

ACUTE STROKE XV

Dear Sir or Madam,

As organizers of the Acute Stroke XV meeting on 16 December 2022 in Ljubljana and editors of the publication bearing the same name, we would like to thank you for your much appreciated participation.

Hereinafter you will find the **report from the 15th jubilee Acute Stroke expert meeting.**

Despite advances in primary and secondary prevention and acute treatment, stroke remains the second leading cause of death, the third leading cause of disability worldwide and the leading cause of disability among neurological diseases. Mortality depends mainly on the quality of healthcare. In Slovenia, until the COVID-19 pandemic, we observed a decrease in the stroke incidence rate, but without a significant decrease in the mortality rate. Studies have shown that different healthcare systems can contribute to health inequalities by providing different access to healthcare.

In view of the persisting high mortality rate of stroke in Slovenia and because mortality is mainly dependent on the quality of healthcare, the editors of the publication Acute Stroke XV (AS XV) and the members of the Expert and Scientific Committee of the concurrent expert meeting have decided to highlight the updated European guidelines for the treatment of stroke patients in this year's AS XV and to consolidate the knowledge and awareness of the professional medical community in the country.

After two years of "virtual hiatus" due to the COVID-19 epidemic, we met in person once again. We were finally able to communicate in person again, discuss, and shake hands, hug, laugh, share insights, feelings and all that is human. Good and effective human relations are not possible without effective communication. They are based on talking to each other and considering each other's wants and needs, taking into account our differences, which leads to fruitful cooperation. Interacting on a personal level, being human, ensures a healthy relationship between people that is contagious, meaning we do not have to wait for others to show us the way. Let us rather be the carriers ourselves.

In this light, we started the lectures with a thought from researcher David R. Hamilton: "Thoughts and emotions are as contagious as a virus and spread from person to person."

As revascularization therapy is currently the only treatment for acute ischemic stroke in the world and in our country, the meeting and the publication featured sections on how to accelerate the path to thrombectomy, how to improve the rapid identification of candidates for revascularization therapy by automated imaging analysis, and what the options are for thrombectomy in the vertebrobasilar territory. In order to optimize the treatment of stroke patients, we have reviewed the updated European guidelines on secondary stroke prevention, on the treatment of patients with intracranial atherosclerotic disease, and on screening for subclinical atrial fibrillation after stroke or transient ischemic attack of unknown origin. Vascular neurologists have also drafted a proposal for a Slovenian guideline on the role of idarucizumab in accelerating the road to recovery after stroke and a proposal for a clinical pathway for the treatment of patients with intracerebral haemorrhage in the national TeleKap network. Stroke is unfortunately on the rise in young people worldwide, so we dedicated a chapter to this important topic at the meeting and in the book, highlighting migraine as a risk factor for cerebrovascular disease. We also learned when to worry and when to wait in case of elevated troponin levels in acute ischemic stroke and about the role of platelet function testing in patients with cerebrovascular disease. In the prevention of ischemic stroke, new stroke preventive treatments are emerging again and again, so this year we had the opportunity to dive deeper into PCSK9 inhibitors.

The meeting started with a musical overture by the quartet VIOLadies. The **222 participants of the hybrid meeting** were welcomed by Prof. Bojana Žvan, MD, PhD, Prim., Senior advisor, FESO, Chair of the SCVD of the SMA, Prof. Igor Zupan, MD, PhD, reviewer of the textbook Acute Stroke XV, Academician Prof. Vida Demarin, MD, PhD, FESO, Andrej Bručan, MA, former

Director of the Internal Medicine Clinics of the University Medical Centre Ljubljana and former Minister of Health of the Republic of Slovenia, and Boris Pleskovič, PhD, President of the Slovenian World Congress.

The editors of **Acute Stroke XV** publication, published on the occasion of the professional meeting bearing the same name, have provided the foundations for new content with the aim of leaving a mark on vascular neurology. In this way, the principles of traditional meetings on acute stroke can be carried forward and co-created.

