

**9<sup>th</sup> EFLM SYMPOSIUM FOR BALKAN REGION**  
**»INTEGRATIVE ALGORITHMS IN PATIENT FOCUSED LABORATORY MEDICINE«**

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Nine years ago, EFLM appointed the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia as host of educational symposium for clinical chemists of the Balkan region. This year's, 9<sup>th</sup> EFLM Symposium for Balkan Region entitled »Integrative Algorithms in Patient Focused Laboratory Medicine« was organized under the auspices of the IFCC, Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of Serbia, and Ministry of Health of Republic of Serbia. The two-day symposium was held from October 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> as part of the EFLM Committee of Education and Training and EFLM Working Group on Congress and Postgraduate Education activity in 2013.

The first section was dedicated to the introduction to molecular-genetic diagnostics and molecular genetic markers, as a base for personalized medicine, presented by two leading Serbian scientists in this field – prof. Ivana Novaković (Institute of Human Genetics of Belgrade's University School of Medicine, Serbia) and prof. Sonja Pavlović (Institute of Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering of University of Belgrade, Serbia). After words, we had the honor to listen about the incorporation of molecular diagnostics in clinical laboratories and quality assurance in molecular biomedicine and life sciences from the two leading experts in these fields, prof. Mario Pazzagli (Department of Clinical Physiopathology, University of Florence, Italy) and prof. Michael Neumaier (Institute for Clinical Chemistry, Medical Faculty Mannheim of University of Heidelberg, Germany).

Second section was dedicated to patient focused management of thrombophilia. This complexed topic was opened with the lecture about its molecular basis, presented by dr Valentina Đorđević (Institute of Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering, University of Belgrade, Serbia). The talk about the laboratory investigation of thrombophilia

followed through the comprehensive presentation of dr Sandra Margetić (Department of Laboratory Haematology and Coagulation, University Hospital Center, Zagreb, Croatia). The section was closed with the presentation of principles of integrative approach to patient with thrombophilia, when dr Gorana Matić from the Department of Haematology, Haemostasis, and Prevention of Thrombosis (Laboratory Medicine Center, Clinical Center of Vojvodina, Novi Sad, Serbia), presented their experiences in this field.

Section three was dedicated to the detection of molecular defects in the field of endocrinology. The lecturers from the Clinic of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolic Diseases of Clinical Center of Serbia and University of Belgrade's School of Medicine brought us closer to understanding the application of molecular diagnostics in the management of endocrine tumors. We had the privilege to listen about integrative protocols in evaluation of multiple endocrine neoplasia from the distinguished professor Svetozar Damjanović, and dr Dragana Miljić presented molecular defects in the pathogenesis of pituitary tumors. The role of pharmacogenetics in the treatment of diabetes was elaborated in the presentation of the esteemed professor Elizabeta Topić, Chair of the EFLM Committee of Education and Training, and professor at the Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry of University of Zagreb, Croatia. The section was closed with the lecture about molecular genetics and molecular cytogenetics in the evaluation of congenital heart defects, presented by dr Goran Čuturilo from the Department of Clinical Genetics, University Children's Hospital of the University of Belgrade's School of Medicine, Serbia.

The following section, dedicated to pharmacogenomics, was opened with the introduction by the distinguished professor Gerard Siest, from the research unit "Cardiovascular Genetics" of the Nancy University of Lorraine's Faculty of Pharmacy, France,

with the emphasis on its future evolution and the role of the European Society of Pharmacogenomics and Theranostics (ESPT) in it. Professor Irena Mlinarič-Raščan from the University of Ljubljana's Faculty of Pharmacy, Slovenia, talked about the pharmacogenomics of thiopurine S-methyltransferase and presented her work in this field. The section was concluded with the lecture about pharmacogenomics of drugs for cardiovascular system, presented by dr Sanja Stanković (Center for Medical Biochemistry, Clinical Center of Serbia).

The Symposium's closing section was dedicated to rare diseases. Professor Ksenija Fumić from Clinical Department of Laboratory Diagnostics of Medical Center of Zagreb and University of Zagreb's Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry, Croatia, in her comprehensive lecture opened the section and presented integrative algorithms in diagnostics of lysosomal storage diseases. The talk about molecular basis, clinical presentation, therapeutic options and

integrative approach in diagnostics of alpha-1-antitrypsin deficiency was presented jointly, from the aspect of both the laboratory and clinical practice professional, by dr Andjelo Beletić, from Center for Medical Biochemistry, and dr Aleksandra Dudvarskilić, from Clinic of Pulmology of Clinical Center of Serbia. Dr Maja Stojiljković-Petrović, from the Laboratory for Molecular Haematology of University of Belgrade's Institute of Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering, concluded the section with her presentation of molecular characteristics, phenotypic diversity and genotype-estimated therapeutic responsiveness of Serbian patients with phenylketonuria.

All sections were extremely well visited and about 250 registered participants and students attended the Symposium. The lectures instigated interesting discussions which completed the overall impression that once again Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia organized a successful meeting according to the EFLM standards.



Members of the 9<sup>th</sup> EFLM Symposium for Balkan Region Organizing and Scientific Committee with lecturers. (From left to right: dr Sandra Margetic, dr Anđelo Beletić, prof. Mario Pazzagli, prof. Elizabeta Topić, prof. Nada Majkić-Singh, prof. Ksenija Fumić, prof. Sonja Pavlović, dr Zorica Šumarac, prof. Svetlana Ignjatović)



Students and graduates of University of Belgrade School of Pharmacy with their professors (prof. Nada Majkić-Singh and prof. Svetlana Ignjatović), President of SMBS (dr Zorica Šumarac), their liaison with SMBS (dr Anđelo Beletić) and Director of Chamber of Biochemists (dr Velibor Canić).