

## Rhinological activities in Hungary

### *Society*

The 115 years old Hungarian Society of Oto-Rhino-Laryngology, Head & Neck Surgery celebrated its 40th Jubilee Congress in 2008. János Czermak Nepomuk, lecturer in physiology, was the first person to present the method of examining the larynx by means of a mirror at the Annual Meeting of the Budapest Royal Medical Association on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November in 1858. He also invented the posterior rhinoscopy. The Hungarian Society has several subspecialty sections, among them the Rhinological Section, which seems to be one of the important organizers of rhinological activities in Hungary for more than a decade. The first president of the section was L.V. Csokonai followed by A. Hirschberg. There is at least one Rhinological Symposium or session organized by the Section every year. Focused areas of rhinology have been discussed with invited speakers from the Hungarian Association of Pulmonology in the last three years: coughing, obstructive sleep disorders, genetics of rhinitis, navigational systems in endonasal surgery and updated knowledge in nasal bleeding.



Adolf Ónodi Medallion is granted to outstanding Rhinologists

The Section has founded its “Adolf Ónodi” Medallion, which is made as an award for outstanding rhinological experts in Hungary. The scientific sessions of the Hungarian Society of Oto-Rhino-Laryngology, Head & Neck Surgery are held once a month, where rhinological hot topics are also selected and distinguished speakers from abroad are invited, e.g.: Prof. W. Mann from Mainz talked about “Combined endoscopic microscopic skull-base surgery”. The Rhinological Section has close relationship and co-operation with the Hungarian Society of Allergology (K. Nékám) and Pulmonology (I. Herjavec, I. Horváth). There are several really professionally organized postgraduate Rhinological Courses in Hungary, all of them accredited by medical universities. The annual

course in Budapest, at the Semmelweis University comprises endonasal and esthetic surgery, live and cadaver dissection, allergology and special aspects of rhinology. The “FES”-course in Debrecen was honoured by professor W. Drafi as guest lecturer. The 15<sup>th</sup> International Jubilee Course in Modern Rhinoplasty Techniques and Facial Plastic Surgery has been held in Pécs in 2009 with well-known experts as M. Bönisch, R. Cobo, P. Palma, R. Poublon, G.J. Nolst-Trenité and J. Vokurka. The County Hospital in Szombathely has been offering courses in the field of endoscopic nasal sinus surgery since 2006. The courses are delivered in Hungarian and in English, and both theoretical and practical aspects are discussed. Half of the course time is spent with operations performed on cadavers. Besides Hungarian experts of the field, the latest course program featured Professor H. Stammberger from Graz, Austria.

The 8th International Conference of the European Society of Paediatric Otorhinolaryngology (ESPO) was successfully organized by G. Katona in Budapest (2008), where a number of Hungarian speakers contributed to the rhinological sessions, one of them as a moderator.

### *Scientific activities*

The Hungarian experimental rhinological research is focused on different topics localized mainly in the medical universities of Budapest, Szeged and Pécs, such as the role of inflammatory mediators, cytokines and histamine in chronic rhinosinusitis with or without nasal polyposis (A. Hirschberg); Amphotericin-B spray for nasal polyps (I. Gerlinger, A. Fittler); Rhinolight therapy in allergic rhinitis (E. Kadocsa, Zs. Bella) and nasal polyposis (E. Kadocsa, A. Hirschberg, Zs. Bella). A research group at the Department of Dermatology and Allergology and at the Department of Optics and Quantum Electronics of the Szeged University (Hungary), headed by Prof. Lajos Kemény, developed a method, first in the world, based on light therapy, which can be used successfully to treat patients suffering from allergic rhinitis. Pediatric OSAS, complications in acute bacterial rhinosinusitis in children, cystic fibrosis in children and epidemiologic aspects and risk factors of allergic rhinitis in children were studied in the Heim Pál Hospital for Sick Children (G. Katona, T. Majoros, M. Sultész, G. Gálffy, A. Hirschberg) recently. The prevalence of allergic rhinitis in several representative districts of Budapest was evaluated by K. Balogh in the past years. “Adaptation of nasometry to Hungarian language and experiences with its clinical application” was published by J. Hirschberg, who applies nasometry in different fields of clinical rhinology.

A national Jedlik-program has been won by the Szeged-group in 2008 to facilitate research work in chronic rhinosinusitis

and nasal polyposis. This is a Hungarian multicentric research to study certain molecular and genetic factors of the disease. The Hungarian Guidelines on Rhinitis and Rhinosinusitis/ Nasal polyposis adapted from the appropriate international guidelines are regularly up-dated by the expert-groups. The Hungarian working group of the international ARIA-Working Group has recently elaborated the special aspects of allergic rhinitis for general practitioners in Hungary. The Hungarian special working groups take an active part in the SIGMA (Supportive Initiatives for Global Management of Allergy) initiatives as well.

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