

ORL-BAL and ORL-BAL INTERNATIONAL

Founded by the Academic Association of the Basel ORL University Department with
the ORL Departments of the Cantonal Hospitals in Aarau, Liestal and Olten
Switzerland

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Activity Report for the year 2013

Presented by Prof. M. Podvinec in February 2014

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Members of the ORL-BAL in December 2013.

Sitting, from left to right R. Koeppel, F. Metternich, S. Hasenklever.

Standing: D. Bodmer, A. Arnoux, A. Welge-Lüssen, M. Podvinec

The traditional series of educational events found place this year, of which the key events were seminars on lacrimal duct surgery in January in Olten, on bariatric surgery in February, and on pediatric surgery in April in Aarau. Basel offered an update on problems on the pathology of swallowing in May and an overview of problems in head and neck tumor disease. This was also the introduction of the newly appointed Assistant Professor for ORL Oncology, Stephan Haerle . Olten had prepared a seminar on the duplicity of rare cases and Liestal gave an overview of reflux disease in October. Finally, we had a stimulating end-of-the-year presentation on interesting and rare cases and the medical highlights of the year.

Third Temporal Bone Course in Basel: The now traditional course was headed by Professor Daniel Bodmer, had 12 participants, one of which was a delegate from Split, Croatia. Tutors were Professor M. Podvinec and K. Tschopp, Lecturer N. Gürtler and Doctors Y. Brand, and A. Zehnder. The next course takes place in 2014, at the same venue on September 25. and 26.



ORL-BAL International

Courses and lectures in Serbia: In March, two educational events were organized: a course in Laryngomicroscopy and a Symposium on Head and Neck Surgery. Invited lecturers were **Professor Chirstoph Arens** from Magdeburg, **Lecturer Gerry Huber** from the Zürich University Department, Professor **Hiltrud Glanz** from Frankfurt and **Professor M. Podvinec**. Both two-day events rallied specialists and trainees from the whole country. Owing to three new video-monitors which we sponsored, the live surgery could be followed in HD technique, and was discussed very lively.

M. Podvinec was invited lecturer at a Symposium on Neurotology in Beograd, organized by Professor **Ksenija Ribarić**. He spoke on diagnostic and surgical aspects of the dehiscence of the superior semicircular canal of the labyrinth. Part of the material shown was gracefully provided by **Lecturer Nicolas Schmuziger**, who was one of the first clinicians to report on this subject in Switzerland.

On the 20. And 21. Of June, we introduced a novel form of educational event in Serbia, which was previously organized in Switzerland for all trainees in ORL. The concept of our **Summer School** is to rally highly qualified lecturers on one of the four main subjects of ORL (Otology, Laryngology, Head and Neck Oncology, Rhinology), who then transmit updated basic knowledge through interactive lectures during a two-day seminar to trainees in the specialty. The Summers School takes place annually, and one of the respective subjects is extensively discussed in the consecutive four years. After that, the cycle is repeated, and a new generation of trainees is involved. Trainees from all training hospitals in the country spend two intense days together with the lecturers at a convention center, which facilitates constant professional exchange between lecturers and participants. This year in Serbia, the subject was Otology, with Radiology of the temporal bone, Neurotology and Audiology. Special thanks go to **Lecturer Nicolas Gürtler**, who summed up basics of Audiology and Neurotology in a interactive half-day marathon lecture. We also thank **Professor Martin Kompis** from Berne for the contribution of the large material from his newly published book, and the Serbian lecturers from the Universities of Novi Sad, Beograd, and Niš, **Professors Dragan Dankuc, Ljiljana Vlaški, Dragana Djerić, Nenad Arsović and Milan Stanković**, who did a wonderful job. The venue of the Summer School is of special interest. In a picturesque town of Sremski Karlovci, in the vicinity of Novi Sad, a philanthropist from the United States, **Professor Miodrag Radulovački**, has financed a center dedicated to the education of young persons in different subjects regarding ecology in general. Professor Radulovački was Physiologist at the University of Beograd, before becoming Professor of Neuropharmacology at the University of Illinois, Chicago. The facilities at this **Ecological Center Radulovački** are, even if somewhat Spartan, very agreeable and perfectly suited for this occasion. We sincerely thank our host for coming all the way from Chicago to support us. The next Summer School in June 2014 will be dedicated to Head and Neck Oncology.

In November, the traditional course in **Ultrasound Diagnostics** of the Head and Neck, which up to date has been held at the Military Academy Hospital in Beograd, was transferred to Novi Sad, due to better accessibility of ultrasound machines. **Professor Rajko Jović and Doctor Jelena Sotirović** were the organizers, and our participation was not necessary. The same applies to the course in Rhinology at the Military Academy hospital, where Professor Andreas Leunig from Munich was Course Director in May. Our goal, to enable an exclusively local organization of courses is thus achieved.

Somewhat less successful was our traditional **Course in Temporal Bone Anatomy** in December, as the necessary microscopes were not delivered in time by Zeiss Germany, so that only the theoretical part took place. Doctor Vera Radojević from Basel spoke on the research on implantation of stem cells in the cochlea, a project led by **Professor Daniel Bodmer. M. Podvinec** lectured on the radiology of the temporal bone. Our 6 participants from neighboring countries were, however, somewhat disappointed, but will participate gratuitously at a special practical session in 2014. The **9th Course in Tympanoplasty**, was held the same week. **Lecturer Nicolas Gürtler** spoke on the new technique of pneumatic dilatation of the Eustachian tube.

Guest doctors: **Doctor Zlatko Kljajić** from the Regional Hospital in Split, Croatia, who is especially interested in otosurgery, was our guest for a three-week visit in Switzerland, and participated in our Temporal bone Course in Basel. We sincerely thank **Professors Probst and Huber from Zürich, Caversaccio and Senn from Bern and Linder from Luzern**, for also inviting him visit their Departments.

Sponsoring: OBI sponsored two textbooks and three monitoring screens for the operating theatre in Novi Sad. A diagnostic otomicroscope was transferred from Aarau to Novi Sad, as well as a number of instruments.

Future activities: We will continue our educational activities in Serbia, with special regard to the **Summer School**. Regrettably, the health service of the country is in a difficult position regarding funding and organization of all services. In a recent European study on quality of health services overall, Serbia was listed on the last, 47th place. Obviously, problems in the organization and efficacy are at the root of the fact, that countries who spend less pro capita on health, like Macedonia and Albania, were judged to have a health service of higher quality. Eventually, we may engage in educational activities concerning quality of the health service.

We sincerely thank our longtime supporter **Karl Storz & Co. Ltd.,Tuttlingen**, as well as **Anklin in Basel, Inel in Novi Sad** and **Ranex in Beograd**, without whom our projects could not have been realized.



Introducing navigation surgery during the Tympanoplasty course in Novi Sad, courtesy of Karl Storz & Co Ltd, Tuttlingen



Invited Lecturer Gerry Huber from Zürich and Professor Rajko Jovic at the Seminar on Surgery of the Head and Neck



Participants of the Course for Ultrasound in ORL, Novi Sad



Professor Daniel Bodmer lecturing on Temporal Bone Radiology during the Course in Basel



Professor M. Radulovački with participants of the Summer School



Venue of the Summer School of ORL in Sremski Karlovci, Nicolas Gürtler