

The logo for the Balkan Society of Radiology (BSR) features the letters 'BSR' in a stylized font. The 'B' is blue, the 'S' is red, and the 'R' is blue. A red swoosh underline is positioned beneath the 'S' and 'R'.

10th Balkan Congress of RADIOLOGY

1 - 4 November 2012

Sandanski, BULGARIA

Congress venue: Interhotel Sandanski
Organized by: Balkan Society of Radiology
Hosted by: Bulgarian Association of Radiology

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT



Organizing secretariat:
Company for International Congresses Ltd.
1700 Sofia, Bulgaria
Vitosha district, 2, Lea Ivanova Str.
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WELCOME ADDRESS

Dear colleagues and friends,

On behalf of the Organizing Committee and on my own behalf it is my great honor and pleasure to invite you to the *Xth Balkan Congress Of Radiology* which will be held during the period **1st - 4th November 2012 in Sandanski, Bulgaria.**

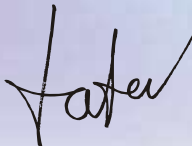
In the past years these congresses, organized by the Balkan Society of Radiology, have become major professional events whose main purpose is to promote the scientific and practical achievements in our speciality. The congress will be focused on education and innovations in technology. During the forum professionals will discuss the key topics in plenary and poster sessions, lectures and workshops. We truly hope that the Xth Balkan Congress will unite the efforts of all colleagues - specialists and trainees in radiology from Balkan countries.

Medical companies will present a wide range of their products during medical exhibition, satellite symposia, workshops and company presentations.

Sandansky, hosting our congress, is small but picturesque town, famous by its mineral springs. It is rich in history, be situated at the banks of River Struma, known in Greece as Strimonas on the ancient Strimonas road.

Nearly there are archeological cities from the early iron ages. In the city is well exposed Byzantine basilica. Close to Sandansky is Melnik, one of the most charming towns in the country, now small but fine, one of the most important Bulgarian medieval cities with commercial ties with Ragusa and Venice and two very beautiful monasteries: - the Rozhen and the Rila monasteries.

Sincerely yours,



Milan Totev

President of BCR 2012

University Hospital "Pirogov" Sofia, Bulgaria

CONGRESS COMMITTEES**President of BCR 2012**

Milan Totev

*University Hospital "Pirogov" Sofia, Bulgaria***BSR (Balkan Society of Radiology) Executive committee:**

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| President: | S. Efremidis (Greece) |
| First Vice-President: | O. Akhan (Turkey) |
| Second Vice-President: | P. Prassopoulos (Greece) |
| General Secretary: | D. Tsetis (Greece) |
| Members at large: | D. Negru (Romania) |
| | R. Maksimovic (Serbia) |

BSR Program planning committee:

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| President: | R. Maksimovic (Serbia) |
| First Vice-President: | R. Capsa (Romania) |
| Members at large: | V. Hadjidekov (Bulgaria) |
| | K. Malgari (Greece) |
| | N. Elmas (Turkey) |
| | N. Mitreska (FYR Macedonia) |
| | V. Sarajlic (Bosna and Hercegovina) |

Local committee - Sandanski

I. Tonev
V. Shopova
R. Stoikova

CONGRESS VENUE

The four-star Interhotel Sandanski is conveniently situated in the town of Sandanski, at the foot of the Pirin Mountain, 160km south from Sofia and only 20km away from the Greek border. The region is well known for its healthy climate and mineral water resources.

The hotel is a popular, prestigious and attractive venue for holding events of international significance, as well as for recreation and relaxation.



SCIENTIFIC AGENDA**• AUDIOVISUAL PRESENTATIONS**

Multimedia projector is provided

Please, submit your presentations on an electronic data carrier /CD, DVD, USB flash memory/ to the technical team in the hall on the day of your presentation, in the break before the respective session at the latest. Please, be present in the hall at least 10 minutes before the beginning of the presentation.

• E-POSTER SESSIONS

The poster hall will be located near the plenary hall.

An e-poster is an electronic version of the traditional boards and is displayed on monitor screens. The e-poster may include text, figures and images. Please, create your e-posters as a PowerPoint presentation, not more than 3 slides are necessary.

Please, submit your e-posters on an electronic data carrier /CD, DVD, USB flash memory/ to the technical team in the poster hall on the day of your presentation, in the break before the respective session at the latest.

