

## 12th EFLM Balkan Symposium Held in Conjunction with 20th Serbian National Congress

by Dr. Snežana Jovičić; Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia

On May 25–27, Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia (SMBS) and Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Belgrade organized the 20th Congress of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine with international participation. The congress was organized under the auspices of International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC), European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM), Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation (BCLF), Ministry of Education, Science, and Technological Development, and Ministry of Health of Republic of Serbia. It had five sessions dedicated to the current findings in different areas of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine, and their application in patient care.

During the opening ceremony, after the review of the past congresses through photos presentation, the traditional reward of the “Magistra Milica Marković” Foundation, intended to laboratories that advanced the most in the past two years between the two congresses, was awarded to the laboratory of the Community Health Centre “Palilula” from Belgrade. The reward was Alifax Test 1 BCL fully automated analyzer for determination of erythrocytes sedimentation rate, donated by the company Promedia. Also, on the occasion of the jubilee of the 20th Congress, SMBS delivered Diplomas and Acknowledgments to individuals and organizations that contributed significantly to the work of the SMBS and to the development of medical biochemistry in Serbia.

The working part of the 20th Congress officially started with the opening plenary lecture entitled “Quality assurance in clinical chemistry: a touch of statistics and a lot of common sense” held by the distinguished professor Elvar Theodorsson, from the Linköping University, Sweden. The first session was dedicated to the new biomarkers in laboratory medicine – the role of genome-wide association studies in new biomarkers discovery in the case of osteoporosis, paraoxonase enzymes in cardiovascular disease, LC-MS/MS for analysis of cholesterol synthesis and absorption markers, and adiponectin in coronary artery disease.

Toxicological, pharmacokinetic, and biochemical aspects of the application of drugs were the topics of the second session. The talks comprehended the influence of environmental pollutants cadmium and polychlorinat-

ed biphenyls on thyroid hormone levels, the recommendations on application of therapeutic drug monitoring, diagnostic and therapeutic possibilities in familiar hypercholesterolemia, and monitoring of biochemical parameters in the assessment of immunosuppressive therapy safety.

The third session was dedicated to contemporary methodological approaches in laboratory medicine – application of HPLC-MS/MS techniques, PCR methodology implementation in pathogen detection and human genomics, implementation of the recommendations of the World Health Organization in standardization of procedures for spermogram making, and pharmacogenetics testing, biochemical and therapeutic monitoring as the basis of personalized medicine.

The fourth session elaborated the role of oxidative stress in contemporary diseases, as risk factor for the development of eye disease, in prediabetes, then the role of genetic polymorphisms of glutathione transferase omega class in end-stage renal disease, and the role of reduced antioxidant defense and obesity in the development of cardiovascular disease in young people.

The closing, fifth session was dedicated to molecular biomarkers of diagnosis and monitoring of therapeutic response in immune diseases – multiple sclerosis, liver fibrosis and celiac disease.

As part of the 20th Congress, the 12th EFLM Symposium for Balkan Region was organized by the SMBS and EFLM on May 26 and 27. This year’s Symposium was entitled “Harmonization of the total process: Influence of the extra-laboratory phases”. The Symposium was opened with the plenary lecture by the distinguished Prof. Mario Plebani, the leading expert in this field, entitled “Extra-analytical phases quality management: New achievement”.

During the four-part program, European and Serbian lecturers presented different aspects of important issues in extra-laboratory phases. The topics covered rational ordering of laboratory parameters, harmonization and external quality assessment of preanalytical phase, quality indicators, application of biological variability, drug interferences, systematic automated sam-



Photo: Prof. Dr. Elvar Theodorsson with members of the Scientific and the Organizing Committee of the 20th Congress (from left to right – Prof. Dr. Nada Majkić-Singh, Prof. Dr. Elvar Theodorsson, Dr. Zorica Šumarac, Dr. Snežana Jovičić, Dr. Veljko Canić).

