



MEDICAL UNIVERSITY SOFIA
FACULTY OF MEDICINE SOFIA

**CLINICAL CENTER OF
ENDOCRINOLOGY AND
GERONTOLOGY**



Second Scientific Pituitary Expert Meeting

CUSHING'S SYNDROME AND ACROMEGALY: DIFFICULTIES IN DIAGNOSTICS AND TREATMENT



9 May 2017
Sofia, Bulgaria

Aula Maxima,
University Hospital "St. Ekaterina"





Second Scientific Pituitary Expert Meeting



Dear colleagues and friends,

The success of the last year's First Expert Meeting inspired us to organize the current event, which is focused on the difficulties in diagnosis and treatment of Cushing's syndrome and acromegaly.

We are delighted that some of the most prominent specialists in the field of pituitary pathology will present the latest advances in this issue. In addition, we will have the opportunity to discuss several intriguing clinical cases.

Cushing's syndrome and acromegaly are rare endocrine disorders. It is a great achievement for Bulgaria that two expert centers for rare endocrine diseases (in Sofia and Varna) have become part of the European Reference Network for Rare Endocrine Conditions (Endo-ERN). The Chair of the Endo-ERN Prof. Alberto Pereira will present the mission, the structure and the benefits for the patients of this unification of endocrinologist efforts.

I believe that the meeting will be fruitful and will create new contacts and ideas for future joint projects.

Prof. Sabina Zacharieva,

*Director of University Hospital of Endocrinology,
Medical University, Sofia*



PANEL speakers



Prof. Jérôme Bertherat

*French Institute of Health Research INSERM,
Paris, France*

Jérôme Bertherat is professor of Endocrinology at Paris Descartes University, Chief of the Endocrinology Department of Cochin Hospital, head of the National Center for Rare Adrenal Diseases and of the research team “Genomics and Signaling of Endocrine Tumors” in the Cochin Institute (INSERM U1016 & CNRS UMR8104), Paris, France. He serves as the coordinator of the French National Network for Rare Endocrine Disorders (FIRENDO) and as chair of the Clinical Committee of the European Society of Endocrinology (ESE). He has served as deputy Chief Editor of the European Journal of Endocrinology. He is currently member of the executive committees of the ESE, of the ENSAT network dedicated to adrenal tumors and of the French Endocrine Society. His main research specialties include Cushing’s syndrome, the genetics of familial adrenal tumors and the molecular genetics of endocrine tumors.



PANEL speakers



Prof. Xavier Bertagna

*French Institute of Health Research INSERM
Paris, France*

Professor Xavier Yves Bertagna is Professeur d'Endocrinologie, Consultant, Former Head of Endocrine Department, Hôpital Cochin, Paris. He is also Professor Emeritus, Faculté de Médecine Paris Descartes – Université Paris 5. His Clinical and University Degrees are: Internat des Hôpitaux de Paris (1971); Master Degree in Clinical Sciences. Montreal University, Canada (1973); Doctorat d'Etat de Médecine. Faculté de Médecine de Paris. CHU Broussais-Hôtel Dieu (1976); Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (1977); Chef de Clinique-Assistant des Hôpitaux de Paris. Faculté Cochin (1979); Professeur des Universités – Praticien Hospitalier, en Endocrinologie (1982); Head of Endocrine Department, hôpital Cochin (1999-2013); Head of Pôle Endocrinologie-Diabète, Enfant/Adulte Cochin St Vincent de Paul (2007-2011)

Professor Bertagna had achieved several awards as Fonds BNP pour la Recherche Médicale (1994); Clinical Endocrinology Trust Medal, British Endocrine Society, (1997) and European Medal of the Society for Endocrinology, UK (2011).

The research field is that of endocrine tumors, particularly of pituitary- and adrenal origins all involved in CUSHING'S SYNDROME. With 276 publications : most in the best Journals of the specialty (J Clin Endocrinol Metab, Clin Endocrinol, Eur J Endocrinol, ...), and also in more prestigious generalist ones (Nature Genetics, Lancet, N Engl J Med, PNAS, J Clin Invest, Cancer Res, Am J Hum Gen, J Clin Oncol...).



