

The Point of Care Ultrasonography in Primary and Ambulatory Healthcare at Daily Practice.

The Euroson PoC-US School 2023, 4th Edition annual event, hosted over 100 on-site delegates from 24 countries and 12 world-renowned faculty from Europe and worldwide. The meeting provided participants with a unique opportunity for sharing knowledge, and skills through workshops in clinical ultrasonography and POCUS. This Hybrid Conference was organized by the European Ultrasound Working Group in Ambulatory Healthcare (EUVEKUS / EADUS), endorsed by the European Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (EFSUMB), supported by WONCA Europe, credited by EACCME, held at the Medical University of Vienna and **chaired by Dr. Mihai Jacob, EUVEKUS President**. The theme of the Conference: **"The Point of Care Ultrasonography in Primary and Ambulatory Healthcare at Daily Practice"** reflects the collaboration to advance common approaches aimed at improving early diagnosis through ultrasonography techniques. **Our guests of honor as the International Keynote Speakers were Prof Shlomo Vinker, WONCA EUROPE President (Israel), Prof Christian Jenssen, EFSUMB Former President (Germany) together with other ten prestigious experts in the field of clinical ultrasonography.** During the two days of the ultrasound marathon, we tried to present some of the most important POCUS applications for medical practice in the Frontline Physicians.

When we have advanced and relatively cheap ultrasound devices, and high-performance technology with artificial intelligence or some smart software using updated diagnostic algorithms, it's time **to complete the classic clinical examination** (by history, inspection, palpation, percussion, and auscultation) **with the new concept of clinical-ultrasound examination** that currently allows us to visualize through ultrasound of most organs and tissues of the human body (US inspection), along with electronic ultrasound palpation through elastographic US method (US-palpation), but also with electronic auscultation through the Doppler Triplex technique (US-auscultation) to increase the diagnostic accuracy in primary and outpatient healthcare.

This meeting provided a platform for networking with many of Europe's leading experts, focusing on reviewing and assessing best practices in ultrasonography. **The program included presentations, round-table sessions, video sessions, interactive sessions, quizzes, hands-on training, the launch of international research studies, and several informal social gatherings.** In addition to the importance of theoretical knowledge and different methods, sections, and standard plans used for different POCUS applications, we offered our participants the opportunity to acquire some technical skills and learn some useful POCUS applications in their current practice in the various Workshops at our Euroson School. The Hands-on Sessions of practical training were on some fixed and mobile ultrasound machines of the latest generations dedicated to Frontline Physicians. WSs were grouped in different topographical regions of different organs in the human body and various POCUS applications centered on clinical signs, symptoms, and syndromes of different organs. Participants were actively involved in the working points on different state-of-the-art ultrasound machines, where each of our speakers taught participants various practical techniques, tips, and tricks in the examination of organs at different topographic regions: abdominal, pelvis, thyroid, breast, cardiac, chest, and eFAST in trauma and emergency at a basic and medium level. During the Euroson POCUS School Vienna 2023, we launched two Surveys, one about the future of the use of Artificial Intelligence in POCUS by colleagues from Israel and the others about the necessary reform and upgrade in the educational system in Europe for the development of a European POCUS Curriculum and the need for a new modern educational system that involves, and the necessity to create a "ToT system" (the Training of Trainers for POCUS) in Frontline Physicians for a pragmatic, concise, and efficient educational model. It was a real POCUS marathon, at the end of which we wanted the participants to acquire some solid theoretical and practical knowledge that would allow them to use the skills learned in this event. It is a unique event for the frontline physicians and primary healthcare through which we try to facilitate the transition and practical development of the Clinical-Ultrasound Examination which will increase the diagnostic accuracy in this field, following the statistical evidence we currently have. We took some important steps regarding the development of a European Curriculum of POCUS in primary healthcare and WONCA Europe adopted at the last WONCA Conference 2023 held in Brussels, a new position document recommended the use of POCUS in European primary healthcare. The position document of WONCA Europe proposed by Prof Shlomo Vinker regarding the uses of POCUS in primary healthcare was unanimously adopted by all the national delegates at the WONCA Council from Brussels this summer, which practically represents another step forward in the promotion and development of clinical

ultrasonography at the Primary Care level. **Dr. Mihai Iacob** was awarded at this WONCA Brussels Conference from both the Board of the American College of Family Medicine and the WONCA Europe Board, with the Montegut Global Scholar 2023 as a result of his 25 years of activity to promote POCUS and clinical ultrasonography in primary and ambulatory healthcare. At the end of the Montegut Prize awarding session, Dr. Iacob stated that this Prize represents: **"One small step for me, one giant leap for the European family physicians"**.

The second International Keynote Speaker, **Prof. Dr. Christian Jenssen, the former EFSUMB President** established the **EFSUMB POCUS Task Force Group** which is currently running a Delphi process in 50 European countries regarding the POCUS applications that will be introduced or implemented in the European Curriculum of POCUS in primary healthcare. We started promoting the recruitment process on several communication channels among our colleagues from EUVEKUS, EFSUMB, WFUMB, and WONCA Europe and its networking EGPRN, EURACT, EURIPA, and among the family doctors involved in the European groups interested in POCUS in primary healthcare from most European countries.

Last year, a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) or collaboration between EFSUMB and EUVEKUS** regarding the development of a POCUS Curriculum and new guidelines in primary healthcare was signed. **Our common goals are:**

We want to promote and use clinical ultrasonography, such as point-of-care ultrasonography, in frontline physicians to improve the quality of medical care and diagnostic accuracy to the greatest possible number of patients treated on an outpatient basis, thus contributing to lower costs in the health system and avoiding overcrowding in emergency hospitals.

We promote medical education/training to improve the practice of clinical ultrasound and the development of modern techniques among family doctors and other outpatient specialists (focus groups, workshops, conferences, symposia, courses on ultrasound, telemedicine, ultrasound guides, medical publications, ultrasound books, development of AI in the US) to drive this investigation based on internationally validated diagnostic guidelines.

We support the management of the activities of the Primary Care Ultrasound Groups and results from ultrasonographic research for promotion or collaborations with other multidisciplinary specialties within national and international medical societies, together with the dissemination of general ultrasound information among family doctors and other health professionals, so we are developing a more effective way of communicating and learning, for easier assimilation of ultrasound techniques and advanced medical technology.

We would like to thank our speakers, leaders of prestigious European medical organizations: WFUMB, EFSUMB, Wonca Europe, and EUVEKUS for two days presented both in the theoretical sessions and especially in the WSs Hands-on multiple applications of POCUS for Frontline Physicians (Primary and Ambulatory Healthcare). We thank all the participants who came in such a large number (both online and onsite), being present delegates, and the leaders of Ultrasound Working Groups from Belgium, France, Poland, Spain, Italy, Germany, Poland, Romania, etc. Was a real medical revolution in terms of upgrading the classic clinical examination to the next clinical-ultrasonographic examination for the benefit of our patients by increasing the quality of the medical act in the Frontline Physicians. Finally, we inform you that you can follow and remind yourself of the beautiful moments spent at Euroson POCUS School Vienna, 4th Edition by viewing the photos on the following links:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/S2c4RXWVAgJjb3uR9>

<https://youtu.be/KmZ56qWmc6g?si=91cJfXGcRirMwft5>

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<https://eurosonpocus.com/>