ple interferences testing, management of processes in the preanalytical phase, the impact of laboratory test results, management of critical-risk results as a tool for improvement clinicians’ decisions, urinalysis, critical values reporting, solutions in monitoring performance in pre-pre and post-post analytical phases, managing laboratory demand, clinical awareness about pre and post analytical phase, and the level of communication between clinicians and medical laboratory. Next to prof. Plebani, the participants had the pleasure to hear about these issues from the eminent lecturers, members of EFLM and IFCC working groups – Prof. Dr. Gustav Kovac, Dr. Zorica Šumarac, Prof. Dr. Ana-Maria Šimundić, Dr. Laura Sciacovelli, Prof. Dr. Tatjana Cvetković, Prof. Dr. Dunja Rogić, Prof. Dr. Éva Ajzner, Prof. Dr. Svetlana Ignjatović, Prof. Dr. Mercèdes Ibarz, Dr. Pinar Eker, and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Snežana Jovičić; as well as from national specialists in this field – Assoc. Prof. Dr. Neda Milinković, Dr. Vera Lukić, Dr. Drina Topalov, Dr. Biljana Glišić, and Dr. Zorica Reljić.

The congress program also included two industrial workshops and poster session, with notable participation of students of medical biochemistry at the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade, with their research results.

The 20th Congress and 12th EFLM Symposium for Balkan region were marked with significant attendance of medical biochemists and laboratory specialists from mostly Serbia, but also from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia, Macedonia, and Turkey. With the closing of these events, SMBS has announced the 13th EFLM Symposium for Balkan Region for September 2017, which will be dedicated to laboratory medicine management and leadership skills for effective laboratory.

## Hong Kong’s Prof. Dennis Lo to Keynote 4th Joint EFLM-UEMS Congress in Warsaw

The Scientific Committee of the 4th Joint EFLM-UEMS Congress in Warsaw is proud to announce that key speaker at the Opening Ceremony on Wednesday September 21 will be Prof. Dennis Lo (Dept of Chemical Pathology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong) with the lecture “Plasma DNA: Driver of a revolution in molecular diagnostics for the clinic”.

Prof. Dennis Lo is the Director of the Li Ka Shing Institute of Health Sciences, Head of the Department of Chemical Pathology of the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) and the Associate Dean (Research) of the Faculty of Medicine of CUHK. He graduated from the University of Cambridge and obtained MD and PhD degrees from the University of Oxford. He worked as a lecturer at the John Radcliffe Hospital, the teaching hospital of the University of Oxford Clinical School.

In 1997 he discovered the presence of fetal DNA in maternal plasma. His research team was the first to re-

port the presence of cell-free fetal RNA and fetal epigenetic markers in maternal plasma and pioneered their use as markers for noninvasive prenatal diagnosis.

Moreover, they demonstrated that cell-free fetal nucleic acids in maternal plasma could be used for the noninvasive prenatal diagnosis of fetal trisomy 21. With the use of massively parallel sequencing and the development of novel bioinformatics strategies, Prof. Dennis Lo created a genome-wide genetic map of the fetus based on the analysis of the small amounts of fragmented DNA found in the blood of pregnant women.

Prof. Dennis Lo has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2005 State Natural Science Award from the State Council of China, the 2006 IFCC-Abbott Award for Outstanding Contribution to Molecular Diagnostics, the 2006 US National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry Distinguished Scientist Award, a Croucher Senior Medical Research Fellowship, the 2007 Sigi-

Zeiring Award from the American Association of Clinical Chemistry and Fulbright Distinguished Scholar 2009. He was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2011 and as a Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Sciences in 2013.

Do not miss the opportunity to attend the lecture of this eminent researcher and speaker talking about the future of the molecular diagnostic.

Visit the congress website at <http://www.eflm-uems.warsaw2016.eu/> to know more about the full scientific programme.

We look forward to seeing you in Warsaw this September!



