



# OPEN MEDICAL INSTITUTE

## SEMINAR REPORT

### CARDIOLOGY

October 10-16, 2021

A Global Educational Initiative by the  
American Austrian Foundation

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. GROUP PHOTO
2. SCHEDULE
3. FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES
4. FELLOWS' CONTACT INFORMATION
5. DIARY



**Weill Cornell**  
**Medicine**

**Medtronic**

# SALZBURG WEILL CORNELL SEMINAR IN CARDIOLOGY

October 10-16, 2021

30 fellows from 26 different countries
--

7 faculty members from the United States of America and Austria
---

19 lectures given by faculty
------------------------------

2 hands-on training sessions by Medtronic
---

28 interesting case presentations by fellows
--

6 excellent case presentations by fellows
---

Group Photo of Faculty and Fellows





## Salzburg Weill Cornell Seminar in Cardiology Sunday, October 10 - Saturday, October 16, 2021



		<b>Sunday</b> 10.10.2021	<b>Monday</b> 11.10.2021	<b>Tuesday</b> 12.10.2021	<b>Wednesday</b> 13.10.2021	<b>Thursday</b> 14.10.2021	<b>Friday</b> 15.10.2021	<b>Saturday</b> 16.10.2021
07:00	08:00		<b>BREAKFAST</b>	<b>BREAKFAST</b>	<b>BREAKFAST</b>	<b>BREAKFAST</b>	<b>BREAKFAST</b>	<b>DEPARTURES</b>
08:00	09:00		<b>Introductions Pre-Seminar Test</b>	<b>Echocardiography in Cardiomyopathies</b> Thomas Binder, MD	<b>Cardiogenic Shock Management</b> Irina Sobol, MD	<b>Inherited Arrhythmia Syndromes</b> George Thomas, MD	<b>Congenital Jeopardy</b> Harsimran S. Singh, MD, MSc	
09:00	10:00		<b>Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy</b> Gerald Maurer, MD	<b>Newly Diagnosed Dilated Cardiomyopathy</b> Robert J. Kim, MD	<b>Clinical and Basic Aspects of Pulmonary Hypertension</b> Irene Marthe Lang, MD	<b>Introduction to Left Ventricular Assist Devices</b> Irina Sobol, MD	<b>STEMI NSTEMI or NOT STEMI?</b> Robert J. Kim, MD	
10:00	10:30		<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	
10:30	11:30		<b>Inflammatory Cardiomyopathies</b> Irina Sobol, MD	<b>Echocardiography in Coronary Artery Disease</b> Thomas Binder, MD	<b>HFpEF and the Problem with the Pulmonary Circulation</b> Irene Marthe Lang, MD	<b>Pregnancy and Congenital Heart Disease</b> Harsimran S. Singh, MD, MSc	<b>Interesting EP Cases</b> George Thomas, MD	
11:30	12:30		<b>Amyloidosis</b> Gerald Maurer, MD	<b>Management of Acute Coronary Syndromes in 2021</b> Harsimran S. Singh, MD, MSc	<b>Diagnosis and Management of Wide Complex Tachycardia</b> George Thomas, MD	<b>Preoperative Evaluation for Noncardiac Surgery</b> Robert J. Kim, MD	<b>A Difficult Case: What Would You Do?</b> Robert J. Kim, MD	
12:30	14:00		<b>LUNCH</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	
14:00	15:00		<u>13:45 - 15:00</u> <b>Workshop</b> Fellows' Case Presentations	<u>13:45 - 15:00</u> <b>Workshop</b> Fellows' Case Presentations	<b>Free Afternoon</b>	<u>14:00 - 15:30</u> <b>Workshop</b> Fellows' Case Presentations	<b>Post-Seminar Test</b> Evaluation & Discussion	
15:00	16:00							
16:00	17:00		<u>15:00 - 18:00</u> <b>Hands-on Training (Groups A, B, C)</b>	<u>15:00 - 18:00</u> <b>Hands-on Training (Groups D, E, F)</b>				
17:00	18:00							
18:00	19:00	<b>FACULTY MEETING TO REVIEW THE WEEK</b>	<u>18:00 - 18:15</u> <b>OMI Presentation</b>				<b>FAREWELL RECEPTION</b>	
19:00	20:00	<b>WELCOME RECEPTION &amp; DINNER</b>	<b>DINNER</b>	<b>DINNER</b>	<b>DINNER</b> FACULTY DINNER IN PRIVATE HOME	<b>DINNER</b>	<b>GRADUATION DINNER</b> Certificates Awarded	
20:00	21:00					<u>20:30 - 21:30</u> <b>CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT</b>		



# OPEN MEDICAL INSTITUTE

## FACULTY BOOKLET

### CARDIOLOGY SEMINAR IN SALZBURG

October 10-16, 2021

A Global Educational Initiative by the  
American Austrian Foundation



## **Wolfgang Aulitzky, MD**

Director, Open Medical Institute  
**American Austrian Foundation**

Associate Dean and Gerhard Andlinger Professor  
for International Medicine & Distance Learning  
Adjunct Professor of Clinical Urology  
Adjunct Professor of Clinical Reproductive Medicine  
**Weill Medical College of Cornell University**

