

A Report from the 6th National Congress of Laboratory Medicine

Contributed by Dr. Manole Cojocaru, President of Congress

The 6th National Congress of Laboratory Medicine with international participation (under the auspices of IFCC, FESCC, BCLF, WASPaLM, under the high patronage of Academy of Medical Sciences) was held in conjunction with the 2nd Symposium of Immunopathology and the 2nd National Congress for Clinical Laboratory Assistants at Cercul Militar from October 11-13, 2007 in the special ambiance in beautiful city Sibiu (European Cultural Capital in 2007 together with Luxemburg), localized in the center of Romania. The coming to Sibiu is both extraordinary and miraculous (it was founded over 800 years ago). Sibiu has a fascinating history, enriched by the cultural, ethnic and religious diversity for which it is well-known. The venue offers a unique opportunity to intensively interact with colleagues of various specialties: molecular biology, hematology, microbiology, immunology, clinical chemistry, genetics.

With the great efforts and excellent organization by RSLM, many of our colleagues had attended the congress which signified the beginning of friendly exchanges between laboratory medical professionals in Europe and USA. RSLM is a growing society with active memberships that embraces all aspects of laboratory medicine. We have invited world experts who presented paper, to share with us their view on the clinical laboratory. The challenges in our discipline have never been more exciting. However, in order to meet them, we need to learn from each other and create mechanisms through which we can work together to accomplish the many formidable tasks that will demand our best.

The 6th National Congress is the largest gathering of laboratory medicine professionals. Our meeting was accompanied by mass-media representatives. The congress was a successful meeting, where the participants joined efforts to continuing to improve the development of laboratory medicine. The first goal-to update Romanian professionals has been fulfilled by personalities from European countries. In this way, we tried also to ensure the internationality of the Congress.

The opening ceremony was held on the evening of 11th October at the Cercul Militar where President of the congress delivered his welcome speeches to over 400 participants from all the country. He emphasized the importance of laboratory medicine to the progress of evidence-based medicine (EBM).

Prof Elmer. W. Koneman, Michael Oellerich, Bernard Gouget, Enrico Granieri, Nada Majkic-Singh received Diploma of Honorary Memberships of RSLM.

I am extremely proud to say we have a high standard of scientific content for the meeting. The scientific program of the congress consisted of plenary sessions, educational lectures, free communications, symposia, and poster presentations on topics of wide ranging interest. The themes of the congress should remind us all of the great opportunity, we had to meet people from different part of Europe, a Europe that is no longer divided and can work together on seeking common solutions on how to improve indirect the care and treatment of people.

Professor E. Koneman, a well-known supporter of young doctors and promoter of important international studies in Romania honored the event with his presence.

The latest knowledge about laboratory medicine were discussed by prestigious scientific personalities: E. Granieri (Italy), M. Cojocaru (Romania), Camelia Gurban (Romania), A. Udristioiu (Romania), V. M. Popilian (Romania), Camelia Grigore (Romania), Dragana Begovici (Serbia), M. Boros (Hungary), E. W. Koneman (USA), M. Oellerich (Germany), S. Handjiev (Bulgaria), Manuela Anda Andrei (Romania), Claus Muss (Germany), Nada Majkic-Singh (Serbia), B. Gouget (France), L. Muszbek (Hungary), M. Cucuianu (Romania), Maria Greabu (Romania), Simona Alexandra Iacob (Romania), Zoran Mijuskovic (Serbia), Janet McMurray (United Kingdom), Simona Berbecar (Romania), Suzana Elena Cilievici (Romania), Ioana Culea (Romania), Olga Mihaela Dorobat (Romania), Crezante Lazar (Romania), Constanta Popa (Romania), Mariana Patiu (Romania), I. A. Gutiu (Romania), Gabriela Oprisan (Romania), Alexandra Dana Maria Panait (Romania), Corneliu Zeana (Romania) and many others.

There were two satellite symposia "Medical Genetics" organized by Romanian Society of Genetics (president Prof Victor Ioan Pop) and "Advances in transfuzional medicine" organized by Romanian society of Transfuzional Medicine (president Dr. Daniela Cristina Marinescu).

There were heated discussions after each presentation at the plenary sessions. The most encouraging phenomenon was that the younger generation demonstrated their talents and expertise in these fields.

The 2nd Symposium of Immunopathology represented a new stage in the gathering of knowledge regarding laboratory investigations and clinical aspects, thus increasing the possibility to determine the potential of the new drugs. The symposium was held to introduce new concepts, new products, and new information on the development of lab diagnostics and clinical medicine.

This year, the prize was awarded to Dr. Camelia Gurban assistant professor of biochemistry at "Victor Babes" University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Timisoara. This is the second year running when RSLM rewards distinguished specialist from our country as well as young doctor with special merits in this field.

There were also two exhibitions (Clinilab and Tehnomedica) of diagnostic products in which the exhibitors demonstrated their new products. The industry companies presented the latest advances in technology and their clinical applications.

RSLM should work hand in hand to promote further development of our laboratory medicine. In these circumstances the staff working in this congress has the special merit. On these ones mention should be made of the remarkable physician Gheorghe Benga endowed with exceptional professional and human qualities who discovered the first water channel protein in the red blood cell membranes-the protein later called aquaporin.

The closing session was held on the afternoon of October 13th. Prof. Dr. Gheorghe Benga thanked the organizers for the success of the congress, and also for the contributions of the participants. RSLM continues the efforts to further raise and up-to-date the congress, to improve..and to enhance its impact. It is necessary to understand laboratory diagnostics, it is important to focus on the main aims, targets and functions of laboratory diagnostics in the complex field of patient treatment in health systems. Romania was going to be member of EU and all the sectors, including healthcare and medicine, are working hard to meet the international standards. By working together, we can function as a dynamic scientific entity in the dynamic laboratory medicine field.

The rich social programme offered a wide range of cultural activities drawn from the rich profusion which Sibiu provides. The participants had the opportunity to visit beautiful medieval city of Sibiu, an exciting city in which to stay making this a truly memorable visit. .

In closing, we would like to express sincere appreciation and all gratitude for their contribution. Discussions revealed the interest for the papers presented in symposium and in congress and I would like to thank the sessions moderators. I would like to express my gratitude to all the staff from RSLM who have worked hard behind the scenes for the success of this congress. I really appreciate the active support and participation of colleagues and friends from abroad, as well as of our colleagues from Romania. Dr. Camelia Grigore whose remarkable contribution to the congress's organizing must be mentioned, also Ms. Andreea Munteanu from Ralcom Exhibitions. The names of some other collaborators are also written in the program of the congress thanks to their valuable contribution. Through this Congress we have enhanced the sharing of our knowledge and experience, and built up the understanding and friendship. I would like to express my appreciation and thanks for the support from the firms. Sibiu provided the foundation for this bridge of friendship. Sibiu is really a beautiful city and people are most hospitable.

Good luck for the future and thank you very much Dr. Camellia Grigore!

The 7th Congress of Laboratory Medicine will be held in Bucharest between 20-22 Oct. 2008