

## Meeting Report of 10<sup>th</sup> National Emergency Medicine Congress & 1<sup>st</sup> Intercontinental Emergency Medicine Congress

Zerrin Defne Dündar<sup>1</sup>, Mehmet Ergin<sup>2</sup>, Mehmet Akif Karamercan<sup>3</sup>, Salim Satar<sup>4</sup>, Abdullah Sadık Girişgin<sup>1</sup>, Mustafa Yıldız<sup>5</sup>, Basar Cander<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Emergency Medicine, Necmettin Erbakan University Meram Medicine School, Konya, Turkey

<sup>2</sup>Department of Emergency Medicine, Near East University Medicine School, Nicosia, TRNC

<sup>3</sup>Department of Emergency Medicine, Gazi University Medicine School, Ankara, Turkey

<sup>4</sup>Department of Emergency Medicine, The Ministry of Health Numune Research and Education Hospital, Adana, Turkey

<sup>5</sup>Department of Emergency Medicine, Firat University Medicine School, Elazığ, Turkey

### Abstract

The 10<sup>th</sup> National Emergency Medicine Congress and the 1<sup>st</sup> Intercontinental Emergency Medicine Congress were held at Gloria Golf Resort Hotel Congress Center (Antalya, TURKEY) simultaneously between May 15 and 18, 2014. Due to the mining accident in the Soma Coal Mines prior to the congress, the social events were cancelled, and the congresses proceeded with the scientific program. Apart from the "National Emergency Medicine Congresses," the EPAT had organized the "International Symposium on Emergency Medicine" and "International Critical Care and Emergency Medicine Congress" as part of its mission to get actively involved in the international emergency medicine arena. The "Intercontinental Emergency Medicine Congress" can be seen as the third link of this chain. (*JAEM 2014; 13: 154-5*)

**Key words:** Congress, emergency medicine, EPAT

The 10<sup>th</sup> National Emergency Medicine Congress and the 1<sup>st</sup> Intercontinental Emergency Medicine Congress were held at Gloria Golf Resort Hotel Congress Center (Antalya, TURKEY) simultaneously between May 15 and 18, 2014. Due to the mining accident in the Soma Coal Mines prior to the congress, the social events were cancelled, and the congresses proceeded with the scientific program. The opening session of this long and immersive congress was the "Resuscitation" panel, which aired on the afternoon of May 15th. Among the outstanding speakers of the panel, Dr. Willheim Behringer and Dr. Jasmin Arrich shared their experiences and recent research findings on post-cardiac arrest syndrome and hypothermic resuscitation. The panel was followed by the opening ceremony and presentations by the presidents or the representatives of international associations that supported the congress.

All scientific presentations performed in A-Hall, where the intercontinental congress was held, were delivered in English, with simultaneous translations in Turkish. One hundred twenty-five speakers, of whom 29 were from outside Turkey, gave lectures on emergency medicine in 30 different panels in three different conference halls. Dr. Ayesha Almemari (United Arab Emirates) presented a lecture on family-witnessed resuscitation during the resuscitation panel. She

vocalized the requests from family members to be present during the resuscitation; however, she also stated the unpreparedness of health-care professionals to meet such demands. In the cardiac emergencies panel, Dr. Francisco Moya (Spain) notified the audience on the inclusion of new oral anticoagulants in atrial fibrillation guidelines. Dr. John Fowler, who is known as the founder of modern emergency medicine in Turkey, delivered a lecture on the use of ultrasound during the management of cardiac arrest and shared his vision of including an ultrasound in future resuscitation algorithms. Dr. Marc Sabbe (Belgium) shared scientific data on how current guidelines and protocols improve patient management. Dr. Ali Bidari (Iran) presented a case on "Scuba Diving Blackout," accompanied by actual camera footage of a scuba diver who perished during an attempt to dive. In another panel, Dr. Finn Rasmussen (TRNC) summarized current treatment modalities as well as the ongoing research for supportive treatment in acute asthma exacerbations.