PANEL speakers



Prof. Rosario Pivonello

*Medical University Federico II,
Naples, Italy*

Rosario Pivonello is Professor at the Department of Molecular and Clinical Endocrinology and Oncology of the “Federico II” University of Naples, Italy. In 1994, he got the University Degree in Medicine and Surgery with a thesis focused on “GH deficiency in adulthood”. In 1999, he got the Specialization Degree in Endocrinology and Metabolism with a vote of “Summacum Laude”, and a thesis focused on diabetes insipidus. In 2003, he got the Doctorate Degree in Neuropsychopharmacology and Toxicology at the Federico II University of Naples, with “Optimum” score and a thesis focused on the role of dopamine receptors in pituitary and adrenal tumors. In 2005, he got the Doctorate Degree in Neuroendocrinology at the Erasmus University of Rotterdam, The Netherlands with a thesis entitled “Dopamine receptor expression and function in the normal and pathological hypothalamus pituitary- adrenal axis”. In 2005 and in 2009, he won the Italian Society of Endocrinology Award for Young Investigators for the Scientific Career. He is author of more than 180 publications in peer-reviewed international journals, several chapters for national and international books, and he was presenter and invited lecturer in several national and international conference, meeting and courses. He is expert in the field of pituitary and adrenal diseases, mainly on Cushing’s syndrome.



PANEL speakers



Prof. Alberto Pereira

*Leiden University Medical Center
Leiden, the Netherlands*

Alberto M. Pereira was trained in Internal Medicine and Endocrinology at the Academic Medical Center in Amsterdam, the Netherlands (1992-1999), where he also obtained his PhD (2000). In 2000, he moved to the Leiden University Medical Center, where he chairs the Leiden Pituitary Workgroup since 2004. After a postdoctoral fellowship (2006-2007) at the Gorlaeus laboratory Leiden/Amsterdam Center of Drug research (Prof Ron de Kloet) he was appointed chair of the Academic Residency Program in Endocrinology in 2009. In 2012 he founded the multidisciplinary and patient-centered Center for Endocrine Tumors Leiden, a national and European reference center for endocrine tumors. In November 2012 he was appointed as professor holding the chair of Endocrinology at Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, the Netherlands. His research focusses on the long-term consequences of pituitary diseases in general, and on the effects of stress hormones on the central nervous system in specific. He has (co)authored more than 250 original publications and book chapters. Prof Pereira is also chair of the Dutch Pituitary Network, president (2016-2018) of the European Neuroendocrine Association (ENEA), en coordinator (2017-2022) of the European Reference Network on Rare Endocrine Conditions (Endo-ERN).



PANEL speakers



Prof. Vera Popovic

*Belgrade University School of Medicine
Belgrade, Serbia*

Vera Popovic-Brkic, MD, PhD is Professor of Internal Medicine at Belgrade University School of Medicine and Head of Dept of Neuroendocrinology, Endocrinology Clinic, University Clinical Center, Belgrade. Dr Popovic received a medical degree from Belgrade University School of Medicine. She is a certified specialist of Internal Medicine and subspecialist of Endocrinology. She completed postdoctoral studies in Endocrinology at Bart's Hospital, London. Dr. Popovic was the Chair of Postgraduate Studies in Endocrinology at Belgrade University and organized the 1st and 11th European (ESE) Postgraduate Course in Belgrade in 2006 and 2011. Professor Dr. Popovic currently serves as Vice President of ESE Endocrinology (ESE). She was Chair of the POC for the 2009 European Congress of Endocrinology and member of numerous POC. She is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and is a member of numerous other professional societies (ENEA, GRS , Endo and Serbian Medical Association). She is Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences within the Serbian Medical Association. Professor Dr Popovic has published more than 150 peer-reviewed original research papers. She is the principal investigator (PI) for the research grant funded by the Ministry of Science Serbia since 1985. Her research studies include new molecules in the regulation of GH secretion (GHRP-6, ghrelin), long acting GH molecules for GH replacement, new molecules in energy homeostasis (leptin & ghrelin). Her special clinical interests are hypopituitarism and management of pituitary adenomas. She lectured in numerous national and international meetings, European postgraduate courses. Dr Popovic is a reviewer for many distinguished journals in endocrinology as well as member of their editorial boards.



PANEL speakers



Maria Koltowska

*Uppsala University
Uppsala, Sweden*

Maria Koltowska-Häggström, MD, PhD is an independent consultant, affiliated to the Department of Women's and Children's Health at Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden, and a consultant to Strongbridge Biopharma. She is also a co-owner of Proper Medical Writing, the first Polish medical writing agency. After completing her medical studies in Wrocław, Poland, Maria worked for ten years as a paediatrician. In 1991, she began working within the pharmaceutical industry where she gained experience in both the marketing and medical sides of the business, with a particular focus on biologics and niche business. In 2001, Maria joined the Medical Outcomes team at Pharmacia (later Pfizer) in Stockholm, Sweden. She left Pfizer in June 2013.

