

12th Czech National Congress Held in Brno

by Prof. Jaroslav Racek, MD, DSc, President of the Czech Society of Clinical Biochemistry; Assoc. Prof. Milan Dastych, MD, PhD, President of the 12th Congress of the Czech Society of Clinical Biochemistry

The 12th National Congress of the Czech Society of Clinical Biochemistry with International Participation was held on September 20–22, 2015, in Brno, the largest Moravian city.

The main topic of our congress was the issue of clinical application of laboratory activities, cooperation with clinical colleagues and their views of the classical clinical-biochemical domains. Five out of eight thematic sections were devoted to this subject.

The organizing committee chose eight current topics, and guarantors of single lecture blocks managed to attract real experts in given problems. Besides clinical chemists, the lectures were held by experts in other branches of laboratory medicine and colleagues from clinical disciplines.

The professional program was supplemented by two plenary lectures of leading foreign experts, almost forty scientific posters and traditionally by an exhibition of almost thirty companies dealing with

laboratory instruments and reagents, and finally by numerous workshops. Abstracts of both lectures and posters were published in No 3 of *Klinická biochemie a metabolismus*, the official journal of the Czech Society of Clinical Biochemistry.

The congress was commenced by the plenary lecture of Associate Professor P. Stern on a broadly conceived interdisciplinary theme of applied immunochemistry.

Two other plenary lectures were dedicated to advancement and future of molecular biology in laboratory diagnostics.

Prof. Maurizio Ferrari, IFCC President, Hospitale San Raffaele, Milan, gave a lecture entitled “The future of molecular biology in the diagnostic laboratories.”

Prof. Michael Neumaier, DGKL President, Medizinische Fakultät Mannheim der Universität Heidelberg, presented the second plenary lecture enti-



Photo: The congress presidium (from the right): Prof. Jaroslav Racek, president of CSKB, Prof. Tomas Zima, CSKB and EFLM board member, Associate Professor Milan Dastych, scientific secretary and president of the congress

itled “Advances in molecular diagnostics and their respective analytical quality assurance.”

The second day professional program continued with blocks of lectures in which our leading experts in both clinical and laboratory medicine informed the auditorium about novelties in osteology, cardiology, hepatology and intensive care medicine: “Cooperation of clinical biochemistry with clinical osteology”; “Cardiomarkers in the clinic and in the experiment during 2015”; “Laboratory examinations in hepatology”; “Internal environment with a view of specialists from various branches”; “Dyslipidemia and atherosclerosis: laboratory and clinical aspects.”

The second day of the congress was traditionally closed with the plenary meeting of the members of the Czech Society of Clinical Biochemistry.

The scientific program of the last day continued with a series of lectures dealing with laboratory quality, laboratory automation and POCT: “Indicators of analytical quality in clinical laboratory”; “Automation and robotization in a laboratory – the present and future”; “POCT – clinical laboratories partner?”

The congress always presents the opportunity to award the outstanding individuals in clinical chemistry who significantly contributed to a good reputation of the Czech Society of Clinical Biochemistry (CSKB) both in this country and abroad. Assoc. Prof. Petr Stern was awarded the highest prize of the CSKB, the Medal of Prof. Horejsi. The Honorary Membership was awarded to Prof. Maurizio Ferrari, Italy, Prof. Michael Neumaier, Germany and Dr. Petr Kocna, Czech Republic. The award for the best paper in clinical chemistry was granted to Prof. Marta Kalousova et al. (paper title: *Pregnancy-associated plasma protein A associates with cardiovascular events in diabetic hemodialysis patients*). As the best educational publications in clinical chemistry of the 2014 were selected both e-learning by Dr. Miroslava Benovská et al. *Microscopic analysis of urine* and the textbook by Dr. Norbert Cibicek et al.: *Principles and application of selected analytical methods in laboratory medicine.*

The congress became the venue not only for lecture blocks but also for social meetings and informal discussion with colleagues and friends.

Welcome Evening at the concert hall of Besedni dum offered participants the “Modern architecture in Brno” lecture and a Concert of Works by J. Bendy and P.I. Tchaikovsky. Also Evening Party with Moravian wine tasting and folk music ensemble was the opportunity for an informal meeting.

We believe that the 12th Brno congress will rank among the successful projects of the Czech Society of Clinical Biochemistry and the whole Czech Medical Association.

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IFCC International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine

EFLM EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

GSCC-CB GREEK SOCIETY OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

BCLF BALKAN CLINICAL LABORATORY FEDERATION

Change of Guard at EFLM Committee Chairs

Thanks to Outgoing EFLM Committee Chairs:



**Prof. Elizabeta Topic (Croatia)—
Chair of the EFLM Education and Training
Committee 2010–2015**
by Ana-Maria Simundic

Elizabeta Topic has finished her third term as a chair of the EFLM Committee for Education and Training (C-ET). During the long six years of her office, Prof. Topic has made a substantial contribution to the work of EFLM, its C-ET committee and its working groups. Thanks to her chairmanship, we have seen many outcomes which have received the appreciation by the EFLM Executive Board as well as by many colleagues throughout the EFLM National Societies.