• OFFICIAL LANGUAGE - ENGLISH

THE FINAL SCIENTIFIC AGENDAWILL BE UPLOADED ON THE WEBSITE OF:

• BULGARIAN ASSOCIATION OF RADIOLOGY - www.bulrad.bg

• COMPANY FOR INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES -
ORGANIZING SECRETARIAT OF THE EVENT - www.cic.bg

SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION

ABSTRACTS SUBMISSION DEADLINE: July 15th 2012

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Volume: educational lectures abstracts - 400 words, other lectures - 200 words

Body Font: Times New Roman, size 12, single line spacing.

Heading and Authors: Times New Roman, size 14, UPPERCASE for the heading, and size 13 for the authors' names and the respective institutions.

Please, use a title which is indicative of the contents of your abstract and avoid the use of abbreviations in the heading. The name of the presenting author must be underlined.

Institution: the following must be indicated: department (section), institution, city, country. Authors from different institutions must be indicated with *.

Language: English

Structure: to structure the main text, the following sub-headings must be used (marked in Bold, single line spacing):

- (I.) Introduction
- (II.) Objectives and Tasks
- (III.) Material and Methods - abbreviations should be avoided. Upon using abbreviations for the first time, use their full form followed by a standard abbreviation in brackets
- (IV.) Results
- (V.) Conclusion

Submission and confirmation: abstracts must be submitted by e-mail to: **bcr2012@cic.bg**

- The authors will receive confirmation for obtaining the abstract by e-mail on the electronic address from which the abstract has been sent.
- Following a discussion by the Scientific Committee, the authors will receive by e-mail a confirmation whether their abstract has been approved for *oral* or *poster* presentation.

PUBLICATIONS - The approved abstracts will be uploaded on a special CD submitted to all delegates registered for participation in the congress.

CERTIFICATES - All delegates registered for participation in the congress will receive a certificate thereof.

REGISTRATION

The preliminary registration for the Congress is advisory and independent of the registration fee payment.

| REGISTRATION FEE | |
|---|---------|
| EARLY FEE FOR DELEGATES up to June 20th | 140 EUR |
| LATE FEE FOR DELEGATES up to October 31th | 180 EUR |
| FEE FOR DELEGATES on spot | 210 EUR |
| EARLY FEE FOR RADIOGRAPHERS OR STUDENTS up to June 20th | 65 EUR |
| LATE FEE FOR RADIOGRAPHERS OR STUDENTS after June 20th /on spot | 80 EUR |
| ACCOMPANYING PERSON FEE | 50 EUR |

| The registration fee for delegates includes: | | The registration fee for radiographers and students includes: | The registration fee for accompanying person includes: |
|--|--|---|--|
| X | Access to the plenary and poster sessions | X | |
| X | Access to the satellite symposia/ workshops/ company presentations | X | |
| X | Access to the medical exhibition | X | |
| X | Delegates' material set | X | |
| X | Welcome Cocktail | X | X |
| X | Coffee breaks | X | |
| X | Gala dinner | X | X |

HOW TO REGISTER?

- Fill in the registration form and send it by fax or e-mail to the organizing secretariat of the congress - CIC Ltd.:
fax: +359 2/ 892 08 00, **E-mail:** bcr2012@cic.bg, **tel:** +359 2/ 892 08 08; 09 to 60
 or
- On-line registration - reg.cic-pco.com/bcr2012-02-02
www.cic.bg or www.bulrad.bg

ACCOMMODATION**INTERHOTEL SANDANSKI ******

All rooms are equipped with a mini bar, cable TV, telephone, work desk, hair dryer, safe deposit box, wireless Internet access, balcony, special SPA supplies - bath robes and slippers.

SAINT NIKOLA ***

All rooms are stylishly furnished and equipped with cable TV, telephone with direct access, mini bar, wireless internet, central heating, air conditioning, bathroom with shower.

PANORAMA ***

All rooms are installed with central heating, air-condition, TV set with cable television, telephone, mini-refrigerator, bathroom with a shower cabin, wireless internet.

