

15th BELGRADE SYMPOSIUM FOR BALKAN REGION

Laboratory Medicine Management: Leadership Skills for Effective Laboratory

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The Belgrade Symposium organized by the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia, held on 11 and 12 April, continued the fourteen years long tradition of EFLM Symposiums for Balkan Region. The 15th Belgrade Symposium for Balkan Region continued tradition of gathering laboratory medicine professionals from the Balkan countries in order to share experience and discuss topics of mutual interest, therefore the new title of the Symposium was »Neighboring Countries: the Same Professional Aim«. However, the borders of the Symposium expanded beyond the Balkans, and this regional meeting had also speakers from Italy, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary, Cyprus, and Israel. The Symposium was organized under the auspices of the 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 of Serbia and Ministry of Health of Serbia.

During two days and within eight sessions, eminent foreign and local experts intr.1of medical laboratory and strategy, laboratory medicine management, leadership skills, accreditation and competencies, laboratory standards in Balkan countries, as well as challenges in laboratory medicine that we meet today.

After the opening ceremony and welcome addresses of the EFLM President-Elect, prof. Ana-Maria Šimundić; EFLM Secretary, prof. Giuseppe Lippi; BCLF President, dr Jozo Ćorić, and prof. Vesna Matović, the President of the Pharmaceutical Association of Serbia, the Symposium was opened with the session hosted by the IFCC Emerging Technologies Division. Professors Bernard Gouget and Damien Gruson presented how we can use e-health tools in medical laboratories to obtain better outcomes, as well as the benefits of digital tools and

machine learning in laboratory medicine. The Symposium continued with the inspiring session dealing with leadership skills. The characteristics and skills necessary for a leader in laboratory medicine, all the aspects of project management important in laboratory medicine practice, and the importance of communication between the clinical laboratory and its users were presented by professors Ana-Maria Šimundić, Giuseppe Lippi, and Graham Beastall.

The central part of the Symposium was sharing experiences between regional countries in implementing laboratory standards, harmonization, and teaching and training in laboratory medicine. Experiences from Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, North Macedonia, and Bulgaria were presented by Evgenija Homšak, Jasna Leniček-Krleža, Svetlana Ignjatović, Ermin Begović, Najdana Gligorović-Barhanović, Anyla Bulo Kasneci, Danica Labudovic, and Margaritka Bončeva.

The second day of the Symposium was opened by two sessions dedicated to laboratory organization and planning. Very important and provocative issue of management of laboratory tests demands through personal experience was presented by professor Dunja Rogić. Prof. Nataša Bogavac-Stanojević presented her work where she showed through cost-effectiveness analysis that the increase in laboratory use could actually decrease hospital costs. The use of six sigma for risk management and the optimal design of analytical quality control in clinical laboratory practice was presented by Adriana Unić. Also, the current views on measurement uncertainty in everyday practice were presented by dr Neda Milinković. Laboratory role in accreditation of healthcare institutions by the Agency for Accreditation of Healthcare Institutions in Serbia was presented from two point of views, of a surveyor (prof. Zorica Šumarac) and a chief of accredited laboratory (dr Vera Lukić).

The challenges met in laboratory medicine covered evolving regulatory challenges in in vitro diagnostics, presented by prof. Tomris Ozben. Prof. Marielle Kaplan presented the efforts in national harmonization program of critical values communication in Israel. We were introduced with the assessment of medical residents' skills in choosing appropriate laboratory request and subsequent interpretation of laboratory tests results in a Romanian university center by prof. Ioana Brudașcă. Dr Dragana Pap presented the challenges and perspectives of QMS, and the road map for achieving standardization in laboratory medicine.

The final sessions dealt with specific areas of laboratory medicine, namely current positions in laboratory testing in hemostasis, laboratory drug management, and latest results in endocrine disruptor research. About the latest protocols in laboratory diagnostics of anticoagulation, laboratory testing of lupus anticoagulant using different aPTT reagents, and assessment of hipercoagulable state in normal pregnancy and preeclampsia using global haemostatic assays talked prof. Andrea Griesmaher, prof. Violeta Dopsaj, and Sanja Lalić-Ćosić. The contribu-

tion of laboratory to therapeutic drug monitoring, challenges, and perspectives, integration of pharmacogenomics in clinical practice, as well as the latest research results in pharmacogenomics of the antidepressants of the SSRI group were presented by Prof. Nicholas Pappageorgakis, Angela Melpidou, Andriani Grigoratou, and prof. Vesna Pešić. The Symposium was closed with the presentation of the latest research results on endocrine disrupting chemicals inducing oxidative stress, their effect on organisms, and particularly the influence of di-2-ethylhexyl phthalate on the oxidative stress tissue damage and on the fatty acids composition, by prof. Nuriye Nuray Ulusu and dr Duygu Aydemir.

The two day Symposium with over 250 participants pointed out the same issues and problems that laboratory medicine professionals in this region meet in their every day work and practice, provoking discussions and exchange of opinion. The positive impressions of all the participants demonstrated that these local meetings addressing the practical issues that we are all facing and exchanging experience are necessary in laboratory medicine practice, and that the local problems are usually common.



Chairs of the Opening Session: Dr Bernard Gouget (France) and dr Snežana Jovičić (Serbia)



Speakers and chairs of the 15th Belgrade Symposium for Balkan region



Speaker's dinner



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