



OUR EXPERIENCE AND LESSONS LEARNED FROM ORGANIZING CONGRESSES OF PHYSICAL AND REHABILITATION MEDICINE AND BALNEOLOGY SPECIALTY – WITH INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION – WITH EUROPEAN CME CREDITS QUASI-UNIVERSALLY TRANSFERABLE, AND AS A PREMIERE, THIS YEAR: ONLINE

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Introduction. Background/History. The recent history of our related to the title experience is marked by the successful organization, for the first time in Romania, in the field of Balneoclimatology and Rehabilitation Medicine, of the 41st World Congress of the International Society of Medical Hydrology and Climatology (ISMH) – held in Bucharest in 2016: it was one of, unfortunately, not many congresses organized in Romania in any medical specialty. Its consistent international participation has, naturally, needed attendance internationally recognized certificates. This became, since, practically a tradition regarding our congresses organizing paradigm. Specifically, we have applied for and obtained – respecting all the required high-quality standards – Continuous Medical Education (CME) credits awarded by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME) of The European Union of Medical Specialists (Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes (UEMS).

Methods. Starting with 2016, the organization of our annual congresses has been achieved within a consortial manner by the Romanian Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine & Balneoclimatology (SRMFRB), the Romanian Association of Balneology (ARB), the Romanian Spinal Cord Society (RoSCoS), and the Romanian Society for NeuroRehabilitation (RoSNeRa) – all affiliated to the Romanian Medical Association (AMR) – and since 2019, together with the Society of Specialists in Medical Rehabilitation and Physical Medicine from the Republic of Moldova.

Unfortunately, we have faced, since February-March of this year with the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore we have decided to postpone its initial date (May 2020, hosted by the University of Medicine and Pharmacy Gr. T Popa in Iasi) and moved it online.

Accordingly, we notified EACCME – UEMS, updating and adapting the scientific program of our congress to the new related format – we have chosen a renowned largely internationally used digital meeting platform and have trained together with some diligent younger collaborator in its use – on which occasion, based on an additional number of works, we were able to extend it, reaching the record number of 32 CME credits – a record: both, to ours, compared to the last years, as well as, comparatively, to other medical scientific events held this year in Romania. To be noted that until the date of our congress (2–5 September 2020), it was the maximum number of credits obtained by a scientific event this year in Romania.

Results. We have thus succeeded to hold a full four days (with sixteen scientific sessions) of very dense and scientifically high-level program, very well appreciated, including the excellent functioning of the electronic platform we used. To be also underlined a very consistent (numerically and qualitatively) attendance from aboard – justifying completely dedicated Scientific Session – thus strongly supporting the international dimension of our congress. Moreover, forced by the pandemic, we rescheduled our congress and we have chosen purposively the above-mentioned date, to match with the World International SCI day (*i.e.* on the 5th of September, each year).

Conclusion. Considering this unique experience and beyond our science among the relatively few congresses carried out online in 2020 in our country, by the date of our scientific event, we consider it useful and successful and taking into account it's including large international participation, we intend for the future, such manifestations of ours to keep an online component (for the International attendance) this mining our next congresses to be hybrid.

The paper has the approval of the TEHBA Ethics Commission: no. 40 427/ 18.11.2020

Keywords: Congress, online, cvasiuniversal CME creditation.

* This Abstract (only) has been also published in the Supplement Volume – afferent to the XIVth National Congress of the Romanian Medical Association – of the Romanian Medical Journal.

INTRODUCTION. BACKGROUND/HISTORY

Medical Congresses are a form of continuing education that must be easily accessible and promoted annually, where communication and exchange of information are always awaited with interest.

Availing internet through webinars we have the opportunity to connect in real time with presenters and participants from around the world.

We will continue talking about the first Congress in the specialty of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine & Balneoclimatology (Figure 1) organized and held exclusively online due to the circumstances we are in, about the stages and challenges that the organizers have gone through to achieve it.

We organized this Congress at the beginning of September, thus being the first online congress in Romania that has international CME credit, being granted with a record number of points of Continuous Medical Education awarded by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME) of The European Union of Medical Specialists (Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes (UEMS) and also one of the first congresses in Romania which was held online, a format that made it possible to still achieve a scientific event corresponding to the needed annual one in our specialty, in the context of the distance imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Easy access to online events it also generated the participation of many personalities from our country but also from abroad, both presenters and participants.

HISTORICAL ELEMENTS REGARDING THE EXPERIENCE OF THE ORGANIZERS

The recent history of our experience is marked by the successful organization for the first time in Romania in the field of Balneoclimatology and Rehabilitation Medicine – the 41st ISMH World Congress (Fig. 2).

In our endeavors, the consortial manner was initially based on 2 axes (we started with 2 societies): the Romanian Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine & Balneoclimatology (RSPMRB) and the Romanian Association of Balneology (RAB), in 2016, due to the special honor we received from the International Society of Medical Hydrology and Climatology (ISMH) to organize the 41st World Congress of this Society in partnership with us (the 2 above mentioned societies) at the Palace of Parliament in Bucharest, Romania under the auspices of the Presidential Administration, the Chamber of Deputies and the 2 academic universities: “Carol Davila” University of Medicine and Pharmacy and “Ovidius” University of Constanta.

In those conditions, fulfilling the complex afferent necessary procedural steps, there were received at that moment 15 points of European Continuous Medical Education (CME) – quasi-universally transferable CME credits.

Given that the number of international congresses organized in Romania is still, unfortunately, low, in any medical specialty, this represent a huge national prestigious achievement.



Figure 1. The visual of the National Congress of Physical Medicine, Rehabilitation and Balneology 2020 under the academic auspices of 7 universities.



Figure 2. Visual of the 41st ISMH World Congress – marked by the successful organization for the first time in Romania in the field of Balneoclimatology and Rehabilitation Medicine.

