



Prishtina, October 2005

## MEETING REPORT

Infectious diseases are the leading cause of death worldwide and antimicrobial resistance is one of the major healthcare threats today in both developing and developed countries. A link has been observed between antibacterial usage and resistance emergence. Wide-scale antimicrobial misuse and related drug resistance is challenging infectious disease treatment and healthcare budgets.

To address these issues on October 11 and 12 in Prishtina (Kosova) was held the second international symposium on appropriate use of antimicrobials in hospitals and in the community. Kosova Society for Chemotherapy and Infection (KSCI) jointly organized this event in co-operation with International Society of Chemotherapy for Infection and Cancer (ISC). The Ministry of Health of Kosova, World Health Organization and Stability Pact for South-East Europe sponsored this meeting. About 200 physicians of all specialties (infectious disease specialists, microbiologists, surgeons, intensive care unit specialists, pulmologists, epidemiologists etc.) attended this symposium.

The symposium was opened by Avdyl Krasniqi, president of KSCI and J.C. Pechere, past-president of ISC, preceded by series of plenary lectures presenting the core data on antimicrobial usage in hospitals and community.

The lectures were delivered by **Philip Jenkins, WHO** (Antimicrobial Resistance Worldwide and the WHO Global Strategy), **Dominique L. Monnet, Denmark** (Antibiotic use in hospitals and resistance patterns), **J.C.Pechere, Switzerland** (De-escalation therapy), **Milan Cizman, Slovenia** (Antibiotic policy in CEE countries), **Inge Gyssens, The Netherlands** (Pitfalls of rational use of antimicrobials: dangers of under treatment), **Jorge Garbino, Switzerland** (New Treatment Options for Invasive Fungal Infections), **Bojana Beovic, Slovenia** (Methods of rational use of antibiotics in hospitals), **Kurt Naber, Germany** (Use of antibiotics in the era of multiresistant bacteria in UTI), **Vladimir Krcmery, Slovakia** (Clinical significance of antibiotics and Antibiotic use/resistance in areas affected by civil war). At the second day speakers presented the approach to appropriate use of antimicrobials in their countries, including the host country (**Shaip Krasniqi**)

At the end of symposium there was an enthusiastic panel discussion with useful points made by participants and following recommendations were summarized for stakeholders:

- To prevent over the counter sale of antimicrobials throughout pharmacies in Kosova

- To initiate research on antimicrobial consumption and resistance with feedback information
- To enforce continuing education for physicians on prudent use of antimicrobials both in the hospital and primary care settings.

The conference received high publicity in all written and electronic media in our country. It also accompanied by appraisal from all participants and represented excellent continuity of expanded co-operation between KSCI and ISC.



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