On behalf of the Congress Organizing Committee, of the Prof. Philippe Gillery, chair, Scientific Program Committee and of the Prof. Joelle Goudable, SFBC President, it is a great pleasure to invite you all, specialists in Lab Medicine and partners, to EuroMedLab Paris 2015, the 21st IFCC-EFLM European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine. For the first time, this congress takes place in Paris, France, on June 21–25, 2015, in the Palais des Congrès, one of the capital’s legendary venues.

All around the world, health care systems are facing some of their greatest challenges and all nations need to find better, more innovative ways to treat and prevent illness. The coupling of science-technology and clinical medicine remains the relentless driver of new questions. It is not a secret that technology is transforming healthcare. To realize a true 21st century healthcare system, we need a fundamental change in our healthcare delivery model. The identification of new scientific and clinical knowledge will impact on patient care through the development of new technologies. They will drive how services are delivered which in turn will dictate where scientists will work and the knowledge and skills they will need. As specialist in lab medicine we can expect to be better integrated into patient pathways, working as a part of multidisciplinary teams. We need radical change and to replace a fragmented transactional system with patient-centric coordinated care: the democratization of information through digitalization will empower patients to make their own healthcare decisions. We believe, with respect to challenges in public health, that harmonization of the training of the specialists of lab medicine, good practices, and innovation in lab medicine are one of the keys to unlocking this in order to contribute to the advancement of Lab medicine and patient welfare. Strong scientific leadership and professional accountability are also essential.

The motto of the conference “R-evolution in Lab Medicine” emphasizes the importance of Lab medicine in patient care and wellness in the 21st century. EuroMedLab Paris 2015 features the most up-to-date topics in the expanding field of laboratory medicine and brings together an array of leading international speakers, the key stakeholders and opinion leaders. The conferences will cover the translational nature of laboratory medicine with emphasis on both basic science as well as its applications in academia, industry and lab practice. It aims at encouraging global collaboration, new alliances, and increase partnerships.

EuroMedLab Paris 2015 is offering an intellectually stimulating combination of plenary lectures, symposia, educational workshops, interactive poster sessions where young scientists are especially encouraged to present their research findings.

EuroMedLab Paris 2015 is the right place for sharing ideas, fostering exchanges and scientific partnerships, for bringing strategies and tips back to your organization. It is a unique opportunity to visit one of the major European trade shows, bringing together the largest number of IVD companies. We would like to thank the corporate members for their support and willingness to actively collaborate to this event.

EuroMedLab Paris 2015 is everything you have ever wanted in a Laboratory Medicine congress. Paris capital of science, culture, art, and gastronomy is a creative cultural destination in perpetual renewal, being one of the highest ranking cities in terms of tourism attraction. We are sure that both the scientific and the cultural programs will provide you a memorable and enjoyable experience.

We hope to see you all in Paris!
Italy’s Prof. Panteghini Keynotes at 8th Bulgarian National Conference

The Conference was devoted to the 20th anniversary of the Bulgarian National System for External Quality Assessment in Clinical Laboratory. The opening lecture of Prof. Mauro Panteghini (Milan, Italy; CIRME, University of Milan) was focused on responsibilities and strategies in the EU context in verification of in vitro diagnostic (IVD) metrological traceability.

Prof. T. Ikonomova discussed laboratory tests for bone metabolism and their clinical use for assessment of fracture risk, tracking the therapy effect and estimation of restart of anticoagulant therapy for osteoporosis. Prof. I. Paskaleva presented pharmacogenetics and phenotyping in antiplatelet and anticoagulant therapy in cardiology settings along with results from individualized treatment based on fast tests for genotyping. Prof. A. Stancheva revealed in details the advantages and limitations of new commercially available anticoagulants.

Dr. A. Dimitrova et al. presented a clinical case with tracking the clot stability of a patient with intracranial hematoma and factor XIII deficiency with the help of Rotation thrombelastometry.

Prof. D. Svinarov revealed the role of Mass spectrometry as an innovative approach to personalized medicine in clinical practice. Dr. M. Bozhilova and Prof. T. Shipkov discussed the potential of modern clinical laboratory for diagnosis of subclinical thyroid dysfunction. The opportunities for individualized therapy of patients with multiple myeloma knowing the genome aspects of the disease were presented by Prof. L. Mitev.

