The 54th Seminar of the European School of Nuclear Medicine (ESNM) traditionally took place in Opatija, Croatia. It was the eighth ESNM seminar in last fourteen years organized in the same town and same hotel, which fact was well accepted by the participants from the region and raised these events to a higher level of expert recognition. So, in the last fourteen years, apart from being a top tourist destination and a place of charm architecture and fabulous beauty, Opatija became known in nuclear medicine community as the destination for ESNM seminars too.

Many hotels and romantic villas of unique elegance, fine restaurants, open air music terraces, beaches, concert hall and convention centres amidst camellias and palm-trees - this is Opatija, an extremely pleasant Adriatic seaside resort, the place where Croatian tourism started 150 years ago with the idea to be the summer and winter holiday place of the Austro-Hungarian emperors and nobility. One can walk for miles along the beautiful coastal path, watching exceptionally clean, deep blue sea and find the nymph offering her hand to a seagull, a symbol of worldwide known charm of Opatija. Each third year Opatija was the place of the International Congresses of the Croatian Society of Nuclear Medicine.

This year seminar was attended by 43 participants from 7 countries: Croatia (26), Bosnia and Herzegovina (1), Hungary (1), Poland (2), Serbia (6), Slovenia (6) and Ukraine (1). The Seminar was organized from the EANM side by Prof. Cornelis Hoefnagel (The Netherlands), Dean of ESNM, Prof. István Szilvási (Hungary), Vice-dean of ESNM and Mrs. Mirijam Hajek-Ayadi, in collaboration with local organizers Prof. Damir Dodig and Mr. sc. Božidar Kasal.

The lecturers were very well known and experienced experts with world-wide reputation in their fields of work, scientific research and education. They presented the lectures titled as follows:

Prof. M. Lonsdale, Copenhagen, Denmark: PET/CT. Instrumentation, Principles and Quality Control
Prof. F. Forrer, Basel, Switzerland: Radiopeptides for Diagnosis and Therapy.
Prof. J-N. Talbot, Paris, France: PET/CT beyond F-18-FDG
Prof. M. Luster, Ulm, Germany: New approaches to diagnosis/ treatment of thyroid cancer

Prof. M. Lonsdale, in a very interesting and clear way, presented the subject that, sometimes, makes difficulties to physicians.

Diagnosis and therapy with radiopeptides are not very much implemented in many countries because of shortage of the budget. Prof. F. Forrer in his lecture presented what is the state of art in this field and where these procedures have the highest value.

The usefulness of F-18-FDG is very well known in tumour detection and in cardiology and neurology also, but today, there are other PET radiopharmaceuticals which are employed in diagnostics, such as F-18-Dopa or F-18-Cholin. Prof. J-N. Talbot gave an overview of the
new PET radiopharmaceuticals which are well established and used in everyday clinical work, as well as of some other which are promising for future use.

The diagnosis and treatment of thyroid cancer is still of great interest in nuclear medicine community. Development of new diagnostic techniques and new treatment modalities were presented by Prof. M. Luster. The lecture attracted the attention of all participants, especially the part on possibilities and usefulness of various methods in detection and treatment of thyroid cancer.

The results of the final MCQ exam approved that the participants were very attentive and concentrated during the presentations. To clarify some subjects they were asking the questions. They were very satisfied with the subjects of each and every lecture as well as with the expertise and didactic skills of the lecturers.

The participants had opportunity to exchange their experiences during the breaks and social events. Nice weather, fresh air from the sea and friendly atmosphere helped in Seminar success.

The 54th ESNM Seminar in Opatija this year was the last one in the organization of the Vice-dean Prof. István Szilvási and the local organizer Prof. Damir Dodig who, together, in the period of fourteen years (1999-2013), organized eight ESNM seminars in Opatija.

During the Seminar dinner, the Dean of ESNM Prof. C. Hoefnagel, in a very emotional speech on behalf of EANM, expressed many thanks to the retiring Prof. Szilvási and Prof. Dodig for all the efforts they had done in the organization of the past seminars and for their great success.

Hereby, we the local organizers, would like to express our thanks to the Dean Prof. Cornelis Hoefnagel, the Vice-dean Prof. István Szilvási, as well as to the EANM and Mrs Mirijam Hajek-Ayadi for their contribution to the organization, because without their support we would not be able to organize such successful events. We were honoured by the presence of Mrs. Mirijam Hajek-Ayadi at the seminar of this year as she did help us very much.

In addition, our thanks go to all previous Deans and Presidents of the EANM who encouraged and supported us in organization of these important events, especially significant for transferring the knowledge to young nuclear medicine physicians.

We are very glad to inform the nuclear medicine community that the new President of the Croatian Society of Nuclear Medicine, Prof. Dražen Huić, has expressed his support for this type of education and announced the continuation of the ESNM seminars organization in Croatia in the future.

At the end, we are proud to announce the first next big international event to be organized by the same local organizers:

"8TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE CROATIAN SOCIETY OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE (WITH ALPE-ADRIA SYMPOSIUM)“, May 09-12, 2014, Šibenik, Croatia.