It should be noted however that the proportion of a World Congress requires – given the consistent international participation – to be obtain the certification with wide international recognition. Subsequently, almost of the annual congresses we have organized has gathered international participation and respective UEMS crediting.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Starting with 2016, the organization of our annual congresses has been achieved within a consorsial manner (Figure 3) by the RSPMRB, the ARB, the Romanian Spinal Cord Society (RoSCoS), and the Romanian Society for

NeuroRehabilitation (RoSNeRa) – all affiliated to the Romanian Medical Association (RMA) – and since 2019, together with the Society of Specialists in Medical Rehabilitation and Physical Medicine (SSMRPM) from the Republic of Moldova.

As a technical-organizing event preceding the teleconference-like academic manifestations, we mention the video presentation of a greeting word by Acad. Constantin-Ionescu Târgoviște at the National Interdisciplinary Conference with international visibility: “Comprehensive approaches to the issue of pain and in spinal cord pathology – in the context of marking the International Day of Spinal Cord Injuries” (WORLD SCI Day), 3–5 September 2017.

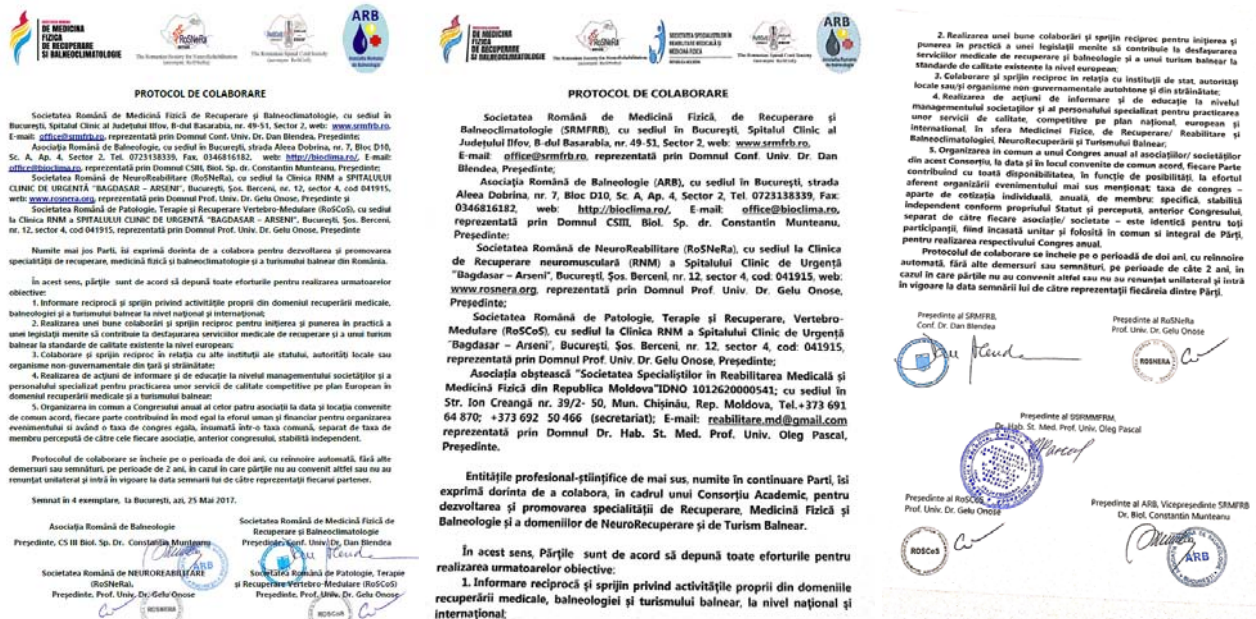


Figure 3. Collaboration protocol between the 4 societies 2017, respectively 2019 between the 5 societies.



Figure 4. The visual Congress – Cluj-Napoca, Turda, 2018 under the auspices of 3 universities and the visual Congress – Galați, 2019 under the academic auspices of 6 universities.



Societatea Română de Medicină Fizică, de Recuperare și Balneoclimatologie (SRMFRB) și Asociația Română de Balneologie (ARB), în parteneriat consorțial cu Societatea Romana de NeuroReabilitare (RoSNeRa) și Societatea Romana de Patologie, Terapie și Recuperare Vertebro Medulare (RoSCoS), au organizat în perioada 4 - 6 Septembrie 2019 la Galați, Congresul Național, cu participare internațională, de Medicină Fizică, de Recuperare și Balneologie, în parteneriat cu Universitatea "Dunărea de Jos" din Galați, prin Facultatea de Medicină și Farmacie.

[Documente organizare Congres](#)



UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS SPÉCIALISTES EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS
Association internationale sans but lucratif - International non-profit organisation

"The Romanian Congress of Rehabilitation, Physical Medicine and Balneology 2019 - with international participation, Galați, Romania, 04/09/2019-06/09/2019 has been accredited by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME®) with 18 European CME credits (ECMECs). Each medical specialist should claim only those hours of credit that he/she actually spent in the educational activity."

[Scrisoarea de acreditare - pdf LINK](#)

Figure 5. The visual congress – Galați, 2019 and Letter of accreditation (European Credit).

On the third day, the conference included actions dedicated to marking the international Day of awareness on Spinal Cord Injuries – World SCI Day – established by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS) for the 5th of September of each year. Thus, on September 5, 2017 there were:

- A scientific session with focus works on a mainly specialty-related topic;
- The peak of the International Day of Spinal Cord Injuries – World SCI Day – took place at Techirghiol Balneotherapy and Rehabilitation Sanatorium (TBRS) through a live transmission via Skype, quadruplex between Techirghiol-Romania, Maison d'Accueil Spécialisée « les Rantzau » Lorquin in France, Maison Oberkirch – Strasbourg in France and Hammam Chellala Guelma in Algeria. During the event, short speeches were delivered by Prof. Gelu Onose, PhD, Anne Laure Henry – Deputy Director EPSOLOR in France, Jully Jean-Pierre

Mayor of Lorquin in France, Olda Oreda – General Manager of Foyer d'Accueil Médicalisé et Maison d'Accueil Spécialisée Oberkirch, Strasbourg, and Dr. Ahmed Belaitar, Hammam Chellala Guelma – Algeria.

