

NEW TRENDS IN DIAGNOSIS, MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT OF TUMOUR DISEASES

Editorial

The Fourth FESCC Continuous Postgraduate Course in Clinical Chemistry:

New Trends in Diagnosis, Monitoring and Management of Tumour Diseases

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 fourth in a series of postgraduate weekend courses entitled "New Trends in Diagnosis, Monitoring and Management of Tumour Diseases" promoting continuous postgraduate education of experts in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine, and ensuring the laboratory knowledge harmonization, this time on tumour diseases in particular.

In the past few years, scientists have made some important breakthroughs in the understanding the many types of cancer. 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 tumour diseases.

The Course program is divided into three sections. The first section is devoted to the basic concepts of cancer. The presented topics are: genomic determination of cancer, interaction between cell death and cell proliferation, functional genomics and proteomics, biology of metastasis with focus on proteases, cancer screening programmes and the influence of the environment on cancer.

The second section is focused on early detection of cancer, diagnosis and monitoring including following topics: rational use of tumour markers, laboratory diagnosis and monitoring of leukaemias and lymphomas at molecular level, breast cancer, PSA and other biomarkers for early detection, diagnosis and monitoring of prostate cancer, colorectal carcinoma and pharmacogenetic and tumour drugs.

The last section is devoted to new approaches in cancer diagnosis and monitoring: ethics and quality assessment in genetic testing, proteomics: a study of therapy resistance in the cancer cell,

detection of disseminated cancer cells in blood and gene expression profiles - what the clinician needs to know.

At the end of this section, a workshop was organized by Roche Diagnostics introducing Lightcycler - automated gene system in molecular diagnostics, allowing the participants to master this technique.

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

Professor Elizabeta Topic