

### **33<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING OF THE EUBS 8-15 SEPTEMBER 2007 SHARM EL SHEIK, EGYPT**

The 33rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the European Underwater and Baromedical Society (EUBS) on Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine was held between 8th and 15th September 2007 in Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt. Dr. Adel Taher from the Hyperbaric Medical Center of Sharm el-Sheikh was the local organizer and dr. Armin Kemmer from Germany was the Chairman of the Scientific Committee.

More than 230 members had registered representing more than 30 different nationalities. There were 54 papers and 44 posters on diving and hyperbaric medicine presented at this meeting, including reports about diving accidents, pressure and oxygen toxicity, decompression and venous gas embolism, diving medicine, physiology of the hyperbaric oxygenation, hyperbaric oxygen therapy clinical studies, and hyperbaric oxygen therapy procedures, practice and equipment.

There were several invited lectures which gave the general overview on all subjects related to diving medicine and hyperbaric oxygen therapy. Andreas Mollerlokken from Norway gave summary review of “*Exercise & diving*”, Adel Taher from Egypt with Wilhelm Welslau from Germany reported “*734 Diving Accidents Treated in Sharm el-Sheikh Hyperbaric Medical Center from 1993 to 2006*”, Armin Kemmer from Germany talked about the “*Spinal Injuries*” related to diving accidents, Stephen R. Thom from the UK gave deep introduction to the “*Physiology of HBOT*”, Micheal Bennett from Australia reported latest achievements of the “*HBO Evidence Based Medicine*”, Christoph Klingmann from Germany gave well illustrated presentation on “*ENT Problems and Diving*”, Claus Muth from Germany described breath-hold diving (“*Apnoe*”) and this scientific lecture was logically combined with the non-scientific presentation with an intriguing title “*How to dive 214 m ... and survive*” which was given by Herbert Nitsch also from Germany, who is the current record keeper in the discipline of going as deep as possible just on single breath of air.

The Zetterström award, which is given every year to authors of the best poster presented at the conference, has been won by dr. Emmanuel Gempp and co-workers from Belgium for the poster entitled “*Preventive Effect of Pre-dive Hydration on Bubble*

*Formation after Open-Sea Dives*“ for its good methodology and immediate practical relevance to the field.

There were also several half-day satellite meetings which enriched the scientific program of the conference. The European Committee for Hyperbaric Medicine (ECHM) organized the workshop on “*HBO for patients in critical conditions*”. During this workshop several presentations were given on selection of patients and chambers, haemodynamic effects of HBO in critically ill patients, effects of HBO on microcirculation and tissue oxygen pressure, pulmonary effects of HBO and ventilation strategies, effects of HBO on sepsis and inflammation, usage of HBO in patients with multi-system organ failure, monitoring under pressure, technical and safety aspects and case reports. The European Baromedical Association for nurses, operators and technicians (EBAss) organized the workshop on the “*Safety in HBO environment*”. This workshop was dedicated to education of personnel, quality assurance and accreditation of training courses, European standardisation of the level of knowledge, safety of intensive care patients inside the HBO chamber. The International Group on High Pressure Biology (IHPBG) organized the satellite international meeting to discuss effects of pressure at cellular and molecular levels, mechanisms of inert gas narcosis, effects of pressure and inert gases on physiological system and basic mechanisms of hyperbaric oxygen and hyperoxia. Also the Divers Alert Network (DAN) had a meeting concerning field first aid and management of diving accidents, research programs and fitness to dive including children and elderly.

Every afternoon there were also interesting presentations on Egyptian history, on Bedouin tribes, traditions and tribal laws, on conservation efforts of local environment on the example of the Ras Muhammad National Park and on local catholic religious symbols of St. Catherine Monastery.

Most participants of the conference used the occasion to have diving trips to one of the most beautiful diving places all over the world, including Ras Muhammad National Park, Thistlegorm wreck and the Blue Hole to name only the few. The Hyatt Resort Hotel, where the conference was organised, was exotic for visitors from Europe, America, Australia and Asia and therefore very interesting for participants. All evening activities were organized in local manner giving good overview of Egyptian tastes and traditions. During the Gala Dinner at the Hyatt Hotel, there were 320 persons attending.

Taking into account that the scientific program of the conference was extremely high and all presentations given to the audience were outstanding, it is no wonder that this meeting was applauded as one of the best of all EUBS annual scientific meetings giving high level of satisfaction to all participants and difficult position to the next organizers.

The next 34th Annual Meeting of the EUBS will be held in the beginning of September 2008 in Graz, Austria. More information about this forthcoming event can be found at <http://www.eubs.org>.

(Contributed by Jacek Kot)