

The Story of the Alpe Adria Cardiology Meetings

The story of the Alpe Adria Association of Cardiology dates back to 1992. In the beginning of 1992 the president of the Hungarian Society of Cardiology, Professor Julius Gyula Papp received an invitation from Professor Miran F. Kenda, the president of the Slovenian Society of Cardiology, telling that he or his representative is welcome at the scientific session of their society. In that time Croatian, Serbian, Austrian and Italian cardiologists of distinction had already regularly attended these scientific sessions. Finally, Professor István Préda was assigned to represent the Hungarian Society at the meeting.

The scientific meeting took place in Radenci, near the Austrian border, on 27-28th March in 1992. Since the attendees agreed that the political, economical and cultural importance of the Alpe Adria region was gradually growing, the Alpe Adria leadership formed at the end of the scientific session decided to organize an annual scientific congress under the name of “International Meeting of the Alpe Adria Association of Cardiology”. The board agreed that the meeting would be organized in different countries of the region year after year. The main goals were also set: the representation of the regional interests and the rendering of forum for young cardiologists; this latter meant the creation of the possibility that their English-language works could be recognized and criticized for one and the same time by an international public.

The first Alpe Adria Meeting was organized and hold in Radenci in March 1993 under the chairmanship of Professor Miran F. Kenda. The Scientific Board was composed of the following recognized cardiologists: F. Dienstl, W. Klein and K. Steinbach (Austria), I. Cikes, V. Goldner and P. Petrac (Croatia), F. Camerini, S. Dalla Volta and F. Furlanello (Italy), J. Borbola, J. Gy. Papp and I. Préda (Hungary), B. Cibic, M.F. Kenda and P. Rakovecz (Slovenia). The deed of foundation was also written at that time. The idea of a newsletter also arouse; this was opearted by Professors Fulvio Camerini and Miran Kenda in the following three years.

The second International Meeting of the Alpe Adria Association of Cardiology was organized on the island of Brion, in Croatia in June 1994 under the chairmanship of Professor Ivo Cikes. Brion Island was such an attractive meeting venue with its ancient monuments that several American researchers participated in the work of the congress. The Scientific Board made a decision: the third Alpe Adria Meeting would be organized in Hungary.

The third Alpe Adria Cardiology Meeting was hold between 17th and 20th May in 1995 in Budapest. The solemn opening reception of the meeting took place at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, where Professor Julius Gyula Papp, the president of the Hungarian Society of Cardiology received the guests in the Banqueting Room of the Academy. The Local Organizing Committee consisted of the following renowned Hungarian cardiologists: József Borbola, Elek Bodor, Géza Buday, Ernő Böszörményi, Márta Hőgye, Mária Istvánffy, András Jánosi, Gyula Kerkovits, Ede Kékes, András Kiss, Lajos Matos, Károly Lozsádi, Attila Naszlady, István Préda and Károly Szász. Besides the scientific program, such social programs as ladies program, sightseeing and a gala dinner at the Udvarház Restaurant on the top of Hármashatárhegy made the congress memorable for the participants. The Scientific Board finalized its statutum in Budapest.

The meeting of 1996 took place in Gradio, Italy, the meeting of 1997 in Graz, Austria, that of 1998 in Bratislava, Slovakia and then the meeting of 1999 was organized in Brno, Czech Republic. From this point on the circle was closed and therefore the 11th International Meeting was organized again in Hungary, but at that time in Balatonfüred, between 5th and 7th June in 2003. It was hold directly after the Annual Scientific Congress of the Hungarian Society of Cardiology, under the chairmanship of the current president of the society, Professor István Édes.