated on the question "In which ways have endovascular techniques modified the management of polivascular patients?"

Symposium 2, was on "Carotid and vertebral atherosclerosis".

Prof Nicolaides elaborated on the question "Does ultrasound characteristics of carotid lesions influence the choice of treatment?" This was followed by "The indications and long term results of carotid endarterectomy" by Prof Jacobson. "Conventional vs. endovascular surgery of carotid stenosis" was then analysed by Prof. Fernandes followed by the question "What is the optimal treatment of carotid atherosclerosis analysed by Prof. Balbarini. Then Prof Polydorou elaborated on "Vertebro-basilar insufficiency" and finally Prof. Henry elaborated on "Endovascular and surgical procedures for vertebral artery stenosis"

Symposium 3, dealt with "Metabolic disorders and the arterial wall". "Homocysteinaemia, vascular function and inflammation" was analysed by Prof. Koller, followed by "Growth Hormone and the arterial wall" by Prof. Pfeifer, "Dependence of endothelial function and arterial wall morphology on the duration of the diabetes" by Prof Poredos, "Arterial stiffness: how to improve it by non-pharmacological means" by Prof. Vlachopoulos and finally "The effect of near maximal pain exercise on the endothelial function" by Prof Lucarini.

Symposium 4, was about "Treatment of Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms".

"Indications for endovascular treatment of AAA" were analysed by Prof. Riambau. This, was followed by "Comparison of endovascular and traditional treatment of AAA" by Prof Deriu, "Long term results of endovascular repair" by Prof

Biasi, "The follow-up of AAA repair using MRA or CTA" by Prof. Berden, then "The limitations of EVAR" by Prof. Hussein and finally "The role of surgical repair in the era of endovascular treatment of AAA" by Prof Dzsinič.

Symposium 5, was about "Critical limb ischaemia". The first speaker, Prof Kozak, elaborated on "Diagnostic procedures in CLI as a base for the choice of treatment modalities". This lecture was followed by Prof. Rieger's lecture: "Do drugs have any role in the treatment of CLI". The next lecture dealt with the "Treatment of unreconstructable CLI with prostaglandins" (Prof. Martini), followed by "infrapopliteal PTA in patients with critical limb ischaemia" (Prof Peregrin) and "Suboptimal angioplasty" (Dr Klonariš). Finally, "Distal revascularization in diabetic patients" was analysed (Prof Dzsinič)

Symposium 6, was a Joint Symposium of the European Society For Non-invasive CV Dynamics. Prof Rusconi gave the opening remarks, followed by his lecture "A new approach in primary cardiovascular prevention changing the paradigm from risk factor control to treatment of preclinical atherosclerosis". The next lecture dealt with the "Assessment of atherosclerosis burden by transesophageal echocardiography" by Prof. Oneglia, followed by "Transcranial Doppler in the diagnosis of patent foramen ovale" by Prof Anzola. Finally, "Percutaneous closure of RFO and atrial septal defects" was the theme of Prof. Albiero's lecture.

Symposium 7, dealt with "Multifocal arterial disease" The first lecture by

Prof. Poredos gave an analysis of this dangerous entity. This was followed by "Intermittent claudication and its systemic effects" by Prof Andreozzi. The next lecture dealt with "Carotid arteries as a window to systemic atherosclerosis" by Prof Ciccone. "Therapeutic access to patients with PAD accompanied with coronary and/or cerebrovascular disease" was then analysed by Prof Angelides and the symposium closed with a lecture by Prof Cerne on "Safety and efficacy of Perclose suturing device after percutaneous coronary procedure."