In the other two halls, academicians who contribute to the advancement of emergency medicine in Turkey delivered lectures in Turkish in various panels, including critical care, hypertension, coma, cardiac emergencies, shock, analgesia and sedation, endocrine emergencies, gastrointestinal emergencies, infectious disease emer-



**Correspondence to:** Mehmet Ergin; Department of Emergency Medicine, Near East University Medicine School, Nicosia, TRNC  
Phone: +90 392 675 10 00 e-mail: drmehmetergin@gmail.com

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gencies, environmental emergencies, hematologic emergencies, OB/GYN, neurological emergencies, pulmonary emergencies, nephrologic emergencies, emergency radiology, emergency department architecture, and emergency department crowding. All of these presentations can be viewed on the official website of EPAT ([www.atuder.org.tr](http://www.atuder.org.tr)).

During the second day of the congress, emergency physicians and residents gathered with officials from the Turkish Ministry of Health and Social Security Institutions in a panel titled "Social Security Institution" in a question-answer session.

The proceedings evaluation committee, headed by Prof. Dr. Mehmet Gül, evaluated a total of 1209 proceedings, of which 124 were oral and 1085 were posters. A summary of the proceedings, ranging from case reports to clinical and experimental research, can be viewed on the official website of EPAT ([www.atuder.org.tr](http://www.atuder.org.tr)). Prof. Dr. Cuma Yıldırım and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Özlem Güneysel, both of whom are chief editors of the Journal of Academic Emergency Medicine (JAEM) and the Journal of Academic Emergency Medicine Case Reports (JAEMCR), invited outstanding poster presentations for submission in journals by post-it marks.

The presentation awards of the 10<sup>th</sup> National Emergency Medicine Congress and the 1<sup>st</sup> Intercontinental Emergency Medicine Congress were presented to outstanding research topics. The Best Poster Presentation Award was given to Dr. N. Belgin Akıllı and colleagues (poster titled: Prognostic value of neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio in critically ill patients who underwent cardiopulmonary resuscitation). The second place award went to Dr. Kamil Tünay and colleagues (poster titled: Rational use of antibiotics and analgesics), and the third place award went to Dr. Bediä Gülen and colleagues (poster titled: The effects of HAPS, RDW, and neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio on prognosis in patients diagnosed with acute pancreatitis in the emergency department). The Best Oral Presentation Award was given to Dr. Mücahit Avcil and colleagues (presentation titled: The socio-demographic and clinical characteristics of patients diagnosed with pulmonary embolism in ED), second place was taken by Dr. Egemen Küçük and colleagues (presentation titled: Fracture emergency department patients), and third place was taken by Dr. Serpil Yaylacı and colleagues (presentation titled: Are *youtube* videos accurate and reliable on basic life support and cardiopulmonary resuscitation?).

The congress concluded with two panels conducted in Hall-A on May 18, 2014. With over 900 participants, the congress was deemed

the most successful emergency medicine congress in Turkey after the 7<sup>th</sup> European Emergency Medicine Congress.

As a rather new field, with only 20 years of history, emergency medicine has continued to evolve and develop in Turkey with the support of dynamic academicians, specialists, and residents. Apart from the "National Emergency Medicine Congresses," the EPAT organized the "International Symposium on Emergency Medicine" and "International Critical Care and Emergency Medicine Congress" as part of its mission to get actively involved in the international emergency medicine arena. The "Intercontinental Emergency Medicine Congress" can be seen as the third link of this chain.

As the congress organization committee, we propose the following actions in order to further enhance the experience of the 11<sup>th</sup> National Emergency Medicine Congress and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Intercontinental Emergency Medicine Congress, which will be held in May 2015: setting up interactive panels along with classical presentations, dividing presentations based on the audience members' levels (academician, specialist, resident) in order to create selections, tracking session attendance with smart cards and requiring a minimum amount of attendance before issuing a certificate of attendance, getting residents actively involved in panels and not just in oral/poster presentation sessions, switching from paper-based poster presentations to web-based and screen presentations, having panel moderators and the audience actively evaluate and provide feedback for the speakers, and taking actions against those who submit but do not present their presentations.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the EPAT Board of Directors, congress president and vice president, congress secretaries, the members of the organization committee, over 50 pharmaceutical and medical device companies, and, finally, the outstanding attendees for supporting the 10<sup>th</sup> National Emergency Medicine Congress and the 1<sup>st</sup> Intercontinental Emergency Medicine Congress.

Scientific congresses such as these are not just four-day events. There is a lot of planning and preparation involved. We would therefore like to invite those who are interested in "getting their hands dirty" to volunteer in the preparation of future events.

Forward together, and to better days...