

REPORT
of The XVI Meeting of Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation
& 7th Hellenic Congress of Clinical Chemistry

The XVI Meeting of Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation was co-organized with the 7th Hellenic Congress of Clinical Chemistry and was held in Athens, 16-19 October 2008. The Meeting was organized by the Greek Society of Clinical Chemistry-Clinical Biochemistry (GSCC-CB) under the auspices of IFCC (International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine) and EFCC (European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine)

1. Participation

Total number of participants:	997
Delegates	714
Residents/technicians	178
Students	105

Country of the participants:

Balkan Countries

COUNTRY	No
GREECE	785
SERBIA	72
BULGARIA	53
ALBANIA	25
CYPRUS	19
TURKEY	13
ROMANIA	10
COSOVO	8
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA	5
FYROM	5
MONTENEGRO	2

Other countries

COUNTRY	No
CYPRUS	19
SPAIN	6
CANADA	3
FRANCE	2
INDIA	2
LITHUANIA	2
MEXICO	2
IRAN	1
KOREA	1
POLAND	1
TAIWAN	1
GERMANY	1
UK	1
NORWAY	1
AUSTRALIA	1
NETHERLANDS	1

2. Scientific Program

Lectures:	20
Round table discussions	3 (18 presentations)
Workshops	2 (6 presentations)
Sponsored symposia	6 (11 presentations)

Opening ceremony

Welcome addresses:

Assist. Professor Demetrios Rizos

Professor Dr Nada Majkić-Singh

Dr Katerina Psara

Professor Kostas Sekeris

Chairman of the meeting

President of BCLF,

President of GSCC-CB

Chairman of the Scientific Committee.

Opening Lecture:

Errors in laboratory medicine and patient safety by Prof. Mario Plebani (Italy)

Lectures

- **EFCC: An answer for Europe.** Victor Blaton (Belgium) (Given by M. Plebani)
- **Cell free fetal nucleic acids in maternal blood: New opportunities for prenatal diagnosis.** Diana Bianchi (USA)
- **Proteomics: New prospects in laboratory medicine.** George Panayotou (Greece)
- **Biochemical markers of pre-eclampsia in pregnancy.** Kevin Spencer (UK)
- **Micro RNAs in Clinical Oncology: Current themes and future perspectives.** George Yousef (Canada)
- **Cytokine Biosynthesis in Immunopathology.** Dimitris Kontoyiannis (Greece)
- **Evidence based laboratory medicine.** Athena Tatsioni (Greece)

Lectures from Balkan countries

- Evaluation of cardiovascular disease biomarkers, our experience. Nevila Heta (Alliu), Albania
- Autoantibodies as predictors of disease. Manole Cojocar, Romania
- Comparison of lipid and inflammatory markers in cardiovascular risk assessment for primary prevention. Snezana Jovicic, Serbia
- Hyperferritinemia and Insulin resistance. Ioannis Papassotiriou, Greece
- New bio markers in follow-up of kidney disease and transplantation. Todor Gruev, FYROM
- Endocannabinoids as a metabolic regulatory system. Anna Tzontcheva, Bulgaria
- Cystatin C monitoring in patients with chronic kidney disease. Ayse Banu Caysi, Turkey
- Microbiologic considerations in sepsis. Alexandra Dana Maria Panait, Romania
- Postmortem diagnosis of Parkinson's disease. Emin Sofic, Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Molecular genetics of psychotic disorders. Srdjan Djurovic, Montenegro
- Inflammatory and apoptotic markers in ischemic heart disease patients. Vidosava Djordjevic, Serbia
- Water channel proteins (later called aquaporins): medical implications. Gheorghe Benga, Romania

Round table discussions

1. The new IFCC standardization of HbA1c: Impact on measurement, results reporting and clinical practice. Coordinators: Kostas Makris – Cas Weykamp

- The consensus statement of IFCC, IDF, EASD and ADA on the IFCC Reference system for worldwide standardisation of HbA1c. Cas Weykamp (Netherlands)
- Can we translate HbA1c values to estimated average glucose safely? K. Makris Greece
- The external quality assessment scheme for Hba1c. C. Weykamp

2. Principles and applications of modern technologies in Clinical Chemistry (multiplex assays, capillary electrophoresis, Mass Spectrometry) Coordinator: Nikos Karamanos

- What's new in Biochemical Analysis? – a brief introduction. N. Karamanos. Greece
- Capillary Electrophoresis Applications in Clinical Chemistry. F. Lamari Greece
- Tandem Mass Spectrometry based clinical investigations – from newborn-screening to biomarker discovery and validation. C. Tamvakopoulos Greece
- Broad exploration of the signaling network in normal and cancer liver cells using high throughput protein measurements. L. Alexopoulos Greece

3. Accreditation of the medical laboratories: experiences of the Balkan countries

Coordinator: K. Seferiadis

Workshops

Workshop I:

Uncertainty estimation of laboratory tests. Coordinator: Eirini Leimoni

- Introduction to measurement of uncertainty. Eugenia Lampi
- Establishing of uncertainty budget and approaches of uncertainty estimation Michael Koupparis
- Uncertainty estimation of analytical methods in a clinical laboratory. Eleni Lykoka

Workshop II:

Molecular diagnostics and Clinical chemistry: applications, technologies, laboratory requirements and quality control. Coordinator: Jan Traeger-Synodinos