Maria was a leading member of numerous research groups investigating growth hormone disorders in paediatric and adult patients managed in the real-life clinical setting. She has an extensive track record of quality of life and patient-reported outcomes research.

She earned her PhD at Uppsala University (2008) based on the dissertation "Quality of life in adult patients with growth hormone deficiency; bridging the gap between clinical evaluation and health economic assessment". Her over 70 peer-reviewed papers were published in the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism, European Journal of Endocrinology, Clinical Endocrinology, Growth Hormone and IGF Research, Hormone Research in Pediatrics, Diabetes Care, Value in Health, Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety, Polish Journal of Endocrinology, Management Issues (Warsaw University), Cost effectiveness and Resource Allocation, and American Journal of Cardiology.

She is a member of the European Society of Endocrinology, Growth Hormone Research Society, European Association of Scientific Editors and the European Medical Writers Association.

She is also a reviewer for the European Journal of Endocrinology, Clinical Endocrinology, European Endocrinology, Value in Health, European Journal of Health Economics, Archives of Medical Science and BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine and an Associate Editor for BMC Endocrine Disorders.



PANEL speakers biographies



Prof. Christian Strasburger, MD

*Clinic of Endocrinology, Campus Mitte,
Charite-Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany*

Christian J. Strasburger, MD, is Professor of Medicine and Chief of Clinical Endocrinology at Campus Mitte, Charite-Universitätsmedizin, Berlin, Germany. Previous appointments were Associate Professor of Medicine and Head of the Neuroendocrine Unit at the Medizinische Klinik Innenstadt of the Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich, Germany. He received training at the Department of Medicine at the Medical University of Lübeck, Germany, and as a MINERVA fellow of the Max-Planck Foundation at the Department of Hormone Research, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel.

Dr. Strasburger has published more than 220 scientific papers and served on the editorial board (1999-2007) and as the chief editor (2007-2011) of the European Journal of Endocrinology as well as on the editorial boards of GH & IGF Research and Pituitary and the Journal of Endocrinological Investigation. He also served on the council (1998-2012) and as president (2008-2010) of the Growth Hormone Research Society, and is a former council member of the European Neuroendocrine Association, of the German Endocrine Society and ex-officio council member (as EJE chief Editor) of the European Society for Endocrinology (ESE). He currently serves on the Board of Governors of The Pituitary Society and is this Society's President-Elect. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the German National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA). His scientific focus of interest is pituitary diseases, growth hormone structure-function relationship and central regulation of energy homeostasis.



PANEL speakers



Prof. Albert Beckers

*University Hospital Centre
Liège, Belgium*

Dr. Albert Beckers MD, PhD, is Chief of the Department of Endocrinology at the University Hospital Centre, Liège and Full Professor at the University of Liège, Belgium. After completing his medical degree at the University of Louvain, Belgium, Prof. Beckers undertook specialty training in Endocrinology, Internal Medicine and Nuclear Medicine. He oversees a Department with multiple clinical and research areas of interest, including pituitary tumors, thyroid disease, genetic causes of endocrine cancers and rare inherited syndromes. Prof. Beckers has taken a particular interest in endocrine education, authoring a highly-regarded series of digital projects on aspects of pituitary disease. He has published more than 315 original articles in journals such as the New England Journal of Medicine, Endocrine Reviews, and the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism. Research highlights include the original characterization and description of the syndrome, Familial Isolated Pituitary Adenomas (FIPA) and a newly described pediatric syndrome X-Linked Acrogigantism (X-LAG).

Prof. Beckers has served two mandates as President of the Belgian Endocrine Society, has been the Secretary of the European NeuroEndocrine Association (Enea), and has organised many national and international Congresses. Current research interests include the genetics of pituitary diseases, molecular and genetic investigation of rare disorders of endocrine development, gigantism and acromegaly and the study of new treatment options for aggressive endocrine tumors.

Prof. Beckers has been awarded the 2016 Geoffrey Harris Prize of the European Society of Endocrinology. The Geoffrey Harris Prize is the most prestigious award of the European Society of Endocrinology and is awarded in recognition of achievements by established researchers in the field of basic and clinical neuroendocrinology.