PIRIN *****

All rooms have individual control air conditioning, satellite TV, high speed Wifi connection, radio, safe, telephone, mini-bar; luxury bathroom with bathtub and a separate shower cab, hairdryer and telephone.

| HOTEL | PRICES |
|--|---------------|
| INTERHOTEL SANDANSKI **** | |
| SINGLE ROOM STANDART | 50 EUR |
| SINGLE ROOM LUXURY | 60 EUR |
| ONE BED IN DOUBLE ROOM STANDART | 35 EUR |
| ONE BED IN DOUBLE ROOM LUXURY | 40 EUR |
| SAINT NIKOLA*** | |
| SINGLE ROOM | 31 EUR |
| ONE BED IN DOUBLE ROOM | 21 EUR |
| HOTEL PANORAMA *** | |
| SINGLE ROOM | 30 EUR |
| ONE BED IN DOUBLE ROOM | 23 EUR |
| PIRIN ***** | |
| SINGLE ROOM STANDART | 60 EUR |
| ONE BED IN DOUBLE ROOM STANDART | 41 EUR |
| SINGLE ROOM LUXURY | 64 EUR |
| ONE BED IN DOUBLE ROOM LUXURY | 43 EUR |

* Double room accommodations are possible only upon explicitly specifying the second person's name. Upon accommodating one person, a single room price is paid.

The announced prices are in EUR and provide accommodation of the "Bed and Breakfast" type.

The hotel reservation will be made in compliance with the information obtained from the registration form /type of room, number of overnight accommodations required/. It will be valid upon making a registration and paying a deposit for the first night.

PAYMENT

Early and late registration fee and the first night accommodation deposit can be paid:

- **via bank transfer:**

Bank: UniCredit Bulbank

BIC: UNCRBGSF

IBAN: BG 72 UNCR 9660 1064 4601 18

Branch: Saint Sofia

Address: 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria, 58 Alabin Str.

Company for International Congresses - CIC Ltd.

Please indicate the *sender's name* and "BCR2012" as the purpose of payment!

- **Online Credit Card Payment**

Please visit www.cic.bg

Balance amounts for the accommodation, as well as ON SPOT registration fees can be paid upon registering at the registration desk of the Company for International Congresses CIC Ltd. at Interhotel Sandanski.

CANCELLATIONS

In case you cancel your participation till September 20th, the 70 % of the Registration Fee will be refunded.

Upon cancelling the hotel registration, submitted in writing until *October 1st 2012*, the first night accommodation deposit is refunded.

After these dates no amounts will be refunded.

IMPORTANT DATES

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| JUNE 20th 2012 | EARLY REGISTRATION FEE PAYMENT DEADLINE |
| JULY 15th 2012 | ABSTRACTS SUBMISSION DEADLINE |
| OCTOBER 31st 2012 | LATE REGISTRATION FEE PAYMENT DEADLINE |
| NOVEMBER 1st 2012 | OPENING CEREMONY |
| NOVEMBER 4th 2012 | CLOSURE |

CONTACTS:

For issues related to the Congress
scientific agenda, please contact:

Milan Totev - President of BCR 2012
University Hospital "Pirogov" Sofia, Bulgaria
Tel: 00 359 889605742
E-mail: milantotev@doctor.com

For issues related to registration, hotel
bookings and information, please contact:

Mirela Dimitrova
CIC LTD.
Tel: ++359 2/892 08 08; 09 to 60
Fax: ++359 2/892 08 00
E-mail: mdimitrova@cic.bg
Website: www.cic.bg

GENERAL INFORMATION:**Location:**

Sandanski is situated in the south-western part of Bulgaria and it covers a territory in the picturesque Sandansko-Pertichka valley along the middle course of **Struma** river and the western and south-western slopes of the three ridges of Pirin, the northern slopes of Slavyanka mountain and the lowest foothill regions of Malashevka mountain and Ograjden mountain. The town is located 166 km from Sofia and 20km away from the Greek border.

Nearest airport:

Sofia Airport - 166 km. Information on airlines operating to/from Sofia can be found on Sofia Airport website: www.sofia-airport.com

Thessaloniki Airport - 150 km. Information on airlines operating to/from Thessaloniki can be found on Thessaloniki Airport website: www.thessalonikiairport.gr

Skopje airport - 145 km. Information on airlines operating to/from Skopje can be found on Skopje Airport website: www.airports.com.mk

*Transportation from Sofia Airport to Congress venue upon request. Possibilities for shuttle bus from Thessaloniki airport are also available.

By train

Bulgarian State Railways operates all international train services. The Trans-Balkan Express (trains 460 and 461) runs between Bucharest in Romania and Thessaloniki in Greece, passing through Ruse, Pleven, Sofia, Blagoevgrad and Sandanski.

