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Editorial

VIII National Conference with International Participation “Morphological Days”, Sofia, 10-12 of June, 2022

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The traditional 8th National Conference with International Participation “Morphological Days” was held on 10th – 12th of June, 2022 in Sofia. The organizer of this event was the Institute of Experimental Morphology, Pathology and Anthropology with Museum at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Co-organizer was Bulgarian Anatomical Society. The venue of the Conference was the National Anthropological Museum of the Institute.

The opening of the conference started by welcome addresses from Professor Svetlozara Petkova – Director of the Institute, Professor Nina Atanassova – President of the Organizing Committee and Professor Nikolai Lazarov – President of the Bulgarian Anatomical Society.

The main topics of the conference included all the fields of anatomy, cell biology, histology, embryology, pathology and anthropology. The conference was attended by more than 150 participants of which 46 young scientists and 13 students – from USA, Switzerland, Netherlands, Germany, Latvia, Estonia, Romania, Slovenia, North Macedonia, Turkey, Egypt and Bulgaria. In national aspect, the meeting integrated scientists from biomedical institutes of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia University “St Kliment Ohridski”, Plovdiv University

“Paisii Hilendarski”, Southwestern University “Neofit Rilski” – Blagoevgrad, Bourgas University “Prof. Asen Zlatarov”; scientists and lecturers from all Medical Universities – in Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna, Pleven, Trakia University in Stara Zagora, University of Forestry – Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, as well as clinical specialists from University Hospitals.

The conference was organized in 14 scientific sessions with 133 presentations, as follow: 7 plenary sessions with 17 lectures, 5 sessions for oral presentations with 34 talks and 2 poster session presentations with 82 posters. Plenary lectures were given by Prof. Valentin Djonov from the University of Bern in Switzerland, Prof. Katja Teerds from Wageningen University in Netherlands, Prof. Modra Murovska from Riga Stradins University, Latvia, Prof. Osama Azmy from the National Research Centre in Cairo, Egypt, Prof. Volodia Georgiev from New York Manhattanville College, USA, Prof. Crtomir Podlipnic from the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, Assoc. Prof. Natasha Davcheva from the University “Sv. Kiril i Metodij” Skopje, Alexandra Comsa from the Institute of Archaeology, Romanian Academy of Sciences, Bucharest, Romania.

During the conference, a meeting of the Bulgarian Anatomical Society was held, opened with a lecture by Professor Nina Atanassova in memoriam to Professor Yordan Yordanov – former Director of the Institute and the founder of the National Anthropological Museum and one of the founders of the “Morphological Days” Conference.

Compared to the previous 7th National Conference “Morphological Days” in 2018, the number of participants in the current 8th Conference was higher, which indicated that the morphological community/society in Bulgaria has increased.

The conference was distinguished by a high level of presented scientific results. It is evident that morphological science has spread beyond the classical macroscopic and microscopic morphology by developing multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research with molecular and cellular biology, chemistry, computer sciences and modelling, archaeology and national identity. The presentations showed the modern trends in the development of morphological science and its application in medicine for more precise diagnosis and treatment of socially significant diseases.

At the end of the scientific forum, Prof. Nikolai Lazarov announced two awards of the Bulgarian Anatomical Society – for the best oral presentation and the best poster presentation. Two oral presentations were awarded – by Dr. Toma Spiriev (Faculty of Medicine of Sofia University “Kliment Ohridski”) and co-authors and by Prof. Neshka Manchorova (Medical University-Plovdiv). Two poster presentations were awarded – by Assistant Professor Kristina Malinova (Institute of Molecular Biology “Academician Rumen Tsanev”) and co-authors and by Assistant Professor Dimo Stoyanov (Medical University-Varna) and co-authors.

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The venue of the conference – The National Anthropological Museum provided nice and lovely atmosphere around the museum expositions and anthropological reconstructions of the head of great Bulgarians as Tzar Kaloyan, Tzar Samuil, Thracian Princess, Georgi Rakovski, Luben Karavelov, Zahari Stoyanov, Bacho

Kiro created by Prof. Yordan Yordanov. All the participants enjoyed the meeting and later the Organizing Committee received letters of acknowledgements and high recognition by the participants.

