

How to Cite this article: Editorial <http://www.ifcc.org/ejifcc/vol15no3/150309200401.htm>

Editorial

The Third FESCC Continuous Postgraduate Course in Clinical Chemistry: New Trends in Classification, Monitoring and Management of Neurological 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 in Europe have organized the third in a series of postgraduate weekend courses entitled "New Trends in Classification and Management of Neurological Disease" promoting continuous postgraduate education of experts in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine, and ensuring the laboratory knowledge harmonization, this time on human brain in particular.

In the past few years, scientists have made some important breakthrough in understanding the many types of neurological disease. These findings are now opening the way to new horizons for diagnosing and monitoring of these disorders. Renowned experts from European countries have participated in this specialized FESCC Course covering the clinical and laboratory aspects of neurological diseases.

The Course program was divided into three sections. The first section was devoted to the cerebrovascular disease and stroke, the leading cause of death and long term disability. The presented topics of pathophysiology and classification of cerebrovascular diseases; atherosclerosis and cerebrovascular disease; differential diagnosis and prognosis markers of stroke; CSF cellular diagnostic: from morphology to molecular biology as well as pathogenesis of antiphospholipid syndrome are tightly related to the latest concepts on cerebrovascular disease. The second section was focused on infectious and neuroimmune diseases. The leading scientists in the field reported on pathophysiology and classification of CNS infection; multiple sclerosis; CSF analysis: disease-related data patterns,

immunoglobins and polyspecific antibody response; neuroimmunology: immunoglobins and the intrathecal polyspecific immune response in acute, subacute and chronic neurological diseases; detection of oligoclonal Ig bands: clinical significance and trends in methodological improvement; and clinical and diagnostic role of ganglioside antibody testing. The last section was devoted to neurodegenerative disease. The experts in the field reviewed the pathophysiology and classification of neurodegenerative diseases; molecular basis of Alzheimer's disease; Wilson disease; the endocrine brain: pathophysiological role of neuropeptide-neurotransmitter interaction; regulatory peptides as disease markers and molecular diagnosis of neuromuscular disease.

At the end of this section, the training introducing PROTIS results interpretation software for CSF assessment by Dade Behring was organized allowing the participants to master this technique of advanced results interpretation.

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

Elizabeta Topic