



# BANTAO

October 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Opatija, Croatia

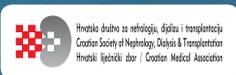
JOINT CONGRESS



## DiaTransplant

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October 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Opatija, Croatia





## **Joint Congress - DiaTransplant & BANTAO**

**October 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Opatija, Croatia**

### **DiaTransplant 2015**

**October 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Opatija, Croatia**

Dear colleagues,

It is my pleasure to invite you to participate in the DiaTransplant 2015, The 6<sup>th</sup> Croatian Symposium on Renal Replacement Therapy, organized by University Hospital Center Rijeka, Rijeka University School of Medicine, Croatian Society of Nephrology, Dialysis and Transplantation of Croatian Medical Association and Croatian Association of Nurses - Nephrology, Dialysis and Transplantation Section.

This Symposium continues to the previous five in 1992, 1996, 2006, 2009, and 2012. This Symposium, already traditional, is going to be a permanent witness of the new scientific developments. The emphasis will be on "state of art" lectures and clinical aspects of hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis and kidney transplantation.

The Symposium is going to bring together distinguished clinicians and experts from Croatia and abroad to present and discuss recent discoveries of these fields.

You are heartily invited to contribute to the success of this meeting with a presentation of your work and your abstracts are very much appreciated.

Of course we also want to emphasize the beauty of Rijeka, Opatija and Primorsko-goranska region, which are located on the north part of Adriatic sea.

For further information please visit our website: [www.diatransplant.org](http://www.diatransplant.org)

### **BANTAO Congress 2015**

**October 16-18, 2015, Opatija, Croatia**

The Balkan Cities Association of Nephrology, Dialysis, Transplantation and Artificial Organs (BANTAO) was born in Ohrid on October 9, 1993. The war in former Yugoslavia negatively affected the development of nephrology and also the connections among the nephrologists from the Balkans. However, there was willingness for further mutual



collaboration between the nephrologists from the Balkans. The war in Yugoslavia created hate among people, between the newly established countries, and there were problems with the recognition of the names of the new countries, and so, the nephrologists decided to apply the ancient principle of using the names of the cities, instead of the countries, as the founders of the Association. The main goal of BANTAO is to promote scientific and technical cooperation in the fields of renal disease and artificial organs between the regions on the Balkan Peninsula and the world, to give an opportunity for exchange of experience and knowledge among the experts in the area and to engage in collaborative projects in order to demonstrate that cooperation is possible even on the turbulent Balkan Peninsula. The first BANTAO congress was held in Varna, 1995 (President - D. Nenov, Varna). The second congress of BANTAO was held in Struga, 1997 (President - M. Polenakovic, Skopje). The third BANTAO congress was held in Belgrade, 1998 (President - Lj. Djukanović, Belgrade). The fourth congress of BANTAO was held in Izmir, 1999 (President - A. Akcicek, Izmir). The fifth Congress of BANTAO was held in Thessaloniki, 2001 (President - P. Stathakis, Athens). The sixth Congress of BANTAO was held for the second time in Varna, 2003 (President - D. Nenov, Varna). The seventh congress of BANTAO was held in Ohrid, 2005 (President - M. Polenakovic, Skopje). The eighth BANTAO congress was held in Belgrade, 2007 (President - V. Nestic, Belgrade). The ninth BANTAO congress was held in Antalya, 2009 (President - A. Basci, Izmir). The tenth BANTAO congress was held in Chalkidiki, 2011 (President - D. Tsakiris, Thessaloniki). The eleventh BANTAO congress was held in Timisoara, 2013 (President - A. Schiller, Timisoara). At the seventh BANTAO Congress for the first time a CME Course was organized by ERA/EDTA and ISN/COMGAN entitled "Frontiers in Nephrology" with seven distinguished speakers. Very important event in the existence of BANTAO is the appearance of the BANTAO journal in 2003. The BANTAO journal has been published biannually since 2003. Editors of the journal were as follows: 2003 - 2005 - D. Nenov, Editor; 2005 - 2009 - A. Basci, Editor; 2009 - Goce Spasovski, Editor.

The BANTAO Congress was established as the major scientific and institutional forum for Balkan nephrologists, with its own journal, indicating our will to communicate, to collaborate, to get to know each other and to share our difficulties. More than just a professional event, the BANTAO congress became a cultural phenomenon, through which we discovered that we have many more things in common than we previously thought, and that we must now take every advantage to live and communicate in a world without political boundaries.

At present, the BANTAO Council has managed, in a spirit of peace, friendship and collaboration, to continuously strengthen this association and moreover to make it a reputable partner to the European and international associations. It is obvious that the BANTAO Council has succeeded in its initial targets. It is essential that nephrologists must come to know each other better. Now, more than ever, we have to learn what unites us, to tone down and even forget what divides us, to renew old and make new friendships, and to strengthen our peaceful relations, keeping in mind that we all work under the same oath of Hippocrates. It is in this "BANTAO spirit", a spirit not only of local but also of global importance that could provide the basis for a peaceful world. Hence, we can achieve our goals only by joining together in our common beliefs and by collaborating and acting toward these objectives. In this way, we can live in a "world without boundaries," a peaceful and prosperous one, even though confronted with the numerous boundaries that have been placed.

After the first Congress of BANTAO, F. Valderrábano, chairman of the EDTA - ERA Registry, at that time, wrote in Nephrology Dialysis Transplantation (1996) 11:740: "Nephrologists of the Balkan countries meet across political frontiers and war fronts - an example to politicians!"

Looking forward to seeing you, in Opatija, Croatia, October 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2015!

President of the Croatian Society for Nephrology,  
Dialysis and Transplantation,  
Croatian Medical Association,  
President of Diatransplant  
Prof. Sanjin Rački, MD, PhD



President of the BANTAO Congress  
Prof. Petar Kes, MD, PhD



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[www.hdndt.org](http://www.hdndt.org)