Symposium 8, was organised by the Slovenian Society of Vascular Diseases. This Symposium included six lectures. "The role of clopidogrel in patients with peripheral arterial diseases" was presented by Prof Blinc, "The role of 3D ultrasonography in evaluating carotid disease" was analysed by Prof Tetickovic. This was followed by "Carotid endarterectomy (Prof. Flis), "Carotid angioplasty and stenting with different cerebral protection devices" (Prof. Milosevic), "Treatment of AAA by mini laparotomy (Prof. Klokocovnik) and finally "Endoscopic ligation of perforators in chronic venous insufficiency" (Prof. Sikovec)

Symposium 9, dealt with "Secondary Prevention of Ischaemic Cardiovascular Diseases". "Comprehensive assessment of cardiovascular risk" was analysed by Prof. Fras, followed by the lectures "Should statins be used in all coronary patients" (Prof Pedersen), and "ACE inhibition and atherosclerosis" (Prof. Sabovic), "Secondary prevention of ischaemic cerebrovascular disease" (Prof. Blinc), and finally "Genetic biomarkers in atherosclerosis" by Prof Peterlin.

Symposium 10, dealt with “New Trends in Treatment of Thromboembolic Disease”. “How to prevent VTE recurrences?” was analysed by Prof Angelli, followed by “Risk assessment and treatment of VTE in different groups of patients” (Prof. Elalamy), “Difficult issues in VTE diagnosis” (Prof. Prandoni), “Natural history of venous thromboembolism and related implications for treatment” (Prof. Coccheri), “Home treatment of DVT” (Prof. Partsch), and finally “Laboratory monitoring of oral anticoagulant therapy” analysed by Prof. Pafareti. Apart from the Symposiums, there were also **7 Plenary Lectures**:

Lecture 1, “Treatment of Lymphedema” presented by Prof. C. Campisi.

Lecture 2, “Lipid lowering therapy-GREACE and REVERSAL Studies” analysed by Prof D. Michaelides.

Lecture 3, “Therapeutic and prognostic implication of Ultrasonographic characteristics of Carotid lesions” by Prof. Nicolaides.

Lecture 4, “Aneurysm trials” By Prof. Biasi.

Lecture 5, “Atherosclerosis and inflammation” by Prof Cercek.

Lecture 6, “Chronic Venous Insufficiency” an update presented by Prof. Alegra. Finally,

Lecture 7, “The History of the Mediterranean Congresses” an analysis presented by Prof. Angelides during the Opening Ceremony.



Fig 2. The beautiful town of Piran

Portoroz, the host town of the 14th MLAVS Congress.

Portoroz or the Port of Roses, began to develop its tradition of hospitality as a health resort in the 19th century and over the decades has acquired many additional facilities that offer diversity and quality to the guests: Superb hotels with thermal pools and private beaches, excellent restaurants, lively cafes, discotheques and many sports activities on sea and land, as well as strolls along the shore that fill every day with pleasant experiences.

Slovenia, the host country on the sunny side of the Alps.

Slovenia has an excellent geographic position in the heart of Europe, at the crossroads of routes, leading from north to south and from east to west. A fascinating variety of landscapes is concentrated on in area of 20.000 square Km. The country has only 46 Km of coastline but this small area of land and sea has everything in abundance, from high cliffs to salt lakes, olive groves and vineyards.



Fig 3. Presidents of IUA, MLAVS and of the 14th MLAVS Congress, among other invited speakers.

Participation at the 14th MLAVS Congress

Prof Poredos informed the Executive MLAVS Board that the total participation was 200 participants and accompanied persons as well as 50 young doctors that attended the Congress free of charge. Expenses were covered by the Organising Committee for 45 invited speakers. He stated that the financial balance of the Congress was still unknown as some income from pharmaceutical companies was expected to be paid later on. Prof Poredos also stated that in case of positive balance he will give an amount of money to the Treasurer according to the existing regulations.

Future MLAVS Congresses

*The next 15th MLAVS Congress will take place in Ajaccio, Corsica, May 19-22, 2005. This Congress will be organised by Prof L. Castellani and Prof M. Henry.

*The 16th MLAVS Congress will take place in Heraklion, Crete, in 2006 and will be organised by Prof. Ch. Liapis.

*The 17th MLAVS Congress will take

Place in Mallorca in 2007 and will be organised by Prof V. Riambau. Finally, *the 18th MLAVS Congress will be held in Palermo Sicily in 2008, and will be organised by Prof Novo.