Adjunct Professor of Pediatrics  
**Perelman School of Medicine at the Children's Hospital  
of Philadelphia**

Associate Professor of Urology  
**Medical University of Innsbruck, Austria**

**Wolfgang Aulitzky, MD** is the Medical Director of the American Austrian Foundation. He is Associate Dean for International Medicine and Distance Learning, Adjunct Prof. of Clinical Urology and Adjunct Prof. of Clinical Reproductive Medicine at the Weill Medical College of Cornell University/New York Presbyterian Hospital. In 2016, he was appointed Adjunct Professor of Pediatrics in the Associated Faculty of the Perelman School of Medicine at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. He is also Associate Prof. of Urology at the Medical University of Innsbruck and Visiting Professor at the Medical University of Vienna. Amongst others he is a member of the American, German and Austrian Societies of Urology and was awarded the Zuckermandpreis of the Austrian Society of Urology in 1989. In 1995 he received the Silver Medal, in 2007 the Golden Medal for Merits to the Republic of Austria and in 2014 the cross of honor of the Land Salzburg. As Director of the Medical Program of the American Austrian Foundation he has initiated the Open Medical Institute, a scientific and educational collaboration of Weill Cornell and the NewYork Presbyterian Hospital, the Children Hospital of Philadelphia, Duke University, Columbia University, the Cleveland Clinic and leading hospitals in Austria. Dr. Aulitzky earned his medical degree at the University of Innsbruck in 1977, was a research associate at the University of Uppsala, Sweden and the Rockefeller University, New York. He received his training as an urologist at the University of Innsbruck and the General Hospital of Salzburg. He is the author of more than 140 publications on Urology, Andrology and Health Care issues and is co-author of books on basic and clinical urology/andrology.



## **Robert J. Kim, MD**

Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine  
Director of Consultative Cardiology  
Department of Medicine, Division of Cardiology  
Weill Cornell Medical College  
New York-Presbyterian Hospital  
520 East 70th Street, Starr-437A  
New York, NY 10021  
USA

Phone: +1-646-962-5558  
Fax: +1-212-746-2685  
Email: [rjk9003@med.cornell.edu](mailto:rjk9003@med.cornell.edu)

Robert J. Kim, MD (Course Director) is a noninvasive general cardiologist who is the Director of Consultative Cardiology at Weill Cornell Medicine/NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. Dr. Kim was born in Deep River, Ontario, Canada then traveled to the US for his higher education. He received his BA in Biochemical Sciences from Harvard University and his MD from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. He completed his internal medicine residency at Duke University Medical Center and his cardiology fellowship at Weill Cornell Medical College/NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. Dr. Kim is the Associate Program Director for the Cardiovascular Diseases Fellowship program and is the Co-chair of the Quality Improvement and Patient Safety committee of the Department of Medicine. He teaches the cardiovascular pathophysiology unit to first year Weill Cornell medical students every year and has received numerous teaching awards. He was selected as a member of the Emerging Faculty Program of the American College of Cardiology in 2012 and was also a Weill Cornell Health Policy Leadership Fellow in 2012. He continues to work on utilizing health information technology to deliver accurate, efficient, and high-quality care to patients at Weill Cornell. Dr. Kim is currently an Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine in the Division of Cardiology at Weill Cornell Medicine/NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. He lives in New York City with his wife Kelly and son Galen.



## **Gerald Maurer, MD**

Professor of Medicine  
Medical University of Vienna  
General Hospital  
Währinger Gürtel 18-20  
1090 Vienna  
Austria

Phone: +43-1-40400-46140  
Fax: +43-1-40400-42160  
Email: [gerald.maurer@meduniwien.ac.at](mailto:gerald.maurer@meduniwien.ac.at)

Gerald Maurer, MD (Co-Course Director) is a graduate of the University of Vienna School of Medicine. He trained in Internal Medicine in Vienna and subsequently in Baltimore, at Sinai Hospital and Johns Hopkins. His Cardiology training was done at the University of Rochester. Dr. Maurer worked for 12 years at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, where he became the Director of Noninvasive Cardiology and also held an appointment as Associate Professor of Medicine at UCLA School of Medicine. He is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and in Cardiovascular Disease by the American Board of Internal Medicine, as well as in Austria. Dr. Maurer served as Director of the Division of Cardiology and as Chair of the Department of Medicine II at the Medical University of Vienna until 2016. Dr. Maurer's research interests are oriented towards cardiovascular imaging, valvular, and ischemic heart disease. He has authored more than 400 peer-reviewed publications, 30 book chapters and 3 books. Dr. Maurer has served as President of the Austrian Society of Cardiology, President of the Austrian Society of Internal Medicine and has held a number of functions at the American College of Cardiology and the European Society of Cardiology. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the European Heart Journal–Cardiovascular Imaging, and is or has served on the Editorial Board of most major cardiology journals. He was appointed by the European Society of Cardiology to serve as Editor of ESC Cardiomed, and of the ESC Textbook of Cardiovascular Medicine.



