

Damir Sapunar, Croatia

The Illusion of Certainty: Understanding Risk

Short bio

Damir Sapunar was born in Split in 1962. He graduated at the University of Zagreb School of Medicine in 1989, where he obtained his PhD in 1996. Since 1991 he is employed at the Department of Anatomy, Histology and Embryology, School of Medicine in Split. He performed his postdoctoral training at the Medical School, University of Leicester, UK and the Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, USA. He took part in founding of the Split and Mostar School of Medicine. From 1998 to 2013 he was the Head of the Department of Histology and Embryology, and from 2000 to 2001 he was Vice dean for education. From 1995 to 2011 he was the editor of the electronic edition of the Croatian Medical Journal. He is founder and Head of the Laboratory for Pain Research and initiator and director of postgraduate doctoral program Translational Research in Biomedicine. His research field are peripheral mechanisms of neuropathic pain. He published 90 scientific publications.

Lecture synopsis

The lecture "The Illusion of Certainty: Understanding Risk" has only one aim: to help you become risk-savvy. The lecture is based on Gerd Gigerenzer ideas about risk-illiterate society. During lecture we will discuss confusions about absolute and relative risks, false positives and false negatives, diagnostic and screening tests. All with one aim: to understand how to take evidence-based decisions instead those based on gut feelings. Unfortunately, in medicine gut feelings are taboo: they are used all the time, but nobody dares admit it. We have to change that.