

Bulletin No. 7

Society of Friends of Otorhinolaryngology

Founded by the Academic Association of the Basel ORL University Department
with the Swiss ORL Clinics of the Cantonal Hospitals of Aarau, Liestal and Olten (ORL-BAL)

Activity Report 2008

(This Report can be downloaded from www.orl-bal.info)



Prof. R. Probst instructing participants of the Temporal Bone Preparation Course in December 2008 in Novi Sad

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Our Bulletin, organisational matters...

As time goes by, the number of photographs which document our activities has grown considerably. We have, therefore, changed our approach in our Bulletin. We report on all events of the past year, but include only a few selected small-sized photographs in the hard copy report. We offer, however, **links to on-line web-albums** containing numerous photographs and comments. We invite you to look up the **Annual Reports on our Website** and to browse through the collections of images through the active links on that site. A more direct route is to go straight to the [picture gallery](#) where you will also find comments in English. We hope that the images and text will give you a comprehensive picture of our activities.

Mrs. Bea Rossner, trustee, has taken over the professional administration of the Society. Her salary is subsidised by a benefactress, the speech therapist **Mrs. Esther Walde**. Our heartfelt thanks!

Courses organised and supported by the Society

As in previous years, courses were at the core of our endeavours. Five courses were organised and financially supported. There were over 80 participants in all, from the West Balkan countries (over 75), Great Britain (7) and Switzerland (1) and with lecturers from Switzerland (3), Germany (3) and Serbia (8). Notwithstanding the incipient financial crisis our main sponsor **Karl Storz & Co**, and the producer of optical microscopes **Carl Zeiss Surgical** have not abandoned us and have not downsized their support. This, in turn, made the outstanding equipotent of the courses possible. All our courses are evaluated according to established quality standards. CME points were approved by the respective local CME bodies.

The **4th. international course in endoscopic sinus surgery**, headed by **Associate Professor Dr. Andreas Leunig** of the Ludwig-Maximilian-Universität in Munich, Klinikum Grosshadern, was highly popular again (Picture 1). This two-day event consisting of theoretical lectures, exercises on preparations and online interactive surgery demonstrationstrations with video transmission into the auditorium was appreciated by the attendees.



Picture 1

Laryngomicroscopy course: Professor Dr. Hiltrud Glanz, Director of the ORL University Department in Giessen. Germany, was Guest of Honour. She was assisted by **Associate Professor Dr. Marcel Kraft** from Aarau. The impeccable organisation was headed by the host, **Professor Dr. Rajko Jović**, Head and Neck Surgeon at the University Department in Novi Sad. The theoretical part, covered mainly by the colleagues from Novi Sad and Beograd, was comprehensive and offered subjects from the viewpoint of surgeons as well as of voce specialists, pathologists and anaesthetists, all of whom cooperate in diagnostic and therapeutic procedures on the human larynx. A pleasant atmosphere reigned and the discussions on the subjects of the lectures continued long after the allotted time in

the anatomy lab. This time around, video-equipment of the K. Storz Company on prepared pig larynxes was used. Although using a video-screen instead a direct-view microscope was unfamiliar to them, all course participants quickly adapted and found the video systems useful. Based on this experience, we decided to conduct future courses in the same manner (Picture 2).



Picture 2



Picture 3

The Audiology-Neurotology Work Group of the Serbian ORL-Society organised its first country-wide **First Audiology Course** in May 2008, with support from our Society. The topics covered most of the problems facing the ORL practitioner. They were presented by the leading audiologists of the Serbian clinics. The course's success is largely due to the commitment of **Prof. Ksenija Ribarić** and her team (Picture 3). Prof Ribarić is the *Spiritus movens* of the Work Group, which is preparing courses with practical courses in Audiometry for the coming year.



Picture 4

The now traditional **4th International temporal bone preparation course** in Novi Sad, with 7 attendees from Great Britain, 1 from Switzerland and 18 from Serbia was - according to the evaluation by the participants - well appreciated again. **Prof. Rudolf Probst**, Director of the University ORL Department in Zürich, headed the course. The event was hosted again by **Prof. Dragan Dankuc**, Director of the University Department in Novi Sad.

Both the lectures and the practical work were geared to maximum efficiency, so that the each participant was able to perform a complete preparation of the temporal bone (from opening the mastoid to the preparation of the inner auditory canal) under the tutorship of five university teachers within 2 days. Picture 4 shows the youngest participants of the course performing their first preparations on a plastic model of the temporal bone fitted with electronic sensors, by K. Storz Co..