- Applications within clinical chemistry services. Jan Traeger-Synodinos
- Current and emerging technologies. Maria Tzetis
- Laboratory infrastructure and quality control. Aliko Stathopoulou

Sponsored Symposia

1. Lp-PLA2: A new kid on the block. Uncover the hidden risk for heart attack & stroke (BIOCHEM DIAGNOSTICS SA)

- Lipoprotein-associated phospholipase A2 (Lp-PLA2). A new biomarker for cardiovascular risk assessment. A. Tselepis
- PLAC Test: Knowledge is prevention. A. Jansen

2. Important Biomarkers of Roche Diagnostics & their clinical value (ROCHE DIAGNOSTICS -HELLAS SA)

- Clinical value of novel Bone Markers. G. Trovas
- Novel biomarkers for the myocardial injury-The role of Ischemia Modified Albumin. C. Makris

3. Proposal for running QC fit for medical purposes and accreditation requirements (BIO-RAD LABORATORIES)

- Evaluation of uncertainty of measurement in routine medical laboratory. C. Giroud
- Practical tools for selecting and designing Internal Quality Control. G. Tamburini

4. Implementing guidelines and recommendations on cardiac biomarkers into practice- Innovative solutions from Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics (SIEMENS)

- International guidelines and recommendations for the use of cardiac biomarkers. G. Papadopoulos
- New biochemical markers of cardiovascular disease: Is there a role for Myeloperoxidase? L. Marzio Biasucci
- Translation of clinical guidelines for cardiac biomarkers into routine use: Innovative solutions from Siemens S. Faye

5. Automation and disease management. B. Theodorou (PNG GEROLYMATOS SA)

6. AU3000-delivering certainty in an uncertain world. How the new Olympus AU3000i immunochemistry analyzer generates results of higher confidence due to interference reduction, higher precision, accuracy and sensitivity. The LOB, LOD and LOQ concepts. P. Kenny (MEDICON)

Abstracts

Total number of abstracts submitted:	197
Rejected	6
Accepted	191
Oral presentations	25
Poster presentations	166

COUNTRY	No of abstracts
GREECE	123
SERBIA	28
BULGARIA	6
TURKEY	6
ROMANIA	5
FYROM	4
ALBANIA	4
TAIWAN	4
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA	2
MONTENEGRO	2
SPAIN	2
FRANCE	1
IRAN	1
KOREA	1
POLAND	1
UKRAIN	1
Total	191

Topic	Abstracts	Topic	Abstracts
Cardiovascular diseases and biomarkers	26	Hematology	4
Molecular Diagnostics	26	Proteins and proteomics	3
Lipids and lipoproteins	16	Nutrition and clinical laboratory	3
Renal diseases and markers	15	Quality management in clinical laboratory	3
Cancer/tumor markers	11	Flow cytometry and clinical applications	3
Technology, Instrumentation and Methods	11	Certification and Accreditation	2
Oxidative stress	10	Evidence based laboratory medicine	2
Pregnancy and clinical laboratory	9	Infectious diseases and clinical laboratory	2
Diabetes/metabolic syndrome	8	Liver diseases and markers	2
Interpretation of laboratory test results	7	Obesity and clinical laboratory	2
Allergy and Immunology	7	Endocrine function and clinical laboratory	2
Pharmacogenetics/Pharmacogenomics	6	Education in clinical laboratory	1
Pediatric clinical chemistry	5	Ageing and clinical laboratory	1
Thyroid testing and diseases	5	Clinical proteomics	1
Bone diseases and markers	4		

Awards

Balkan Award (Sponsored by BioSystems SA)

14 papers submitted for the Balkan award and were reviewed by 4 reviewers from different Balkan countries.

Winner: Birsen Can Demirdogen “PON1 -107TT and 55LL genotypes are risk factors and triple combined heterozygote haplotype (QRLMTC) is protective for ischemic stroke “Refik Saydam Central Hygiene Institute of Ankara (Turkey)

Finalist: Tatjana Jevtovic-Stoimenov “Polymorphism of TNF- α -308 and LT- α +250 and Endonuclease Activity in adults Patients with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia and Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma”.Institute of Biochemistry of the Medical Faculty of University of Nis (Serbia)

The GSCC-CB awards

Best oral presentation award

Dual-allele dipstick assay for genotyping single nucleotide polymorphisms by primer extension reaction. Konstantou J., Ioannou P., Christopoulos T. Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry, Department of Chemistry, Athens University, Department of Chemistry, University of Patras, Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas, Institute of Chemical Engineering and High Temperature Chemical Processes, Patras, Greece

Best poster presentation award

A new deleterious BRCA2 mutation in the Greek population. Psofaki V., Kalogera C., Ziogas D., Seferiadis K., Roukos D., Kolios G. Laboratory of Biochemistry, University Hospital of Ioannina, Laboratory of Clinical Chemistry, Medical School, University of Ioannina, Surgical Oncology Research Unit, Department of Surgery, Medical School, University of Ioannina, Greece

Social

Savina Giannatou voice and Kostas Grigoreas Guitar, gave an excellent performance during Thursday's opening ceremony with songs from Greece and other countries. In the welcome reception cocktail that followed, Balkan colleagues had the opportunity to get together in a relaxing and friendly atmosphere.

A very warm and friendly atmosphere was also prevailed during the Dinner after the end of the Meeting, in the old traditional Greek tavern "Psaras" in Plaka.