Prof. Topic has built a recognizable postgraduate course in Dubrovnik which has over the years grown into the favorite venue for young colleagues and other professionals eager to learn new things and acquire knowledge. She was also involved into the creation of the various guidelines and documents which have enabled EFLM to better manage its meetings, grant applications, etc. Prof. Topic was a valuable member of many committees which have been involved in the communication and collaboration of EFLM with other international associations, such as IFCC, UEMS and some others. Her experience and knowledge had helped EFLM to strengthen its role and significance within Europe and serve the educational needs of its Member Societies.

Executive Board wishes to formally thank her, for the contribution she has made to EFLM as Chair of the Committee for Education and training.

Her contribution will remain a valuable resource for the future and will be very useful to the new incoming C-ET chair, Prof. Ralf Lichtinghagen (Hannover, Germany).



**Prof. Elvar Theodorsson
(Sweden)—Chair of the EFLM
Science Committee 2014–2015**
by Sverre Sandberg

Elvar Theodorsson has served one term of two years as the chair of the Science Committee (C-S) of EFLM and has decided not to apply for a second term. During his period as chair of the Committee he has been an inspiration for all the working groups (WG) in the committee. He has a specific way of dealing with people, being always kind, respectful and tried to find the best compromise and avoid conflicts. He always looked at people and treated them individually and not by the book (or by the rules). People liked him and he was a nice person to work with. He had a close contact with the chairs of the WGs and stimulated and encouraged them in their work. Also he had refreshing ideas as for example to gather all WG chairs and listen to their views and suggestions. He is a very able team builder and as one of the WG chairs put it like this: "...he made you feel that you belong to an organization that really cares and that respects your expertise." And indeed, it is really important for EFLM to show that we appreciate all the voluntary work that people is doing.

Elvar also had a good communication with the EFLM Executive Board telling them straightforward his opinions and ideas so that we could be able to develop EFLM activity. With his huge experience, he was a great resource in many different and difficult questions. He was a driving force for EFLM to engage in applications for European grants. We do hope that EFLM also in the future will have the opportunity to use the expertise of Elvar to the benefit of its members.

His contribution will remain a valuable resource for the future and will be very useful to the new incoming C-S chair, Prof. Eric Kilpatrick (Doha, Qatar).

Welcome to New EFLM Committee Chairs:



Prof. Eric Kilpatrick (UK)

EFLM is delighted to welcome the new Chair of the Science Committee (Prof. Eric Kilpatrick) and the new Chair of the Education & Training Committee (Prof. Ralf Lichtinghagen) wishing them all the best for their future contribution to the Federation. EFLM is sure that the professional competence and the personal attitudes of the two new Chairs could assure a great success to the EFLM activities. Here below, some information on Prof. Kilpatrick and Prof. Lichtinghagen.

Prof. Kilpatrick is the Division Chief in Clinical Chemistry at Sidra Medical and Research Center in Qatar. He is also the honorary Professor of Clinical Biochemistry at Hull York Medical School and is the Past President of the Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (ACB) in the UK.

After graduating in medicine from the University of Glasgow in 1988 he trained in Clinical Biochemistry in Glasgow and then Manchester before being appointed as the consultant Head of Department of Clinical Biochemistry at Hull Royal Infirmary in 1998, subsequently becoming the Clinical Director for Pathology. In 2015 he moved to become the inaugural Division Chief for Clinical Chemistry at Sidra. Prof. Kilpatrick's other leadership roles include being Chair of UK national audit in his field of medicine between 2004 and 2010 as well as providing expert advice to the UK Government and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) on aspects of diabetes care. He has also represented the UK on global task forces related to diabetes and laboratory medicine.

Academically, he gained his higher MD degree from Glasgow in 1996, with his thesis combining his interest in the laboratory medicine and clinical diabetes. Since then, he has be-



Prof. Ralf Lichtinghagen (Germany)

come an international authority on assessing glucose control in diabetes and has published about 150 peer-reviewed articles, contributing, in 2006, to him becoming the first honorary full Professor from Hull at Hull York Medical School. He has additionally gained recognition with international lectures and awards from countries such as the UK, Canada, and Australia.

Prof. Lichtinghagen received his doctorate at the Ruhr-University Bochum and started his continuing education in Clinical Chemistry in 1991. Now he is Deputy in the Institute of Clinical Chemistry and Director of the MTLA-School of the Hannover Medical University.

He has been Member-at-Large of the Executive Board of the German Society of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (DGKL). Currently, he plays an active role in the commission for recognition of the qualification "Clinical Chemist" by the DGKL as well as in the working group on bioinformatics of the DGKL. He has a long standing experience in the field of laboratory management as well as professional education. He is actively involved in research and development in Laboratory Medicine as documented by many publications in internationally renowned journals.

