It is a pleasure and an honour to welcome the Bockus International Society of Gastroenterology to Europe. We are privileged to have our meeting in the most beautiful surrounds that will foster friendship and the latest new ideas in Gastroenterology. It provides a global platform and enhances our knowledge in a relaxed atmosphere. We are indebted to our named lectures Davor Štimac and Boris Vučelić who are world experts in their fields and they will add a local flavour to our meeting as both are outstanding Croatian Gastroenterologists who are key opinion leaders worldwide. Our meetings are renowned for stimulating discussion that occurs during the meeting and the excellent social programme that is arranged in conjunction with the meeting.

Bockus International Society of Gastroenterology is a fellowship of friends that we all cherish and it is always great to welcome new members. A stranger is a friend we have not yet met. Our society particularly values these aspects of academia. This enables us to provide better care for the welfare of patients that we have the honour to serve.

Scientific Program Directors: Robbyn Sockolow and Fernando Contreras

It is with great pleasure we welcome you to another fantastic Congress in the beautiful city of Opatija. We are so fortunate to gather again to share our knowledge, experience and friendship with each other. The preparation of each program has been extremely rewarding on both a personal and professional level. This year’s program will be a remarkable one. It will include speakers from all over the world, with 20 conferences covering all aspects of general gastroenterology, hepatology and the latest advances in the world of endoscopy. The program highlight will be the Berk and Bockus memorial lecture that will be dictated by world-renowned experts, Boris Vučelić and Davor Štimac.

We would like to extend our gratitude to all of our speakers for their time and contribution to the excellence of the program. Thank you to the special guests in charge of the memorial lecture, to our president Colm O’Morain, the Bockus Society governing board and last but no least thank you to our host Davor Štimac whose effort and hard work made this meeting possible.

We wish all of you a wonderful time in Croatia and plan to continue the tradition of international scientific exchange for many years to come.

Welcome Remarks: Davor Štimac

Dear Colleagues & Friends,
It is a great honour and pleasure for us in Croatia to have this opportunity to host here in Opatija such eminent guests from one of the world’s most renowned gastroenterological societies. The Bockus Society has a long tradition and has two main aims - learning and networking! We hope to equally and successfully do both. Gastroenterology is at present a very progressive specialty worldwide as well as here in Croatia. A few years ago gastroenterology separated from internal medicine and became a self-standing specialisation. The Croatian Gastroenterological Society as a member of the UEG (United European Gastroenterology). The Croatian Society of Gastroenterology has many international contacts supporting our educational programs. Numerous young doctors are starting their residencies in gastroenterology so we expect that they will be the ones that will profit the most from this meeting. Although we organise many such events link to gastroenterology practice, this is the first time that we will have so many experts from the USA to share their experiences with us.

We hope to be good hosts and that we and our country remain in your memories forever!
MAY 3

9:00 - 9:10am Welcome:
BSIS President: Colm Ó’Moráin
Scientific Program Directors: Robbyn Sockolow and Fernando Contreras
Local host: Davor Štimac

MODERATORS: ANTHONY DIMARINO AND RICK GOOSENBERG

9:10 - 9:30am Influence of Helicobacter Infection and its Eradication on Gut Microbiota
Colm Ó’Moráin - Ireland

9:30 - 9:50am The Microbiota and the Brain
Alberto Santana - Dominican Republic

9:50 - 10:10am Mistakes of Food Intolerances
Heinz Hammer - Austria

10:10 - 10:30am CRC Screening Guidelines: Is 45 the new 50?
Tony de Mondesert - United States

10:30 – 11:00am Break

MODERATORS: COLM Ó’MORÁIN AND JORGE PRIETO

11:00 - 11:20am Advances in Video Endoscopy and Their Role in Early Diagnosis
Fernando Contreras - Dominican Republic

11:20 - 11:40am The Role of Stretta in 2019
Álvaro Reymundí - Puerto Rico

11:40 - 12:00pm Endoscopic Plicatures and Their Role in the Treatment of Obesity
Nicole Peña - Dominican Republic