Prof. Beckers is an advocate of traditional rural life and customs, particularly bee-keeping.



PANEL speakers



Prof. Marin Marinov, MD, PhD, DMSc
*Chief of the Department of Neurosurgery,
University Hospital "St. Iv. Rilsky", Sofia, Bulgaria*

Marin Marinov is Professor of Neurosurgery and Chief of the Department of Neurosurgery, University Hospital "St. Iv. Rilsky", Sofia, Bulgaria.

Professor Marinov was trained in the department of Neurosurgery at Medical University-Sofia, where he obtained his PhD degree in 1986. He specialized in Germany as a Humboldt Foundation grant holder research (neurosurgical services in Bonn, Erlangen and Muenster), as well as a cerebrovascular fellow at Dartmouth College, neurosurgery clinic of DHMC, USA. Besides neurosurgical oncology, cerebrovascular diseases, neuroendoscopy, intraoperative monitoring and neuronavigation an important focus of his clinical and research activities is on the domain of surgical treatment of sellar tumors, in particular pituitary adenomas. His DMSc-Thesis in 2006 was dedicated to the contemporary capabilities of transsphenoidal surgery in pituitary adenomas. This fundamental work, as well as the conduction of many research projects in this scientific area was made possible as a result of long-term close co-operation between his neurosurgical group and the team of Professor Zacharieva from the Clinical Center of Endocrinology and Gerontology, Medical University of Sofia. His scientific production consists of more than 180 scientific papers as author and co-author, including 11 monographs and textbooks, as well more than 260 reports, invited lecturer in national, European and World Neurosurgical congresses and courses. Chief Editor of the Journal "Bulgarian Neurosurgery", President of the Bulgarian Society of Neurosurgery. In the period 2008-2016 he was elected and served as Dean of the Medical Faculty, Medical university of Sofia.

PROGRAM



9 May 2017 – Aula maxima,
University Hospital “St. Ekaterina”

09:00 – 09:10 **Welcome and opening of the event**
Sabina Zacharieva

FIRST SESSION: Cushing’s syndrome

09:10 – 09:40 **Adrenal Cushing: from frequent to rare causes**
Jérôme Bertherat

09:40 – 10:10 **Treatment of Cushing’s disease
after failure of pituitary surgery**
Xavier Bertagna

10:10 – 10:40 **Pasireotide in the treatment of Cushing disease**
Rosario Pivonello

10:40 – 11:00 **Coffee break**

11:00 – 11:30 **Cushing’s syndrome as a model
for chronic societal stress**
Alberto Pereira

11:30 – 12:00 **The impossible algorithm for treating
Cushing’s syndrome: the challenging cases**
Vera Popovic

12:00 – 12:30 **An update on clinical development
in treatment of Cushing’s syndrome**
Maria Koltowska

PROGRAM



9 May 2017 – Aula maxima,
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CUSHING’S SYNDROME: CLINICAL CASES

- 12.30 – 12.45 **Pituitary apoplexy while treating recurrence of Cushing’s disease with Pasireotide**
Birutė Žilaitienė
- 12.45 – 13.00 **Cushing’s disease in course of invasive, giant corticotroph macroadenoma – the problem of tumor size and lack of biochemical control**
Przemysław Witek
- 13.00 – 13.15 **Case of severe Cushing’s disease treated with a new blocker of steroidogenesis**
Ivaila Uzounova
- 13.15 – 13.30 **Cushing’s syndrome, pregnancy and outcome**
Milica Stojanoska
- 13:30 – 14:30 Lunch**

