

## REPORT ON THE 7<sup>TH</sup> EMIRATES OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY AUDIOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION DISORDERS CONGRESS, 18–20 JANUARY 2017, DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

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The seventh Emirates Otorhinolaryngology Audiology and Communication Disorders Congress was held in sunny Dubai, the capital of one of the seven United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The Congress was organized in a joint meeting with the French Ear-Nose-Throat Society under the auspices of the UAE President, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nayhan; Vice President and Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum; and Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Minister of Finance, and President of the Dubai Health Authority, Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum. Participants from 30 countries on five continents took part in the Congress, including from Egypt, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Austria, Great Britain, Australia, Italy, Turkey, Bahrain, Libya, France, the United States, Spain, Germany, Slovakia, Russia, Iraq, Sudan, Australia, Oman, Belgium, Qatar, Nigeria, India, Algeria, Romania, Iran, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Senegal, and South Africa. Poland was represented by Ass. Prof. Piotr Henryk Skarzynski, Dr Aleksandra Mickielewicz, and Joanna Rajchel.

The main aim of the Congress was to provide attendees with a platform to share experiences and discuss breakthroughs in various specialist fields, in this way supporting the consolidation and expansion of their own practices.

During the Congress, almost 300 lectures, 15 panel discussions, and 5 specialist workshops took place. The lectures and discussions covered three sessions on rhinology, two on otology, two on recent advances in the diagnosis and management of audio-vestibular disorders, two on communication and swallowing disorders, and single sessions on rhinoplasty and septoplasty, head and neck and pediatrics, snoring and apnea, and an allergy and innovation forum. An accompanying event on the first day was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Young Otolologists Forum for Research in Otorhinolaryngology in GCC and the Arab World.



Sunny Dubai offers not only scientific attractions but also extremely interesting architecture

Participants interested in broadening their practical skills were offered a variety of workshops: the 5<sup>th</sup> Temporal Bone Dissection Course with Hands-On Hearing Implant (faculty: Abdulrahman Hagr, Abdulmonem Al Shaikh, Jamal



One of the most interesting parts of the congress were expert panel discussions

Kassouma, Christopher Raine, Manohar Banc, Jose Fayad, Joachim Mueller, David Schramm); the 7<sup>th</sup> Pan Arab Rhinology Basic and Advanced Functional Endoscopic Sinus Surgery (FESS) Course with Hands-On Cadaver Dissection (faculty: Reda Kamel, Martin Desrosiers, Amin Javer, Paulo Castelnovo, Mohammad Al Falasi, Heinz Stammberger, Ali Al Amri, Mohammad Zahran); Simple Approach for Proper Diagnosis and Management of Dizziness and Vertigo Workshop (faculty: Kamran Barin, Mohamed Shabana, Tarik Ghannoum, Nagwa Hazzah, Suzan Noori); the 5<sup>th</sup> Aesthetic and Functional Septorhinoplasty Course with Hands-On Cadaver Dissection: Step by Step Rhinoplasty and Septoplasty (faculty: Hossam Foda, Metin Onerci, Jay Calvert); and the 5<sup>th</sup> Intensive Snoring and Sleep Apnea Course with Hands-On Cadaver Dissection (faculty: Yassin Bahgat, Maria Suurna, Federic Chabolle, Abdulhadi Al Jassim, Karl Hormann, Medhat Shams). All were moderated by the Congress president, Hussain Abdul Rahman.

The main focus of the otology sessions was placed on tympanoplasty, middle ear and mastoid surgery, cholesteatomas, vestibular schwannomas, ossiculoplasty, implantable hearing devices, and new imaging tools in otology. Different aspects of implantable hearing devices were raised during the session on recent advances in the diagnosis and management of audio-vestibular disorders, and gained a lot of interest.

Ass. Prof. Piotr Henryk Skarzynski presented four new methods for surgical management of hearing loss. First, he showed excellent results obtained on both young and senior patients with partial deafness (belonging to the electro-natural stimulation group, PDT-ENS, according to Prof. Henryk Skarzynski's partial deafness classification). The second presentation was about patients implanted with the modern BAH A Attract system, and included one of the largest material so far. This new system avoids skin complications often found with the BAH A Connect solution. Very good hearing rehabilitation with bone-conductive devices was shown in the next presentation, which gave 6-month auditory and quality of life results in Bonebridge users. The last presentation concerned the evaluation of



During the 7<sup>th</sup> Emirates Otorhinolaryngology Audiology and Communication Disorders Congress Poland was represented by the Institute of Physiology and Pathology of Hearing. Dr. Aleksandra Mickielewicz delivered an interesting lecture on otitis media with effusion in the course of chronic rhinosinusitis

different Vibrant Soundbridge couplers (depending on anatomical conditions) during surgery. The advantages of using the direct stimulation of the round window during the operation were also stressed.

Joanna Rajchel presented results of research conducted by the team of Dr Kamila Osinska on perinatal risk factors for hearing loss in cochlear implant users. Dr Aleksandra Mickielewicz presented two topics during the Congress. The first concerned the modified Lothrop procedure in the treatment of chronic frontal sinusitis and reported 60 cases of patients who had undergone this procedure at the Institute of Physiology and Pathology of Hearing. She also presented cases of otitis media with effusion in chronic rhinosinusitis.

Particularly enjoyable were sessions dedicated to rhinological issues. Prof. Reda Kamel from Egypt explained the challenges facing rhinologists today. He stressed the low availability of medical services in Africa, which is causing many health problems among the population. The severity of otorhinolaryngological diseases is far higher than in

Europe, and often significantly reduces the effectiveness of medical interventions (measured as a percentage of recovery or survival). Prof. Amir Javer from Canada gave lectures on the anatomy of the lateral wall of the nose in the endoscopic imaging and perspectives on the treatment of chronic sinusitis. The question of comorbidity between sinusitis and asthma was also raised. The results presented suggest that maintaining the upper sinuses in the best possible condition (applying the most conservative treatment and operations) reduces lower airway inflammation. Prof. Heinz Stammberger spiced up his lectures with a fascinating video of the anatomy of the paranasal sinuses, showing also access to the wedge-palatal artery in cases of bleeding, access to the frontal sinus, and the most common places of iatrogenic damage to the skull base. In his subsequent lectures he presented unique intraoperative navigation techniques.

In the snoring and apnea session a lot of time was devoted to modern therapeutic options for obstructive sleep apnea. One of them was hypoglossal nerve stimulation using the Inspire or Imthera devices. An alternative solution presented during the Congress was the Nyxoah neurostimulator, implanted in the vicinity of the hypoglossal nerve. Another promising treatment for obstructive sleep apnea was reduction in the size of the tongue by lipolysis. Attention was also drawn to the implantation of passive tongue implants.

This year's 7<sup>th</sup> Emirates Otorhinolaryngology Audiology and Communication Disorders Congress provided an opportunity for clinical and scientific experts from around the world to exchange experience, which contributed to its undoubted success. The next Congress is planned for Dubai on 17–19 January 2018.