

## **Euromedlab 2001, the 14<sup>th</sup> IFCC-FESCC European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, held in Prague May 26-31, 2001 in over**

On behalf of the FESCC EB, the Scientific and Organising Committees and the whole team I would like to express our great thanks to you. Starting the organisation of EUROMEDLAB 2001 and especially the scientific programme, we have chosen a new way. We asked all National Societies to consider EUROMEDLAB as our European Congress and to take part as well in its organisation as in the scientific programme. We were happy to gain your fruitful support for that idea. Most of you accepted our "appeal" and activated top scientists from the National Societies for active participation.

Thanks to your participation we enjoyed one of the best European Congresses up to now. The National European Societies organised 14 Symposia, focused on the most exciting topics in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine. We offered the possibility to present your Society during the meeting and most of you used this opportunity. To remember the scientific programme: four Plenary Lectures were presented by top-level representatives of our discipline and focused on hot topics. The scientific programme was composed of 14 National Symposia of European countries and one Symposium was guaranteed by the Japanese Society of Clinical Chemistry. 26 additional Scientific Symposia and three Workshops were added. Our partners from the diagnostic industries supported 18 Workshops and prepared very interesting lectures together with the Scientific Committee. Counting together, the participants had the possibility to attend 223 scientific lectures, presented by scientists from 16 countries from all over the world.

For the Poster Session we received more than 1.200 proposals. An International Scientific Committee selected 1.100 of them, which were displayed. A very broad spectrum of poster presentations represented the wide field of laboratory medicine and its interests - clinical chemistry, molecular biology, cell metabolism, signal transduction, pharmacogenetics and pharmacogenomics, as well as endocrinology, diabetology, immunology, oncology, clinical osteology, organ transplantation, nutrition, and many others.

Such a spectrum of scientific topics attracted many participants. Organisers expected up to two thousand participants, which corresponds to the previous European Congresses. The final numbers surpassed all expectations. More than 4.000 attendees visited EUROMEDLAB 2001 in Prague! This figure includes scientists with full and/or one-day registration and company representatives and made EUROMEDLAB 2001 one of the biggest European Congresses up to now. The largest group was from Italy with nearly 300 participants, we registered more than 100 colleagues from Spain, Poland, Germany, Finland, The Netherlands, Greece, France, United Kingdom, Croatia and Turkey (and Czech Republic, of course). There were also many participants from non-European countries: USA, Japan, South Africa, Argentina, Canada and Australia. The registered participants came from 83 countries.

The social programme of EUROMEDLAB made a very much appreciated completion to the scientific meetings and discussions. The sun-drenched art beauties of Prague were a keen competition to the welcome party in the Famous Municipal House in art-nouveau style, concerts, dinners, visits and culminating with the Gala Dinner at the Brevnov's Monastery (the oldies men monastery in middle Europe). The whole Congress was favoured with Czech music in every Congress Hall, which added a good spirit to the scientific level as well as to the mood of participants.

EUROMEDLAB 2001 in Prague was really a great success for the organisers, for FESCC (Forum of European Societies of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine), for the National Societies in Europe and last but not least, it was a big success for our profession of clinical chemistry.

*Prof. V. Blaton, President FESCC*