

Activities report for the period 2014-2017

In the past four years, our association organised and actively participated in all the events that were instituted since the upstart of our programmes. Every year, two main hands-on courses for trainees in Otorhinolaryngology were held at the University ORL Department in Novi Sad. Traditionally, the Laryngoscopy Course was held in March (up to 40 participants), and the Temporal Bone Course in the first week of December (up to 16 participants). The subjects treated and exercises performed on biological material during these courses has been described extensively in our previous reports. However, the most valued event was the yearly Summer School of Otorhinolaryngology, held in Sremski Karlovci at the end of August or in September of each year (50 participants). This two-day event, where different core subjects of our specialty (Otology, Rhinology, Laryngology and Head and Neck surgery), are extensively treated by authorities on the respective subjects, allowing also for interactive tutoring and permanent exchange between the faculty and the participants during the event. Evaluation forms by the participants reveal that our systematic educational events have become the most popular form of education for young trainees in the country. In the meantime, this is true also for practicing specialist in the region, who appreciate the regular communications on new techniques and methods of treatment. All these events have become a coveted get-together event for young doctors who come meet their peers and to exchange their thoughts and their experiences in different educational institutions. We believe, that this creates a welcome atmosphere of constructive competition between these institutions. Moreover, young doctors from Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Slovenia and Macedonia regularly participate, which lend a special, fraternal atmosphere to the meetings.

Academic tutors from Switzerland participate regularly in these events, and we would like to sincerely thank Daniel Bodmer Nicolas Gürtler, Alex Huber, Gerry Huber and Rudolf Probst for their regular participation and their long-standing interest in this educational programme, proved to be sustainable, valuable and constructive in many ways – professionally as well as socially.

Enthusiastic academic teachers from Novi Sad, Beograd and Nis, but also from Sarajevo, Ljubljana and Zagreb have also participated in the meetings. Professors Dragan Dankuc and Rajko Jovic from Novi Sad have, with their teams, borne the brunt of organisational duties and sponsor acquisitions which is no small feat in Serbia. We have participated by financial support.

Material help has been delivered in the form of equipment for an intermediate care facility, an ultrasound machine as well as an operating microscopes in Novi Sad and Nis. Through the generous donation of 12 diagnostic microscopes, three institutions in Montenegro and nine in Serbia received this valuable instrument for the first time in their existence. The microscopes, in perfect working order, have been dismantled from the University Department in Zürich in the course of a renovation, and we especially thank Professors Probst and A. Huber for their initiative to organize this generous gift. Transport and formalities were organized by us. This large donation was reported widely in medical circles and was largely lauded by the President of the Serbian Medical Society at its Convention in 2016.

Six trainees from Serbia have been invited to Switzerland for three-week visits in our institutions. On four occasions, five of our members have participated in various meetings of the Serbian ORL Society with paper presentations.

Several lectures at meetings of the Serbian ORL Society by the author, communicated European standards in education in our specialty. Within these four years, steps were taken to implement a considerable number of these standards, the log-book for trainees was introduced.

During the past years, new ideas for educational forms have been discussed with our colleagues in Serbia, and we have noticed a livening of educational activity in some institutions, which we see as a Partial result of our sustained activities. All of the above activities will go on, and we will continue to search for new ways to help our colleagues in Serbia and the wider region.

Mihael Podvinec, President of OBI

In February 2018