## **Thomas Binder, MD**

Professor of Medicine  
Department of Digital Learning  
Teaching Center  
Medical University of Vienna  
Waehringer Guertel 18-20  
1090 Vienna  
Austria

Email: [thomas.binder@meduniwien.ac.at](mailto:thomas.binder@meduniwien.ac.at)

Thomas Binder, MD was born 1960 in Vienna and studied medicine at the Medical University in Vienna from where he graduated 1985. Prof. Binder was trained in internal medicine at the general hospital of the University of Vienna (AKH). Research activities brought him to the Huntington Memorial Research Institute in Pasadena, Ca, USA where he was engaged in basic vascular research. In addition, he served as a clinical fellow at the Loma Linda Medical Center, Loma Linda, Ca, USA. Starting at an early stage of his career Dr. Binder was devoted to imaging techniques and, specifically echocardiography. His scientific focus is clinical echocardiography and new techniques such as three dimensional echo and speckle tracking. Dr. Binder published numerous peer review articles in national and international journals and contributed to several textbooks dealing with echocardiography. In 2000, Dr. Binder achieved the Habilitation Venia Docendi for Professorship in Internal Medicine. As assistant Professor Dr. Binder was director of the echocardiography laboratory of the University Clinic of Cardiology in Vienna for over 20 years and now heads the Department of Digital Learning at the Teaching Center of the Medical University of Vienna. Further appointments include: deputy editor of the European Journal of Cardiovascular Imaging, secretary of the European Union of Medical Specialists – Cardiology section (UEMS-CS) and secretary of the European Cardiology Section Foundation (ECSF). In addition, Dr. Binder was past president of the Echocardiography Working Group of the Austrian Society of Cardiology (ÖKG). Aside from his work as a clinical cardiologist and researcher Dr. Binder is strongly involved in the education of medical specialists and students. He is director of several national and international echocardiography courses and tutor for the Austrian-American Foundation (educational joint program between eastern countries, Austria and the US). Dr. Binder also has a strong interest in digital learning techniques. After publishing several educational CD-ROM's he is now fully engaged in Internet based e-learning techniques, and is the founder and CEO of [123sonography.com](http://123sonography.com).



## **Irene Marthe Lang, MD**

Deputy Chair  
Department of Cardiology  
Internal Medicine II  
Medical University of Vienna  
Anna Spiegel CTR Level 6  
Währinger Gürtel 18-20  
1090 Vienna  
Austria

Email: [irene.lang@meduniwien.ac.at](mailto:irene.lang@meduniwien.ac.at)

Irene Marthe Lang, MD is a senior staff member at the Department of Cardiology, and Deputy Chair of the Department, at the Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria. Irene Lang carried out her medical education and residency at the University of Vienna, before taking on a 5-year postdoctoral research fellowship at the University of California, CA, USA, which included a joint appointment with the Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, CA. She has been Professor of Vascular Biology at the Medical University of Vienna since 2004, where she leads a clinical and experimental group in vascular medicine focussing on pulmonary vascular biology and right ventricular function. Irene Lang directs an outpatient unit for pulmonary vascular disease at the Medical University of Vienna. Irene Lang is an active interventional and structural cardiologist, recently very active as balloon pulmonary angioplasty interventionist, and an active researcher. She was nominated by the World Medical Association as a 'Caring Physician of the World' in 2006, 'Teacher of the Year' at MUV in 2013, and is past president of the Austrian Society of Cardiology. In April 2016 she was awarded the Großes Ehrenzeichen der Republik Österreich and an honorary doctorate from the University of Cyril and Methodius in Skopje, Macedonia. Irene Lang is part of the International CTEPH Association (ICA) whose objectives are to increase awareness for CTEPH, foster worldwide collaboration between CTEPH centers, serve as platform for surgical centers and facilitate training of emerging CTEPH centers, as well as to advance research and education in CTEPH.



## **Harsimran Sachdeva Singh, MD, MSc**

Director, Adult Congenital Heart Disease  
Weill Cornell Medicine - New York Presbyterian Hospital  
Director, Fellowship Program In Cardiovascular Medicine  
Weill Cornell Medicine - New York Presbyterian Hospital  
Interventional Cardiology - Congenital and Structural Heart  
Interventions  
Weill Cornell Medical College - New York Presbyterian  
Hospital  
Co-Director, Cardiac-Obstetrics Program, Weill Cornell  
Medicine - New York Presbyterian Hospital  
David Blumenthal Assistant Professor of Medicine &  
Pediatrics at Weill Cornell Medical College  
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Medicine  
Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons  
520 East 70th Street, Starr-425  
NYP - Weill Cornell Cardiology  
New York, NY 10021  
USA

Phone: +1-646-962-2243 / +1-415-238-0165  
Fax: +1-212-746-8451  
Email: [has9028@med.cornell.edu](mailto:has9028@med.cornell.edu)

Harsimran Sachdeva Singh, MD, MSc is an adult congenital heart disease specialist and interventional cardiologist at Weill Cornell Medical College, New York Presbyterian Hospital in New York City, USA. Dr. Singh grew up in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, earning his undergraduate education in Molecular Biology from Princeton University, his medical degree from Yale University School of Medicine, and public health policy degree from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. He completed his post-graduate training in medicine and cardiology at University of California, San Francisco, and Columbia University – New York Presbyterian Hospital. He trained in adult congenital heart disease and structural interventional cardiology in Canada at Toronto Congenital Cardiac Centre for Adults at Toronto General Hospital. Dr. Singh joined the full-time faculty at Weill Cornell Medical College – New York Presbyterian Hospital as the Director of Adult Congenital Heart Disease and as a specialist in Interventional Cardiology. His research interests focus on structural interventions and medical congenital heart disease in the pediatric-to-adult populations. He also serves as the Director of the Cardiovascular Fellowship training program at Weill Cornell - New York Presbyterian Hospital.