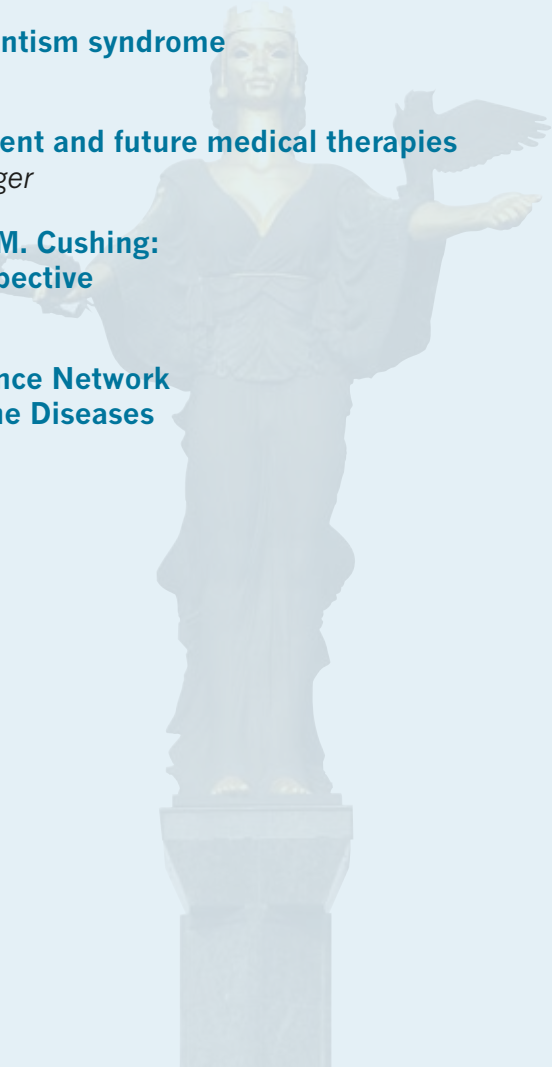
PROGRAM



9 May 2017 – Aula maxima,
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SECOND SESSION: Acromegaly & ERN

- 14:30 – 15:00 **X-linked acrogigantism syndrome**
Albert Beckers
- 15:00 – 15.30 **Acromegaly: current and future medical therapies**
Christian Strasburger
- 15:30 – 16.00 **Acromegaly and M. Cushing:
the surgical perspective**
Marin Marinov
- 16:00 – 16.30 **European Reference Network
for Rare Endocrine Diseases**
Alberto Pereira
- 16:30 – 16.50 Coffee break**



PROGRAM



9 May 2017 – Aula maxima,
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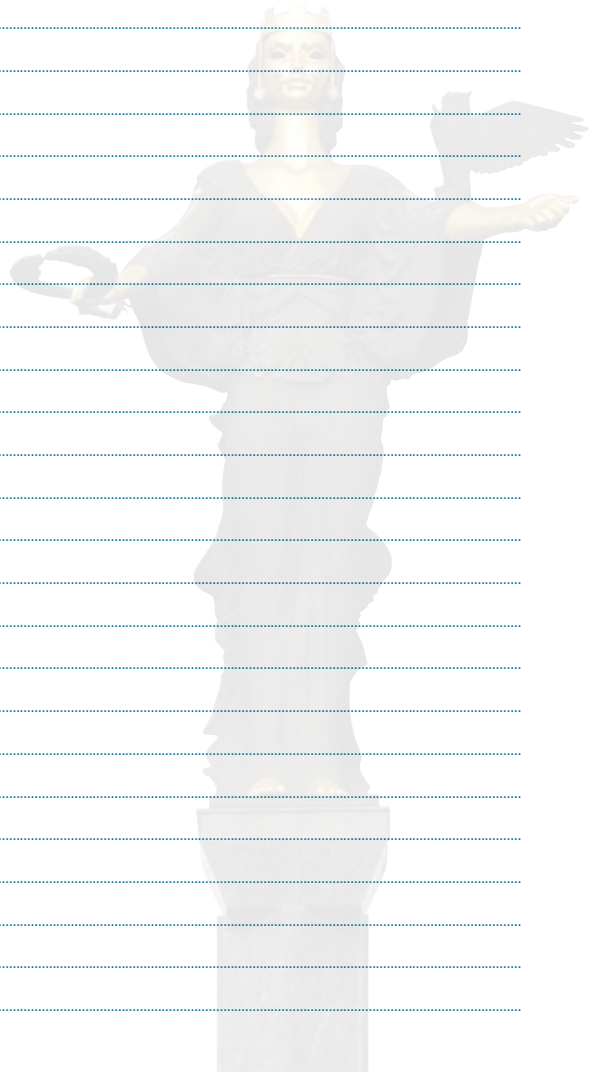
ACROMEGALY: CHALLENGES IN CLINICAL PRACTICE

- 16:50 – 17:05 **Long-term, pharmacological treatment of invasive, somatotroph pituitary tumor with symptoms of gigantism and acromegaly in the young adult - preserved pituitary function and good quality of life**
Przemysław Witek
- 17:05 – 17:20 **Acromegaly and benign intracranial hypertension**
George Piaditis
- 17:20 – 17:35 **Endoscopic surgical treatment in patients with acromegaly: short-term results and outcomes**
Dian Popov
- 17:35 – 17:50 **Patients with Cushing’s syndrome and Acromegaly: Why do they need psychological care?**
Natalia Grigorova
- 17:50 – 18:00 **Conclusion and Closing of the event**
Sabina Zacharieva



