

# REPORT OF THE 28<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS OF THE UNION OF EUROPEAN PHONiatricIANS, 29 SEPTEMBER – 1 OCTOBER, BILBAO, SPAIN

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The 28<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Union of European Phoniatrians took place on 29 September – 1 October in Bilbao, Spain. The meeting was a joint one with the National Congress of Spanish Phoniatrians (SOMEF, Sociedad Medica Espanola de Foniatria). Dr Susana Ruiz and Dr Ana Martinez were the hosts and chairs of the Congress. The opening gala and official welcome of participants took place in the Campos Eliseos Theatre.

A day before the Congress, meetings of the board of the Union of European Phoniatrians (UEP) and the European Academy of Phoniatrians (EAP) took place. For the EAP meeting, Poland was represented by Prof. Bożena Wiskirska-Woznica, who is also the UEP treasurer.

The scientific program covered most aspects of phoniatics – voice, speech, language, and swallowing disorders – and some topics also concerned hearing impairments. Eminent international experts from Europe, South America, and Asia shared their knowledge. Lectures were delivered by B. Wiskirska-Woznica (Poland), M. Hess (Germany), C. Neuschaefer-Rube (Germany), A. am Zehnhoff-Dinnesen (Austria), E. Chavez (Mexico), and J. Poch (Spain).

Among numerous sessions, one we attended was a round table on modern diagnosis and procedures in cases of swallowing disorders; it included a discussion of neurodegenerative diseases and complications after oncological operations.

Several sessions were devoted to hearing disorders and cochlear implants.

During the phonosurgery sessions, interesting papers on surgical methods (glottoplastics, cricothyroid approximation) for voice modification of transexual patients were presented, together with long-term outcomes; medialization

laryngoplasty in cases of glottis insufficiency; questions of sulcus vocalis treatment and scars of the vocal folds; as well as a very popular paper on one-day phonosurgery under local anesthesia.

Prof. M. Hess from Hamburg delivered an interesting and practical lecture on early symptoms of voice overload resulting from phonotrauma, in which he presented options for osteopathy therapy to treat facial and intra- and extra-laryngeal muscle tension.

One session concerned the European Union's internal policy on phoniatics and its status in Europe, and it discussed how EU countries cooperate with UEP and broader cooperation with IAPA and WHO. A presentation on how the Polish audiology and phoniatics community cooperates with IAPA was given by Prof. B. Wiskirska-Woznica.

Eight attendees from Poland took part in the Congress: Prof. Wiskirska-Woznica, Dr I. Kaminska and Dr H. Czerniejewska-Wolska from Poznan, Prof. E. Niebudek-Bogusz and Dr M. Wojtkiewicz-Malicka from Lodz, Dr E. Sielska-Badurek from Warsaw, and Dr E. Włodarczyk and Dr. B. Miaskiewicz from Kajetany.

The team from the Institute of Physiology and Pathology of Hearing delivered two papers: „Use of the Dx-pH measurement system in diagnostics of voice disorders” (E. Włodarczyk, A. Domeracka-Kolodziej, A. Szkielkowska) in a free communication on Voice and Resonance; and “Injection laryngoplasty as a treatment method of age-related dysphonia” (B. Miaskiewicz, A. Szkielkowska, E. Włodarczyk, P. Krasnodebska, A. Domeracka-Kolodziej) in a free communication on Contributions to Phonosurgery.

The 28<sup>th</sup> UEP Congress was a very interesting meeting and covered many key topics in modern phoniatics.