As in previous years, **Professor Heinz Stammberger** invited 30 colleagues from Serbia to a demonstrational course of endoscopic sinus surgery to the University Department in Graz in August 2008. As before, interest among the participants was high and this well organised and high-end event was a full success. (See also Honours).

Visits of Serbian surgeons abroad, with organisational and financial support by the Society

Dr Milan Erdoglija visited the Royal National Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital in London during one month. As part of his stay he participated in the Temporal Bone Course of **Mr. Jeremy Lavy, FRCS**.

Lt.Col. Dr. Milanko Milojević was a guest with **Professor Nick Jones, FRCS**, Head of the Rhinology Department at the **Queens Medical Centre** of the University of Nottingham, GB. during one month. He enjoyed an advanced training in endoscopic surgery of the sinuses.

Dr. Ljiljana Čvorović, ORL Clinic of the Zemun hospital, was a guest at the Swiss ORL congress in June, where she presented her work on a model for prediction of the recovery from acute hearing loss, as well as a poster. The paper resulted from her co-operation with **Prof. R. Probst** and his team at the ORL University Department in Zürich during the previous year.

Activities of guest lecturers in Serbia



Prof. Wolfgang Arnold, Director emeritus of the ORL Department in Munich and highly regarded researcher on diseases of the inner ear, especially otosclerosis, was Keynote Speaker at the **47. Meeting of the Serbian ORL Society** in October 2008 in Belgrade. In his lecture on the aetiology of otosclerosis he presented the results of his thirty year-long study in this field. Our Society extends its thanks to Professor Arnold for his willingness to travel to Belgrade at his own cost and give this memorable lecture.

There are plans for further collaboration, specifically the involvement of Professor Arnold in the Temporal Bone and Tympanoplasty Course in Novi Sad in December 2009.

Prof. M. Podvinec acted as organiser-facilitator at all courses, as well as a tutor at most of them (except FESS in Graz and Audiology).

Support to other countries

Prof. Joseph Sopko delivered phoniatic lectures in Jablonec na Orlici (Czech Republic) and in Siofok (Hungary).

An extraordinary contribution and Acknowledgements



Mr. W. Schneider, Villnachern, a satisfied patient of the Aarau Clinic, who had donated CHF 5.000 to the Society in 2007, made a contribution of CHF 1.500 this year. We are very grateful to our generous benefactor for his commitment.

Our special thanks go to the head of our main sponsor, **Frau Dr.h.c.mult. Sybill Storz**, who regularly mobilises all means at her disposition to support our projects. Without this support we would not be able to reach our goals. We also thank the representative of the Storz Company in Serbia, **Mr. Ranko Nikolić**, director of Ranex Co), for his highly efficient help.

Carl Zeiss Surgical Company provided us with microscopes for all respective courses. This was a remarkable effort and we thank both **Mr. Vladimir Milosavljević** from the agency in Belgrade as the parent company in **Oberkochen** for their commitment.

We thank all companies and individuals who take a stake in our project by the way of a Membership or a Benefactorship. A list of these is to be found on our website.

We are very grateful the British association **Medicus** for the help in arranging lodgings for our guests in London.

Honours

Prof. Heinz Stammberger, Director of the ORL University Department in Graz, Austria, was honoured on the occasion of the 47th Meeting of the Serbian ORL Society with the „**Great Charter of the Serbian Medical Society**“ (Povelja Srpskog lekarskog društva) for his extraordinary merits in persistent and gratuitous education of the Serbian medical community in the field of endoscopic sinus surgery and, through this activity, for a significant contribution to the public health sector in Serbia. This is the highest award of the Medical Society to be bestowed on foreign medical scientists. Professor Stammberger was unable to be present and receive the Charter. Therefore, it will be handed over at the Annual Meeting of 2009, where he will be the Guest of Honour and Keynote Speaker.

At the same occasion, **Prof. Mihael Podvinec** was honoured with the same Charter for merits in the organisation of international continuing educational events for the Serbian medical community over the past seven years. In his speech he accentuated that such an achievement was made possible only by the commitment of all members of our Society over the past 7 years, and that the award should be considered as bestowed on all members of the Society of Friends of Otolaryngology.

Outlook for 2009

Courses on Ultrasound Examination of the Neck and Salivary Glands with practical exercises in FNPB for ORL specialists are planned for 2009. A Seminar on Medical Publishing, an Audiometry Course and a Course on implantable hearing aids (BAHA) are planned as well. Furthermore, courses in FESS, Laryngomicroscopy, Temporal Bone Preparation and Ear Surgery, now all a tradition, are in preparation.