

Global Conference on Myositis – GCOM 6.-9. June 2022 in Prague

The 4th World Myositis Congress, held for the first time in hybrid form, was attended by 470 participants from 33 countries. 260 people participated in person. Among them were chairmen of the English, French, American, Swedish, Czech, Dutch, and German **myositis patient groups**.

Studies and research results were presented in lectures via PowerPoint presentations and through scientific posters - a total of 255 in all. These results could be discussed in poster sessions. The **patient representatives** presented their respective groups and their activities regarding support for patients, cooperation with physicians, etc. to the participants via **poster session** as well.

The **patient program** began before the official opening of the conference with an "**Ice-Breaker**" session. For this, the patient representatives welcomed the participating patients on site and on the screens for an informal meeting. The **physical and occupational therapy workshop** included lectures and hands-on demonstrations with the patients in attendance. The lectures made it clear that these forms of therapy have an important place in the treatment of myositis. The physical and occupational therapists used their presentations to show that physical therapies are important and safe for patients with myositis, and exercise/movement should also be considered medicine. A **Question & Answer Session** with a panel of experts rounded out the patient program during GCOM.

There was a lively exchange with the other patient group chairs about the work being done for those affected, there was plenty of time to look at and study the posters on display, and there was an opportunity to talk with the experts present about current studies, efficacy of therapies, myositis registries, etc.

The **International Myositis Society** (iMyoS – www.imyos.org) and **International Myositis Assessment & Clinical Studies Group** (IMACS - <https://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/resources/imacs/index.cfm>) welcomed their members and interested persons to meetings to present their organizations and their activities.

After the welcome by Jiří Vencovský, the congress started with a lecture by Peter Rehling from Göttingen on the topic: "**Molecular Pathology of Mitochondrial Disorders**".

This was followed by various presentations about myositis with the following focal points:

- Genes and environment
- Pathogenesis, including mitochondrial biology
- Antibodies and biomarkers
- COVID-19 and myositis
- Skin in myositis
- Imaging in myositis
- Drug-induced myositis
- Juvenile myositis / transition from adolescence to adulthood
- Towards personalized treatment
- Inclusion body myositis
- Repair damage
- Other

The scientific posters were also classified in their categories according to these topics.

The studies and presentations presented are impressive and show that research is being done at full speed on the why, the who, how to treat myositis, where there are differences, which therapies are suitable, etc., and there are also already significant results. Likewise, it can be seen from the studies and presentations that the myositis family has grown, and interdisciplinary collaboration is becoming very important. The collaboration of experts from different disciplines, patient representatives and the pharmaceutical industry is what makes it possible to achieve goals in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with myositis. On the part of the experts, it was emphasized several times that the inclusion of patient representatives is of immense importance and that they should be represented in every committee.

The 5th Global Conference on Myositis 2024 will take place in Pittsburgh (USA)