SCRN 6th Annual Meeting

It was delightful to be reunited in person with colleagues and friends for the Society's 6th Annual Meeting in Budapest, Hungary in September of last year. Hosted at the luxurious Ensana Thermal Spa Hotel, delegates enjoyed two days of engaging seminars and workshops, as well as plentiful opportunities to mingle and network including a walk / run around Margitsziget (Margaret Island) to raise funds for charity.

The first day kicked off with an introduction to robotics and artificial intelligence in medicine and cardiology, before continuing with sessions highlighting advances in the use of robotics in catheter ablation of atrial and ventricular arrhythmias. We were honored to be joined by speakers all over the globe, possible thanks to our state-of-the-art hybrid format. A highlight of the day's sessions included talks on robotic interventions for non-cardiac conditions which prompted much discussion and allowed for the beginnings of new cross-disciplinary ideas to form. Each session began with a case presentation from a member of the Young EP community within SCRN, which garnered positive feedback from established members and furthers the development of early career researchers who are the future of SCRN.

As a Society, we had the privilege of being invited to a joint session between SCRN and the Hungarian Society of Cardiology, hosted at Aquaworld Budapest. The evening session was met with a full audience, showing that there is much interest in the field of robotics in cardiology. After the joint session had finished, delegates were transported back to Ensana Thermal for the SCRN network dinner event where they were treated to a buffet of local cuisine as well as an assortment of freshly grilled meats and fish. It was a fantastic evening of catching up with old friends and getting to know new ones.

The second day opened with several workshops, including an anatomy masterclass, ultrasound-guided puncture, and workshops to showcase novel technologies such as non-invasive 3D mapping (provided by Catheter Precision) and high-power short-duration ablation simulation (provided by Acutus medical). There was also an ablation challenge competition using the Stereotaxis robotic simulator.

The highly anticipated 'Best Paper Session' was one of the most well-received features of the meeting. We were treated to talks regarding outcomes in robotic pediatric ablation, the impact of robotic navigation in reducing silent cerebral embolism, as well as a novel magnetically steerable robotic catheter for treating peripheral artery disease. The winner of the best paper competition was Dr Yoonho Kim from Harvard University with his paper titled 'Telerobotically Controlled Magnetic Soft Continuum Robots for Neurovascular Interventions'.

Finally, the second day concluded with talks on the benefits of robotics for the operator and patient, as well as an exciting session on alternative access for robotic catheter ablation of arrhythmias using an approach from the arm.

Overall, the 6th annual meeting of SCRN was a great success and we are already looking forward to our next meeting in 2023.

Written by:
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