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Report on 9th Spanish National Congress

With the aim to share knowledge and scientific experiences and daily achievements, around 1,500 professionals gathered together on October 7–9, 2015, in Madrid at the IX National Congress of Clinical Laboratory, which is organized in conjunction with the Spanish Society of Clinical Biochemistry and Molecular Pathology (SEQC), the Spanish Association of Medical Biopathology (AEBM) and the Spanish Association for Analyst Pharmaceuticals (AEFA).

The Congress, which is a leader on a national scope in the field of clinical analysis, is supported by front line speakers and an important number of activities of great interest, like 4 pre-congress courses, 2 conferences, 10 symposiums, 12 workshops, 2 meetings for the residents and 2 expert brunches.

Furthermore, it is an opportunity for experts to see the latest technological progress being made, on site, and to discuss the innovative and cutting-edge trends in pre-analysis, circulating DNA, point of care, genet-

ics, patient safety, etc.

Within the symposiums, the focus of their dedication to “doing what needs to be done” is evident, a topic that is also covered in a pre-congress course, in which the undertaking of unnecessary laboratory tests was discussed, as well as strategies to shape the demand using laboratory information systems and/or by means of electronic request systems.

“The focus that we have chosen for the Congress on this issue reflects that clinical laboratory companies are aligned with the Commitment to Quality on behalf of Scientific Companies in Spain project, coordinated by the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality”, highlighted Dr. Bernabéu, member of the Organizing Committee of the Congress, as well as of the Management Board for SEQC.

New to the congress were also 2 expert brunches, aimed at issues that have a great impact on laboratory work: leadership and patient safety.



News from EFLM National Society Members

Danish Society of Clinical Chemistry (*Dansk Selskab for Klinisk Biokemi*)

The new President of the Danish Society of Clinical Chemistry is Dr. Henrik L. Jorgensen (Dept. of Clinical Biochemistry, Bispebjerg University Hospital, Copenhagen) replacing Dr. Nete Hornung, while the new EFLM National Representative is Dr. Peter H. Nissen (Molecular Genetics Unit, Dept. of Clinical Biochemistry, Aarhus University Hospital) replacing Dr. Anders Johnsen. A warm welcome in EFLM to the new representatives of the Dansk Selskab for Klinisk Biokemi!

French Society of Clinical Biology (*Société Française de Biologie Clinique*)

This is to announce that SFBC has a new President, Prof. Marc Delpech (replacing Prof. Joelle Goudable). Marc Delpech is professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the Paris Descartes Medical School (Paris Descartes University), associated professor at the Medical school of the Jiao Tong University of Shanghai and head of the Paris Descartes—Paris Diderot Universities PhD school: “Genetics, Cell, Immunology, Infectiology and Development, Gc2iD.”

Prof. Delpech is the head of the Cochin hospital Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics laboratory, a laboratory devoted to prenatal diagnosis and genetic counselling of rare hereditary diseases. He is the head of the department “Biology, Pharmacy, Pathology” of Cochin University hospital. His main research topics are molecular Genetics of rare hereditary diseases and more specifically auto-inflammatory syndromes and amyloidosis. He is a member of several Scientific Committees (French Association “Deafest cystic fibrosis,” French Biomedicine

Agency and many others). He is a member of the French National Academy of Medicine. A warm welcome in EFLM to the new SFBC President!

German Society of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (*DGKL*)

The new President of the German Society of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine is Prof. Berend Isermann (Faculty of Medicine, Otto-von-Guericke-University Magdeburg, Inst. for Clinical Chemistry and Pathobiochemistry, Magdeburg) replacing Prof. Michael Neumaier, while the new EFLM National Representative is Prof. Michael Vogeser (Institute of Laboratory Medicine, Hospital of the Ludwig-Maximilians-University of Munich) replacing Prof. Klaus Kohse. A warm welcome in EFLM to the new DGKL representatives!

Italian Society of Clinical Biochemistry and Clinical Molecular Biology (*SIBioC - Laboratory Medicine*)

The new President of the Italian National Society “SIBioC—Laboratory Medicine” is Prof. Marcello Ciaccio (Dept. of Medical Biotechnologies and Forensic Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Palermo) replacing Prof. Ferruccio Ceriotti. A warm welcome in EFLM to the new SIBioC President!

Slovak Society of Clinical Biochemistry (*Slovenská spoloCnosť klinickej biochémie*)

The new President of the Slovak Society of Clinical Biochemistry is Prof. MUDr. Oliver Ráčz (Dept. of Pathophysiology, Faculty of Medicine, Pavol Jozef Safárik University in Kosice) replacing Dr. Katarína Danová. A warm welcome in EFLM to the new SSKB President!