

VLP REPORT BELGRADE SMBS PROMOTING BCLF IDENTITY IN BELGRADE WITH THE E-NERGIZED SMBS

By Dr Bernard GOUGET, Chair, Committee on Mobile Health and Bioengineering in Laboratory Medicine (C-MHBLM, President-Healthcare Division Comité Français d'accréditation (Cofrac), Chair of the EFLM Task Group »European Laboratory Day« (TG-ELD)

*Prof Damien GRUSON, IFCC Member EC-Emerging Technologies Division,
Prof Sergio BERNARDINI, Chair IFCC Emerging Technologies Division*

With a 7,000 year of history, Belgrade is one of the oldest cities in Europe. From ancient Slavic tribes, over Roman and Ottoman Empire, to Austro-Hungarians, Belgrade has always been a meeting point among different civilizations. The fusion of cultures is best expressed in the Serbian good neighbourly relations, traditional cuisine and folklore, creating a unique ambiance and a very warm hearted atmosphere that we appreciated during the social dinner at the historical restaurant of the »Dom Aero Kluba« located at the corner of Uzun Mirkova and Kralja Petra streets. Today, Contemporary Belgrade is a modern European capital with over 2 million citizens, an economic and scientific hub of the entire region, the most accessible Balkan country and the city where the 15th Belgrade symposium for Balkan regions was given the utmost attention, making all delegates feel very special and distinguished while in the capital of Serbia.

The congress organized from April 11–12th, 2019 by the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia (SMBS), full member of EFLM and IFCC was held at the conference center of the Hyatt Regency in new Belgrade, located on the left bank and under the watchful eye of Pobednik »the Victor«, statue built in 1928 by Ivan Mestrovic, looking forward across the confluence of the Sava and the Danube. It is one of the most popular visual symbols of the city, located in the Belgrade fortress at the place where the medieval castle stood once. Three hundred participants attended the symposium from all Balkan countries, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Turkey as well as from the Austria, Belgium, Cyprus France, Hungary, Italy, Israel, Slovenia. There were eight sessions and 36 outstanding oral presentations covering state-of-the-

art topics in laboratory medicine in hemostasis, drug management, endocrinology, -omics as well as leadership skills, lab organization and planning, quality management and accreditation.

The role of the specialist in lab medicine is becoming more complex and as such requires increasingly a deep understanding of management, strategy, education and new technologies to improve clinical laboratory practices. The conference allowed us to have a detailed diagnosis of the national organization's and practices. We discovered the latest trends in harmonization of training, territorial strategies with private and public labs networks as well as the use of state-of-the-art technologies in all the BCLF countries. Such presentations provided, a clear vision of the needs and expectations of each Balkan member society and a profound insight of the construction of the BCLF identity in a dynamic context, highlighting the specificities of each country and reinforcing the similarities of this regional community sharing certain strong values to improve the quality of care and public health.

In the country of the genial Nikola Tesla, Serbian-American, engineer-physicist and modern Prometheus, it was a great honor as chair of the IFCC C-MHBLM to open the congress with a plenary lecture on preparing the specialist of lab medicine to deliver the digital future. Prof Damien Gruson, distinguished representative of the IFCC-EC-ETD, chaired by Prof Sergio Bernardini, delivered a lecture on digital tools in Lab medicine and presented the very attractive concept of Machine learning, defined as a small part of the study of AI and referring to a specific sub-section of computer science related to constructing efficient algorithms that can make accurate predictions about future clinical outcomes.

The path of genomics, digital medicine and AI incorporation into clinical practices is fraught of challenges. Technological innovation is increasingly shift the balance of care toward more centralized highly specialized care and decentralized testing. Through progressively miniaturized and increasingly powerful mobile computing capabilities, everyone is now capable of monitoring, tracking and transmitting health metrics continuously. Harnessing the power of digital technologies via biosensors, wearables for diagnostic and remote monitoring, smart phones, tablets, computers, web portals and telemedicine is essential for achieving universal health coverage. These new devices are not end in themselves, they are vital tools to promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable and people must be assured that their own data is safe. We need to assimilate quickly the changes and create a culture of innovation and visionary digital leadership and be aware on any eth-

ical implications. Successful implementation in lab medicine is requiring education, more intensive training and investment in informatics, genomic medicine for the future generation as well as effective clinical and managerial governance processes.

Congratulations to Prof Dr Nada Majkic-Singh, SMBS National Representative, for continuing actively her legendary journey of promoting the Balkans, for her achievements in Lab Medicine and mentorship inspiring the next generation. Thank you to Doc Dr Zorica Sumarac, President SMBS; and to Dr Snezana Jovicic, co-President COC and SD committees and all who contributed to making the Balkan symposium a great success. This 15th Belgrade symposium successfully combined the high-level scientific program, a large turnout of the IVD companies and enlightening social interactions, blended with great hospitality. Belgrade (Serbia) is in a remarkable regeneration, and one of the most exciting places for promoting Lab Medicine.



Bernard Gouget and Snežana Jovičić, Chairs of Session I



Bernard Gouget (France)



Damien Gruson (Belgium)



Snežana Jovičić (Serbia)



Bernard Gouget (France), Snežana Jovičić (Serbia), Damien Gruson (Belgium)



Bernard Gouget with colleagues (from left to right): N. Makić-Singh, B. Gouget, Z. Šumarac, S. Jovičić, D. Gruson, V. Matović, G. Lippi, J. Čorić



Lecturers on 15th Belgrade Symposium for Balkan Region, 2019: A-M Šimundić, G. Beastall, N. Majkić-Singh, Z. Šumarac, B. Gouget, G. Lippi, V. Kalimanovska-Spasojević, D. Gruson, E. Homšak, J. Leniček-Krleža



Symposium lecturers during Speakers Dinner



Vesna Matović (Serbia), Tomris Ozben (Turkey), Bernard Gouget (France), Nada Majkić-Singh (Serbia)