



## **Introduction The Second FESCC Continuous Postgraduate Course in Clinical Chemistry: New Trends in Classification and Management of Cardiovascular Disease**

The Croatian Society of Medical Biochemists and Slovenian Association for Clinical Chemistry, together with the Forum of the European Societies of Clinical Chemistry, IFCC Europe have organized the second in a series of postgraduate weekend courses, at the Inter-University Centre Dubrovnik, promoting continuous postgraduate education of experts in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine, and ensuring the laboratory knowledge and harmonization, this time on human heart in particular.

Cardiovascular diseases have become the major cause of death and disability after age 35. Renowned experts from European countries have participated in this specialized course entitled “New Trends in Classification and Management of Cardiovascular Disease” covering the clinical and laboratory aspects of cardiovascular diseases,

The Course program was divided into three sections.

1. The first section was devoted to the basic concepts of cardiovascular diseases. The presented topics of pathophysiology and classification of cardiovascular diseases, atherothrombosis, and inflammation in the pathogenesis of cardiovascular and unstable coronary disease, as well as genetic predictors of coronary heart disease are tightly related to the latest concepts on cardiovascular disease.
2. The second section was focused on cardiac risk assessment. The leading scientists in the field reported on the role of lipids in the development of atherosclerosis and coronary heart disease, i.e. guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment; the present and the future in evaluation of risk markers for acute myocardial infarction and heart failure; hypertension and coronary heart disease; diabetes mellitus and cardiovascular disease; the role of pharmacogenetics in the management of cardiovascular disease; natriuretic peptides in assessment of ventricular dysfunction; and clinical experiences in the treatment of lipid disorders in cardiovascular patients.
3. The last section was devoted to the standardization and quality assessment of biochemical markers of cardiac damage. The experts in the field reviewed the rational diagnosis of cardiovascular disease, IFCC proposal for recommendations on the use of biochemical markers in acute coronary syndrome, and strategy of prevention of cardiovascular disease. At the end of this section, the training introducing POCT technology for the diagnosis and monitoring of acute coronary syndrome was organized allowing the participants to master the technique.

We do hope that the Course program has fulfilled its goals by presenting state-of-the-art facts about the conditions and by contributing to harmonization of the classification, monitoring and management of cardiovascular disease.

**Professor Elizabeta Topić**