

Letter to the editor

EUBS 2022, Prague: Hyperbaric and diving medicine conference

The European Underwater and Baromedical Society (EUBS) 2022 Scientific Meeting was held in Prague, Czech Republic, from August 31 - September 3, 2022. The 46th EUBS Annual Scientific Meeting took place at the NH Prague City Hotel for the first time in the Czech Republic. EUBS is the European scientific society dedicated to the study and promotion of diving medicine and hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT). The EUBS convenes at an annual conference for the purpose of global knowledge exchange, creating new research partnerships, and initiating new scientific intentions in these two areas of medicine. The meeting was attended by fifty-nine speakers from 40 countries around the world and the poster section included 43 statements. The conference was organized by Michal Hájek, MD, PhD. (Secretary General, Chair of the Scientific and Local Organizing Committee, Ostrava) as a representative of the Czech Society of Hyperbaric and Aviation Medicine and his team.

The topics of focus at the meeting included both military and civilian content and were divided into ten scientific sessions – I. Diving/Forensic, II. HBOT/Diabetic foot ulcers/Carbon Monoxide poisoning, III. Diving/Decompression sickness/Preconditioning, IV. HBOT/Experimental, V. HBOT/Traumatic brain injuries (TBI)/Clinical effects, VI. Diving/Working/Combat/Saturation, VII. Special Session/Hypobaric/Aviation, VIII. HBOT/Indications/Covid, IX. Diving/Apnoea Diving and X. Miscellaneous. The scientific program represented all fields of interest including the new exploratory, experimental as well as emerging fields and offered high-quality clinical evidence.

The Army of the Czech Republic was represented by members of the Institute of Aviation Medicine, Prague, in the special session. Hypobaric hypoxia in aeromedical training – fundamentals, methods and aspects including specifics for military aviation, presented by Boris Oniščenko, MD. Pressure changes and other factors affecting the tissues of the human organism in military pilots were mentioned in the lecture Explosive Decompression and rare pulmonary barotrauma by captain Jakub Tlapák, MD, PhD. Lieutenant colonel Veronika Poláčková, MD, FEBO, DavMed, as the Czech Army's chief aviation medicine expert, discussed and reviewed ophthalmological challenges of the flight and underwater environment.

Topics related to military medicine or use for the military were mostly connected with wound healing for the HBOT area. It is necessary to mention Hyperbaric Oxygen in Lower Limb Trauma a multi-centre randomized controlled trial, where, according to the conclusions, HBOT

can effectively reduce complication rates and improve outcomes in severe limb trauma. We must not forget the issues of TBI, that HBOT had significant value. For the area of diving, these were mainly case reports, risks of diving, improving safety, including in the research on improving the safety of the submarine escape.

This conference report summarizes the rich EUBS 2022 Annual Scientific Meeting from the perspective of participating authors and was formulated as a brief review of current and future trends in hyperbaric and diving medicine. The lectures are not mentioned in detail, as this would go beyond the scope of this short report. A detailed program and individual communications are contained within the 46th EUBS Annual Scientific Meeting Abstract & Conference Book. At the closing ceremony, the president of the society professor Jean-Eric Blatteau, MD, PhD. (Armed Forces Biomedical Research Institute in Toulon, France) handed over the imaginary “baton relay-race” of organizing the 47th EUBS Annual Scientific Meeting to Portugal, which will be held in Porto in September 2023.