

Attending the 2019 vWINter meeting: an informal and informative experience



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Ellie Lindsay with
Professor Hugo Partsch,
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As a third-sector organisation, the new year started off with extensive exposure for the Leg Club Foundation. Participating in the venous-lymphatics World International Network (vWIN) Foundation organised by its President Professor Sergio Giancesini was a great opportunity to present the work of the psychosocial Leg Club model for lower limb care to an illustrious audience of phlebologists. The scientific event, held over five days in the Italian Alps, was a not-for-profit meeting to raise awareness of current phlebology-lymphology guidelines and related scientific advancement in the field of venous treatment and surgical interventions.

The faculty included the most renowned experts in the field of phlebology from around the world, as well as delegates from other associated International Societies. This extraordinary meeting allowed a true interexchange of professional and personal experiences in a relaxed and friendly environment. The extensive programme addressed all aspects of phlebology-lymphology, ranging from ultrasound diagnostics, anticoagulation guidelines, clinical nutrition, endovenous therapy and compression (educational videos will be available soon at the website: www.vwinfoundation.com/education).

MENTORING YOUNGER MEMBERS

One aim of the vWIN Foundation is to invest in the future by engaging young professionals in the specialised field of phlebology. This was achieved by encouraging the under-40 age group of international speakers to submit ePosters, present their work using the latest techniques in vein surgery and discuss and review current clinical guidelines. The young presenters were mentored by the most renowned world experts, discussing the latest guidelines and suggesting future research and the surgical advancements needed.

The wide-ranging five-day meeting programme of vWINter conference provided insights into the current clinical recommendations and future lines of research within the phlebology-lymphology world. Professor Hugo Partsch and fellow international speakers enriched the

scientific sessions and hands-on activities with their expertise and evidence based data. Dedicated hands-on sessions provided the opportunity for international delegates to become familiar with the most innovative diagnostic and therapeutic instruments.

Amongst the many highlights of the meeting was the Hugo National Piano Night. This regular vWIN meeting event is organised by Professor Giancesini in recognition of Professor Partsch's achievements in the field. After dinner, the vWINter attendees gathered together and enjoyed singing around the piano, in an atmosphere of genuine international camaraderie.

An initiative aimed to increase public venous awareness was held on the first and last day of the meeting in a relaxed and engaging atmosphere, under the auspices of well known academic, scientific, social and sport institutions.

A specific international third-sector meeting in conjunction with Rotary was held for Charities to present and discuss an overview of their objectives and the current challenges they are facing due to an aging population and the current global fiscal climate. The Charities ranged from organisations from developing countries, where basic care has to be improvised to meet the need of their population, to developed countries describing their management of lymphatic and lower limb care.

It provided interesting insights into how international Charities, as a group, confront their difficulties and the challenges to get core funding to deliver their charitable objectives. As a collective group of professionals, we shared our experiences, problems and thoughts about new, effective ways to deliver our objectives with the potential of an international consensus.

Last but not least, Professor Sergio Giancesini, President of the vWIN Foundation took pride in declaring that proceedings from the meeting would be fully donated to education, research and humanitarian missions: a way to enjoy not only a top-quality scientific meeting, but also a pleasant public event positively impacting public health and international humanitarian support. 