## **Irina Sobol, MD**

Assistant Professor of Medicine  
Medical Director, Left Ventricular Assist Device Program  
Fellowship Program Director,  
Advanced Heart Failure and Pulmonary Hypertension  
Perkin Center for Heart Failure  
Weill Cornell Medical Center  
520 East 70th street  
New York, NY 10021  
USA

Phone: +1-212-746-2381  
Email: [irs9009@med.cornell.edu](mailto:irs9009@med.cornell.edu)

Irina Sobol, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, is the Advanced Heart Failure Fellowship Program Director as well as the Medical Director of the Left Ventricular Assist Device Program. She received her medical degree from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. She completed her cardiology training at Beth Israel Hospital in New York and then trained in advanced heart failure and transplant cardiology at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell. The LVAD program boasts outstanding survival and quality metrics that surpass its nation-wide peers in the quarterly INTERMACS report and has been designated a DT VAD program by the Joint Commission since 2009. Her additional interest is in inflammatory cardiomyopathies, including autoimmune and sarcoid cardiomyopathies with publications ranging from pathologic description of checkpoint blockade myocarditis to evaluation of inflammatory cardiomyopathy and care of LVAD patients during the COVID pandemic.



## **George Thomas, MD**

Assistant Professor of Medicine  
Weill Cornell Medical College  
Starr-4  
520 East 70th St  
New York, NY  
USA

Email: [get2007@med.cornell.edu](mailto:get2007@med.cornell.edu)

George Thomas, MD is an electrophysiologist at Weill Cornell Medical College and New York Presbyterian Hospital. Dr. Thomas is from Florida, and then attended Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. He studied medicine at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. He trained in internal medicine at Washington University in St. Louis and completed general cardiology and electrophysiology fellowships at the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, OH. Dr. Thomas' clinical and research focus is the treatment of complex arrhythmias, and implantable cardiac device management including infection prevention, early detection and management of arrhythmias. Dr. Thomas lives in New York with his wife Catherine and three kids.

## Fellow Booklet Cardiology



Shahnoza Abdulghani, MD, PhD  
Belgorod State University  
Department of Internal Medicine  
Chkalovsky Street  
308590 Belgorod  
Russian Federation  
naza\_1992@bk.ru



Rajai Bulbul, MD  
Hamad Medical Corporation  
Department of Cardiology  
Al Rayyan Street  
3050 Doha  
Qatar  
rajai\_bulbul@hotmail.com



Hristina Chamovska Sheshoska, MD  
Cardiology Center St. Stephen  
Department of Cardiology  
Sveti Stefan  
6000 Ohrid  
North Macedonia  
camhris@yahoo.com



Kostiantyn Dmytriiev, MD  
Vinnitsa National Pyrogov Memorial Medical  
University  
Department of Internal Medicine  
Street Pirogov 56  
21018 Vinnytsia  
Ukraine  
kostya011993@gmail.com



Hrvoje Falak, MD  
University Hospital "Dubrava"  
Department of Cardiology  
Avenija Gojka Suska 6  
10000 Zagreb  
Croatia  
hrvoje.falak@gmail.com



Emmanuel Ghandilyan, MD  
Yerevan State Medical University after Mkhitar  
Heratsi  
Department of Internal Medicine  
2 Koryun St  
0025 Yerevan  
Armenia  
emmanuel.ghandilyan@gmail.com



Dinko Gospodinov, MD  
University Hospital Sveti Georgi  
Department of Cardiology  
Bulevard "Peshtersko Shose" 66  
4000 Plovdiv  
Bulgaria  
gospodinovski@gmail.com



Mariam Hovakimyan, MD  
Yerevan State Medical University  
Department of Cardiology  
2nd Aghyusagortsner Street  
0018 Yerevan  
Armenia  
hovakimyanmariam@gmail.com



Zarina Ismagulova, MD, BM  
Hospital of the President's Affairs Administration  
of the Republic of Kazakhstan  
Department of Cardiology  
E 495  
010000 Nur - Sultan  
Kazakhstan  
moinak@mail.ru



Rada Jeremic, MD  
Faculty of Medicine - University of Belgrade  
Department of Internal Medicine  
Visegradska 26/2  
11000 Belgrade  
Serbia  
rada.jeremic@med.bg.ac.rs



Konrad Kaaz, MD, PhD  
Wrocław Medical University  
Department of Cardiology  
Borowska 213  
50556 Wrocław  
Poland  
konrad.kaaz@gmail.com



Fredrick Kalokola, MD  
CUHAS (Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences)  
Department of Internal Medicine  
Bugando Hill  
0000 Mwanza  
Tanzania, United Republic of  
kalokola85@gmail.com



Aygun Kazimli, MD  
Azerbaijan Medical University  
Department of Cardiology  
Mardanov Gardashlar Street 100  
Az-1078 Baku  
Azerbaijan  
aygunkazimli2015@gmail.com



