

**3<sup>rd</sup> FESCC SYMPOSIUM FOR BALKAN REGION**  
**Belgrade, September 20–22, 2007**



From left to right: V. Blaton, N. Majkić-Singh, R. Horvath, D. Aslan (sitting), W. Oosterhuis, D. Rogić, S. Sandberg, J. Watine (standing)

The 3<sup>rd</sup> FESCC Symposium for Balkan Region entitled »Theory and Application of Evidence-Based Laboratory Medicine«, held September 20–22, 2007 in Belgrade, was jointly organized by the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia, Institute of Medical Biochemistry of the Clinical Centre of Serbia, and the Committee on Evidence-Based Laboratory Medicine of the International Federation for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC). The Symposium was held under the auspices of the IFCC, European Federation for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFCC) and the Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation (BCLF). The Symposium for Balkan Region

is organized in Belgrade on a regular basis, since Belgrade has been chosen as the regional centre by the EFCC with the purpose of hosting meetings dealing with the education and promotion of experts in the field of Laboratory Medicine in the Balkan region.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Symposium focused on the application of Evidence-Based Laboratory Medicine, as part of Evidence-Based Medicine, with the aim of introducing to the experts from the Balkan region the possibilities of selecting best laboratory evidence, that is, laboratory diagnostics, and applying them both in diagnostic procedure and in the treatment of patients.

Some two hundred participants from Serbia and the Balkan region attended the Symposium, which was opened by Professor Dr Nada Majkić-Singh, president of the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia. Professor Dr Victor Blaton, EFCC president, spoke about the new organization of the EFCC and about its goals, and Professor Dr Rita Horvath, Chair of the Committee on Evidence-Based Laboratory Medicine and EFCC President-Elect, introduced the activities of the IFCC-EBLM Committee to the participants, as well as the content and purpose of the Belgrade Symposium.

The Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia that coordinated the Symposium in cooperation with Professor Victor Blaton, EFCC President, and Professor Dr Rita Horvath, Chair of the IFCC-EBLM, organized the Symposium into three Sections in which the lecturers, members of the EBLM Committee, presented their own experiences, as well as the opinions and conclusions of the EBLM Committee, in reference to the following topics: What is evidence-based laboratory medicine? (Rita Horvath, Hungary); How to ask the right questions? (Dunja Rogić, Croatia); Principles about searching the literature (Biljana Kosanović, Serbia); How to read an article about a diagnostic test? (Sverre Sandberg, Norway); Simple statistics used in diagnostic test evaluations (Diler Aslan, Turkey); What is a systematic review and how can it be performed?, and Evidence-based monitoring (Rita Horvath, Hungary); How to apprise guidelines? (De-

monstration of the use of the AGREE Instrument with practical examples) (Rita Horvath, Hungary); Is there a correlation between the methodological quality and the validity of content of guidelines? (Joseph Watine, France); Special subjects to be addressed in diagnostic guideline compared to therapeutic guidelines (Wytze Oosterhuis, The Netherlands); How to implement EBLM in everyday practice? (Sverre Sandberg, Norway).

Experiences in Evidence-Based Laboratory Medicine in the Balkan region were shared by local speakers, i.e. from Serbia by Svetlana Ignjatović and Nada Majkić-Singh, from Romania by Manole Cojocar, and by Diler Aslan from Turkey.

The participants in the Symposium were given the opportunity to learn first-hand from top lecturers about the principles on which Evidence-Based Laboratory Medicine is based, as well as about the application in practice of evidence and protocols in the field of laboratory medicine. The fact that this Symposium has for the first time allowed the »philosophy« of the principles of EBLM to spread in this part of Europe only raises its significance.

Owing to nice weather conditions, our distinguished lecturers joined the Belgrade Sightseeing Tour, from Kalemegdan fortress to the mouth of the river Sava to Danube, and had the opportunity to experience traditional Serbian hospitality, offered to them by the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia, as their host.

Professor Dr Nada Majkić-Singh,  
President of the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia  
Director of the Institute of Medical Biochemistry  
Clinical Centre of Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia