

## ORGANIZERS:

OPEN MEDICAL INSTITUTE (OMI)

UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL CENTER OSIJEK

MEDICAL FACULTY OSIJEK UNIVERSITY J.J. STROSSMAYER

UNIVERSITY ENT DEPARTMENT AND HEAD AND NECK SURGERY

HEAD AND NECK DISEASE ASSOCIATION OF SLAVONIJA AND  
BARANJA COUNTY

CROATIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION SUBSIDIARY OSIJEK

## GENERAL INFORMATION:

The symposium targets otorhinolaryngologists, both consultants and residents.

Accreditation by the Croatian Medical Chamber

**Venue:** Lecture Hall P2 & 3 of the University's Hospital Emergency Department

Registration starts at 08:00 am on June 18, 2026

UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL CENTER OSIJEK

J. HUTTLERA 4, 31000 OSIJEK

Phone: 031/512-402

## Application for Participation:

ivan.abicic5@gmail.com or matejrezo21@gmail.com

**Limited Number of Participants (maximum 50)**

No Registration Fee



## OPEN MEDICAL INSTITUTE SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM

### State of the Art in Chronic Otitis Media with Cholesteatoma



University Hospital Center Osijek, June 18-19, 2026  
Department for ENT and Head and Neck Surgery

## ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

The Open Medical Institute (OMI) is proud to present its first satellite symposium in the field of otorhinolaryngology in Osijek, Croatia. Special attention will be given to otology and cholesteatoma surgery. Chronic otitis media with cholesteatoma represents a complex challenge in otorhinolaryngology, and it is of utmost importance to recognize and diagnose this serious condition so that treatment can be carefully planned preoperatively. Difficulties encountered during surgery can be overcome through a meticulous understanding of three-dimensional temporal bone anatomy. The goal of the symposium is to encourage young ENT surgeons who are beginning their journey in otology, while also providing experienced surgeons with an opportunity to refresh and expand their knowledge. For this special occasion, we have invited renowned local and international faculty members. The event offers cutting-edge insights into the field of otorhinolaryngology, including state-of-the-art lectures and a dynamic round table discussion. The program also features a practical hands-on workshop in which participants can practice the use of passive middle ear implants on models provided by MED-EL.

### Symposium Organizing Committee:

Asst. Prof. Dr. Željko Zubčić (Head of Clinic)

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hrvoje Mihalj

Prof. Dr. Andrijana Včeva

J. Grigić, MD

Asst. Prof. Dr. Darija Birtić

Asst. Prof. Dr. Tihana Mendeš

Mirjana Grebenar Čerkez, MD, PhD

Vjeran Bogović, MD, PhD

Ivan Abičić, MD, PhD (OMI fellow)

Matej Rezo, MD, PhD candidate (OMI fellow)

## LECTURERS AND FACULTY

1. Prof. Dr. Samuel H. Selesnick  
Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, United States of America
2. Prof. Dr. Christoph Arnoldner  
University Hospital of Vienna (AKH), Vienna, Austria
3. Prof. Dr. Robert Trotić  
University Hospital Center Sestre Milosrdnice Zagreb, Croatia
4. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mihael Ries  
University Hospital Center Sestre Milosrdnice Zagreb, Croatia
5. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jakov Ajduk  
University Hospital Center Sestre Milosrdnice Zagreb, Croatia
6. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Marko Velepč  
University Hospital Center Rijeka, Croatia
7. Asst. Prof. Dr. Tihana Mendeš  
University Hospital Center Osijek, Croatia
8. Zdravka Krivdić Dupan, MD, PhD  
University Hospital Center Osijek, Croatia

The estimated duration of each didactic lecture is 30 minutes, followed by a 5-minute Q&A period.



**Weill Cornell**  
**Medicine**

## MEET THE OMI FACULTY

### Prof. Dr. Samuel H. Selesnick



**Samuel H. Selesnick, MD, FACS** is Professor and Vice Chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology and Professor of Otolaryngology in Neurological Surgery at the Weill Cornell Medical College and is a member of the Department of Neurological Surgery as well. Dr. Selesnick, in addition, is a member of the Department of Neurological Surgery at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. In October 2019, Dr. Selesnick was named Editor-in-Chief of the global largest and oldest otolaryngology medical journal, *The Laryngoscope*. Dr. Selesnick has held and continues to hold leadership positions in key national and international medical societies. Dr. Selesnick is Past President of the American Otological Society and is a Past President of the American Neurotology Society. Dr. Selesnick is the General Secretary of the Politzer Society – The International Society of Otology. Dr. Selesnick has lectured in 19 countries, across Europe, the Middle East, and Asia, speaking on neurotologic and ear related topics in France, Italy, the United Kingdom, Austria, Denmark, Spain, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Greece, Poland, Australia, Japan, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, India, the Ukraine, Canada, Brazil, and Mexico. Dr. Selesnick is committed to fostering international collaboration and teaching. He has organized residency exchange programs between New York and Paris, and, in addition, has hosted other international scholars in training. Dr. Selesnick holds the title of Senior US Medical Counsellor to the American Hospital of Paris, acting as consultant to the administrative and medical

leadership at that institution. Dr. Selesnick has received The Certificate of Honor bestowed by The American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and has been named one of the best doctors in his field by numerous lay publications. Dr. Selesnick sits on the Executive Council of the American Otological Society. Dr. Selesnick has served on the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery. Dr. Selesnick has served on the Executive Council of The American Neurotology Society and has served on or chaired numerous committees for the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, The American Otological Society, The Triological Society, The American College of Surgeons, and other medical societies. Dr. Selesnick sits on the editorial board of the journal *Otology and Neurotology* and has served as guest editor of *The Otolaryngologic Clinics of North America*. Dr. Selesnick has researched topics in neurotology - skull base surgery and otology, and has published extensively in peer reviewed journals. The second book he has co-edited was released in November 2010. Dr. Selesnick has served as the Chair of the Search Committee to identify the next Editor in Chief of *Otology&Neurotology* - the flagship journal in the field. At the NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/ Weill Cornell Medical Center, Dr. Selesnick has pioneered skull base surgery for acoustic neuromas as well as other skull base tumors. He has pioneered the use of lasers for the treatment of hearing loss in otosclerosis, and for the treatment of cholesteatoma, during mastoidectomy. Dr. Selesnick's administrative roles in his department include involvement with resident and staff oversight, recruitment, and practice management. Dr. Selesnick also sits on the promotions committee in the Department as well as on the resident selection committee. Dr. Selesnick received a Bachelor of Arts from Wesleyan University and graduated from the New York University School of Medicine. He completed his training in Otolaryngology at The Manhattan Eye, Ear, and Throat Hospital - Cornell Residency Program and went on to advanced Fellowship training in Otology, Neurotology, and Skull Base Surgery at The University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Selesnick has been frequently interviewed by the television, radio, and print media. He is an Honorary Police Surgeon in the New York Police Department.

## Prof. Dr. Christoph Arnoldner



**Christoph Arnoldner, MD, MBA** is a Professor of Otolaryngology and Chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck surgery at the Medical University of Vienna (Austria). His main interests are Otology, Hearing implants, Neurotology, and Skull Base Surgery. Dr. Arnoldner grew up in Vienna and went to medical school in Vienna and Paris. He did his otolaryngology residency in Hanover (Germany) with Prof. Lenarz and in Frankfurt am Main with Prof. Gstöttner. He then returned to Vienna with Prof. Gstöttner and passed his habilitation in 2010. In 2012, he became an Associate Professor of Otolaryngology at the Medical University of Vienna. From 2012 to 2013, Dr. Arnoldner underwent a fellowship in Otology and Skull Base Surgery with Prof. Chen and Nedzelski at the University of Toronto. Dr. Arnoldner's research interests include two areas. The first is psychoacoustic studies with cochlear implants. In these studies, Dr. Arnoldner and his team tested different speech processors, algorithms, electrodes, as well as cochlear implants to improve performance with CIs. His studies led to two US patents that were both successfully sold to industrial partners. The second interest involves his inner ear lab, the Christian Doppler Lab for Inner Ear Research. The focus of this is to investigate the preservation and regeneration of hearing function. With the help of translational research approaches, new cochlear implant technologies are researched, and promising active substances are analyzed for their application in the inner ear. He has authored more than 120 peer-reviewed articles and one surgical textbook.

## LOCAL FACULTY MEMBERS

Our local faculty team consists of recognized and renowned experts who are well known to the domestic audience. Our experts come from the University Hospital Center "Sestre Milosrdnice" Zagreb, where the first cochlear implant in Croatia was performed in 1996, and where otology and otologic surgery have been developed with the utmost care and dedication over the years. The University Hospital Center "Sestre Milosrdnice" Zagreb is also a well-recognized Reference Center of the Ministry of Health of Croatia for cochlear implantation and the surgical treatment of hearing loss and deafness. The team includes Prof. Dr. Robert Trotić, Head of the Department of Otology and Neurotology at the University Hospital Center "Sestre Milosrdnice" Zagreb, Past President of the European Federation of Audiology Societies (EFAS), and Past President of the Croatian Association for Audiology and Phoniatrics. Other valuable members of the team are Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mihael Ries and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jakov Ajduk, both of whom have a tremendous amount of experience in otology and cholesteatoma surgery.

The representative of the University Hospital Center Rijeka is Assoc. Prof. Dr. Marko Velepich, who serves as Head of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology. Representatives of the University Hospital Center Osijek are M.D., Ph.D. Zdravka Krivdic Dupan, MD, PhD, an experienced neuroradiologist at the Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology, and Asst. Prof. Dr. Tihana Mendeš, an otoneurologist who, together with many other valuable team members, recently played a significant role in establishing the Department of Otorhinolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery as a Reference Center of the Ministry of Health of Croatia for the diagnosis and treatment of dizziness and laryngopharyngeal reflux disease.

**Prof. Dr. Robert Trotić**



**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jakov Ajduk**



**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mihael Ries**



**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Marko Velepčič**



**Asst. Prof. Dr. Tihana Mendeš**



**Zdravka Krivdić Dupan, MD, PhD**



# PROGRAM

## Thursday, June 18, 2026

08:00 - 08:30: **Registration**

08:30 - 09:00: **Introduction** (Welcoming Speech by Director of University's Hospital Asst. Prof. Dr. Šego, Dean of the Faculty Prof. Dr. Drenjančević, OMI Faculty, OMI Representative, ENT Department Representatives)

09:00 - 09:45: Prof. Dr. Samuel H. Selesnick: Temporal Bone Anatomy; Facial Nerve and Its Relationship with Other Vital Structures of the Lateral Skull Base

09:50 - 10:20: **Coffee Break & Industrial Visit**

10:20 - 10:50: Asst. Prof. Dr. Tihana Mendeš: Etiopathogenesis of Cholesteatoma and Clinical Findings

10:55 - 11:25: Prof. Dr. Robert Trotić: History of Ossicular Chain Reconstruction in Chronic Otitis Media

11:30 - 12:00: Zdravka Krivdić Dupan, MD, PhD: Radiology of the Temporal Bone

12:15 - 13:30: **Lunch (Hospital's Cafeteria, OMI & Local Faculty only)**

13:30 - 14:00: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Marko Velepich: Management of Paediatric Cholesteatoma Cases

14:05 - 14:35: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mihael Ries: Hearing Rehabilitation and Decision Making in Middle Ear Cholesteatoma Surgery

14:40 - 15:10: Prof. Dr. Christoph Arnoldner: Management of Cholesteatoma Surgery Complications

15:15 - 15:45: **Coffee Break & Industrial Visit**

15:45 - 17:00: **Workshop & Closing Remarks:** 5 fellow's case presentations (Moderator Prof. Dr. Selesnick)

18:30 - 00:00: **Social Program & Dinner at Terra Negra Country Club, Čepin (All Participants)**

## Friday, June 19, 2026

08:30 - 09:00: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jakov Ajduk: Beyond the Temporal Bone; Cholesteatoma Involving the Lateral Skull Base

09:05 - 09:50: Prof. Dr. Samuel H. Selesnick: Key Essentials of a Good Research Project; Experience by *The Laryngoscope* Editor-in-Chief

10:00 - 10:15: OMI Representative: *Open Medical Institute*

10:20 - 10:45: **Coffee Break & Industrial Visit**

10:50 - 12:00: **Round Table:** Canal Wall Up versus Canal Wall Down versus Canal Wall Reconstruction Mastoidectomy; Stage or Not to Stage the Operation?

**Members: Drs. Selesnick, Arnoldner, Trotić, Ries, Ajduk**

**Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Velepich**

12:00 - 13:00: **Lunch (Hospital's Cafeteria – OMI & Local Faculty only)**

13:00 - 14:30: **Workshop “Hands on”:** Handling of Passive Middle Ear Implants on Models; Partial and Total Ossicular Replacement Prosthesis (MED-EL)

Tutors: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ries, Assoc Prof. Dr. Ajduk

14:40 - 16:00: **Workshop:** 5 fellow's case presentations (Moderator Prof. Dr. Arnoldner)

16:10 - 16:30: **Certificates Awarded & Closing Remarks**

16:30 - 17:00: **Hospital Visit for Faculty Members** (Department for Otorhinolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery; OR Visit)

18:30 - 22:00: **Dinner at Restaurant Lumiere, Osijek (OMI & Local Faculty only)**