12:05 - 12:10pm Colm Ó’Moráin Introduction of Bockus Memorial Lecture

12:10 - 12:50pm Bockus Memorial Lecture: Endoscopy in the Treatment of Obesity
Davor Štimac - Croatia

MAY 4

MODERATORS: GUNTHER KREJS AND DAVID BERNSTEIN

8:00 - 8:20am Shakespeare’s Observations on Digestive Maladies of His Age, the Elizabethan Era
Hugh Chaun - Canada

8:20 - 8:40am Gastroenterology Practice in Canada
Marty Fishman - Canada

8:40 - 9:00am Lymphocytic vs Eosinophilic Esophagitis: A Provocative Hypothesis for Two New Diseases
Sidney Cohen - United States

9:00 - 9:20am Insight into Pathophysiology of Alcoholic Liver Disease: Intricate Link between the Gut-Liver Axis
Thomas Ma - United States

9:20 - 9:40am PBC in 2019
David Bernstein - United States

9:40 - 10:00am The Relationship between the Ingestion of Coca Leaf and Megacolon in Bolivia
Ricardo Morgenstern - United States

10:00 - 10:30am Break

MODERATORS: ROBBYN SOCKOLOW AND HUGH CHAUN

10:30 - 10:50am Advances in Celiac Disease
Anthony DiMarino - United States

10:50 - 11:10am Transforming IBD with Telemedicine
Elaine Barfield - United States

11:10 - 11:20am New Therapies for IBD: Large vs Small Molecules
Robbyn Sockolow - United States

11:20 – 11:25am Richard Berk Presentation for the Berk Memorial Lecture

11:25 – 12:10pm Berk Memorial Lecture: Current Therapy of Ulcerative Colitis
Boris Vučelić - Croatia
Henry L. Bockus was born in 1894 in Newark, Delaware. He graduated from Central High School in Philadelphia in 1913 and received his M.D. from Jefferson Medical College in 1917. During World War II, he joined the medical corps of the U.S. Marines and served in Cuba. Following the war, his interest turned to the field of gastroenterology. By 1923, he had organized the Department of Gastroenterology at the University of Pennsylvania. He served as professor of Gastroenterology and Chair of the Departments of Medicine and Gastroenterology (1949-1960), and Emeritus Professor (1960).

Bockus contributed to the training and education of physicians from around the world. He helped to organize the Asian Gastroenterological Association in Tokyo and societies in other countries as well. In 1958, the Bockus International Society of Gastroenterology was founded by associates, friends and students, to honor Dr. Bockus's contributions to the field, and to share information from both a clinical and research standpoint, throughout the world.

During his time at the University of Pennsylvania, Bockus wrote a comprehensive series on Gastroenterology that has since been republished and translated into other languages, and was for many years the standard reference in this specialty.

Dr. Berk is internationally renowned for his immeasurable contributions as an author, an editor, a physician with a caring bedside manner and a gifted teacher. Dr. Berk wore many hats and held many titles throughout the span of his professional career, but is best known as the founding chairman of the Department of Medicine and the Division of Gastroenterology at the University of California, Irvine. This dual role and his monumental contributions throughout his career in medicine gave the university its initial credibility helping it to grow into the highly ranked university that it is today.

The late Dr. Berk served on several ASGE Committees and as President of the Society from 1958-1959. He was awarded ASGE’s highest honor, the Rudolf Schindler Award, in 1966 and was distinguished as a Fellow of ASGE in 2006. In recognition of these many accomplishments, achievements and his distinguished contributions to our profession, ASGE honors Dr. Berk with this lectureship.

The J. Edward Berk Distinguished Lecturer was nominated in his honor by the American College of Gastroenterology. This lectureship was established in recognition of the significant contributions made by J. Edward Berk, MD, MACG, to clinical gastroenterology during his long and distinguished clinical and academic career. A nationally and internationally renowned physician and teacher, Dr. Berk also served as ACG President from 1975-1976.

The Bockus International Society of Gastroenterology’s Berk Memorial lecturer was established in his honor due to his broad contribution to the field of gastroenterology and to the Bockus society throughout his entire life.