Prof. Dennis Lo

## News from the Turkish Biomedical Society

### Turkey's Woman Biochemists Raise Profile in EFLM and IFCC

The Turkish Biochemical Society now has four new members in the various working groups of EFLM and IFCC. Prof. Dr. Yeşim Özarda was elected as the chair of IFCC Reference Intervals and Decision Limits Committee (C-RIDL). Following Prof. Dr. Sedef Yenice, chair of the IFCC Clinical Laboratory Management Committee (C-CLM), Prof. Özarda is Turkey's second chair for one of the IFCC Committees. Prof. Dr. Ferhan G. Sağın was elected as a member of the new IFCC Task Force on Geriatric Laboratory Medicine (TF-GLM). Mesude Falay MD was elected as a full member for EFLM Harmonisation of Total Testing Process Working Group and, last but not least, Merve Sibel Güngören MD is now a full member on EFLM Promotion and Publications Working Group (WG-P) in which she was previously a corresponding member.



Prof. Dr.  
Yeşim Özarda



Prof. Dr.  
Ferhan G. Sağın



Mesude Falay, M.D.



Merve Sibel  
Güngören, M.D.

### National Symposia in Kahramanmaraş and Adana

April and May 2016 were highly productive months with two national symposia on clinical chemistry. The first symposium was held between April 7-9, 2016 in the city of Kahramanmaraş, under the title The First Kahramanmaraş Thalasaemia Symposium. The symposium also included a one-day workshop entitled 'Hemoglobin Disorders'. The second forum was the Pre-Analytical Phase Symposium (Adana, May 19-20, 2016) starting with a half-day course of Biological Variation: Calculations and Applications. Additionally, another training course for phlebotomists was held within this symposium, the content of which was based on the Phlebotomy Guideline published by TBS in 2015.

### 1st In Vitro Diagnostic Symposium Held in Izmir

The 1st Turkish In Vitro Diagnostic (IVD) Symposium was held between 18-20 February 2016, in the city of Izmir on the Western coast of Turkey.

The symposium was organized under the cooperation of Turkish Biochemical Society, Izmir Branch and Dokuz Eylül University Health Sciences Institute. The special feature of this meeting was that IVD related topics were for the first time discussed in detail and with a multidisciplinary approach in Turkey. Lecturers and participants included: Academicians, medical laboratory supervisors, various specialists, scientists, representatives of Ministry of Health, Turkish Standards Institution as a conformity assessment body, representatives of leading manufacturers, researchers on health technology and biomedical engineering, students, and representatives from non-governmental organizations.

At the end of the symposium a final report covering designations, limitations and suggestions, was prepared in order to be presented to the national authorities and to be shared on the website of the symposium for the country's wider IVD community. The establishment of an online interactive IVD Medical Device portal related to the projected outcomes of the symposium was suggested in order to enable this issue to be dealt continuously and systematically, thus contributing to the dissemination of numerous activities in the field.

The various presentations, discussions, opinions and suggestions as part of this comprehensive and beneficial IVD symposium, contributed toward the development of strategies and policies for advancing R&D, production, quality standards, and innovation in Turkey's IVD medical device sector.

Laboratory personnel are primary dedicated to improving patient outcomes.

Don't miss the opportunity to attend the upcoming course dedicated to the topic and delivered by distinguished keynote speakers in Leiden, The Netherlands.

The deadline for early birds has now been extended to August 31.



A course developed by the EFLM Working Group on Test Evaluation on the progress of medical tests improving patient outcomes for laboratory professionals, clinicians, biomarker researchers and healthcare companies



**Developing medical tests that improve patient outcomes**

Leiden (NL), 9-10-11 November 2016

Secure your space at a Course delivered by the EFLM Test Evaluation Working Group!