The use of electronic implementation facilities in our academic events (Figures 4, 5, 6, 7) continued in 2018 and 2019 through video greeting messages delivered by Acad. Constantin Ionescu-Tîrgoviște. A special mention should be made regarding the fact that each one of our annual congresses on Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine & Balneoclimatology with international participation took place under the academic auspices of an ever-increasing number of Universities of Medicine and Pharmacy. A remark – starting with 2019 we also have the academic auspices of the State University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Nicolae Testemițanu", Chișinău, Republic of Moldova.

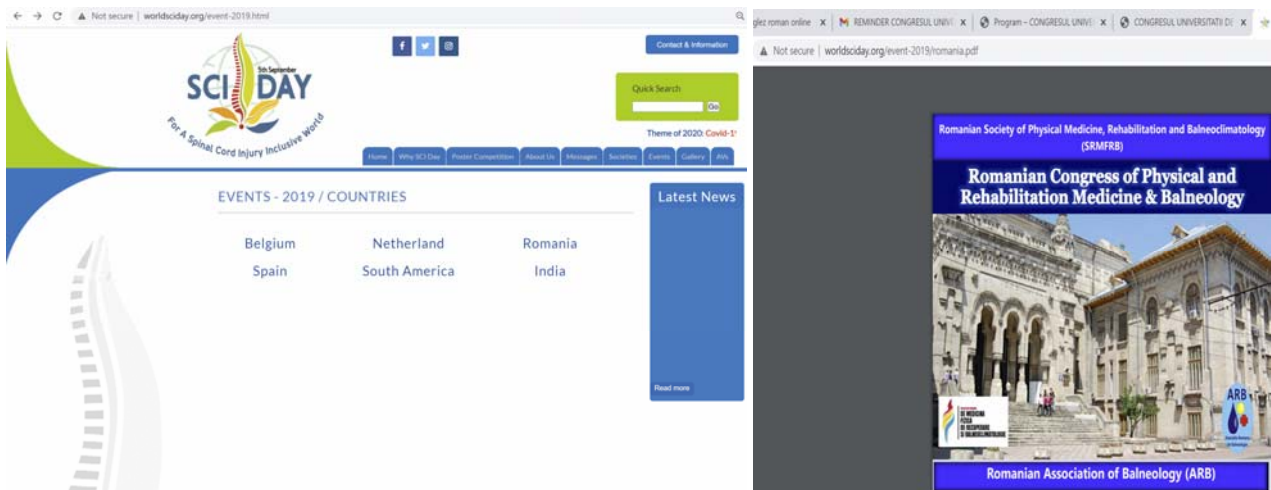


Figure 6. The congress in Galati, held in September 2019, so the international day of spinal cord injuries was caught – with related visibility on the website of the International Spinal Cord Society (because we had to keep the date of September 5 – the international day for marking awareness to spinal cord injuries internationally).

▲ Not secure | worldsciday.org/event-2019/romania.pdf

Thursday- 05 September 2019— Botanical Garden of Galati
11.45 -13.45 - World Spinal Cord Injury Day - Dedicated scientific session
Chairmen: Gelu ONOSE, Corina SPOREA, Aura SPINU

| Authors | Title | Abstract |
|---|---|----------|
| Gelu Onose (Keynote Speaker) Vlad Ciobanu, Corina Sporea -20 minutes | A TOPICAL SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW AND REAPPRAISAL ON ESSAYS TOWARDS SYSTEMATIZING CLINICAL ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS USED TO EVALUATE NEUROFUNCTIONAL DEFICITS AFTER SPINAL CORD INJURIES, MAINLY IN ADULTS, INCLUDING THROUGH THE ICF-OH) CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK | L37 |
| Diana-Elena SEBBAU, Aurelian ANGHIELESU, Elena CONSTANTIN, Gelu ONOSE - 12 minutes | THE ACQUISITION OF SELF-DEFENSE TECHNIQUES AND PROCEDURES AGAINST THE ACT OF AGGRESSION IN THE PATIENT WITH PARAPLEGIA, WHEEL-CHAIR INDEPENDENT | L38 |
| Aurelian Anghiescu, Elena Constantin, Anca Sanda Mihaescu, Gelu Onose - 12 minutes | "PREVENTION IS CURE, EDUCATION IS ESSENTIAL" - RESPONSIBLE IMPLICATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN EDUCATIONAL AND PROPHYLACTIC ACTIONS AGAINST ACCIDENTAL CERVICAL SPINAL CORD INJURY AND SEVERE DISABILITIES BY DIVING IN UNVERIFIED WATERS. | L39 |
| Alexandra ONOBIĆ, Irina ANGHIEL, Lapadat MAGDALENA, Gelu ONOSE - 12 minutes | RECOVERABLE RESULTS AT A PATIENT WITH AN FRANKEL D INCOMPLETE TETRAPLEGIA / POST SPINAL CORD INJURY BY FALLING FROM A HEIGHT, ON AN ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS BACKGROUND | L40 |
| Ioana ANDONE, Carmen OHPĂRBUŞ, Andreea FRUNZA, Aura SPINU, Simona STOICA, Liliana ONOSE, George PATRASCU, Gelu ONOSE - 12 minutes | CLINICAL, PARACLINICAL ASPECTS AND COMPLEX THERAPEUTICAL APPROACHES IN A PATIENT WITH INCOMPLETE PARAPLEGIA, POST THORACIC MENINGIOMA SURGICALLY TREATED, IN NEUROFIBROMATOSIS CONTEXT | L41 |
| Cristina Octaviana DAAI, Alma-Elena Gherghiceanu, Helene Ivan, Gelu ONOSE - 12 minutes | RESEARCH ON NEUROREHABILITATION RESULTS IN VERTEBRO-MEDULLARY POST-TRAUMATIC CONDITIONS ASSOCIATING FRACTURES, IN A POLYTRAUMATIC CONTEXT | L42 |
| Ali-Orman Saglam, Alexandru G. Stăvilica, Ana Carmen Albeşteanu, Laura Georgiana Popescu, Luminița Nărlu, Gelu Onose - 12 minutes | MEDICAL-REHABILITATION ENDEAVORS, CARE INTERVENTIONS AND CONNOTATIONS OF A MEDICO-SOCIAL TYPE, IN A COMPLEX POLYPATHOLOGICAL CASE: PARAPLEGIA, SPONDYLOLISTHESIS, KIDNEY FAILURE IN THE HAEMODIALYSIS STAGE AND BILATERAL NEPHROSTOMIES AFTER SURGICALLY TREATED BLADDER NEOPLASIA. | L43 |
| Sorina Petruşan-Dunca, Liviu Lazăr, Tiberiu-Dorin Corha - 12 minutes | INDICATIONS AND LIMITS OF REHABILITATION TREATMENT FOR LUMBAR DISCOPATHY IN PREGNANCY | L44 |
| Q & A – 8 minutes | | |

