



Barcelona, April 28th, 2021

It is our pleasure to announce the 2021 edition of the European Delirium Association (EDA) annual meeting, which will be held in Barcelona on the 17-19 of November of 2021,. Due to the uncertainty about the pandemic situation, the conference will be virtual.

Since 2006, the EDA annual meeting has progressively grown, to become an essential meeting for the broad and cross-sectional healthcare and research sectors interested in delirium. The last editions of the meeting have brought together more than 300 professionals from Europe, North America and Australia and, increasingly, from South American and Asia. This trend will surely increase further with this new edition. The dramatic events related to the COVID-19 pandemic have stressed even more the need of providing a high quality evidence-based care to vulnerable persons. Delirium has an high incidence and prevalence in COVID-19 patients, and clearly many healthcare systems were not adequately prepared to correctly detect and manage it.

The 2021 meeting will be co-hosted and co-organized with the Catalan Society of Geriatrics and Gerontology, a historical society with 40 years of history in the region around Barcelona, dedicated to research on aging and the care of older persons. This partnership with the EDA will replace the annual meeting of this local society. Other local societies, such as the Catalan Society of Intensive and Critical care Medicine, the Catalan Society of Psychiatry and Mental Health and the Catalanobalear Society of Nursing, also support this event.

Delirium occurs across many patient populations and settings – therefore we have based the programme around a “patient journey” to allow us to highlight a broad view from public health, primary care, acute hospitals, and recovery. Delirium in COVID-19 patients will find also a relevant spot in the program.

We will also host two important pre-conference events on November 16: A teaching day aimed predominantly at local healthcare providers and a pathophysiology symposium aimed at preclinical and clinical researchers interested in understanding the mechanisms driving delirium. These events have generated significant interest in recent years and have broadened the audience of the conference.

We are convinced that this 2021 conference will be a breakthrough event in increasing awareness, and biological understanding, of this very prevalent syndrome, which affects up to 20% of hospitalized patients. Delirium represents a significant burden for patients, for caregivers and for society, from clinical, economic and quality of life viewpoints, and we urgently need to implement effective and efficient strategies for its prevention and management.

In the coming weeks, you will receive the preliminary program and all the information related to the Congress.

Marco Inzitari

President of the EDA 2021 Organizing Committee
President of the Catalan Society of Geriatrics and Gerontology and Gerontology

Arjen J.C. Slooter

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