Bulgarian State Railways site: www.bdz.bg

By car:

There are several crossings into **Romania**, but if you're driving, use the toll bridge at Ruse or a land border further east. For public transport, the quickest crossing is again at Ruse. You can also cross at Karda - Negru Voda (accessible from Dobrich) and at Durankulak - Vama Veche (accessible from Varna). **Regular Ferryboat shipments:** Vidin (Bul) - Calafat (Rom) and Nikopol (Bul) - Turnu Măgurele (Rom) - Information on website: <http://www.brp.bg>

Svishtov /Bul/ and Zimnicea /Rom/ - Information on website: www.ferry.bg

The only crossings into **Greece** are at Kulata - Promahonas, Ilinden - Eksohi and at Svilengrad - Ormenion.

The main border crossing into **Turkey** is Malko Tarnovo - Derekoy. From Kapitan Andreevo, near Svilengrad, travellers can cross the Turkish border to Edirne.

For **Macedonia**, the main crossings are between Gyueshevo (near Kyustendil) and Deve Bair (just east of Kriva Palanka); Zlatarevo (west of Kulata) and Delchevo; and Stanke Lisichkovo (near Blagoevgrad) and Novo Selo.

Travelling into **Serbia**, the main crossings link Kalotina (near Dragoman) and Dimitrovgrad; Vrâshka Chuka (near Vidin) and Zajchar; and Strezimirovtsi (near Pernik) and Klisura.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Time zone:
EET (UTC+2)

Climate:

| Month | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Year |
|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Record high °C (°F) | 26.1 (79.0) | 29.9 (85.8) | 29.8 (85.6) | 34.2 (93.6) | 36.0 (94.8) | 42.0 (107.6) | 45.0 (113.0) | 42.2 (108.0) | 38.7 (101.7) | 36.8 (88.2) | 27.0 (80.6) | 26.7 (80.1) | 45.0 (113.0) |
| Average high °C (°F) | 7.7 (45.9) | 10.9 (51.6) | 15.7 (60.3) | 20.3 (68.5) | 26.1 (79.0) | 30.5 (86.9) | 33.5 (92.3) | 33.5 (92.3) | 27.7 (81.9) | 21.1 (70.0) | 15.0 (59.0) | 8.4 (47.1) | 20.9 (69.6) |
| Average low °C (°F) | -1.5 (29.3) | 0.1 (32.2) | 3 (37) | 7.5 (45.5) | 11.8 (53.2) | 15.2 (59.4) | 17.5 (63.5) | 17.2 (63.0) | 13.8 (56.8) | 9.2 (48.6) | 5.4 (41.7) | 0.7 (33.3) | 8.3 (46.9) |
| Record low °C (°F) | -21 (-9.8) | -10.1 (13.8) | -9.9 (14.2) | -5.2 (22.6) | -0.3 (31.5) | 4.5 (40.1) | 8.2 (46.8) | 5.6 (42.1) | 0.2 (32.4) | -5.8 (21.6) | -10.5 (13.1) | -17.5 (9.5) | -21 (-9.8) |
| Precipitation mm (inches) | 48 (1.89) | 39 (1.54) | 38 (1.5) | 49 (1.93) | 57 (2.24) | 58 (2.28) | 36 (1.42) | 26 (1.02) | 30 (1.18) | 52 (2.05) | 67 (2.64) | 53 (2.09) | 533 (20.98) |
| Sunshine hours | 111.6 | 131.6 | 176.7 | 219 | 263.5 | 303 | 341 | 325.5 | 270 | 195 | 126 | 99.2 | 2,562.1 |

Cash

Bulgarian banknotes come in denominations of 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 leva. Coins come in 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 stotinki and 1 lev.

Fixed exchange rate: 1 EUR = 1,956 leva

ATMs

ATMs that accept major credit cards (Maestro, JCB, Visa, MasterCard and American Express).

History:**Sandanski:**

The town of Sandanski is located at an altitude of 222 m in the foothills of the Pirin Mountains, along Sandanska Bistritsa river. The town of Sandanski is famous with the best natural public health for bronchial asthma in Europe. It is popular for its mineral springs, mild climate, variety of places of interest and old-centuries cultural heritage. The town hosts in the beginning of September the annual Pirin folk festival.

The resort climate is indeed unique. The mineral springs turn it into a resort of international significance. Throughout the year, local temperatures are higher than inland temperatures - the annual average being 14.7 °C. Winters are mild and short, autumns long and warm. The temperature of the mineral springs varies between 33 C and 83 C.

History

The settlement near the mineral springs has originated in the II millennium AD. Spartacus - the leader of the biggest riot (74) of the Roman Empire comes from the Thracian tribe "medi" which has inhabited its surroundings. Up to VI century the town is one of the first Christian bishops centers in Bulgaria.

