

10th Congress of the European Confederation Medical Mycology

This important Congress held June 17-20, 2004 in the historic Polish city of Wrocław, united scholars with passion for mycology around the world under the patronage of the European Confederation of Medical Mycology (ECMM) and the presidency of Professor Frank C. Odds (Aberdeen). The Congress took place in the magnificent baroque Aula Leopoldina (Leopoldine lecture hall) of the University, founded by Emperor Leopold I in 1702. The opening ceremony was followed by a dinner in Wrocław's town hall, dating from 1327 and one of the most beautiful old city halls in Europe.

The Department of Dermatology in Wrocław (Breslau) has an outstanding history. It was one of the most prominent centers of European dermatology during the last decades of the 19th century and up to World War II. The peak of its celebrity as the world's premier dermatology department was attained during the chairmanship of Josef Jadassohn, who together with his associates prepared the 42-volume *Handbook of Dermatology* (in German). In 1945 the city suffered terribly as its fanatical local Nazi chief transformed it into a fortress city – *Festung Breslau* – that surrendered to the Soviet army 4 days after Berlin. The Polish authorities have rebuilt it carefully after the end of the war.

This impressive Congress in the Silesian capital was hosted by Professors Eugeniusz Baran and Jacek Szepietowski of Wrocław. International authorities covered a wide range of topics including infection, immunology, microbiology mycology, fungi, fungal infections, candida, aspergillus, AIDS, HIV, dermatomycology, taxonomy, epidemiology, ecology, host fungus relationship, genomics in pathogenic fungi, virulence factors, and antifungal drugs. J. Faegerman (Gothenburg) gave a featured lecture on the role of *Malassezia* species, Magdalena Lange (Gdańsk) delivered an erudite presentation on cutaneous fungal infections in pediatric patients.

The proceedings were published in the journal *Mikologia Lekarska* (Medical Mycology). The meeting was a great success with well-attended lectures, superb poster exhibits and enthusiastic participants. At the end ECMM president F.C. Odds expressed his gratitude to congress hosts Professors E. Baran and J. Szepietowski for the enormous amount of hard work they did personally to make the congress a success.

Robert A. Schwartz

Book Review

Atlas of dermatology with differential diagnoses. *Gernot Rassner and Ginter Kahn*, Second Edition, Urban & Schwarzenberg, Baltimore. Munich, 1983, with 208 pages, 248 full color illustrations and color photos and 8 drawings.

Part one: Basics

Part two: Dermatological Diseases. Skin appendages. Pigmentary system. Subcutaneous tissue. Blood vessels of the skin. Nervous system of the skin. Lips and oral mucosa. Perianal region and the anal canal. External genitalia and Venereal diseases.

The Atlas is organized according to the principles of classical European dermatological tradition. The great majority of classical photos are excellent and seem to

be superior of many routinely taken photos. The accompanying texts are suitable and explanatory. Such an approach is mostly appropriate for medical and dentistry students. Just a few photos are not fully diagnostic e.g. No. 18 Epidermolysis bullosa simplex, No. 160 Chloracne as well as a few others.

In view of the general tendency to reduce the number of beds in dermatological departments, the medical students are losing the opportunity to see a major number of dermatological patients, however, the Atlas offers them a good compensation.

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