The 10th International Scientific Summer School (ISSS) was in Wolka Smolana near to Brochow, Poland from June 4th to 9th, and the 11th ISSS was in Timisoara, Romania from June 24th to 29th. The Wolka Smolana ISSS was organized by Adam Stanczyk and his associates Katarzyna Piotrowicz and Pawel Krzesinski from the Military Institute of Medicine (Wojskowy Instytut Medycyny) in Warsaw, and the Timisoara ISSS was organized by Ioana Mozos and her associate Ovidiu Jupaneant from the Victor Babeş University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Timişoara. There was sponsorship for both programs from several scientific journals: the Journal of Electrocardiology, the Anatolian Journal of Cardiology, the Croatian Medical Journal, Monitor Mediciny and also from the Section of Noninvasive Electrocardiology and Telemedicine of Polish Cardiac Society. In Poland the faculty were Ljuba Bacharova (Slovakia), Aleksandra Misak (Croatia), Mustafa Inan (Turkey), Gulmira Kudaiberdieva (Turkey), Lubica Palkovicova (Slovakia), and Adam Stanczyk (Poland); and there were 18 participants from Poland, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Russia, Slovakia, and Turkey. In Romania the faculty were Ljuba Bacharova (Slovakia), Zarko Bajic (Croatia), Ovidiu Jupaneant (Romania), Jonathan Lipton (The Netherlands), Ioana Mozos (Romania), and Mykhaylo Sorokivsky (Ukraine); and there were 17 participants from Romania, Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, Estonia, Russia, Slovakia and Ukraine.

The participants were divided into teams with responsibility for designing “potentially feasible” scientific studies. The teams progressed through the 4 Workshops: Selection of research proposal and writing introduction, Study populations and outcomes, Data collection and analysis, and Research administration. During the final day, each of the teams created power-point presentations of their projects, and then formally presented them to all participants and faculty.

At Wolka Smolana:

ANONYMOUS: Alpay Aribas - Turkey, Peter Slezak - Slovakia, and Kalina Niedolaz and Agniezska Jagus-Jamiola - Poland: “Endothelial function in DM type 2 patients with bad sleep quality”
GALA: Lucia Banovska - Slovakia, Maria Baturova - Russia, Dalia Gerviene - Lithuania, and Pawel Krzesinski - Poland: “GAlectin-3 relation to Left ventricular dysfunction development in patients treated with Anthracyclines”

MARIJA: Ruslan Sadabaev - Kyrgyzstan, Jana Pribojova and Iveta Waczulikova - Slovakia, and Agata Galas and Marta Jurdziak - Poland: “Effect of CoQ supplementation on prevalence of myopathies in patients taking atorvastatin”

SLAVONIC: Maria Bartusova - Slovakia, Aleksei Savelev - Russia, and Katarzyna Piotrowicz and Malgorzata Wojdat - Poland: “Prevalence of ventricular arrhythmia in young people with active celiac disease”

At Timisoara:

BONES: Cigdem Koca (Turkey), Veronika Rehorcikova (Slovakia), Radu Petroman (Romania), Marian Faynyk (Ukraine): “Randomized controlled study comparing low dose methotrexate combined with gluco- corticoids to standard dose methotrexate alone in newly diagnosed rheumatoid arthritis patients.”

RED-B’S: Amina Obramovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Laura Olariu (Romania), Louise Find (Denmark), Mihai Mioc (Romania), Yar Mughal (Estonia): “Comparison of FDM platform protocol with standard protocol in rehabilitation after the surgical treatment of intra-articular knee fractures.”

FIBRILLATORS: Çağdas Akgullu (Turkey), Iulia Jurca Simina (Romania), Emil Fraenkel (Slovakia), Olga Veleslavova (Russia): “Extent of atrial fibrosis in atrial fibrillation: A predictor for thromboembolic events?”

SWEETHEARTS: Stefan Moravcik (Slovakia), Raluca Sosdean (Romania), Ksenija Pesti (Estonia), Ufuk Eryilmaz (Turkey): “Cephalic vein approach as an alternative technique for CRT device implantation.”

Following the final presentations, group evaluations of the workshops were held. Participants specifically mentioned that they learned the importance of study significance, hypothesis for study design, and attention to detail in planning the study logistics. Skills that they practiced and learned included communicating in academic English, working in groups, responding to questions without ‘defending’, and using the feedback as a means to improve the project. To enable future research collaboration, a database of participants in all of the 11 ISSSs has been established, and is accessible for the “alumni”. Additionally a website has been established, and groups have formed on social media platforms.

(Contributors to this report include Gulmira Kudaiberdieva, Jonathan Lipton, Ioana Mozos, Adam Stanczyk, Ljuba Bacharova and Galen Wagner)

International Scientific Summer School in Romania 2013: Timisoara, June 24-29.