Figure 7. The abstracts volume of the Congress published in the prestigious Balneo Research Journal (with related visibility on the website of the International Spinal Cord Society).

The second major focus of this work concerns the presentation of our experience gained within the unfortunate background of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Concretely we foreshadowed still immediately after the annual congress in 2019 from Galati, the organization in 2020, in the usual format (Figure 8)

– with the physical presence of the participants, the place of the venue being chosen by mutual agreement of the above mentioned consortium and the leadership of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy Grigore T. Popa in Iasi, in the beautiful cultural capital of Moldova, originally scheduled for May 2020.



Figure 8. The initial visual of our Congress in 2020 and the initial creditation with 20 EACCME points of our Congress.

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<https://eaccme.uems.eu> - accreditation@uems.eu

Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form
(to be completed by scientific/organising committee members)

NAME: *Dr. Biol. Constantin Munteanu*
AFFILIATION: *Romanian Association of Balneology*

In accordance with criterion 14 of document UEMS 2016/20 "EACCME®" criteria for the Accreditation of Live Educational Events (LEEs), all declarations of potential or actual conflicts of interest, whether due to a financial or other relationship, must be provided to the EACCME® upon submission of the application. Declarations also must be made readily available, either in printed form, with the programme of the LEE, or on the website of the organiser of the LEE. Declarations must include whether any fee, honorarium or arrangement for reimbursement of expenses in relation to the LEE has been provided.

DISCLOSURE

I have no potential conflict of interest to report
 I have the following potential conflict(s) of interest to report

| Type of affiliation / financial interest | Name of commercial company |
|--|----------------------------|
| Receipt of grants/research supports: | |
| Receipt of honoraria or consultation fees: | |
| Participation in a company sponsored speaker's bureau: | |
| Stock shareholder: | |
| Spouse/partner: | |
| Other support (please specify): | |

Signature: *Constantin Munteanu* Date: *12.10.2019*

UEMS^{www} - Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes
IBAN BE28 0001 3283 3820 | BIC (SWIFT) BPOFBEB1 | VAT n° BE 0469.067.848

May 5-8, 2020 | Iasi | Romania

2020
Romanian Congress of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine & Balneology

Expected educational outcome(s) of the LEE.

- Participants will be able to shared understanding of the latest evidence on clinical data related to Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine
- Participants will be able to collect appropriate clinical data related to Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine.
- Participants will be able to apply principles of evidence-based medicine to determine clinical diagnoses and formulate and implement acceptable treatment modalities
- participants will be able to use technology effectively in the delivery of instruction, assessment, and professional development.

More specifically, the Congress seeks to:

- Discuss important issues related to Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine.
- Review progress toward achieving key concepts in the PRM field;

Monitoring the presence of participants at the event.

Mechanisms by which it will be verified that the learner has engaged with the LEE in order to fulfil the educational objectives:

- Sessions registrations,
- Learner's feedback form questions related to the relevance of the content and speakers.
- Fotos, video registrations
- Online surveys

Best regards,
Dr. Biol. Constantin Munteanu

CONTACT

E-mail: congres@bioclima.ro
Website: <http://bioclima.ro/Congress.php>

Figure 9. Example of ethics integrity procedure request by the EACCME/ UEMS and our point by point answer to the question addressed by EACCME regarding the expected education outcomes of it.

It should be mentioned that, since for us it has become "traditional" to fulfill out all efforts and the procedural steps for obtaining CME credits of EACCME®/ UEMS (Figure 9) – we carried out this procedure to credit the congress that was to take place in May and subsequently we requested

understanding to postpone the date of the Congress in the known pandemic context.

Unfortunately, we have realized since February–March of this year that there will be impossible to organize it at the mentioned term, and in the natural desire to organize the congress in the usual way, first

we postponed it (Figure 10) by keeping its characteristics of physical participation for the beginning of September this year.

Subsequently, noticing the undesirable persistence of the pandemic and consequently of the necessary restrictive measures of epidemiological protection, we realized that we are facing 2 alternatives (Figure 11):

1. To maintain the normal format with the actual physical presence of the participants and in these conditions to postpone sine-die the organization of the congress, resulting in the event not taking place in 2020

2. To change the organizational format of the congress into a virtual one, with the development of all the works EXCLUSIVELY ONLINE.

Choosing the second option, we notified EACCME/ UEMS, updating and adapting the scientific program of our congress to the new related format on which occasion, based on an additional number of works we received, we were able to extend it, reaching the record number of 32 CME credits – a record: both, to ours, compared to the last years, as well as, comparatively, to other medical scientific events held this year in Romania. To be noted that until the date of our congress (2–5 September 2020), it was the maximum number of credits obtained by a scientific event this year in Romania. We have

chosen a renowned largely internationally used digital meeting platform and have trained together with some diligent younger collaborator in its use.

We have thus succeeded to hold a full four days (with sixteen scientific sessions) of very dens and scientifically high-level program, very well appreciated, including the excellent functioning of the electronic platform we used. To be also underlined a very consistent (numerically and qualitatively) attendance from abroad – justifying completely dedicated Scientific Session – thus strongly supporting the international dimension of our congress. Moreover, forced by the pandemic, we rescheduled our congress and we have chosen purposively the above-mentioned date, to match with the World International SCI day (*i.e* on the 5th of September, each year).