In the end of VI century Barbarian tribes have destroyed it. Since those days it is named Saint Vrach to the memory of the two brothers Kozma and Damyan - doctors of folk medicine. This is the name of the town till 1947, when it has been renamed to Sandanski, the name of a Bulgarian revolutionary, a fighter for the liberation of Macedonia from the Turkish yoke - Janne Sandanski.

GENERAL INFORMATION:**Sightseeing**

The architectural and sculptural complex behind which a white seven-meter high stone statue of Spartacus rises up. In the center of the town is the Museum of Archaeology which treasures material evidence of more than 27 centuries and the town Art gallery.

Particular attention should be paid to St. George church from 1861 /10, St. St. Ciril and Methodius Str. / and to the monastery St. St. Kozma and Damian.

Nature

Sandanski is proud of the unique town park called with the old name of the town Sveti Vrach in 1981. Its territory is 344 decares. More than 100 tree species and more than 150 floral species grow here. One can see here old hollow plane- trees.

The verdure of the park shelters the town stadium, the open theatre hall, the open swimming pool, an artificial lake with a bar, a lot of boats and water wheels. At the very gate of the park a unique ferro-concrete map of Northern Pirin was made and installed by Nikola Mironski, a well-known Bulgarian mountaineer.

Melnik:

The breath-taking Melnik pyramids rank among the most remarkable natural phenomena in Bulgaria. Over an area of about 17 sq. km. millennia-long erosion has created a truly unearthly world. It is up to the visitor's imagination to distinguish obelisks, ancient towers, pyramids, and giant mushrooms among the various forms of erosion. And while the sand-like rocks seem quite fragile at first sight, this natural phenomenon has proven extremely resistant to wind and water and has survived intact for ages now.

Apart from the unique natural surroundings, the town also boasts for the fascinating architecture of its old Melnik houses, most of which were built during the Bulgarian Renaissance to testify for the grandeur and richness of the commercial hub with 25,000 inhabitants, which Melnik once used to be. The ruins of the St Nicholas monastery, Slav's fortress, the Roman Bridge and the old Turkish bath are other places of interest there. Now days the town of Melnik is the smallest town in Bulgaria with just 230 permanent residents. However, it is one of the most charming towns, famous for its world known thick and aromatic wines and fantastic rock formations. Moreover, some 7km a way from the town, up in the Pirin Mountain, one can ride to the Rozhen monastery. The town, together with the neighboring Rozhen monastery is declared a cultural and historic heritage.

GENERAL INFORMATION:**The Rozhen Monastery**

The Rozhen Monastery is the biggest monastery in the Pirin Mountains in southwestern Bulgaria. It is one of the few medieval Bulgarian monasteries well preserved until today.

The earliest archaeological evidence of medieval life at the place is a grave with a few coins and decorations from the time of Byzantine Emperor Michael VIII Palaiologos (1259-1282). Some other items also date to the 13th century while the marble frieze above the central gate of the church dates to the 13th or 14th century. A couple of new buildings were constructed in the monastery at the time of Despot Alexius Slav. The earliest written source testifying to the monastery's existence is a note on a chant book from 1551, today in the Great Lavra library on Mount Athos.

The monastery church was built before the 15th century and painted in 1597; some of those frescoes are preserved. In 1611, the south facade was painted. The Rozhen Monastery was devastated by fire between 1662 and 1674, destroying the library and severely damaging most buildings. The monastery was restored over the next century with the financial help of rich Bulgarians from the whole country. The reconstruction began in 1715 and was fully finished in 1732.

The monastery reached its apogee in the 19th century, when it was a regional centre of Orthodox Christianity and owned a lot of land in the area. Famous Bulgarian revolutionary Yane Sandanski's grave is located near the monastery.

The Monastery of Saint John of Rila

Rila Monastery is the largest and most famous Eastern Orthodox monastery in Bulgaria. It is situated at an altitude of 1100 m in the north-western Rila Mountains in the deep valley of the Rilska River, 120 km south of Sofia and 63 km from Sandanski.

Besides being one of Bulgaria's most important cultural, historical and architectural treasures, The Rila Monastery is regarded as a remarkable monument on the Balkan Peninsula. This exquisite example of the Bulgarian monastery art and architecture is under the aegis of UNESCO. The biggest gilded iconostasis in Bulgaria, various frescos, icons and woodcarvings can be seen there.

This beautiful, spiritual and amazing place and has helped preserve the pride, national identity, faith, and hope for all Bulgarians through the centuries. Nowadays it is a "must see" destination for any foreign visitor.