Donation to MLAVS by Prof Jacobson

Professor J. Jacobson decided to donate to the Mediterranean League of Angiology and Vascular Surgery the sum of 5.000 USA dollars. This sum will be used to establish the Jacobson's Prize of 1000 USA dollars for the best oral presentation during the next two consecutive MLAVS Congresses (in Corsica in 2005 and in Crete in 2006).The remaining amount will be used for current expenses of the MLAVS Secretariat. The President and Secretary General of MLAVS congratulated and thanked Prof. Jacobson for his donation.



Fig 4. N. Angelides, RM Greenhalgh and A. Tripolitis during a cruise in the Adriatic sea.

New Books

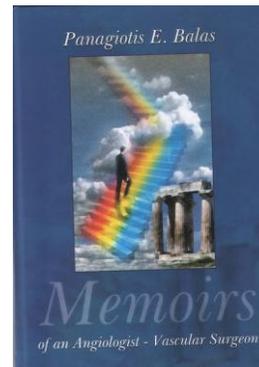
**"Memoirs of an Angiologist and Vascular Surgeon"* is a 290-page book written with utmost care by Prof. P. Balas, President of MLAVS. "It is true that many times during my sojourns in my house at the island of Zakynthos, which is situated right on the coast, I gazed over the Ionian Sea, often calm but sometimes rough, and I listened to the strange music of the pounding waves. Other times, I smoked a Cuban cigar, and allowed many recollections, vivid or hazy, some of them with nostalgia and with a feeling of innermost satisfaction, to play in my mind" Prof Balas says in the preface of his book and continues admitting that "many of the recollected events and activities would not have been possible without my vision, devotion and compassion for work or the many sacrifices of my mother and the understanding, and help of my wife Maria and my daughter Efstathia," and finishes stating: "I am deeply thankful to God for paving my way in life in good health, with visions and activities in science, medical practice, the international angiological affairs, along with the social activities"

Congratulations Prof Balas for this superb edition.

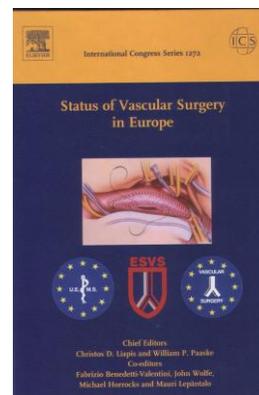
**"Status of Vascular Surgery in Europe"* is a 351-page book edited by two chief editors, Ch. Liapis and W. P. Paaske, and four co-editors, F Benedetti-Valentini, J. Wolfe, M. Horrocks and M. Lepantalo. "Collecting data on conditions that prevail in Vascular Surgery across the European Continent is not a task that could have been achieved without the dedicated support and

cooperation of the membership collaborators who were kind enough to put pen on paper and share their knowledge and experience for the good of all concerned" was stated as an acknowledgement by the major authors. "No less important are the country-specific reports kindly provided by UEMS National Representatives on the Board of Vascular Surgery from Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, and UK."

This book presents an easily readable overview of European topics that influence the daily practice of Vascular Surgery. Congratulations to the Editors!



"Memoirs"



"Status of V.S. in Europe"

UEMS Section - Vascular Surgery

On 15th of October, 2004 in Lisbon, Portugal, the UEMS Management Council decided that Vascular Surgery becomes a separate Specialist Section. *A historic day for European Vascular Surgery!* Fabrizio Benedetti-Valentini, President of UEMS Section of Vascular Surgery, said that "In the European Union we will be now in a stronger position to support our claim and have VS classified as a main independent speciality and listed as such in the forthcoming Directive on Professional qualifications. At national level it will be significant to defend the borders of our speciality which are often threatened from many sides. It will possibly help even our Colleagues across the Atlantic to achieve an independent Board of VS – at least for once we were first!"

