

## XXV World Congress of Echocardiography, May 17-

19, 2019 Lodz. Poland

On 17-19 May, 2019 Łódź, Poland, was the site of the jubilee of XXV World Congress of Echocardiography and Allied Techniques organized in conjunction with XXI Conference of Working Group of Echocardiography, Polish Cardiac Society – PolEcho 2019. The congress was organized under supervision of Coordinating Chairmen, Prof. Jarosław D. Kasprzak and Prof. Piotr Lipiec in the Conference Center of the Central Teaching Hospital, Medical University of Łódź and became the greatest meeting on cardiovascular imaging ever organized in Poland. Thanks to collaborative initiative of the International Society of Cardiac Ultrasound, directed by Professor Navin C. Nanda, President of the International Scientific Committee, and the Working Group on Echocardiography of the Polish Cardiac Society, chaired by Prof. Olga Trojnarśka, 120 leading international experts in the field of cardiovascular non-invasive imaging met in Poland to participate as Faculty of the joint Congress.

The XXV World Congress gathered nearly 1100 attendees from all continents who came to take advantage of state-of-the art scientific program throughout the 3 Congress days, with up to 6 lecture halls in use. Original communications were presented in moderated sessions as 55 posters with three award lines (Heart Imagers of Tomorrow, best original research, best case report). Generous Congress Center space created excellent opportunity for participants to exchange experience with leading scientists and researchers. The meeting included different sessions spanning from the basic teaching course to advanced echocardiography, valve diseases, as well as sessions on coronary and structural heart disease. Exciting global case reports presentations, along with practical workshops with live scanning and workstation practice supplemented the comprehensive program of the Congress.

The inaugural session, attended by representatives of the district authorities and Rector of UMED Łódź, included first ever presentation of Lifetime Achievement Award by Working Group on Echocardiography of Polish Cardiac Society to Professor Navin C. Nanda in recognition of his outstanding mentorship and contribution to cardiac ultrasound worldwide, with special emphasis on building global links between international experts within the framework of the International Society of Cardiac Ultrasound. This was followed by a lecture by Professor Navin C. Nanda „Past, Present and Future of Echocardiography”. Notably, the international collaboration of Professors Olga Trojnarśka, Jarosław D. Kasprzak and Piotr Lipiec was recognized with

honorary titles of Distinguished Fellows of the International Society of Cardiac Ultrasound (FISCU (D)) awarded by the ISCU President, Professor Nanda. The Chairman of National Heart Failure Working Group, Polish Heart Society, Prof. A. Gackowski completed the inaugural session with a lecture “Echo Images of Heart Failure: Diagnosis and Therapy Optimization.”

Clinical sessions began on Friday. Special topics included heart failure with preserved ejection fraction and the role of imaging in intensive care setting and valvular or inflammatory heart disease and detecting cardiac embolism sources. Important teaching sessions refreshed the role of echocardiography in recent ESC guidelines, how to detect and diagnose. First moderated poster session – with Heart Imagers of Tomorrow (young scientists) competition took place on Friday, with best HIT poster award granted to Remigiusz Kazmierczyk, Ewelina Kazmierczyk, Piotr Błaszczak, Katarzyna Ptaszyńska-Kopczyńska, Małgorzata Knapp, Ryszard Grzywna, Bożena Sobkowicz, Karol Kamiński (Białystok, Poland) for their study ‘Echocardiographic assessment of right ventricular-arterial coupling in predicting prognosis of pulmonary arterial hypertension patients’.

On Saturday the participants discussed the role of echocardiography in percutaneous valve therapies, heart failure, arterial hypertension and in grown-ups with congenital heart disease. The highlights of the day were: Presidential Session with contributions of Prof. N.C. Nanda, Prof. E. Badano and Prof. J.D. Kasprzak and Echomasters! Session with a special case report collection by Professor Navin Nanda.

On the last, well attended day of the Congress the sessions covered breaking news on echocardiography in arrhythmia, congenital diseases, cardiomyopathies, pericardial and aortic disease, advances in stress echo, advances in interventional echocardiography and cardiac imaging in chest pain. Even more case reports were discussed, with special sessions on challenging echo diagnoses such as left atrial hematomas, constrictive cardiomyopathy, left ventricular aneurysms, left ventricular non-compaction cardiomyopathy and takotsubo syndrome.

The closing ceremony included awarding the team: Małgorzata Knapp, Katarzyna Ptaszyńska-Kopczyńska, Klaudia Mickiewicz, Monika Oleksiuk, Tomasz Michalski, Anna Lisowska, Karol Kamiński and Bożena Sobkowicz (Białystok, Poland) for the best original research communication presented during the conference (‘Stress echocardiography in patients with pulmonary hypertension – a pilot study’).

The best case report awards in moderated session were won by two teams: Alicja Mirecka-Rola, Monika Kowalczyk-Domagala, Anna Brodzikowska-Pytel, Anna Turska-Kmieć, Grażyna Brzezińska-Rajszyś, Andrzej Kansy, Bohdan Maruszewski (Warsaw, Poland) for ‘Assessment of the left ventricle 2-D global longitudinal strain in infants with dilated cardiomyopathy before and after surgical treatment with pulmonary artery banding’ and Mahmoud Nosir, Abdulaziz Al-Shaibi, Mervat Alasnag, Ahmed Waqar, Walid Abukhudair, Khalid Al-Shaibi, Youssef Nosir (Jeddah, KSA/Egypt) for the presentation ‘Role of transoesophageal echocardiography monitoring in detection and management of acute complications of left main coronary artery occlusion during trans-catheter aortic valve implantation’. Congratulations to all winners!

Three days in May, when Lodz became the world capital of echocardiography were unforgettable for all attendees. We hope that the participants will save warm memories of the time spent in academic Łódź and Poland.

However, XXV Congress has become a history, and now – let us get ready for XXVI World Congress of Echocardiography to be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Oct 29-31, 2021.

Jaroslaw D. Kasprzak, Piotr Lipiec, Karolina Frynas.