

ATU annual meeting features vital updates on infections

Online congress showcases ESU course & more EAU collaborations

By Asst. Prof. Marouene Chakroun (TN)

Despite the impact of COVID-19 on global events, the Tunisian Urological Association (ATU) kept its promise to organise its yearly congress albeit online. Focused on the main theme "Infections in urology", the 20th National Urological Congress of the ATU took place from 10 to 12 December 2020.

In the past few years, the strong relationship between the European Association of Urology (EAU) and the ATU continued to grow. The EAU was invited once more to participate at ATU's congress.

ESU course overview

The course "Dealing with the challenge of infection in urology" by the European School of Urology (ESU) took place on the first day. Dr. Ahmed Said Zribi (TN) and I were in charge of coordinating this session. ESU faculty members, Profs. José Medina Polo (ES) and Tommaso Cai (IT), gave presentations on infections in urology. Over 300 participants from various countries such as Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania, Libya, Ivory Coast, Senegal, and Burkina Faso, attended the course.

Prof. Cai first introduced the ESU's vision and mission centred on offering unique opportunities in urological education to urologists in training and young certified urologists. Then Prof. Medina Polo provided detailed EAU guidelines recommendations on urological



Prof. Medina Polo shares EAU Guidelines recommendations



On-site view: During the clinical case deliberations

infections. This was followed by side-by-side lectures of Prof. Cai on the classification of urinary tract infection (UTI) and surgical field contamination categories as a basis for treatment and prophylaxis, low grade and recurrent UTI.

Day one proceeded with Prof. Medina Polo's presentation on male genital infections such as epididymitis and urethritis; then Prof. Cai's lecture on hospital-acquired UTI and antibiotic resistance. The two final lectures of the and perioperative prophylaxis with a special focus on prostate biopsy.

When asked about the interaction between presenters and the local organisers, Prof. Cai said, "The interaction was perfect. I think we had a very good collaboration. They presented three interesting cases covering a lot of fields of interest."

Dr. Zribi stated, "The course provided by experts have made a very good impression. Although it was virtual, we have been pleasantly surprised by the highly interactive environment and friendly atmosphere created by Prof. Cai and Prof. Medina Polo during the clinical case discussions. When we ran out of time, both presenters stayed with us for more than 30 minutes to answer to the questions. We were grateful about that."

He added, "The scientific content of the lectures was very attractive to the specialists in infectious diseases and general physicians among the attendees. We are receiving good feedback from urologists who viewed the course on replay on the platform."

More ATU coverage

On the second day of the ATU congress, Prof. Franck Bruyere (FR), member of the panel EAU Working Group on Urological Infections, offered his expert

insights on the management of positive preoperative urine culture, urinary stents and probes infections, and the management of positive urinary culture in patient with intermittent self-catheterization. Dr Ahmed Saadi (TN) shared his experience about the place of urine culture and rectal swab before prostate biopsy.

The congress's third and final day addressed fundamental issues as the rule of good antibiotic prescriptions. These were presented by members from the Tunisian Society of Infectious Diseases. They also tackled the issue of the management of recurrent cystitis, and genital infections in hypofertile men such as the presentation of Prof. Abderrazek Bouzouita (TN).

The collaboration with the EAU and the ESU at the congress had a significant impact on the scientific content of the sessions. The interactivity with the speakers and level of discussions were key to the success of the event.

More collaboration with the EAU is expected in future which will further create learning opportunities from the experts and share mutual experiences in the field of urology.



Prof. Cai presents "Hospital-acquired UTI and antibiotic resistance"

The course ended with interactive case discussions followed by a quiz wherein the winner was awarded with a prize.

Course impressions

According to Prof. Medina Polo, although the course was virtual, the proposed topics were good and organisation through the virtual platform was problem-free.