Eyouel Mamo, MD  
Addis Ababa Univ., CHS, SoM  
Department of Internal Medicine  
Churchar Road  
1176 Addis Ababa  
Ethiopia  
7leoje@gmail.com



Julija Marinskienė, MD  
Vilnius University Hospital Santaros Clinics  
Department of Cardiology  
Santariskiu g.  
08661 Vilnius  
Lithuania  
julijagait@gmail.com



Lolita Matiashova, MD  
GI "L.T. Malaya Therapy National Institute of the NAMSU"  
Department of Internal Medicine  
Liubovi Maloj Ave, 2A  
61000 Kharkiv  
Ukraine  
lota94s@gmail.com



Marek Matyasek, MD  
Cardiology Outpatient Centre  
Department of Cardiology  
Lechowiczova 2970/6  
70200 Ostrava  
Czech Republic  
smarek.smatyasek@seznam.cz



Suvd Nergui, MD, PhD, MPH  
First Central Hospital of Mongolia  
Department of Internal Medicine  
Sukhbaatar District  
210648 Ulaanbaatar  
Mongolia  
isu\_mongol@hotmail.com



Khusein Nizomadinov, MD  
District Tertiary Hospital  
Department of Internal Medicine  
112 Leningradskaya Street  
683000 Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy  
Russian Federation  
khusein70@yahoo.com



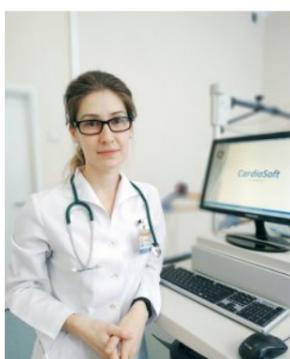
Nikola Pavlovic, MD  
Klinički Centar Crne Gore  
Department of Cardiology  
Ljubljanska b.b.  
81000 Podgorica  
Montenegro  
nikola57@t-com.me



Ana Plugaru, MD  
Adresa CCD Chişinău  
Department of Cardiology  
Street Ion Luca Caragiale 2  
MD-2025 Chisinau  
Moldova  
anna.plugaru@gmail.com



Petra Radic, MD  
Clinical Hospital Sisters of Charity  
Department of Cardiology  
Vinogradska cesta 29  
10 000 Zagreb  
Croatia  
petra.radic108@gmail.com



Yelena Rib, MD  
Astana Medical University  
Department of Internal Medicine  
Koshkarbayev Street 66  
010000 Nur-Sultan  
Kazakhstan  
tarlan186@mail.ru



Maria Irene Rodriguez Fernandez, MD  
Complejo Hospitalario Universitario de Santiago  
de Compostela  
Department of Anesthesiology and Intensive  
Care  
A Choupana  
15706 A Choupana  
Spain  
sufojanes@gmail.com



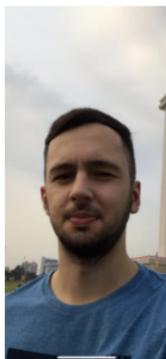
Hugo Rodríguez-Zanella, MD  
Intituto Nacional de Cardiología de Mexico  
Ignacio Chávez  
Department of Cardiology  
Juan Badiano 1  
14000 Mexico City  
Mexico  
drzanella@gmail.com



Evgeniya Shalaeva, MD, MPH  
Tashkent Medical Academy  
Department of Cardiology  
2, Farobiy Street  
100109 Tashkent  
Uzbekistan  
evgeniya.v.shalaeva@gmail.com



Barbara Vitola, MD  
Pauls Stradins Clinical University Hospital  
Department of Cardiology  
Pilsonu Street 13  
LV-1002 Riga  
Latvia  
barbara.vitola@inbox.lv



Samuel Vysočanský, MD  
National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases  
Department of Cardiology  
Pod Krasnou Horkou 1  
83348 Bratislava  
Slovakia  
samuel.vysocansky@gmail.com

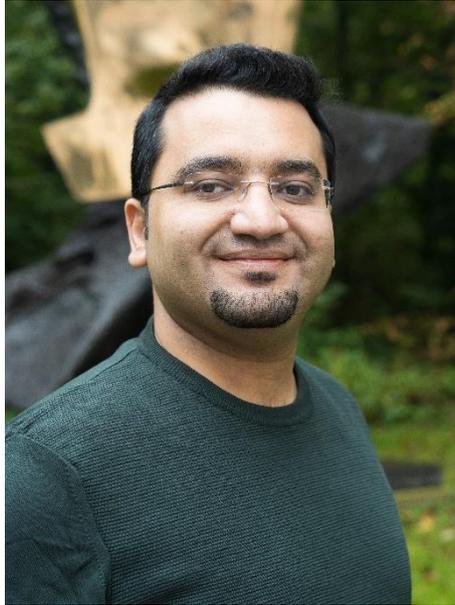


Volha Yarmolenka, MD  
Gomel Medical State University  
Department of Internal Medicine  
Lange 5  
246000 Gomel  
Belarus  
olgayarmolenka@mail.ru



