

A new orientation of the Romanian Society of Pneumology – “Days of exchanges with the Eastern European countries”

O nouă deschidere a SRP-ului – „Zilele schimburilor cu țările estice”

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Between 9-11 June 2017, Prague hosted the 2nd conference “Journée d’Echanges avec les Pays de l’EST” organised by Association des Pneumologues des Pays de l’EST du Nord Pas de Calais (ASPEN). This organisation made up of French pneumologists working in the private system is currently open to relaunching the francophony in countries from Eastern Europe. If last year this manifestation took place in Poland, this year a first attempt was made to attract the pneumologists from the Czech Republic, and an invitation was also made in this sense to the Romanian French-speaking pneumologists. The conference, which gathered 70 French-speaking pneumologists, brought at the same table three delegations: a Polish delegation with 10 representatives, a Czech delegation with the same number of colleagues and, for the first time, a Romanian delegation with 6 pneumologists from 3 university centres. In fact, the Romanian delegation was supplemented by the 8 Romanians living abroad who were part of the French delegation, many of them former interns who worked at the “Marius Nasta” Institute of Pneumology.

All the presentations within this conference were dedicated to a single topic: asthma. The first day was shorter and included a review of how the organizational networks of managing asthma exist and operate in different countries. Thus, the chairman of this association of “liberaux” physicians, Bruno Stach, explained how these patients are assisted and supervised in France. Subsequently, the similar experiences of countries such as Poland (Piotr Gutkowski) and the Czech Republic (Ondrej Fibigr) were reviewed. We noticed the progress made by these Eastern European countries, including the attempts to have national records.

The next day, the sessions that followed analysed asthma from all points of view. During the first part, Ondrej Fibigr analysed in detail the asthma phenotyping, followed by a presentation about “Multiple chemical hypersensitivity – nightmare or reality” (Philippe Richard) and by the diagnostic and therapeutic experience of a Czech clinic in Prague (Norbert Pauk). All the speakers emphasised the importance of the therapeutic progress and the diagnostic difficulties which they encountered in the asthma patient.

During the second session, the approach horizon extended, going from asthma remodelling aspects (Joanna Domagala) to the new medications in severe asthma (Chantal Raheison Semjen) and the organizing patient care in severe forms of asthma (Yves Grillet). The last presentation was extremely interesting because it showed a multitude of elements linked to the new records regarding the French asthma patients with the filling in of online questionnaires, activity already performed for the patients with sleep disorders. There is an online functional and useful example with a proper description regarding the overlapping of data in future studies.

The last session went into more detail regarding more or less frequent associations of asthma. Thus, an update was made regarding the scientific information linked to aspirin-induced asthma (Monika Swierczynska), the sleep of the asthma patient (Marc Sapene) and the forms which are on the border between COPD and asthma (ACOS) (Edith Maetz). On the last day, the presentations focused on aspects which became clearer within the international reunions, such as: the relation between asthma and pollution (Katarzyna Balek-Gosk) and between asthma and bronchiectasis (Florin Mihălțan).

The particular aspects of this manifestation were multiple. This is a meeting of the French-speaking physicians in the Eastern European countries encouraged by a liberal French professional association. The speakers from France were not internationally renowned, but they proved the quality of the French school of pneumology. By honouring this invitation, the Romanian Society of Pneumology emphasised its desire to encourage francophony not only regarding the “French-speaking space”, but also reaching through its representatives the area of this “liberal” pneumology. The meeting between the local Romanian pneumologists and the Romanian pneumologists operating for many years in France was a new opportunity to re-establish the connections with the Romanians in this country in which more than 100 pneumologists operate. For the purpose of strengthening these relations, it was decided that next year’s Aspen conference should take place in Timișoara. ■