

Introduction

First FESCC Continuous Postgraduate Course in Clinical Chemistry: New Trends in Classification and Management of Diabetes Mellitus

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The Croatian Society of Medical Biochemists and the Slovenian Association for Clinical Chemistry together with the Forum of the European Societies of Clinical Chemistry organized the first in a series of postgraduate weekend conferences, held in the Interuniversity Centre, Dubrovnik, promoting the beginning of continuous postgraduate education of experts in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine.

Renowned experts from European countries participated in this specialized conference covering the clinical and laboratory aspects in diabetes mellitus. The Conference program was divided into three sections. The first section was devoted to the basic concepts of diabetes mellitus. The presented topics of pathophysiology, new diagnostic criteria, new classification and modern therapy approach, genetic aspects, immunology, and modern aspects of laboratory diagnosis and monitoring, are tightly related to the latest concepts on diabetes mellitus. The second section focused on complications of diabetes mellitus. The leading scientists in the field reported on atherosclerosis and thrombosis, oxidative stress, the possibility of early detection of chronic and acute complications, coagulopathy, glycation and AGE, apoptosis and bone metabolism in DM. The last section was devoted to the control, quality assessment and management in DM. The experts in the field reviewed the role of DM monitoring in regard to recent and long-term control and evidence-based monitoring (education and self-control, POCT). The last topic in this section addressed the emerging link of quality assessment in pre-analytical, analytical and post-analytical phase of glucose, HbA_{1c}, and fructosamine measurement with the control and management of DM. To the participants the model and the results of Croatian national network in QC were reviewed stimulating a very fruitful discussion.

At the end of this section the training introducing POCT devices was organized allowing the participants to master the technique.

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

The decision to launch the continuous education programs with this topic happily coincides with the IFCC global campaign: Improving the Diagnosis and Management of Diabetes. The organizers are glad that IFCC have accepted to provide auspices to the Conference.

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