The **following speakers were invited** from abroad and from Slovenia: Prof. Anita Arsovska, MD, PhD, Skopje, North Macedonia; Assoc. Prof. Hrvoje Budinčević, MD, PhD, Zagreb, Croatia; Acad. Prof. Vida Demarin, MD, PhD, Zagreb, Croatia; Prof. István Szikora, MD, PhD, Budapest, Hungary; Assoc. Prof. Mojca Božič Mijovski, MD, PhD, Specialist in Medical Biochemistry, Ljubljana, Slovenia; Assoc. Prof. Miša Fister, MD, PhD, Ljubljana, Slovenia; Assist. Senta Frol, MD, PhD, Ljubljana, Slovenia; Assist. Jožef Magdič, MD, Maribor, Slovenia; Denis Perko, MD, PhD, Ljubljana and Nova Gorica, Slovenia; Igor Rigler, MD, Ljubljana, Slovenia; Assist. Marija Šoštarič-Podlesnik, MD, MSc, Celje, Slovenia; Assoc. Prof. Viktor Švigelj, MD, PhD, Sežana Slovenia; Marjan Zaletel, MD, PhD, Senior advisor, Ljubljana, Slovenia; Assist. Matija Zupan, MD, PhD, Ljubljana, Slovenia and Prof. Bojana Žvan, MD, PhD, Senior advisor, Ljubljana, Slovenia.



With the aim to educate the professional public, the CVD Association has launched the **publication/textbook Acute Stroke XV** as an e-publication. The professional and academic public in Slovenia can trace the publication, the National and University Library has assigned a CIP number to the textbook, which can be seen in the COBISS database.



Eight pharmaceutical companies (listed in Table 1) participated in the congress.

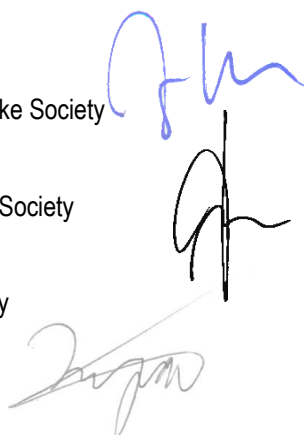
We look forward to participating in the next Acute Stroke XVI meeting at the end of 2023!

Best regards,

Chairwoman of the Expert Committee and the President of the Stroke Society
Prof. Bojana Žvan, MD, PhD, Senior advisor, FESO

Member of the Expert Committee and Vice-President of the Stroke Society
Marjan Zaletel, MD, PhD, Senior advisor

Member of the Expert Committee and Member of the Stroke Society
Assist. Matija Zupan, MD, PhD



STATISTICS

Table 1. Data on the participants and the publication

Structure of participants	
Total number of registered participants	259
Total number of performing companies	8
Registered participants	222
Doctors	157
Other medical experts	46
Pharmacists	19
Structure of lecturers	
Total number of lecturers	16
Lecturers from Slovenia	12
Lecturers from abroad	4
Active participation with posters	5
List of participating pharmaceutical companies (Listed in alphabetical order)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. AbbVie Biofarmacevtska družba d. o. o.2. Boehringer Ingelheim RCV, podružnica Ljubljana3. Eli Lilly farmacevtska družba, d. o. o.4. NOVARTIS PHARMA SERVICES INC. Podružnica v Sloveniji5. Novo Nordisk d. o. o.6. Medica d. o. o.7. Pfizer Luxembourg SARL, podružnica Ljubljana8. Wörwag Pharma, podružnica v Sloveniji
Textbook Acute Stroke XIV and Telemedicine	Online publication and USB card (e-publication)
Editors:	Bojana Žvan, Marjan Zaletel and Matija Zupan
ISBN	ISBN 978-961-7168-01-3, COBISS.SI-ID 133057283
Number of copies:	250
Location:	Medical Chamber of Slovenia, Dunajska cesta 162, Ljubljana and virtually
Organisers	
Expert organiser	Stroke Society at the Slovenian Medical Association
Business organiser	Association for the Prevention of Brain and Vascular Diseases
Fee for attending the meeting:	No fee was required for attending the meeting