NOTES

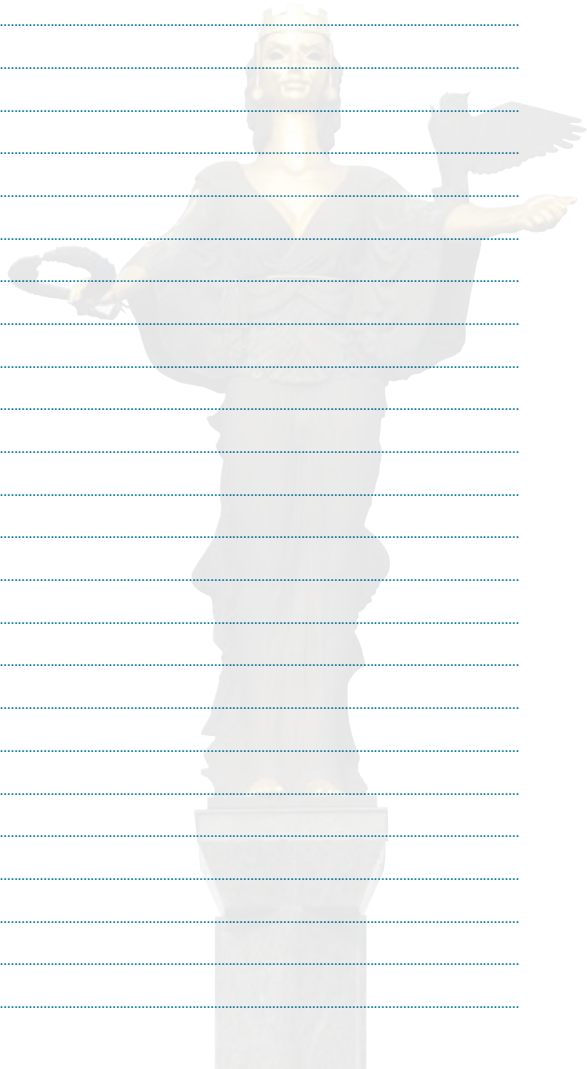
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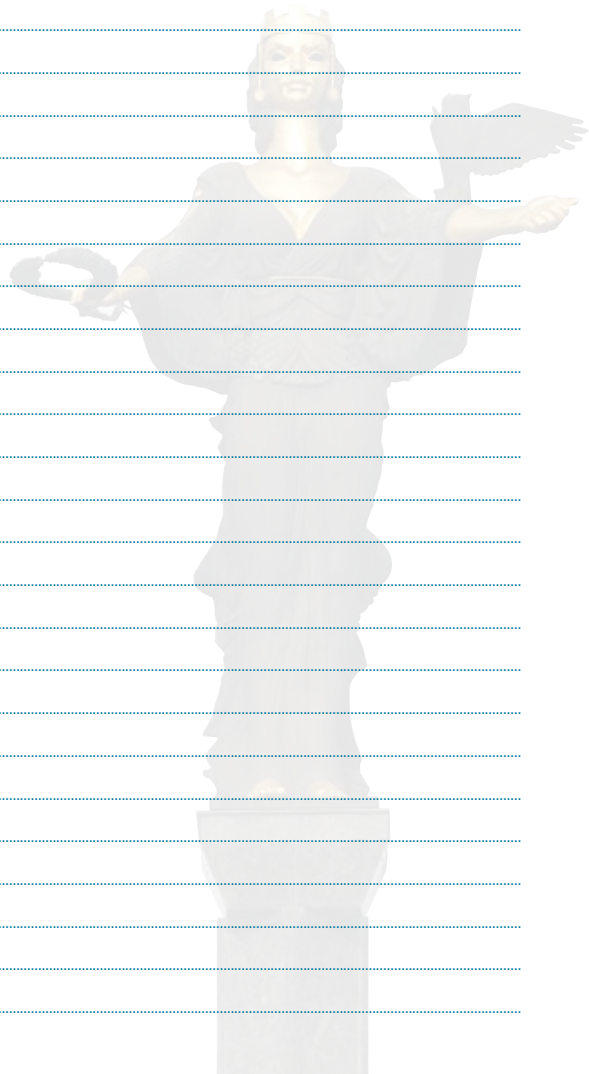
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