Fjolla Zhubi Bakija, MD  
Clinical University Center of Kosovo  
Department of Cardiology  
Lagjja e Spitalit  
10000 Prishtina  
Kosovo  
[fjolla.zhubi@gmail.com](mailto:fjolla.zhubi@gmail.com)

## DIARY



**Rajai Bulbul, MD**  
Hamad Medical Corporation  
Department of Cardiology  
Qatar

### **Sunday, October 10, 2021**

I arrived to Salzburg from Doha, Qatar (where I live) early in the morning, and I was immediately surprised with the simple but extremely beautiful city. Salzburg is a historic city located in the western part of Austria. Reaching Schloss Arenberg was a quick trip, as it was not far from the airport. I was welcomed by the extremely friendly staff and administrators, then directed to my quiet room for the next few days. Since I arrived early, I could not resist taking a walk to explore the city, and the beautiful Salzach river was a pleasure to see. I walked farther, as I started to love the city more and more. At 7:00 pm, we were welcomed by the extremely friendly faculty and had very nice conversations which allowed us to start knowing each other better. This reception was followed by a nice dinner.

### **Monday, October 11, 2021**

8:00 am was the beginning of our journey. We were welcomed by the faculty and had our pre-test. The questions were spot on and relevant, which encouraged us to wait for the lectures to learn more. The seminar lectures were diverse and well structured, and the faculty shared their advanced experiences with everyone. The atmosphere was very encouraging for learning and sharing experiences. As we began to get to know each other better, my friendships with the other fellows became an extra joy in this lovely place.

**Tuesday, October 12, 2021**

A group of fellows presented their cases today, which added a different depth on how the management is different between other parts of the world. The hands-on workshops on TAVI, how to troubleshoot a pacemaker, and how to implant pacemaker leads were extremely beneficial. This has added an extra skill which I can use in the future during my training. We had a walk to the well-known castle on the top of the mountain and enjoyed the views as well as the beautiful nature of this lovely place.

**Wednesday, October 13, 2021**

Each day the lectures were diverse, focused, and were heavily inspired from the latest studies and guidelines. I have enjoyed many of the topics which were discussed and felt that it added a much-needed refresh to my existing knowledge. After each day's lectures, my new friends from all over the world would come together and walk in the city center. Museums were really interesting, as you can easily spend hours walking without getting bored.

**Thursday, October 14, 2021**

A new day with a new set of interesting lectures which leave me wanting to learn more and more. Later on, we had a walk in the city, seeing a lake and a historic hotel. The scenery during our walk cannot be described. During the evening, I got to experience some Austrian culture with a chamber music concert in Schloss Arenberg – it was extremely joyful to listen to!

**Friday, October 15, 2021**

Unfortunately, this was my last day in this beautiful place. We had a set of lectures followed by the graduation ceremony and certificate distribution. Looking back at the week, I am really happy with what I have seen and learned. I've made a huge group of friends which I would have never met otherwise and learned many things which will definitely improve my practice. At the same time, I am sad for having to leave this lovely place.

## DIARY



Ana Plugaru, MD  
Adresa CCD Chişinău  
Department of Cardiology  
Moldova

### **Sunday, October 10, 2021**

I cannot believe it was actually happening. I have not been on an airplane or outside of my country (other than Romania) in almost a year. There it was, my Austrian flight, not cancelled. A slight delay, an hour and twenty minutes, but then I was at the Vienna airport, happy to find that not so many things had changed. Many people were wearing masks, and the airport was welcoming and not very crowded, but alive. When traveling by train to Salzburg, my favorite transport, it was already dark outside so I couldn't really enjoy the view, but the feeling of Austrian magic was already there. As the taxi brought me to Schloss Arenberg, I enjoyed the evening Salzburg lights: passing Mirabell Garden, just a glimpse of the castle on top of the mountain, and the beautiful flowing river. Entering Schloss Arenberg for my second seminar, it felt as if time had stopped. It was the same staff, same smell, same warm welcome. I met my colleague from North Macedonia, Hristina, and even though we missed the welcome reception, the staff were so kind to leave dinner and wine for us. We had a nice chat and then it was bedtime in a beautiful, cozy loft room.

### **Monday, October 11, 2021**

7:30 am and it was already halfway through breakfast. We shared a table with colleagues from Croatia and North Macedonia, all of us excited for what the week would bring. Finally we went to the main conference room. I even get to sit in the same place as last time. Why do I have a

feeling I never left, and where did those two years go? I am so happy to see the faculty. Dr. Kim, the course director, greeted us warmly and as he took off his mask off, we could see his sincere smile, bringing a bit of normality. Then there was the pre-test. I was trying to remember the questions that were not quite clear, as there is always something to learn about. I was also happy to see Dr. Maurer, whose lectures on HCM and cardiac amyloidosis were very comprehensive and once again pointed out the most important information regarding diagnosis and management of the conditions. It was a pleasure to know that the diagnostic algorithm I once used in a patient with AL amyloidosis was pretty similar to the one Dr. Maurer talked about. Dr. Irina Sobol, a new member of the faculty this year, was totally brilliant. I could listen endlessly to a person who is so professional from head to toes, working in the right place and so in love with what she is doing. She made complicated topics like inflammatory cardiomyopathies feel like there is a chance for everyone to understand them. After lunch, the fellows presented some of their cases. I really enjoyed this part, as usually very interesting discussions arise afterwards. At the end of the presentations, three of the small groups we were divided into got to participate in Medtronic workshops. I was assigned to a group that will have the workshops on Tuesday, so it was a free, sunny afternoon to stroll through the old city with a couple of new friends. At 6:00 pm, Ms. Stephanie Faschang held a presentation about the AAF and the OMI, and how many more opportunities are still out there for us. The day ended with dinner, where there is always space not just for good food, but also communication, as everyone is always very open to discussion.