Considering this unique experience and beyond our science, among the relatively few congresses carried out online in 2020 in our country by date of our scientific event, we reckon it appropriate and also useful for the future, to show in the following figures (Figures 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18) a few details of both the preparations and the actual development of the national Congress of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine & Balneology, with international participation, in full online format, in 2–5 September 2020.



Figure 10. Communication on the postponement of the Congress for September.



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Brussels, 26th March 2020

Re: Organisation and accreditation of educational events under the current circumstances (COVID19)

Dear Provider, Dear Colleague,

First, we would like to express our kindest wishes to you and your loved ones for good health during those most challenging times with the pandemic of COVID 19.

UEMS-EACCME appreciates immensely your work and collaboration with EACCME and wishes to assure you that we are taking all possible measures to allow you to continue to provide top quality education accredited by EACCME.

In that regard, we have already put the following measures in place:

- Possibility to postpone an accredited event or an event in review;
- Streamline/live transmission of an event at the date planned or at another date, with the option to shorten the original programme for organizational purposes.

In all cases, providers are kindly invited to upload the new programme on their event page on the EACCME platform, indicating the new dates and highlighting any differences with the original programme submitted at the time of application, and to inform the EACCME office by email when this is done (accreditation@uems.eu).

The EACCME office will go through the new programme and:

- In the case of an accredited event, confirm the accreditation with the new dates (or recalculate the credits granted in the case of an amended or shortened programme) and will regenerate the letter of accreditation and certificate.
- In the case of a submitted event or an event in review, proceed to the review of the new programme.

All providers who have contacted the EACCME office have been informed of these measures and have expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the UEMS-EACCME for its flexibility and understanding during these difficult times.

Figure 11. Coresspondence with the European Union of Medical Specialist regarding the two alternatives.



Societatea Română de Medicină Fizică, de Recuperare și Balneoclimatologie (SRMFBR)
 Asociația Română de Balneologie (ARB)



To: European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS)
 European Accreditation Council for CME (EACCME)
 Rue de l'Industrie 24, B - 1040 Brussels, Tel. +32-2-649.51.64
www.uems.eu - <https://eaccme.uems.eu>

Subject: Event #LEE19-01980
 Romanian Congress of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine & Balneology, Iași, 02/09/2020-05/09/2020, Romania, granted 32 European CME credits (ECMEC[®]s)

Dear EACCME Co-ordinators and evaluators,

We express our kindest wishes to you and your loved ones for good health during those most challenging times with the pandemic of COVID 19.

Romanian Society of Physical Medicine, Rehabilitation, and Balneoclimatology (SRMFBR) and the Romanian Association of Balneology (ARB) appreciates very much the UEMS-EACCME important work and collaboration.

Considering the public situation regarding the extension of COVID-19 both nationally and internationally, the Romanian Society of Physical Medicine, Rehabilitation and Balneoclimatology (SRMFBR) and the Romanian Association of Balneology (ARB) postponed for 2-5 September 2020, the organization of the National Congress of Physical Medicine, Rehabilitation and Balneology planned initially for Iași from 5 to 8 May 2020, as already accepted in your previous information.

Unfortunately, the pandemic situation will not allow us for a physical presence to our event, as we hoped when we asked to postpone the congress. As your informative letter had presented us with a second measure: Streamline/live transmission of an event, we made all the preparation for an online congress. For this reason, we had asked all our about 200 physician participants and about 50 other categories participants about their opinion on this second option and all of them agreed that this is the best solution. In this case, please send us your approval for the online version of the congress. The program will remain as approved before in your letter, for 32 European CME credits (ECMEC[®]s). The electronic platform which will be used is ZOOM. All the presentations will be recorded and all the participants will be monitored regarding their presence at the congress, each having personal id and password.

Thank you for your understanding, your support, flexibility, and trust during these difficult times and for, we hope, positive feedback regarding our request.

Kind regards,

SRMFBR President,
 Conf. Dr. Dan Blendea

ARB President,
 Dr. Biol. Constantin Munteanu



CONTACT

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 020000 BUCUREȘTI
 Romania

Brussels, 14/04/2020

Dear PhD Munteanu

Subject : EACCME[®] Accreditation of event reference #LEE19-01980

We are pleased to inform you that your application for EACCME[®] accreditation of

Romanian Congress of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine & Balneology, Iași, 5 - 8 May 2020, Iași, Romania, 02/09/2020-05/09/2020

has been granted **32 European CME credits (ECMEC[®]s)** by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME[®]).

Accreditation Statement

Accreditation by the EACCME[®] confers the right to place the following statement in all communication materials including the event website, the event programme and the certificate of attendance. The following statements must be used without revision:

"The Romanian Congress of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine & Balneology, Iași, 5 - 8 May 2020, Iași, Romania, 02/09/2020-05/09/2020 has been accredited by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME[®]) with 32 European CME credits (ECMEC[®]s). Each medical specialist should claim only those hours of credit that he/she actually spent in the educational activity."

Figure 12. Letter to UEMS deciding the online Congress because of the Pandemic and respectively, the favorable answer of the EACCME including with their revised – according to our updated and upgraded related scientific program – creditation, *i.e* granting the record amount of 32 CME.



Figure 13. Letter of accreditation – reconfirmed for online ongoing.



