

# Preface to the Proceedings of the Third International Symposium on the Diverticular Disease of the Colon, Madrid, April 11-13, 2019

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Diverticulosis of the colon is one of the commonest anatomical conditions detected in the colon. It affects more than 70% of persons above 65 years of age living in the Western World, but its prevalence is now increasing worldwide. We know that most patients remain asymptomatic for all their life, but about 20-25% of them will experience symptoms (the so-called "Diverticular Disease") and about 5% will develop an acute inflammation of the diverticula (the so-called "Acute Diverticulitis"). This determines extremely high direct and indirect costs for the National Health Systems. Though, diverticular disease of the colon, with all its clinical aspects, remains today an ignored and disregarded pathology. However, in the last years there have been some important changes both in patho-physiology and in therapy: this news allows us to understand

more about the causes of the disease and to start new therapeutic courses, even if not always agreed by all the experts.

This issue of the Journal of Gastrointestinal and Liver Diseases gathers talks, best oral presentations and posters presented during the 3rd International Symposium "Diverticular disease of the Colon" held in Madrid on April 11th-13th 2019. These proceedings aim to critically discuss established and emerging new concepts in the pathogenesis, diagnosis and treatment of diverticular disease of the colon. It is subdivided in three main subheadings: the first gathers the results collected during the Post-Graduated Course, which assessed the international agreement on the Diverticular Inflammation and Complication Assessment (DICA) endoscopic classification of diverticulosis and diverticular disease; the second gathers manuscripts resuming current and evolving concepts on the pathogenesis, the course of the disease, the news in diagnosing, the hot topics in medical and surgical treatments and, finally, critical issues on the disease; the final subheading gathers abstracts submitted to the Symposium.

The Editors are very grateful to all contributors for their timely manuscripts, which made rapid publication of the proceedings possible. These contributions certainly reflect the current state of the art in the pathogenesis, diagnostic approach, and treatment of patients with diverticular disease of the colon.

**Acknowledgment:** The Editors thanks to the Zambon Italia S.R.L. for unconditional support in publishing this issue.