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Dear Colleague,

Celebrating **24** Years of Education and Collaboration, the 12th biennial international 22q11.2 conference to be held in **Split, Croatia from June 29 -July 1, 2022** is certain to recapture the renowned fellowship of the inaugural 1998 scientific retreat which was nestled in the remote hills above Strasbourg, France. As with recent meetings, the 2022 conference will feature a combination of outstanding invited speakers, as well as select platform and poster presentations. Speakers will include leading clinical and basic scientists together with exceptional healthcare providers from around the globe. These participants, in combination with attendees expected to travel from ~20 countries, are sure to inspire lively dialogue and exceptional cross fertilization.

**Split** is the second-largest city of Croatia and the largest city of the region of Dalmatia, with about 250,000 people living in its urban area. Split offers amazing Roman ruins including the infamous Diocletian’s Palace, built for the Roman emperor in AD 305. An intraregional transport hub and popular tourist destination, the city is linked to the Adriatic islands and the Apennine peninsula with easy access by plane directly to Split from all major European cities. For those traveling from outside of Europe, easy connections can be made through London, Frankfurt and Dubrovnik, just to name a few.

The venue for this meeting will be the stunning **Le Méridien Lav Hotel in Split, Croatia**, an all-inclusive Marriott resort, located on the eastern shore of the Adriatic Sea offering an opportunity to improve overall wellbeing, total relaxation, and tranquility through any number of activities in the spa, gymnasium, heated indoor and outdoor pools, whirlpool, sauna, tennis courts, beaches, and sea:

<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/spumd-le-m%C3%A9ridien-lav-split>

Le Méridien Lav Hotel Split, is located in Podstrana, eight kilometers south of Split, while Split airport (SPU) is only 16 miles north of the venue - easily reachable by car, taxi, Uber or bus.  The Split Railroad Terminal is just 5.9 miles northeast of the hotel. Likewise, car rentals and ferries (to take attendees to nearby destinations such as Plitvice Lakes National Park, Mreznica River Waterfalls, the Croatian islands of Hvar, Brac, and Korcula, and further off destinations such as Dubrovnik, Venice and Ancona) are accessible in Split’s town’s center.

The **traditional scientific symposium**, primarily featuring submitted abstracts, will run from June 29th through day’s end on July 1st. Updates on the International 22q11.2 Brain and Behaviour Consortium will be presented as a pre-conference on the morning of June 28th while the afternoon on the 28th will be dedicated to supporting Clinical Networks, including the 22q11.2 Network of the America’s, as well as, updating existing guidelines and establishing subspecialty recommendations. As always there will be cutting edge science mixed with an amazing social program in this idyllic Croatian retreat. The afternoon pre-conference on the 28th is open to anyone interested in standardizing healthcare practices/clinics for patients affected by chromosome 22q11.2 deletion and duplication syndromes, as well as basic scientists involved in fostering multi-site collaborations.

Highlights of the **social program** include a beachside reception on the evening of June 29th and poolside dinner on the evening of June 30th.  Hotel rates at Le Méridien Lav, Split include European breakfast, while conference registration for the main scientific program (June 29 – July 1) is all-inclusive covering coffee breaks, luncheons, afternoon tea and admittance to all social functions.  Registration for the pre-conference on the 28th will require a separate registration. Accompanying person tickets for social programs will be available for purchase. 22q11.2 Society members in good standing receive a discount on the scientific symposium registration.

Details regarding the conference, venue, accommodations, registration, and abstract submission can be found via the below link:

<https://chop.cloud-cme.com/course/courseoverview?P=5&EID=2736>

**Abstract submission is now open and will close on February 22, 2022. Attendees interested in sharing their clinical or research findings via an oral or poster presentation are invited to submit their best work. By submitting an abstract, it is expected that the author will be attending the meeting.**

**Junior Investigator Awards:**

Please note that all junior investigators are eligible to be selected for awards based on top oral presentations. These awards will be provided in the following four categories:

1. Pre-doctoral Clinical Research

2. Pre-doctoral Basic Science Research

3. Post-doctoral Clinical Research

4. Post-doctoral Basic Science Research

Junior Investigators must meet the following requirements: Pre-doctoral or < 5 years post graduate training (post-doctoral)

Top junior investigator presentations will receive a certificate and travel stipend with free registration for the 2024 conference. Top poster presentations will also receive recognition. **It is imperative that all junior investigators who wish to be considered for an award identify themselves as such during the abstract submission process otherwise we have no way of distinguishing candidates for these awards.**

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask the conference planning officers, Elizabeth Utsch George and Tina Mannices.

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On behalf of the Planning Committee for the 2022 conference and the leadership of the 22q11.2 Society, we look forward to welcoming you to beautiful Croatia and to continuing to foster mutual collaborations and innovation.

Cheers,

Donna

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