Figure 14. The volume of abstracts published in the Balneo Research Journal.

| <p>Honorary Presidents: Prof. Univ. Dr. Viorel Scripcariu - Rector of Rector of "Grigore T. Popa" University of Medicine and Pharmacy Prof. Univ. Dr. Gelu Onose - UMF Carol Davila Bucuresti, Honorary President of SRMFRB Prof. Univ. Dr. Aurel Nechita - Galati Physicians College President</p> <p>Congress Presidents: Prof. Univ. Dr. Anca-Irina Galaction, Dean of the Faculty of Medical Bioengineering, UMF "Grigore T. Popa" Prof. Univ. Dr. Oleg Pascal, President of SSRMFRM Dr. Biol. Constantin Munteanu, Romanian Association of Balneology (ARB) President Conf. Dr. Dan Blendea, President of Romanian Society of Physical Medicine, Rehabilitation and Balneoclimatology</p> <p>Scientific Committee President: Sef Lucrari Dr. Gabriela Dogaru Sef Lucrari Dr. Mihaela Chicu Vice-Presidents: Prof. Dr. Liviu Lazar Conf. Dr. Olga Surdu Conf. Dr. Alina Teodina Conf. Dr. Obelia Rogoveanu Prof. Dr. Aurelia Romila Members: Sef Lucrari Dr. Silvestru Simziana Călina Sef Lucrari Dr. Ioana Andone Sef Lucrari Dr. Cseppento Nistor Carmen As. CDI Dr. Cristina Popescu Dr. Liviu Iordache Sef Lucrari Dr. Madalina Verena Sef Lucrari Dr. Ana-Maria Bumbea Sef Lucrari Dr. Adriana Lupu Dr. Carmen Firan Dr. Mariana Varodi Dr. Aura Spinu Dr. Liliana Stanciu Dr. Anjoara Cimil Sef Lucrari Dr. Traian Virgiliu Surdu As. Univ. Dr. Doinita Ogrea Dr. Doroteea Teodiba Serban</p> <p>Organizing Committee President Conf. Dr. Calin Corciova Vice-Presidents: Conf. Dr. Mariana Rotariu Conf. Dr. Liliana Păbure Conf. Dr. Camelia Ciobotaru Sef Lucrari Marius Alexandru Turnea Members: Asist. Univ. Dr. Cătălina Luca Asist. Univ. Dr. Catalin Ionite Asist. Univ. Dr. Iustina Avram Fkt. Dr. Iliu Onu Fkt. Viorela Bembea Ana Elena Stoian Cami Filimon Robert Falso</p> <p>Support for online scientific papers presentation: Dr. Mihaela Mandu, Dr. Andreea Cuculea</p> <p>Thematic Areas</p> <p>Balneology - Natural Therapeutic Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mineral waters - food and therapeutic factor Peloids Climate Thalassa Gases (Mofettes, Sulphatares) Salt mines and caves <p>Healthy Lifestyle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy ageing Balneoclimatology, Fitness and Wellness <p>Ethical and Legal issues</p> <p>Public Health and Health Management / in RMB Balneo Tourism Destinations Marketing</p> <p>Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neurological & Communicational pathology Musculoskeletal pathology Pediatric pathology Geriatric pathology Respiratory pathology Cardiovascular pathology <p>Physio- / Kinesiotherapy Mechatronic / Robotic interventions for medical rehabilitation Holistic Integrative Interventions Education and Scientific Research Miscellaneous</p> | <p>Scientific Program</p> <p>Wednesday - 02 September 2020— 08,30 -10,30 - Plenary Session</p> <p>Chairmen: GELU ONOSE, DAN BLENDEA, Constantin MUNTEANU</p> <p>Ceremonia de deschidere / Opening Ceremony</p> <p>Ceremonia de deschidere a congresului se adresează oricui este interesat de domeniul recuperării, medicinei fizice și balneologiei, inclusiv de turismul balnear, de pregătirea specialiștilor, de dezvoltarea stațiilor balneare. Deși sunt momente dificile, numai împreună putem traversa aceste obstacole și redobândi forța de a merge mai departe.</p> <p>Ne-am adaptat astfel unei noi forme de a fi împreună. Știm că nu e nici mai placut și vă asigurăm că nici organizatoric lucrurile nu sunt mai simple... dar oamenii suntem și e bine să învățăm întotdeauna să ne adaptăm vieții, așa cum este ea, nutrirind intens speranța că această stare anormală de viață generată de pandemie va fi depășită cât mai curând.</p> <p>Pentru toți cei interesați și doresc să fie alături de noi pentru aproximativ 2 ore, de la 8.30, Miercuri - 2 Septembrie, mai jos sunt elementele de înregistrare pe platforma ZOOM.</p> <p>You are invited to a Zoom meeting: Ceremonia de deschidere a Congresului / Opening Ceremony — Romanian Language</p> <p>When: Sep 2, 2020 08:30 Bucharest</p> <p>Register in advance for this meeting: https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register?jwvcc=OcurzmpHNGEzGfeCwNifub_eBkoOrse</p> <p>After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.</p> <p>În cadrul Ceremoniei de deschidere, aferent Sesiunii Științifice I, vor fi susținute următoarele lucrări:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Authors</th> <th>Title</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Constantin MUNTEANU, Diana MUNTEANU, Gabriela DOGARU</td> <td>Balneology in 2020</td> <td>L1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gabriela DOGARU, Ioana STANESCU, Adriana BULBOACĂ, Marieta MOTRICĂLA</td> <td>EFFICACY OF BALNEOCLIMATOLOGY ON THE INCREASE IN FUNCTIONALITY AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN PERSONS WITH PARKINSON'S DISEASE</td> <td>L2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gelu Onose, Vlad Ciobanu, Carmen Firan, Aurelia Romila, Maria Veronica Morcov</td> <td>Current overview and reappraisal on essays towards systematizing clinical assessment instruments used to evaluate neuro-functional deficits after stroke including through the ICF(-DH) conceptual framework</td> <td>L7</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Authors | Title | | Constantin MUNTEANU, Diana MUNTEANU, Gabriela DOGARU | Balneology in 2020 | L1 | Gabriela DOGARU, Ioana STANESCU, Adriana BULBOACĂ, Marieta MOTRICĂLA | EFFICACY OF BALNEOCLIMATOLOGY ON THE INCREASE IN FUNCTIONALITY AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN PERSONS WITH PARKINSON'S DISEASE | L2 | Gelu Onose, Vlad Ciobanu, Carmen Firan, Aurelia Romila, Maria Veronica Morcov | Current overview and reappraisal on essays towards systematizing clinical assessment instruments used to evaluate neuro-functional deficits after stroke including through the ICF(-DH) conceptual framework | L7 |
|---|--|---------|-------|--|--|--------------------|----|--|--|----|---|--|----|
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| Constantin MUNTEANU, Diana MUNTEANU, Gabriela DOGARU | Balneology in 2020 | L1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gabriela DOGARU, Ioana STANESCU, Adriana BULBOACĂ, Marieta MOTRICĂLA | EFFICACY OF BALNEOCLIMATOLOGY ON THE INCREASE IN FUNCTIONALITY AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN PERSONS WITH PARKINSON'S DISEASE | L2 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gelu Onose, Vlad Ciobanu, Carmen Firan, Aurelia Romila, Maria Veronica Morcov | Current overview and reappraisal on essays towards systematizing clinical assessment instruments used to evaluate neuro-functional deficits after stroke including through the ICF(-DH) conceptual framework | L7 | | | | | | | | | | | |