Keynote Speakers: Rita Horvath, Patrick Bossuyt, Sverre Sandberg, Sally Lord, Phillip J Monaghan, and others

**Developing medical tests that improve patient outcomes**  
9-11 November, 2016, Leiden, Netherlands

Laboratory medicine has a poor record bringing new tests to market in a timely and effective way. Evidence based laboratory medicine (EBLM) provides the underlying principles for how a new biomarker should go through the test evaluation process but these principles alone do not appear to have guided better evaluation. This course aims to address that gap by extending the principles of EBLM to provide some practical tools for the key processes of test evaluation.

Key Features of 2½ day course:

The course will be interactive and talks by keynote speakers will be followed by practical assignments.

- Test evaluation – definitions and basic concepts
- Tools to conduct test evaluation including:
  - identifying unmet needs for biomarkers,
  - clinical pathway mapping to define the role and purpose of biomarkers in changing outcomes,
  - determination of analytical and clinical performance characteristics of biomarkers,
  - assessing the clinical effectiveness of biomarkers.
- Talks to highlight the differing perspectives and experience of key stakeholders and experts in test evaluation
- Practical assignments to understand the use of test evaluation tools.

Target Audience:

- Qualified laboratory professionals
- Researchers involved in biomarker development and test evaluation
- Clinicians involved in biomarker use and evaluation in clinical practice
- Healthcare company and regulatory representatives

For further information, visit the course website at: [www.eflm-test-evaluation-course.eu](http://www.eflm-test-evaluation-course.eu)



EFLM thanks the following companies for the kind and unconditional support (preliminary list):



ROCHE DIAGNOSTICS (gold sponsor)



Abbott Diagnostics

## 58th National Conference in Szeged Celebrates 70th Anniversary of Hungarian Society

It is our great pleasure to announce the 58th National Conference of the Hungarian Society of Laboratory Medicine (HSLM58), which will be held in Szeged, 25-27 August 2016. The conference is organised under the auspices of three main organisations of laboratory profession: the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM), the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry (IFCC) and the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS). The Conference is the celebration of the 70th year anniversary of our Society ([www.mldt.hu](http://www.mldt.hu)). A special issue of the electric Journal of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (eJIFCC) has also been devoted to the 70-year-anniversary ([www.ifcc.org/media/415280/eJIFCC2016Vol127No2.pdf](http://www.ifcc.org/media/415280/eJIFCC2016Vol127No2.pdf)).

The conference, HSLM58 will be held at the Attila József Teaching and Conference Centre of the University of Szeged, which is Hungary's first green conference centre in the heart of the city Szeged.

The scientific program is planned in parallel sections including Case presentations in laboratory medicine, The role of laboratory medicine in clinical research, Routine laboratory diagnostics, Hematology and hemostasis, Endocrinology. A joint session of laboratory specialists with clinicians through real life clinical examples will focus on those steps of the total testing process, which should be shared responsibility of laboratories and clinicians.

A special plenary session (Youth forum – “You have the X FACTOR”) is organised for the novel research achievements of young laboratory scientists who will compete for the award of “The best young speaker of HSLM58”. In addition, separate sections are dedicated for plenary lectures of Lóránt Jendrassik prize - the greatest recognition of our Society - awardees.

A distinguished attention will be paid to the daughter societies of HSLM as the Hungarian Society of Laboratory Professionals (MOLSZE) and the national

proficiency test provider QualiCont will be represented on HSLM58 with dedicated symposiums. We will celebrate that it was 20 years ago when HSLM co-founded both organisations.

E-poster sessions are also organised on HSLM58 when all posters will be presented in short oral presentations. E-poster sessions became very popular elements of HSLM congresses by now, since they induce live poster discussions and result in a better poster recognition.

In addition to the scientific content, social activities on HSLM58 will be also organised hoping that both scientific and social events of this conference will be unforgettable for you.

Organizing and Scientific Committees of HSLM58 as well as the Executive Board of HSLM invite you to celebrate the 70th year anniversary of our Society together! Szeged is waiting for you!

