

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

CONGRESS “RESUSCITATION 2012 – WORKING TOGETHER TO SAVE LIVES” IN VIENNA

The European Resuscitation Council (ERC) is an interdisciplinary council for resuscitation medicine and emergency medical care. The main goal of this organization is to save the life and on the basis of knowledge and experiences to ensure high quality of resuscitation available to all. Preparation, development and publication of resuscitation guidelines for Europe (Guidelines 2010 lastly), organization of courses for both, lay- and professional rescuers, and organization of congresses, are the key activities of the ERC. The program of this year's Congress was built with the intention to promote new technologies (especially cooling, feedback device and e.g. new application for SmartPhone, designed for Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training of lay persons and healthcare professionals).

On October 18, 2012, the Congress Resuscitation 2012 was opened in the Hofburg in Vienna, Austria,

by Professor Bernd W. Böttiger, MD, DEAA, Head of the Department of Anaesthesiology of University Hospital in Cologne, Germany, and Chairman of the European Resuscitation Council. The Hofburg is the former imperial residence. It was the seat of the Emperor of Austria until 1918. From October 18, to October 20, this luxurious ancient palace hosted more than one thousand rescuers from forty-seven countries. During the Congress, 46 lectures were presented in five rooms. Additionally, participants could see 257 posters exhibited. Most of the topics were focused on questions of cardiac arrest and trauma cardiac arrest, cooling during and after CPR, training of CPR and leadership in cardiac arrest situations. About 350 000 patients have been resuscitated in the European Union unsuccessfully each year (that means 1000 each day). It is our task to improve the quality and level of resuscitation for saving the human life. One of the most

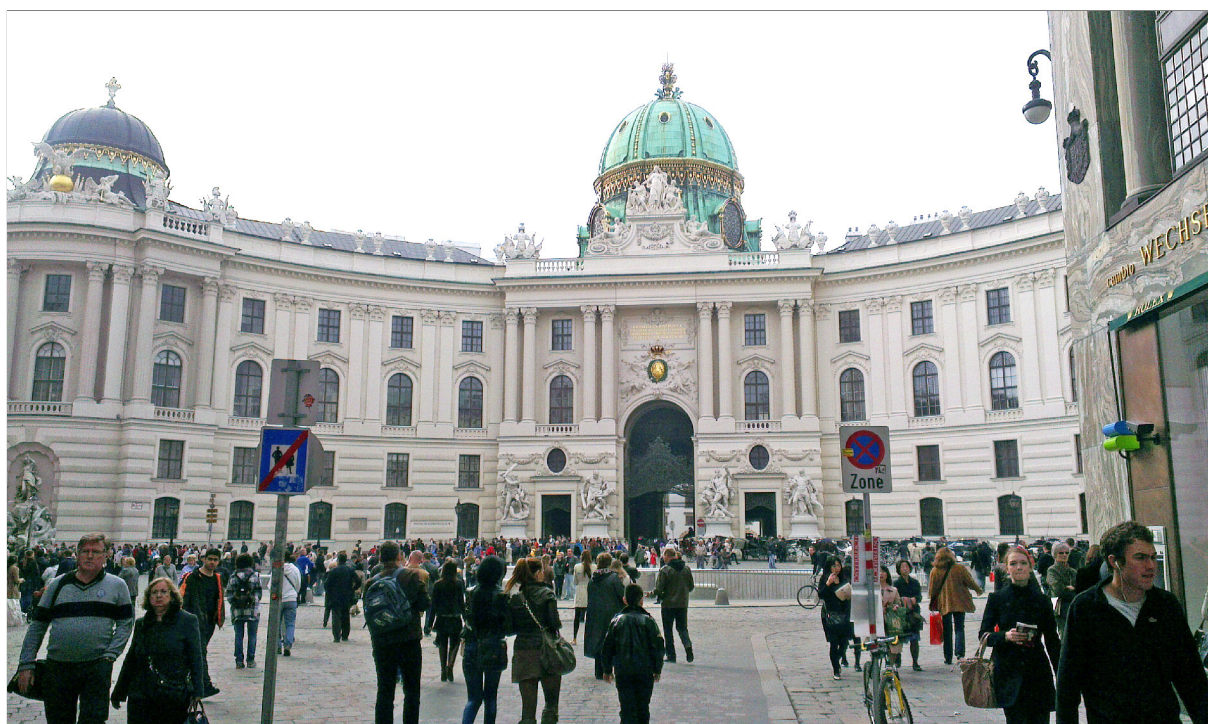


Figure 1. The Hofburg.



Figure 2. The Hofburg congress center.

important information was, that everybody can start resuscitation, while the biggest mistake is doing nothing.

The Congress Resuscitation 2012 brought no essential news in the sphere of the CPR. The quality of chest compression (CC) has been assessed as the cardinal determining (limiting?) factor for survival after (trauma) cardiac arrest. The most important factor is the sufficient depth of chest compression (at least 5 centimeters, no more than 6 centimeters), rate (from 100 to 120 CC per minute) and time of the beginning of CPR. Studies of CPR quality found 4 the most common mistakes of CPR (*Benjamin S. Abella*):

1. Slow compression rates
2. Frequent and lengthy pauses
3. Shallow compressions
4. Excessive ventilation

Real-time CPR Feedback (*K. Monsieurs*) and Smartphone applications for CPR (*M. Georgiou*) were two presentations focused on evaluation of quality of CPR. This technology gives rescuers the information on CPR, which allows them to provide the best CPR possible.

Health care delivery in civilian conditions, as well as in military environment is a very demanding activity, almost at any time. However, knowledge of algorithm, technical skills and diagnostic skills cannot ensure quality of medical care (*Marks, M. A. (2001) Academy of Management Review*). Everything may fail in teamwork (non-technical skills). Teamwork and leadership have the same importance as the technical skills needed in stressful situation.

The experience gained during the practical training of military medical staff shows us deficiencies in this area. Teaching military physicians and nurses how to manage problems of leadership is one of the main tasks of the Medical Service within the Czech Armed Forces.

Expansion of using Smartphone in the world opened a new area to application developers. Recently, we can use a few of Smartphone Medical Apps. Some of them are very useful, simple a user friendly. These applications can help especially to lay rescuers to save human life. Instructional video tapes can help to learn and refresh new skills, call emergency medical service, evaluate success and analyze mistakes during the CPR practice.

Medical Corps of the Czech Armed Forces has to follow all new procedures and trends in the field of Pre-hospital Care and Pre-hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS), and to ensure their implementation to practical life and training of medical and non-medical military personnel.

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