Figure 15. Honorary Presidents, Congress Presidents, Scientific Committee, Organizing Committee, Thematic Areas and The Scientific Program including with the Opening Ceremony.

Opening ceremony guests

University Professor Gelu Onose MD. Phd – Honorary President SRMFRB
 University Professor Diana Lorena Paun MD. Phd – Presidential Advisor
 Mr Andrei Baciuc – State Secretary – Ministry of Health
 University Professor Viorel Jinga MD. Phd – UMF Rector “Carol Davila”
 University Professor Lucian Georgescu MD. Phd – Rector University “The lower Danube”
 University Professor Radu Iliescu MD. Phd – UMF protector “Gr. T. Popa”, Iași
 University Professor Liliana Ana Tuta MD. Phd. – Prorector University Ovidius
 University Professor Oleg Pascal MD. Phd. – University “N. Testemianu”, Chisinau
 University Professor Cristian Gheonea MD. Phd. – Prorector UMF Craiova
 University Professor Anca Galaction MD. Phd. – Decan FEC. Of Bioengineering, Iasi
 University Professor Aurel Nechita MD. Phd. – University ”The lower Danube”, Galati
 Associate Prof. Dan Blendea MD. Phd. – President of SRMFRB
 Academician Constantin Ionescu-Tirgoviste MD. Phd.
 Manager Roxana Elena Almășan, Techirghiol Sanatorium

Biol. Constantin Munteanu, PhD, CSIII – ARB President

International Session Guests

Professor Umberto Solimene Md, Phd – President of FEMTEC
 Professor Zeki Karagulle MD, Past President of ISMH, Istanbul University Turkish Association of Thermal Medicine and Balneology
 Jose Manuel Carbajo MD, Spain, University Complutense
 Davide Rossi MD, Italia, Development Cooperation NGO, Italy
 Professor Yashinori Otsuka, Sapporo International University, Japan
 Eva Makinenko MD, Estonia – Tallinn University Haapsalu College (Centre of Excellence in Health Promotion and Rehabilitation)
 Irina Borodulina MD, Rusia, Russian Medical Science Academy
 Charles Davidson MD, Australia, Peninsula Hot Springs
 Ahmed Belaitar MD, Algeria, Hammam Chellala Thermal Center
 Maria Chiara Maccarone MD, Italia
 Jolanta Zegarska MD, Poland
 Valentina Repts MD, Russia

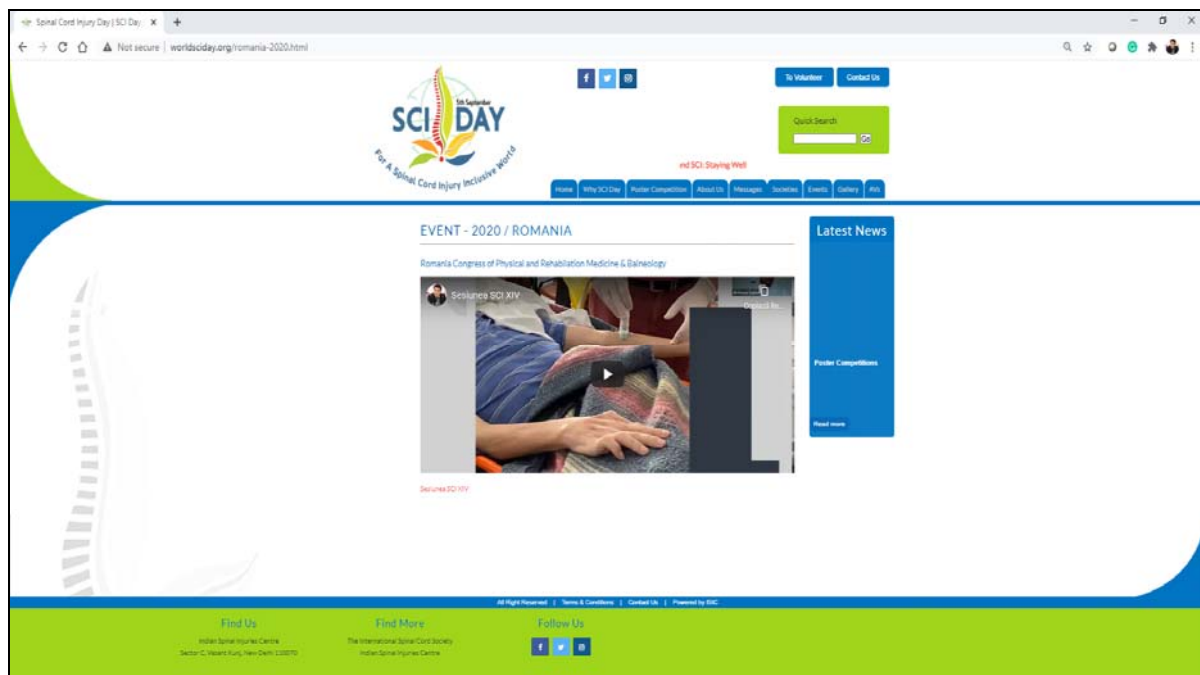


Figure 16. <http://www.worldsciday.org/romania-2020.html>¹.

