

Annual autumn meeting of Slovenian members of ICD District 14.

The Slovenian members of ICD District 14 met on the 5th of September 2023, for the annual autumn meeting in the friendly atmosphere of the historical and picturesque setting of Strmol Castle in the village of Dvorje.

In the scientific part of the meeting, the well-known Slovenian microbiologist and virologist Professor Mario Poljak, (FESCMID, FAAM) presented a lecture on »Clinical microbiology and COVID -19 pandemic: lessons taken and a way forward« to all Slovenian ICD members. In his well-known excellent manner, he presented the impact of COVID -19 on clinical microbiology during the recent pandemic and how this discipline has evolved due to the enormous burden of clinical microbiological samples during the pandemic time. Professor Poljak's excellent presentation made us realise again that there are ten times more bacterial cells on the human body than human cells and that as clinicians we need to be aware of the impact of these little bugs on our daily work.

At the end of the ICD meeting, the Slovenian Vice Regent, Professor Maja Ovsenik, awarded immediate Past Regent Professor Tomislav Jukič and our Master Fellow Professor Ljubo Marion for their lifelong contribution to the development of the ICD spirit and values in Slovenia. Impressions of the recent, excellently organized ICD meeting in Amsterdam and the upcoming meeting in Jerusalem in June 2024 were presented to the members. The formal part of the meeting ended with the discussion on the new fellows to be inducted at the next meeting in Jerusalem.

The evening moved on to the informal part of the Slovenian ICD autumn meeting. In the friendly and cheerful atmosphere of the culinary delights from the Strmol Castle Restaurant, the Slovenian ICD members were once again reassured that although life can throw up many problems, with a little help from good friendship, a glass of wine and mutual goodwill, they are no longer problems, but just an opportunity to move on to the next level of life.

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**Figure 1.** Slovenian members of the ICD district 14.



**Figure 2.** Slovenian Vice Regent Professor Maja Ovsenik (second from right) awarded Master Fellow Professor Ljubo Marion (first from right) and Past Regent Professor Tomislav Jukic (second from left) for their lifelong contribution to the development of the ICD spirit and values in Slovenia and District 14 as a whole. Co-organiser of the autumn meeting Rok Juric (first from left).



**Figure 3.** Vice Regent Professor Maja Ovsenik introduces our distinguished guest microbiologist and virologist Professor Mario Poljak (FESCMID, FAAM) before his lecture entitled »Clinical microbiology and COVID -19 pandemic: lessons taken and a way forward«.



Figure 4. The friendly and joyful atmosphere in the historical setting of Strmol Castle was a superb illustration of ICD's core values – Recognising the service and Opportunity to serve.