### **Tuesday, October 12, 2021**

I mean, who doesn't know Professor Binder? The work he is doing to make Echo accessible and understandable for everyone is incredible. It is never enough to simply learn about the echocardiographic subtleties in cardiomyopathies, yet when Thomas Binder is explaining them, everything falls right into place. It was such a pleasure to take part in his lectures again, the one on coronary artery disease was of course extremely important for the daily practice of each one of us in the room. There is always something new that you can point out for yourself and slowly build a strong base of knowledge, hoping that one day it will become a skyscraper. Dr. Kim showed us that the big, bad, and the ugly isn't as ugly after all. It does take some effort in diagnosing cardiomyopathies, but it is feasible with a little bit of patience. Nothing beats Dr. Kim's charisma. Interventional cardiologists are always so fascinating to listen to. Dr. Singh guided us through the state of art of ACS management in 2021, making very important comments on European and American guideline differences, and adding a lot of information on studies that were the background of these guidelines. We ate lunch and had fellows' case presentations once again: different cases from all over the world, different approaches, comments from our colleagues and the faculty. It feels like teamwork, in this case to improve your knowledge of what can happen and how to deal with the situation, with sometimes minimal resources. Following the presentations, it was my group's turn for the workshops. Thanks to Medtronic, we got our hand on TAVI stimulation, pacemaker implantation, and implantable device programming. I have never done this in my daily practice, but it was very exciting. Maybe one day I will consider specializing in one of these techniques. Dinner time came quickly, accompanied by fun conversations in a very nice atmosphere.

### **Wednesday, October 13, 2021**

We all know Salzburg is rainy, and this was supposed to be a rainy day. Fortunately, the rain stopped after the lectures and during the free afternoon, it turned out to be pretty decent in terms of the weather. Once again, Dr. Sobol had an extraordinary lecture on cardiogenic shock

management. There is a lot to learn, and unfortunately, we don't have all the possibilities on the market out there, but it is so good to know about the progress and the chance that some highly-complicated profile patients receive. If you have questions about PAH, it's Dr. Lang you have to go to. She totally had my heart for PAH last time I was here, and she still does. The review of the basic aspects of PAH is always beneficial, as not all of us deal with it on a daily basis. The insights about the HFpEF and pulmonary circulation, as well as her personal remarks about the evolving treatments, are priceless. A very important topic about VTs was discussed by Dr. Thomas, which for me personally is very important, since in Moldova this branch has only started to grow and our patients have to go to other countries to get ablated sometimes. So I need to be sure I am making the right decision for them. Our free afternoon consisted of walking around the old town, buying souvenirs, and sharing our experiences. Surprisingly there were more tourists than I was expecting to see, but still a lot less than usual. It felt as if we had Salzburg for ourselves, which was fantastic.

#### **Thursday, October 14, 2021**

Today started off with a complex topic of inherited arrhythmia syndromes. Dr. Thomas made a tremendous effort to make it as understandable as possible and I am sure everyone had some take-aways from the lecture, as rarer pathologies need frequent recap, and knowing more makes it easier to recognize and treat. LVED in Moldova? None. Although Dr. Sobol made sure I still knew how they work and for whom. I really liked Dr. Sobol's presentations, people like her really amaze me. What's every cardiologist's nightmare? Treating pregnant women! I have to deal with that day by day, as well as clearing patients for non-cardiac surgery. Dr. Singh and Dr. Kim made sure that there is a lot more clarity concerning these situations. Dr. Singh's cases on pregnant women with CHD were just amazing. Dr. Kim's cases on complex clinical decisions for timing cardiac interventions once again showed us how important teamwork is. I was again pleasantly surprised that I would have done the same to solve those cases. This made me hopeful that maybe we are not that far behind and that there are ways for us to grow professionally in Moldova, for the benefit of our patients. The fellow's cases once again demonstrated a variety of sometimes unimaginable clinical situations. I did enjoy presenting mine and I am very thankful for the comments the faculty made about it. The cherry on the cake was the chamber concert. I really enjoyed this!

#### **Friday, October 15, 2021**

I am sad that this is the last day, yet very grateful for the opportunity to spend this week here. The last coffee break and even the test anticipation is not that bad. There is so much to take home: new knowledge, new friends, new practical experience, and so many positive impressions. We owe this to the people standing behind the program, the organizing staff, the faculty, people who believe that there is a chance for change for the better in our developing countries, people who chose to spend their time teaching and sharing, people who know that giving is the most rewarding feeling when you have so much to give. I want to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart that made this seminar possible, I am sure it was harder in the context of the pandemic, but there is no way we will give up. This was such a breath of fresh air, and I hope that I will have the honor to be a part of the seminar once again sometime.

