

Half a century of “Pula International Neuropsychiatric Congresses”

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The regular yearly professional and scientific meetings, the Pula Symposia (now Congresses), for more than 50 years, demonstrates their special lasting value and deserves great respect. Founded during the “Cold War” (in 1961) on the “crossroads of worlds and ideologies,” the International Neuropsychiatric Pula Congresses (INPC) are also a good example of quality in cooperation between psychiatrists and neurologists in Central and South-East Europe: so they hold a special position amongst other similar scientific and professional manifestations. Boško BARAC and Helmut Lechner (2006) found the best explanation for the position of the INPC: “*They have promoted interdisciplinary collaboration between what are nowadays independent disciplines: neurology and psychiatry, with the borderline and collaborating medical and non-medical disciplines, reflecting advances in medical and neurological sciences and following the professional and technical developments in medicine*”. Congresses in Pula have been a great opportunity for all participants to exchange their experiences in all aspects of work with neurological and mental patients. Speakers, prominent and experienced lecturers from Europe and distant countries (Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland), but also from Belgium, UK, USA, Australia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Scandinavia, Israel and Arab countries, Bulgaria, from all Republics of the former Yugoslavia and many other countries, have given a wide spectrum of current

valuable scientific and practical information, to be implemented in the participating countries. However, the exchange of experience and the implementation of new diagnostic and therapeutic methods are not the only achievements of the Pula congresses: they are also a place for new communication established among professionals from various parts of the world. They provide the chance for communication of young neuro-psychiatrists with their colleagues from the developed European centers. Through practical work on different research projects and problems, they have become more competent and skilled scientists and practical doctors, implementing new knowledge in their home institutions.

After 51 years the INPC represent, without any doubt, a vital professional and educational meeting place for neurologists and psychiatrists seriously involved in the field. The reputation of lecturers, selection of actual topics, fruitful and constructive discussions are the aspects why the INPC brought attention of young and perspective neurologists and psychiatrists in this part of Europe and of the world.

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