

Highlights from the 6th Adriatic Congress on Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research, 21-24 April, 2016, Bled, Slovenia

Report from the Congress Presidents

Rok Hren, PhD, MSc IHP(HE), President, ISPOR Slovenia Chapter; Prof. Dinko Vitezić, MD, PhD, President, Section for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research and President, Croatian Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics

The annual Adriatic Congress on Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research has become a reference forum within our region in research sharing, interaction with a range of stakeholders, and embracing discussion of complex and pressing challenges within our health care systems. This year's **6th Adriatic Congress on Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research** was organized from April 21 through 24, 2016 in Bled, Slovenia by the **ISPOR (International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research) Slovenia Regional Chapter** in partnership with the **Section for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research of the Croatian Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Croatian Medical Association**, and under the auspices of **EACPT, European Society of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics**.

The Congress had more than 50 plenary presentations and was attended by more than 160 participants from 15 countries. Besides esteemed research institutions, clinical centres and medical technology industry from our region, the meeting brought together the authorities and governmental bodies, such as the Ministry of Health, National House of Insurance, Public Agency for Drugs and Medical Devices, National Institute for Public Health, and also legislative branch of the political power. The abstracts of the Congress are available at <http://pharmacoeconomics.com.hr/en/abstracts>.

We as the organizers were particularly honored that the Congress was specifically held **under the auspices of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia Dr Miro Cerar** who also issued a statement that was read during the opening ceremony: "Innovation in medicine has had a tremendous impact in improving public health globally, particularly during the past decade. However, the rising rates of spending on health are posing challenges to all stakeholders within publicly funded healthcare systems. It is thus of utmost importance that policy makers and governments have at their disposal tools which could efficiently assess medical technologies. In this way, we can ensure that patients' needs are continuously met without sacrificing financial sustainability of our healthcare systems. It is against this backdrop that I welcome the initiative and mission of the 6th Adriatic Congress on Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research."

Among others, we offered pre-congress training course on Managed Entry Agreements in the Adriatic region, which was rated by participants (on a 1 to 5 scale) as follows:

- the content of the training course – 4.44,
- comprehensibility of the content – 4.47,
- lecturers – 4.59, 4.12, 4.94, and 4.18,
- organization – 4.81,
- would recommend the training course to their colleagues – 100%.

Another highlight of the Congress was the round table on future of HTA and reimbursement challenges of innovative technologies in Central & Eastern European countries that was moderated by **Rok Hren**, President of ISPOR Slovenia Regional Chapter, and involved distinguished panel: **Dragana Atanasijević**, President, ISPOR Serbia Regional Chapter, Assistant Director at Sector for Drugs & Pharmacoeconomics, Republic Institute for Health Insurance,

Serbia; **Oana Mocanu**, General Director, CASMTCT, Romania; **Zoltan Kalo**, Professor of Health Economics at Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), CEO, Syreon Research Institute, Hungary; **Mitja Kos**, Associate Professor, Head of the Chair of Social Pharmacy, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia; **Dorjan Marušič**, Member of the Expert Panel at European Commission DG for Health and Consumers (DG Sanco), Slovenia; **Siniša Varga**, Member of Croatian Parliament, Croatia, and **Dinko Vitezić**, Professor at the University of Rijeka School of Medicine Rijeka and the University Hospital Centre Rijeka, Croatia.

Particularly well attended were the Congress' sessions on The role of generic medicines and biosimilars in improving health care policy and practice, Contemporary policy practices and challenges in pricing and reimbursement of new technologies, and Selected studies in health care management of oncology patients. We have received highly positive feedback throughout the congress, which is both obligation and motivation to strengthen and expand our congress objectives in the future. The **7th Adriatic Congress on Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research** will take place in Poreč, Croatia between April 20 and April 23, 2017.