INVITED ARTICLE: "In which ways have endovascular techniques modified the management of polyvascular patients?" by Prof. L. Castellani. The concept of multifocal atherosclerotic patient is well established. In the last decade endovascular innovations that include balloon angioplasty, stenting and endoluminal grafting have changed treatment strategies for vascular disease considerably and consequently the management of "multifocal atherosclerotic patient". On the other hand the number of patients undergoing vascular procedures has risen dramatically because the elderly population increases in the developed countries. Age becomes a more important risk factor in patients undergoing

common vascular operations and there will be a great emphasis on treating these patients with less invasive methods. The focus of therapy is moving towards maximal revascularization with minimised invasiveness. Endovascular procedures will target the risk group of "multifocal atherosclerotic patient". The purpose of this study is to define in which ways the endovascular techniques have modified the treatment of polyvascular patients. (i) with the advent of percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) for treating coronary arterial disease (CAD) there has been a decrease in the need of coronary bypass graft (CABG). Consequently, for the treatment of CAD the rate of PCI is 80% versus 20% for the CABG. Furthermore, beating heart bypass operations are also employed for selected patients with less morbidity. Now in Europe around 30-50% of procedures are carried out of pump. (ii) Abdominal aortic aneurysms (AAA) remain an important problem. Although the reported operative mortality for elective AAA was frequently quoted as being less than 4%, Dr Parodi revolutionized the treatment of infrarenal AAA when he performed the first successful endovascular aneurysm repair (EVAR) in 1990. EVAR represents a dramatic technical advance in the management of infrarenal AAAs and already provides a relatively safe alternative to traditional open operations, especially in truly high risk candidates. (iii) Treatment of patients with carotid stenosis have also changed. The feasibility of carotid angioplasty and stenting (CAS) has been proven by a wide range of work. CAS techniques continue to develop rapidly. At the light of this

exciting new technology, what remains to be seen is how endovascular techniques have modified our strategy and what are our current recommendations in the following three cases (i) myocardial revascularization and carotid artery disease, (ii) carotid stenosis and concomitant coronary artery disease and (iii) abdominal aortic aneurysm and concomitant coronary artery disease. Anyhow, endovascular procedures will continue to mature and have the potential to monopolize the field of vascular surgery in the future and probably will completely modify the treatment of polyvascular patients.

Important modifications of the constitution of the International Union of Angiology (IUA). As Prof. S. Novo stated, the most important change is probably the creation of a new membership for national and international Associate Societies, for which one delegate is member of the Administrative Board of the IUA, and the creation of a Multinational Chapter. Other major innovations were the creation of two new councils: one for Vascular Medicine and Biology and one for Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Interventions. Moreover, two other new Committees were also created: The Committee for Vascular Centres and the Committee for Guidelines. It also approved a subtitle of IUA that now states: International Union of Angiology: a Society for Vascular Medicine, Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Interventions. "IUA, is a multidisciplinary umbrella Society, with the goal to share expertise of all disciplines involved in the

investigation, diagnosis, prevention and treatment of vascular disease" concluded Prof. Novo.

Site of future IUA World and Chapter Meetings.

22d World Congress: 24-28 June 2006
Lisbon, Portugal. Organizer: Prof. J. Fernandes

23d World Congress: 2008, Greece.
Organizer Prof. E. Bastounis

24th World Congress: 2010, Argentina.
Organizer Prof. R. Simkin

3d Congress of the IUA North African and Middle East Chapter-AFROCHAP III: 16-19 February 2005, Aswan, Egypt.
Organizer Prof. E. Hussein.

16th Congress of the European Chapter of the IUA- EUROCHAP 2005: 27-29 Oct 2005, Glasgow, Scotland. Organizer Prof. J. Belch

17th Congress of the European Chapter of the IUA-EUROSHAP 2007: Nicosia Cyprus.

Organizer Prof. N. Angelides.

18th Congress of the European Chapter of the IUA-EUROCHAP 2009: Palermo Sicily, Italy.

Organizers Prof. C. Alegra and S. Novo.

This Edition of MEDLET has been created by the Secretary General of MLAVS Prof. N. Angelides