## DIARY



**Fredrick Kalokola, MD**  
CUHAS (Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences)  
Department of Internal Medicine  
Tanzania, United Republic of

### **Sunday, October 10, 2021**

After a near 20 hours journey from Dar-es Salaam, Tanzania through Doha and Munich, I arrived in Salzburg and was surprised to meet Dr. Konrad Kaaz (a fellow from Poland) whom I had met two years ago at the cardiology seminar in Salzburg.

### **Monday, October 11, 2021**

I woke up hastily at 6:35am local time, after snoozing my alarm clock which I had set the night before for 5:30am. I almost wanted to brush my teeth and take a shower simultaneously. I managed to leave my room for breakfast at 7:15am, eagerly dashing for a cup of strong coffee to calm my nerves before the pre-seminar test. The first lecture of the seminar was presented expertly by Dr. Gerald Maurer, the cardiology seminar's co-course director. I can still recall the characteristic ground-glass appearance of the hypertrophied septum and other parts of the myocardium on echocardiogram. After a much-needed coffee break, Dr. Irina Sobol gave an excellent overview of inflammatory cardiomyopathies with a closer focus on non-infective causes and the role of cardiac MRI(CMR) and endomyocardial biopsy in the management of these conditions. An hour before the lunchbreak, Dr. Gerald Maurer returned with a lecture on a common form of restrictive cardiomyopathy in a form of cardiac amyloidosis. He highlighted the importance of having a high index of suspicion when a patient present with a low voltage EKG and increased wall thickness on echocardiogram or CMR. After lunch, the first round of

fellows' case presentations were packed with a variety of interesting cases, followed by three hours of intensely packed hands-on training with device programming, TAVI, and LV-lead insertion organized by experts from Medtronic. Lastly, to end the first day of the seminar, we heard from Stephanie Faschang on the general purpose and mission of the Open Medical Institute (OMI) of preventing brain drain and initiating long lasting brain gain of physicians who come from low-income countries, by imparting them with necessary knowledge and skills to improve healthcare in their own countries.

### **Tuesday, October 12, 2021**

I woke-up with great energy due to eight hours of uninterrupted sleep. After breakfast, we had an amazing lecture from Dr. Thomas Binder (from Vienna) on utility of echocardiogram (ECHO) in establishing diagnosis, grading severity of, and management of cardiomyopathies. The famous ECHO guru went further to describe different modalities used to assess the function of both the right and left ventricles depending on the underlying heart disease. He craftily explained the utility of ECHO in guiding different modalities of heart failure therapy as per the newly released ESC 2021 heart failure guidelines. The next session was by Dr. Robert Kim, the course director, who took us through the classification schemes for cardiomyopathies, comparing the American and European approaches. During the coffee break, I had an opportunity to sit around with fellows from Mongolia (Dr. Suvd Nergui), Spain (Dr. Maria Irene) and Azerbaijan (Dr. Aygun Kazimli) and we had a memorable exchange of our different cultures. After the break, Dr. Binder returned with a class on the role of ECHO in the setting of an acute myocardial infarction as well as its utility in identifying the site of possible infarct, other cardiac causes of acute chest pain, and complications of myocardial infarction such as myocardial rupture. The last lecture of the day was on management of acute coronary syndromes by Dr. Harsimran Singh and he based his talk on the good old principles of early reperfusion (time is myocardium), antithrombotic therapy, and Post-ACS management.

### **Wednesday, October 13, 2021**

I snoozed my alarm clock twice! Last night I spent about two hours after dinner having chit-chat and laughter with a fellow from the Horn of Africa; Ethiopia, Dr. Eyouel Mamo. We discussed African politics, economy, traveling, etc. This morning after a dose of caffeine, I joined the others at 8:00am to listen to Dr. Irina Sobol speak about the management of cardiogenic shock (CS). She reminded us of the complex pathophysiology of this lethal condition and emphasized the need for early recognition of signs of CS, timely use of mechanical circulatory support, and use of multidisciplinary shock team to improve survival. Dr. Irene Lang gave double lectures on pulmonary hypertension, followed by a promising new pharmacological treatment of heart failure with preserved ejection fraction. The half-day of academic activities ended with Dr. George Thomas' excellent lecture on diagnosis and management of wide complex tachycardia, with great emphasis of hemodynamic assessment to guide management. The rest of the afternoon, most of the fellows spent time sightseeing around downtown Salzburg despite the cloudy, cold weather.

**Thursday, October 14, 2021**

From long QT syndromes to Brugada syndromes, Dr. George Thomas gave us the first lecture of the day on inherited primary arrhythmia syndromes. At the breakfast table, I had the pleasure to sit down with Dr. Kim (Course director), Dr. Fjolla (Kosovo), and Dr. Barbara (Latvia). Dr. Barbara shared with us her love for traveling and promised to come to Tanzania for a safari inside the Serengeti. Dr. Singh gave us a talk on pregnancy and congenital heart disease, beautifully inspired by his love for music. He highlighted the importance of planned pregnancies and the creation of a pregnancy heart team to manage pregnancies with maternal heart disease. Then came the last round of fellow's case presentations, packed with varieties of cases from CRT insertion to VSD, following an acute myocardial infarction. What a way to end the day - attending a one-hour chamber music concert organized by the local University Mozarteum.