

Announcement of founding Central European Hepatological Collaboration

The Meeting of Initiative Group for Central European Hepatological Collaboration (CEHC) took place between 19 and 21 November 2015 in Warsaw. The idea was developed a few months earlier, during informal discussions between hepatologists from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. All these countries located in the heart of the Europe demonstrate similar achievements and problems in health care and scientific development affected by history and culture. We decided not to include political issues into our collaboration and to open possible involvement of hepatologists from other countries of the region. According to definitions of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and World Bank, this region of the world is called Central Europe and therefore the final name of our initiative is Central European Hepatological Collaboration.

The aim of CEHC is to search for possible collaboration between physicians and medical scientists involved in educational and scientific activities related to liver diseases. We hope that CEHC provides new opportunities for more successful integration of hepatologists from the region with European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL).

Eighteen representatives of hepatology associations/sections from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia attended the meeting, to discuss possible collaboration. Five major topics important currently for hepatologists in Central Europe were presented and discussed:

1. Epidemiology of viral hepatitis and screening programs for HCV in the region.
2. Access to new therapeutic options for chronic hepatitis C.
3. Liver surgery and transplantation.
4. Evaluation of hepatic fibrosis and access to non-invasive tests.
5. Topics of special interest in particular countries.

Papers based on these topics were published recently in the Clinical and Experimental Hepatology (1/2016), which is available at:

http://www.termedia.pl/Journal/Clinical_and_Experimental_Hepatology-80

Further CEHC meetings are already scheduled in Budapest during CELD conference (23-25 June 2016) and in Cracow during Academy of Contemporary Hepatology (6-8 October 2016).

Following participants (in alphabetic order) attended the Warsaw Meeting of Initiative Group which established Central European Hepatological Collaboration:

Radan Brůha (Czech Rep.)	Michael Makara (Hungary)
Robert Flisiak (Poland)	Marian Oltman (Slovakia)
Gabor Horvath (Hungary)	Laszlo Rokusz (Hungary)
Bela Hunyady (Hungary)	Krzysztof Simon (Poland)
Zsuzsanna Gerlei (Hungary)	Ľubomir Skladaný (Slovakia)
Peter Jarčuška (Slovakia)	Jan Sperl (Czech Rep.)
Jerzy Jaroszewicz (Poland)	Krzysztof Tomaszewicz (Poland)
Pavol Kristian (Slovakia)	Pavel Trunecka (Czech Rep.)
Wojciech Lisik (Poland)	Petr Urbanek (Czech Rep.)