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**85. GLAVNA SKUPŠTINA I IZLOŽBA MEĐUNARODEN
STOMATOLOŠKE UDRUGE**
21. – 24. ožujka 2007., New Orleans, Louisiana, SAD

Nažalost, pri spomenu New Orleansa prva je asocijacija uragan Katrina koji je taj američki grad smješten blizu Meksičkoga zaljeva, poharao u kolovozu godine 2005. te ostavio za sobom desetke četvornih kilometara poplavljenih područja i gotovo upola smanjio broj stanovnika. Mnogi od njih su kao izbjeglice trajno morali potražiti nove domove diljem Sjedinjenih Američkih Država. Kod mnogih nevjericu potiče činjenica da je taj isti grad samo 18 mjeseci kasnije, u ožujku 2007., bio domaćin 85. kongresa Međunarodne stomatološke udruge (International Association for Dental Research).

Da, zbilja, u konvencijskom centru „Ernest N. Morial“ otvoren je 21. ožujka 2007. 85. kongres IADR-a, na kojemu je sudjelovalo nekoliko tisuća stomatologa iz cijelog svijeta. Svi su došli u New Orleans čuti o najnovijim postignućima u stomatologiji, predstaviti rezultate svojih istraživanja, sresti stare prijatelje te upoznati nove kolege. Mnogobrojna predavanja, prezentacije, radionice, okrugli stolovi te promotivna predstavljanja tvrtki koje proizvode stomatološke materijale i opremu, održavali su se usporedno, pa je bilo pravo umijeće uskladiti raspored i biti na onima najzanimljivijima. Organizatori su toga očito bili više nego svjesni, pa su onima najzainteresiranjima ponudili i mogućnost radnog ručka (tzv. lunch & learning) s vodećim stomatolozima/znanstvenicima. U radu kongresa su s prezentacijama sudjelovali i hrvatski stomatolozi iz zemlje i inozemstva, uključujući i predstavnike Stomatološkog fakulteta u Zagrebu te Stomatološkog odsjeka Medicinskog fakulteta u Rijeci. Oni su predstavili rezultate svojih istraživanja s područja forenzične stomatologije, paleostomatologije, ortodoncije, preventivne stomatologije, karijesologije i dr.

Osim što su pratili mnogobrojne događaje na kongresu, sudionici su u slobodno vrijeme mogli uživati u ljepotama i dražima New Orleansa - od šetnji ljkupom, slikovitom francuskom četvrti i glasovitom ulicom Bourbon, preko vožnje Mississippijem na parobrodu Natchez, pa do posjeta velikom akvariju s tisućama riba i ostalih vodenih životinja iz svih krajeva svijeta. Navečer su posjećivali mnogobrojne restorane i kušali riječne račice pripravljene na različite načine, a sve to uz zvuke džeza koji se neprimjetno, ali trajno usijeca u pamćenje. New Orleans je topao grad, domaćini su ugodni – već vas u zračnoj luciочекuje natpis: «We're jazzed you're here».

**85TH GENERAL SESSION & EXHIBITION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR DENTAL RESEARCH
(IADR)**
21. – 24. March 2007, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA



Unfortunately, at first mention of New Orleans, one's thoughts turn towards hurricane Katrina which devastated this American city near the Gulf of Mexico in August, 2005. It left vast areas flooded, and drove out almost half of its inhabitants. Many of them had to seek permanent shelter elsewhere as refugees across the United States. To some, it was incredulous that only 18 months later this city was host to the 85th General Session & Exhibition of the International Association for Dental Research in March, 2007.

The congress was actually opened on March 21st of this year at the “Ernest N. Morial” convention center, and there were a few thousand participating dentists from around the world. They all came to New Orleans to hear about the latest achievements in dental sciences, and to presents the results of their research, to meet with old friends and to make the acquaintance of new ones. There were many simultaneous lectures, presentations, workshops, round table discussions and promotional presentations from dental equipment manufacturers, so coordinating one's schedule in order to be at the most interesting ones was a veritable art form. The event coordinators were obviously aware of this, since they offered the option of a working lunch at the most interesting presentations and lectures: lunch & learning with leading dentists/scientists. Croatian dentists both from Croatia itself and from other countries also actively participated in the congress, including representatives from the University of Zagreb School of Dental medicine, and from the University of Rijeka Medical School's Dental Division. They reported the results of their research from the areas of forensic dentistry, paleostomatology, orthodontics, preventive dentistry and cariesology, etc.

Apart from following the numerous events at the congress, the participants spent their free time enjoying the beauty and charm of New Orleans – from walks in the lovely, picturesque French Quarter and along the famous Bourbon Street, to boat rides on the Mississippi aboard the Natchez, and visits to the great aquarium with thousands of fish and marine life from all around the world. In the evening they visited many restaurants and tried the craw fish prepared in a variety of ways, and all of this accompanied by the sound of jazz music, which subtly slipped into their memory forever. New Orleans is a warm city, the hosts are pleasant – at the airport you are greeted with an overhead sign that reads: “We're jazzed you're here”.

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