

New Frontiers in Interventional Cardiology 2013 – Highlights from the biggest workshop in Central and Eastern Europe

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Since 1999, at the end of each year, cardiologists, interventional cardiologists and cardiac surgeons from all over the World meet in Cracow to discuss the most challenging topics in recent cardiology. From the beginning the workshop directors who organize this event are – prof. Dariusz Dudek, prof. Krzysztof Żmudka and assoc. prof. Jacek Legutko. This year, between the 27th and 30th of November 2013, ca. 1200 participants visited the most important workshop on Interventional cardiology in Central and Eastern Europe. This year's event was held under the auspices of the Rector of the Jagiellonian University – prof. Wojciech Nowak and the Marshal of the Małopolska voivodeship – Mr Marek Sowa.

During the first two days young fellows specializing in Interventional Cardiology had the opportunity to gain more experience during the 6th and the only one organized this year in Europe „Fellows course“ under the auspices of the Association of Cardio-Vascular Interventions of the Polish Society of Cardiology and in cooperation with the European Association of Percutaneous Cardiovascular Interventions (EAPCI) and the European Board for Accredita-

tion in Cardiology (EBAC). Participants had to pass an exam at the end of the course and were awarded with a certificate. Interesting lectures for advanced operators according Transcatheter Aortic Valve Interventions and hypothermia were of great value at the beginning of the Workshop.

Two symposia regarding the algorithm of prehospital treatment of patients with acute coronary syndromes (ACS) with teletransmission of EKG and quality of care in Cardiology Centers with different reference stages added a great value to every day practice. Many experts discussed and attempted to answer a question of whether more infrastructure, devices or experience of the operators would be essential in the nearest future? Lectures concerning the topic „Rescue medicine and interventional cardiology in public safety“ were organized under the auspices of the Director of the Polish Society of Cardiology – prof. Zbigniew Kalarus, National Cardiology Consultant prof. Grzegorz Opolski, AISN and the Collegium Medicum Jagiellonian University. Special guests invited to the session included the vice-ministry of public health Mr. Krzysz-



Figure 1. EAPCI Fellows course. First row, from the left side: prof. Maciej Lesiak, assoc. prof. Jacek Legutko, prof. Robert Gil, prof. Adam Witkowski



Figure 2. EAPCI Fellows course



Figure 3. NFIC Session with live transmission in the Slowacki Theatre

tof Chlebus and the Director of the Małopolska National Health Fund Mrs. Barbara Bulanowska.

During the next days of the NFIC workshop many of up-to-date sessions with live transmissions from innovative and complex interventional cardiology procedures including renal denervations, left atrial appendage percutaneous closure, coronary and peripheral arteries interventions were held and transmitted to the beautiful interiors of the Slowacki Theatre in Cracow. Thanks to live transmissions from the operating rooms of the Interventional Cardiology Clinic of the John Paul II hospital, University Hospital in Cracow, Semmelweis University in Budapest, Belarus Scientific and

Practical Center of Cardiology in Minsk and Masaryk University in Brno the panelists and all other participants in the audience could be a part of many interesting procedures regarding acute coronary syndromes which were introduced and commented by well known experts from Europe and Asia.

As usual, on Saturday the 30th of November, a session referring to structural heart diseases and peripheral arteries interventions. The main topics included stroke prevention and percutaneous revascularization of occluded carotid arteries.

On Saturday the 30th of November an interesting session for nurses, technicians and life-guards with ca. 200 participants from



Figure 4. Workshop Director – prof Dariusz Dudek

all over Poland took place and was of great value. For the first time life-guards took part in this session.

The international faculty was represented by well known specialists from all over the World including Yasushi Asakura (Japan), Giancarlo Biamino (Italy), Davide Capodanno (Italy), Andrej Erglis (Lithuania), Elvin Kedhi (The Netherlands), Thierry Lefevre (France), Bela Merkely (Hungary), Jacob Moller (Danmark), Christoph Naber (Germany), Marco Roffi (Switzerland), Martin Rothman (USA), Farrell Hellig (RSA) and Masahisa Yamane (Japan) who added a great value to the Workshop.

All these up-to-date discussions, lectures and live transmissions were of great importance to the interventional cardiology treatment and the increasing number of national and international participants highlights its value in the Central and Eastern Europe.

Information for authors

Aims and scope

Journal of Rare Cardiovascular Diseases (JRCD) is an international, quarterly, peer reviewed journal that keeps cardiologists up to date with rare disorders of heart and vessels. Topics covered include congenital heart defects, cardiomyopathies, rhythm abnormalities, rare forms of arterial hypertension, pulmonary hypertension, cardiac tumors and other rare diseases affecting heart and vessels such as connective tissue diseases, metabolic disorders, neuro-muscular diseases another unclassified rare diseases.

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