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Science Life

1ST INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON VISUAL PHYSIOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT, AND PERCEPTION (VISPEP 2016)

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1st International Symposium on Visual Physiology, Environment, and Perception (VisPEP 2016) is a collaborative project of scientists from three Baltic countries (Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia) and Germany to make vision science more recognisable in the Baltic region. The Symposium took place at the Academic Centre for Natural Sciences of the University of Latvia, the home of the hosting institution — Department of Optometry and Vision Science, Faculty of Physics and Mathematics, University of Latvia, Rīga, Latvia, and from 6–8 October 2016 welcomed participants from different countries involved in various fields of vision science. The main aim of the Symposium was to promote cooperation and communication between researchers and research fields, as well as exchange of information on the state-of-the-art of research and equipment in various topics of vision science:

- Visual physiology (accommodation, binocular eye movements, pupil physiology);
- Environment (lighting, visual fatigue, technology of visual stimuli);
- Visual perception (visual attention, colour perception, spatial vision);
- Clinical studies (clinical studies in optometry — clinical cases, diagnostics, and treatment).

Symposium was organised by the Department of Optometry and Vision Science (Faculty of Physics and Mathematics, University of Latvia, Latvia), Laboratory of Neurophysiology of Vision (Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, Institute of Biological Systems and Genetics Research, Lithuania), Department of Experimental Psychology (University of Tartu, Estonia) and Leibniz Research Centre for Working Environment and Human Factors (IfADo, Germany).

HOYA Vision Care, a key player in the global market for ophthalmic lenses, optometry and optics, was the main sponsor of the event. Mr. Girts Cimermans (Chief Executive Officer) opened the symposium, and highlighted the importance of cooperation and communication between scientists and research fields, as well as exchanging knowledge and information on the latest novelties in vision science.

The three-day symposium gathered 178 participants from Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Germany, Israel, Poland, Switzerland, Hungary, Italy, Russia, Sweden, United Kingdom, as well as the United States of America, who presented their study results and were interested in the research of visual physiology, environment, and perception (Fig. 1). Symposium sessions were dedicated to illusions and environment, learning and visual perception, binocularity and clinical studies, and the three keynote lectures covered the issues of visual phenomena and optical illusions (Prof. Michael Bach), visual acuity and contrast thresholds measurement (Prof. Michael Bach) and binocular coordination and binocular advantages in reading (Dr. Stephanie Jainta).

Fig. 1. An active participation in the keynote lectures of Prof. Michael Bach — find the blind spot in your eye.

Symposium also included demonstrations of the newest vision science technologies developed by the sponsors. Representing the main sponsor "Hoya Vision Care", Mrs. Olga Prenat, Education and Hoya Faculty Director, lectured about the newly developed "HOYA EyeGenius®" system for fixation disparity evaluation and its correction. Participants could test the "HOYA EyeGenius®" system during the breaks (Fig. 2). "Lightspace Technologies" demonstrated a volumetric display for three-dimensional demonstrations. The participants could also test the products of "Haag-Streit Daignostics" and "Innovative Optics" that develop products for ophthalmological diagnostics.

VisPEP conference takes place once in two years and the next VisPEP symposium is planned in Lithuania in year 2018.

VisPEP 2016 web-page: http://www.vispep.lu.lv/

Photos of VisPEP 2016 opening:
http://foto.lu.lv/arhiivs/2016/j_okt/05/index.html

Several articles prepared on the basis of presentations during the Symposium are published at Issue 5 (2017) of the journal *Proceedings of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, Section B*. The electronic version of the journal can be found here: https://www.degruyter.com/view/j/prolas.

Fig. 2. Testing the newly developed "HOYA EyeGenius®" system for fixation disparity evaluation and its correction.

The organizers would like to thank the main sponsors "Hoya Vision Care", the Baltic-German University Liaison and the University of Latvia, as well all the other sponsors: optical stores SIA „Vision Express Baltija", "Optio", "Pasaules optika", SIA "CIK-OPT", Haag-Streit, SIA "Innovative optics", SIA "Liko-R" and Latvian Association of Optometrists and Opticians (LOOA), as well as our big group of volunteers.

Fig. 3. The event is only possible thanks to the great enthusiasm, faith, and support!

1. STARPTAUTISKAIS REDZES FIZIOLOĢIJAS, VIDES UN REDZES UZTVERES SIMPOZIJS (VISPEP 2016)

Pateicoties trīs Baltijas valstu (Latvija, Lietuva un Igaunija) un Vācijas sadarbībai, 2016. gada 6.–8. oktobrī Rīgā norisinājās 1. Starptautiskais redzes fizioloģijas, vides un redzes uztveres simpozijs (VisPEP 2016). Tajā piedalījās 178 dalībnieki no 13 valstīm, kas prezentēja savu pētījumu rezultātus un bija ieinteresēti dažādos redzes zinātnes pētījumos: redzes fizioloģija (akomodācija, binokulārās acu kustības, zīlītes fizioloģija); vide (apgaismojums, redzes nogurums, redzes stimulu tehnoloģijas), redzes uztvere (redzes uzmanība, krāsu redze, telpiskā redze); klīniskie pētījumi optometrijā (klīniskie gadījumi, diagnostika un ārstēšana). Pateicoties simpozija galvenā sponsora *Hoya Vision Care* atbalstam, ir tapis pirmā Simpozija rakstu krājums.