

2nd International Conference on Rare Cardiovascular Diseases (Krakow, October 16–17, 2014)

Paweł Rubiś

Department of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases, Institute of Cardiology, Jagiellonian University Medical College, Centre for Rare Cardiovascular Diseases, John Paul II Hospital, Krakow, Poland

The 2nd International Conference on Rare Cardiovascular Diseases was organized by the Krakow CRCDC between 16th and 17th October 2014 at the John Paul II Hospital premises. The two-days Conference's program was diverse, educational and touch most of the important topics in orphan diseases. There were seven scientific sessions altogether; four in the first day and three in the second day. First day of Conference started with session dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of coronary anomalies and was chaired by Professors Roland Hetzer and Henryk Sieniawski from German Heart Centre in Berlin and Doctor Jakub Podolec from our Centre. Among Speakers, there was Doctor Marck Dweck from Edinburgh, UK. The second session was entitled "Challenges in Rare Diseases" and was chaired by Professor Stephan Rosenkrantz and Doctor Grzegorz Kopec. During the session controversial and complex clinical cases were presented and commented by managing physicians. Our two long-term Friends and Partners – Doctors Deddo Moertl and Sabine Steiner from Vienna, Austria presented interesting cases on giant cell myocarditis and acute dissection of the aorta in patient with Marfan syndrome, respectively. The third

was an Opening Session that was chaired by the Head of Krakow Centre Professor Piotr Podolec and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine Jagiellonian University Professor Tomasz Grodzicki. Among distinguished guests, we hosted the Member of Polish Parliament Mrs Lidia Gądek, Marshall of the Malopolska Region Mr Marek Sowa, Doctor Anna Prokop-Staszecka Director of the John Paul II Hospital, and Director of Malopolska Division of National Health Fund Mrs Barabara Bulanowska. Discussions were vivid and concentrated especially around the hot topic of financing of costly procedures and medicines for patients with rare diseases. There was not a single conclusion but rather a set of guidelines and recommendations where and how to find additional money for our patients. The last session of the first day was the Oral Abstract Session where the best abstracts, selected by the Program Committee, were presented. The second day of the Conference started with the session on rare congenital heart diseases and was chaired by Doctor Lidia Tomkiewicz-Pająk, Bogdan Kapelak and Piotr Przybyłowski from our Centre and Professor Piotr Hoffman from Warsaw. Extremely difficult and nearly "hopeless" clinical cases were presented and discussed and despite their complexity always the best possible solution or at least the lesser evil was pursued. The second session of the second day was entitled "Rare diseases



Figure 1. From the left: Professor Piotr Podolec M.D. Ph.D. – Head of the Centre for Rare Cardiovascular Diseases, Anna Prokop - Staszecka M.D. Ph.D. – Director of John Paul II Hospital in Krakow and Lidia Gądek – Member of Polish Parliament, Member of the Parliamentary Committee for Primary Health Care and Prevention



Figure 2. Professor Roland Hetzer M.D. Ph.D (on right hand), Berlin, Germany and Jakub Podolec M.D. Ph.D., Centre for Rare Cardiovascular Diseases, Kraków, Poland during the opening ceremony



Figure 3. Doctor Marc Dweck, Edinburgh, United Kingdom during the lecture “Cardiac and coronary imaging in assessment of coronary artery and heart disease”

of myocardium” and was moderated by our long-term Consultant and Partner Professor John Cleland from London and Doctor Pawel Rubis from our Centre. During the session the European Expert on cardiac inflammatory diseases Professor Sabine Pankuweit from Marburg, Germany delivered the lecture on the state-of-the-art approach to myocarditis. Also, an interesting speech on the prophylaxis of sudden cardiac death in hypertrophic cardiomyopathy was given by our Friend Doctor Michał Marchel from Warsaw. The last session of the Congress was dedicated to equally difficult subject of rare cardiovascular diseases during pregnancy and was chaired by Doctor Agata Leśniak-Sobelga from our Centre and Professor Bernard Iung from Paris. This was a truly multi-disciplinary session with speeches delivered by Cardiologist, Cardiac Surgeon, Electrophysiologist and Gynecologist. All of them tried to navigate through “uncharted territories” for the sake of both mother and a baby. We have had more than 150 participants registered for the Congress and rooms were always full during the sessions. Moreover, many participants stayed long outside the rooms after the sessions to carry on with the ad hoc fruitful debates and discussions. Wide interest among cardiology community and numerous positive comments, even from strangers, were very pleasant and confirmed us that this was a good idea.



Figure 4. Audience during the lectures. In the first row from the left: Professor Roland Hetzer M.D. Ph.D., Berlin, Germany, Professor Jerzy Sadowski M.D. Ph.D., Jakub Podolec M.D. Ph.D., Professor Grzegorz Kopeć M.D. Ph.D., Professor Bogusław Kapelak M.D. Ph.D., Krakow, Poland and Professor Tomasz Pasierski M.D. Ph.D., Warsaw, Poland

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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