Prof. I. Ivanova, Prof. B. Atanasova and Prof. K. Tzatchev described the role and physiology of Copper in accumulation and deficiency states along with a precise scheme of preanalytical standardization. Dr. V. Manolov, Prof. M. Velizarova et al. discussed novel diagnostic opportunities in anemia in rheumatoid arthritis patients and the role of hepcidin for differentiation of patients with functional iron deficiency from those with reticuloendothelial blockade.

Dr. N. Doncheva suggested recent approaches in lipid metabolism disorders. Dr. V. Koleva presented HE4 and the ROMA algorithm as useful approach for monitoring of CA 125 negative patients.

Prof. K. Tzatchev (BSCL President) presented the principles of external quality assessment, the foundation of BEQAS with the help of UK NEQAS and INSTAND and the reliability of the results of Bulgarian laboratories according to IMEP-17.

A high number of interesting poster presentations was highly appreciated.

The 8th Bulgarian National Conference brought forth an excellent opportunity for the delegates to enjoy the beautiful Northern Black Sea Coast and the Golden Sands Nature Park.


The 6th International Symposium “Critical Care Testing and Blood Gases,” which is a satellite meeting of EuroMedLab 2015, will provide a forum for specialists in laboratory medicine, biomedical engineers, anesthesiologists and the physicians to highlight the most recent developments related to POCT instrumentation and clinical applications. Participants will discuss the challenges ahead for the technological innovations, clinical needs in quality management and accreditation process according ISO 22870 for POCT, and will draw up a program of action for implementing the POCT in the new healthcare environment.

For more information, please visit our website www.paris2015.org/go/satellite-meetings.
THE WORLD OF EFLM

Slovenian Association for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine
by Alenka France Stiglic, member of SZKKLM EB and Evgenija Homsak, president of SZKKLM

In Slovenia, October 2nd is the “Day of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine” and marks the founding of the Slovenian Association for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (SZKKLM) in 1961. In the fifties of the previous century, our colleagues who have been working in the field of medical biochemistry felt the lack of being connected within a professional society. They wished for a society that would pursue better recognition of medical biochemistry in Slovenian health care and enhance its professional development and value. In 1958, Slovenian Chemical Society established Section of Biochemistry. Its members tried very hard to enroll medical biochemists as well. On October 2, 1961, our colleagues of that time decided to join Slovenian Pharmaceutical Society and established Section of Medical Biochemists within it. Society had 29 members (pharmacists, chemists, biologists, doctors, and technicians) at the time, and acted as a part of the Slovenian Pharmaceutical Society. After 33 years, in 1995, the association became independent with the name of Slovenian Association of Clinical Chemistry (SZKK) and with first own statutes.

Throughout the years the professional activities and activities within the SZKK increased. The profession achieved noticeable progress and branched, permanent courses of education started including all profiles, with different level of achieved education (technicians, engineers, specialists) and Republic professional College of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine began to operate.

The number of members was steadily increasing over the years, and today the association connects more than 170 members with different educational backgrounds. More than half of them are university graduates in pharmaceutical, chemical, biological, biochemical, or other biomedical professional fields. Most of them have also successfully completed specialization in medical biochemistry at Ministry of Health. Members’ and society common goal is to ensure a constant development of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine in Slovenia, following international standards.

In 1994, SZKK joined the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory medicine (IFCC) and in the mid-nineties, the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM). Since then our members are actively involved in various working groups and committees of IFCC and EFLM. According to important efforts for better recognition and harmonization of our profession on EFLM level, in March this year we have been renamed into Slovenian Association for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (SZKKLM).

SZKKLM is also associated with other Slovenian and foreign professional, scientific, research and educational institutions. In cooperation and under the auspices of IFCC and EFLM, the SZKKLM regularly organizes Slovenian and international congresses of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine, conferences on the topic of accreditation and quality in medical laboratories and by organizing regular professional meetings, seminars and workshops, ensure continuing professional education of all our members (technicians, engineers and specialists). In cooperation with the Croatian Society for Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine and with EFLM, our society regularly organizes EFLM Continuing Postgraduate Course in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine in Dubrovnik.

Slovenian specialists in medical biochemistry regarding the achieved equivalent standard of education since 1994 and EC4 registration, can obtain the title of European Specialist in Laboratory Medicine (EuSpLM). According to latest and actual efforts of EFLM/EC4 and our profession to become one of the automatic required profession in EU through revision of Directive for professional qualification 2005/36, we have achieved, as the first of 28 EC4 countries, the important and necessary confirmation and sign from our government for agreement and acceptance of European Common training Framework of specialist education for our profession in Slovenia.