Imre Földesi, President of the HSLM58; Éva Ajzner, President of HSLM

## Spanish Society of Clinical Biochemistry and Molecular Pathology (SEQC) Promotes Residents' Training

The Spanish Society of Clinical Biochemistry and Molecular Pathology (SEQC), through its board of directors, promotes and gives new momentum to clinical laboratory specialists. To that end, the Society will increase the number of grants and double the amount granted, this year reaching €84,000.

Dr Imma Caballé, SEQC's president, explains that the Society is committed to residents, their future and their training. The SEQC “recognises how difficult it is to find a job once the residence has been

completed and therefore we have decided to double the amount of grants and keep the residence period free of fees.”

Dr Caballé adds that “our goal is to facilitate and contribute to the improvement of continued training through diverse activities, including seminars, lectures through the web, pre-congress courses, Scientific Committee sessions, the edition of monographs and documents with experts' recommendations, etc.”

Dr Dolores Balsells, a member of SEQC's education committee and the secre-

tary of Fundación José Luis Castaño, emphasizes the need for constant training efforts to maintain professional competencies in the clinical lab speciality since “scientific advances in methodology and diagnostic proceedings, instrumental techniques, robotics or information systems require that specialists in this field update their knowledge constantly.”

To support residents' and post-residents' training in the different areas of clinical laboratory, SEQC – through Fundación José Luis Castaño – has launched this year seven post-residence grants, twice as many as in previous editions (financed, half by Fundación, and half by SEQC).

Also, SEQC subsidizes five grants to cover registration costs of all courses and meetings organised by SEQC and this year is offering four international grants for stages in labs in foreign countries where there is a scientific society subsidiary of IFCC (International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine).

Through these actions and through the creation of a Residents' committee within the scientific committee, the board of directors wants to reflect its concern for the future of residents and post-residents “since they will become the driving force of our Society a few years from now,” as Dr Balsells puts it.

### 4th Joint EFLM-UEMS Congress



European Union of Medical Specialists  
Section of Laboratory Medicine/Medical Biopathology

„Laboratory medicine at the clinical interface“

**WARSAW**

**September 21-24th 2016**

Venue: Double Tree by Hilton, Warsaw

Under the auspices of:



Under the auspices of:



## Change of Guard at EFLM National Societies

### • Ukrainian Society of Clinical Laboratory Diagnostics (USCLD)

Dr. Dr. Valerii Dieiev, USCLD President, will also serve as EFLM National Representative replacing Dr. Igor Mishunin. A warm thanks to Dr. Mishunin for his collaboration during the past eight years.

### • Swedish Society for Clinical Chemistry (SFKK)

Dr. Maria Berggren-Söderlund (Div. of Clinical Chemistry and Pharmacology, Dept. of Laboratory Medicine, Lund University) has been elected as new SFKK President replacing Dr. Mattias Aldrimer. A warm welcome to Dr. Berggren-Söderlund!

## CIRME to Mark 10th Anniversary At Milan Conference

The Research Centre for Metrological Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (CIRME) is pleased to celebrate its 10th anniversary, with the organization of an International Scientific Meeting in Milan (Italy) on 17th-18th November 2016 under the auspices of JCTLM, IFCC and EFLM. During this event, an international faculty will summarize the work done by CIRME from its creation and report the progress so far achieved in the field of metrological traceability in Laboratory Medicine.

In this regard, some world-renowned speakers will be in attendance to present lectures on very interesting topics, such as updates on standardization programs of specific analytes, how to manage the issue of standardization of heterogenous measurands, how to derive robust biological variation data and obtain analytical performance specifications and, last but not least, discussing the metrological traceability as a tool for improving the definition of reference intervals and the quality control schemes.

It is now widely recognized that only through the knowledge and the correct application of all these crucial aspects, Laboratory Medicine will be able to meet its main objective, namely to provide useful information for contributing to the right clinical decision-making and to the optimal quality of health-care. The complete programme of the meeting is available at <http://users.unimi.it/cirme/home/index.php>. To make registration, please access the following link: <http://ems.mzcongressi.com/start/1189/eng>.