The International Scientific Summer School, organized under the patronage of the Journal of Electrocardiology and Anatolian Journal of Cardiology, based on Research Practicum of the Duke University, became a yearly tradition. This year, the 9th Summer School was held in Slovakia, from June 17 to June 22, 2012, in a close collaboration with the Slovak Medical University, in Makov, a picturesque, quiet mountainous area.

There were 21 participants, from 6 countries: Slovakia, Austria, Sweden, Romania, Turkey and Greece, with different professional backgrounds, ranging from nurses, MDs, bioengineers, public health specialists; PhD students and senior scientists. A total of 5 working groups were formed, with the task to develop a research project.

The international faculty members were: Ljuba Bacharova (International Laser Center, Bratislava, Slovakia; Executive Editor of the Journal of Electrocardiology), Gulmira Kudaiberdieva (Editor of the Anatolian Journal of Cardiology, Adana, Turkey), Alexandra Misak (Zagreb, Croatia), Katarina Sebekova (Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia), Elisabeth Alder (INC Training and Consulting, Austria) and former summer school participants: Nina Hakacova (Lund, Sweden), Jonathan Lipton (“Erasmus” Medical Center, Rotterdam, Netherlands), Ioana Mozos (“Victor Babes” University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Timisoara, Romania), Zora Krivosikova, Radana Kollarova and Lubica Palkovicova (Slovak Medical University). They implemented problem based learning, moderated the discussions, shared their experience and simulated, during the 4 workshop days, a real world scientific context.

The following protocols of research projects were elaborated and presented:
1. Comparing the incidence of ventilatory associated pneumonia in pediatric intensive care unit Bratislava using recommendations for VAP prevention 2006 and 2012 (Mirka Hargasova, Karin Theren, Zuzana Holosova and Matej Mucka: Makazumi group)
2. Comparison of polychlorinated biphenyls serum concentration in cord blood of newborns in 2000 and 2012/2013 in Michalovce district (Kinga Lancz, Marina Björk, Martina Sperkova and Juraj Tihanyi: Toxic team)
3. Effects of weight reduction by physical activity or diet on bone mass density and fracture risk in obese postmenopausal women. (Christos Vazaios, Ovidiu Jupaneant, Vierka Illikova, Patricia Kramarova; OBI team)
4. The effect of sending reminder text messages to patients with primary hypertension on blood pressure control rate – txt2 control study (Kilic Dogu, Jana Svehlikova, Anna Petterson, Alexandra Gajdosikova: Twitters)
5. The influence of learning of a positive LDLR gene mutation on the compliance of patients with hypercholesterolemia (Martin Bachler, Jana Lenkova, Zuzana Chabadova, Anna Bencekova: The Healthy Heart Group).

All participants successfully demonstrated creativity, team spirit, self-confidence and enthusiasm, experimented critically thinking, effective time management, the skills in argumentation and negotiation and improved their English knowledge.

References