In an effort to increase the visibility of our profession, this year SZKKLM, for the first time, organized the Open Day of Slovenian Clinical Laboratories marking October 2nd the Slovenian Day of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine. Laboratories throughout Slovenia opened their doors to the wider public and organized guided tours. Patients, journalists and other health professionals were invited to the laboratories, where they were shown our working environment and diagnostic procedures. The importance of our work in the health care was presented as well as the difficulties we are facing in our daily work. On this occasion, we have also issued a common notice about the event in the form of a poster and the brochure that represents our profession and is from now on available for the patients and visitors in all clinical chemistry laboratories in Slovenia. These activities were extensively promoted on the media (TV broadcasts and news programs, newspapers, radio) on national and local levels.

The Open Day was warmly welcomed by the public and was well attended; so it is clear that it will help to better the recognition of our profession in our country and it will undoubtedly become one of the traditional events on our “Day of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine.”
Science Students A Key Presence At 19th Serbian Congress

Serbia’s 19th Congress of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine was held from September 9–13, 2014, under the auspices of IFCC and EFLM. This is not the first time that students visited this congress, but the first time students presented their scientific work in such event. Team of Medical Biochemists, a part of Belgrade Pharmacy Students’ Association (BPSA), organized the students as part of the congress. There were many ambitious applicants for presentation and poster section. Presentations and posters were collected by Team of Medical Biochemists and submitted to Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia.

The society announced during the opening ceremony that the best poster will travel to the IFCC-EFLM congress in Paris 2015, which roused the competitive spirit among students. We were glad that the hard, scientific work of our students throughout the past year will be rewarded with this valuable prize. Presentations organized under name: Students’ Scientific Researchers in the Field of Medical Biochemistry and Pharmaceutical Science. We were hosts for three students from Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry University of Zagreb, Croatia where they presented their scientific work. These sessions were filled with interesting discussions not only among students but professors and assistants too. We take pride in our section. Although, this is the first year we were participants on such a prestigious event, we have no intention of stopping here.

Students of pharmacy-medical biochemistry dream of the opportunity to stand there and share with others with their extensive knowledge. Our aim was to show that students really love science, that they are capable of applying it in practice and that we are capable of organizing such a great meeting. We thank to Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia who has given us chance and the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade who supports us in our work.

Lithuania’s Vytenis Andriukaitis Appointed European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety

Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission, announced on September 10, the composition of the new College of European Commissioners. Mr. Vytenis Andriukaitis, former Health Minister of Lithuania, was designated as new European Commissioner for the Health Policy and Food Safety portfolio.

Mr. Vytenis Andriukaitis (83) is a surgeon and historian. Currently he is a Member of the Lithuanian parliament. Andriukaitis started his political career just after high school. From 1969 he was an active participant in the anti-Soviet underground and in 1976 took part in underground social democratic activities.

Ten years later he became Deputy Chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Lithuania (LSDP). At the same time, he has been evolving his medical skills and became a cardiovascular surgeon. Andriukaitis was coauthor of the Act of Independence of the Republic of Lithuania of March 11, 1990. From 2000 he has been a long-standing member of the Parliamentary Committee on European Affairs and he led the Lithuanian delegation at the Convention on the Future of Europe in 2002-2003.

During a recent conference he said, “Healthy people are more creative and productive. Their well-being sets the foundation that moves societies forward. Health in all policies should be the driving force of our efforts to cut inequalities as it lays the groundwork for social justice and economic sustainability.” In this speech at the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)’s 5th Annual Conference, Mr. Vytenis Povilas Andriukaitis said, “Health is not a consequence of growth but also a condition for growth. Investments in public health increase productivity and boost job creation. Therefore health is not only a product of growth: health encourages growth.”

“To bring together a divided Europe, the priorities of the new European Parliament and Commission must be aligned with the expectations of citizens. This can only be achieved by a U-turn in the flawed economic policies that are exacerbating social problems in Europe. To start with, the Europe 2020 Strategy must include a public health dimension to ensure sustainable health systems, a strong health workforce, and a reduction in health inequalities,” concluded Emma Woodford, EPHA Interim Secretary General.

The EFLM would like to congratulate Mr. Vytenis Andriukaitis for the designation and express its commitment to working with him to ensure that European policy makers champion the health of people living in Europe!