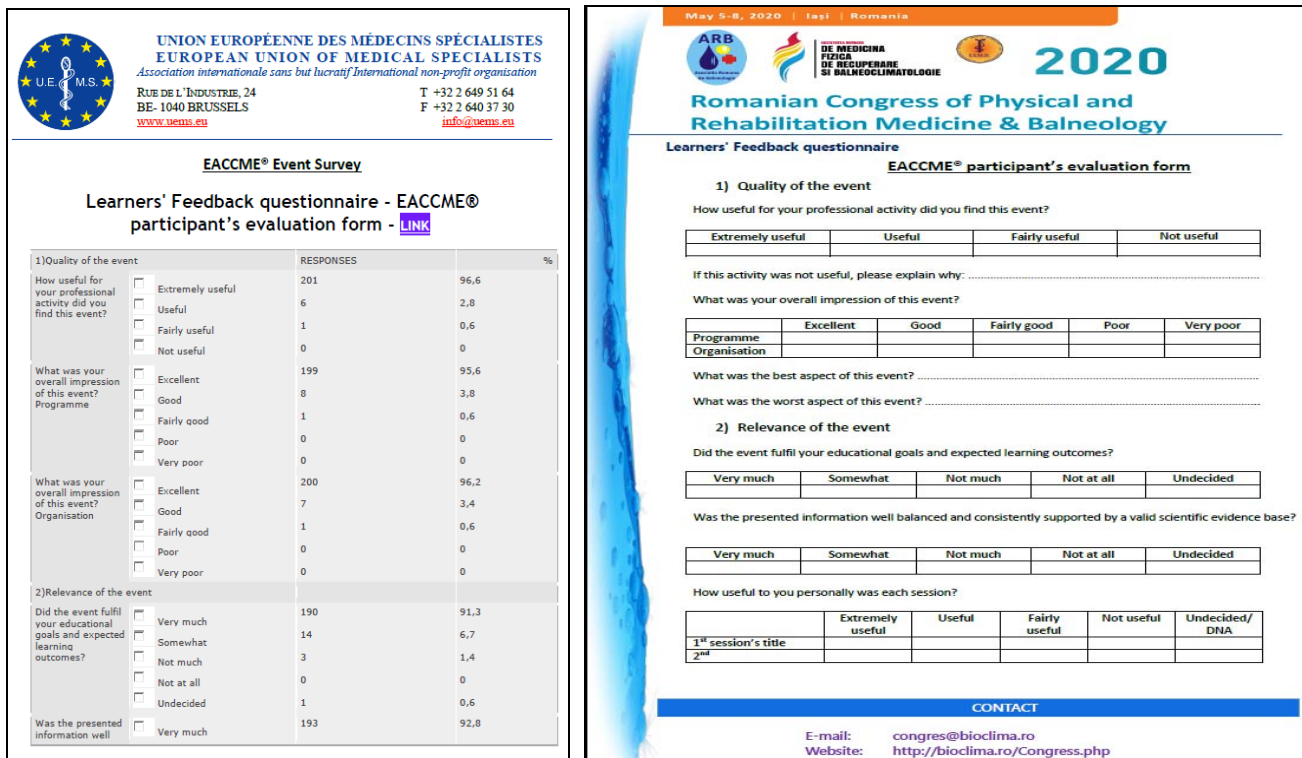


Figure 17. Learners' Feedback questionnaires and respectively the participant's evaluation form.

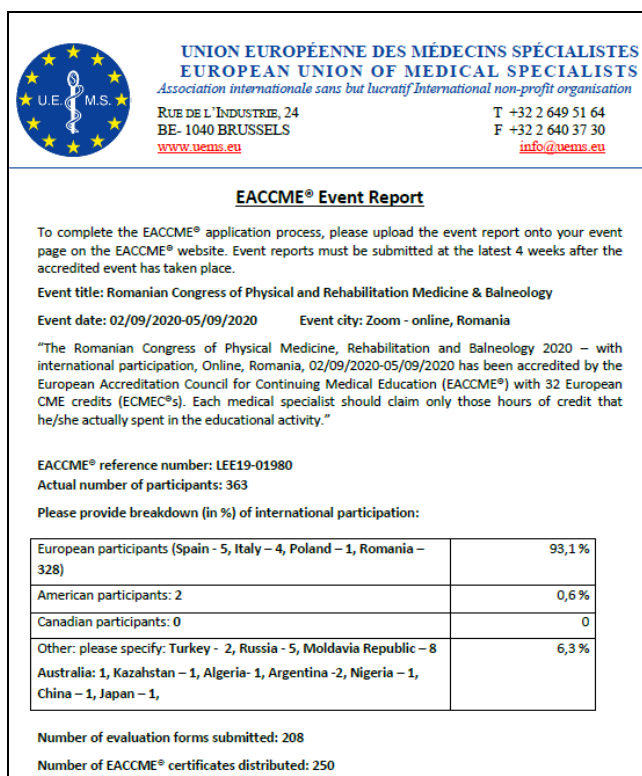


Figure 18. Certificate of attendance at the event credited with 32 European CME credits and EACCME Event Report including with the specifications of the number of participants and respectively of the EACCME certificates distributed (according to the EACCME related methodology and compassing within the early steps of the creditation evaluation process the common agreement, between EACCME and academic event local organizer on a the definite number of attendants: 250 regarding our Congress, and this number cannot be change later on).

CONCLUSIONS

Of course, we all hope in returning to normal life before the pandemic and in this context, we also emphasize the hope that the future congress /congresses can be organized with a direct physical presence of participants, however, as feedback and experience gained from carrying our congress this year, in this online format – noting the particularly consistent international participation, which allowed the organization precisely for this reason of an International Scientific Session – we pragmatically note that by organizing it online and thus cancelling costs related to transport and accommodation, contributed significantly to the large number of participants from abroad.

We are therefore motivated to consider a Hybrid format for the future, so that through the online component we can ensure an extended international attendance.

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1. The paper has the approval of the TEHBA Ethics Commission: no. 40 427/ 18.11.2020
2. All authors listed have equally contributed.

REFERENCES

1. <http://www.worldsciday.org/romania-2020.html>