

## *Very Special News!*

**President of the Czech Republic, Mr. Vaclav Havel,**  
accepted our wish and EUROMEDLAB will be under his auspices!

**W E L C O M E 2 0 0 1**



Dear friends,

The preparing work of the 14th IFCC-FESCC European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine - EUROMEDLAB 2001 is culminating. Now, before the congress' beginning, you are receiving the last pre-congress issue of the Congress Journal (EUROMEDLAB News 3). Our intend was to provide you with the current information about the preparation work and I would like to call your attention to some interesting issues regarding the scientific and social programme. There will be many of them. The idea to involve all „big“ European National Societies, which deal with the clinical chemistry, into the Congress preparation, has enabled to set a rich programme, where everyone can find an interesting topic. The most distinguished scientists for plenary lectures, 15 symposia, 27 scientific workshops, 3 other workshops and number of industry-sponsored workshops will present the last news from our discipline and will demonstrate, what it have been

reached during the last period. The Scientific Committee has made a great effort to attract the best lecturers and speakers from the whole world and we dare say that these efforts became successful. Many European countries organise some of the great Symposia and thus will have a chance to present their own results and high professional level of their members. It is customary that top experts give invited lectures during European or World Congresses. On the other hand, the original papers, studies and new knowledge of each participant, for which presentation the poster section is designated, are always considered as a spice of such an event. We obtained almost 1,200 poster abstracts and after difficult selection made by International Scientific Committee, we decided to accept 1,100 of them for further presentation. These will be displayed during the whole Congress and we are sure they will encourage discussions which actually move the clinical biochemistry and laboratory medicine ahead. We would like to have a lot of young and

perspective colleagues among the EUROMEDLAB participants. The organizing committee endeavours to create the best conditions for them: to those, who are under 35 years of age, we contribute a grant of CHF 300 as a reduction of the congress fee (to CHF 400). We also invited them to the bursary project, where 112 of them were concerned. We are very pleased that we were able to provide the grant to 50 young scientists from 20 countries and thus enable the participation even to those, who wouldn't be able to come from economic reasons. We are sure that their abstract presentations and their posters will undoubtedly bring a benefit to all EUROMEDLAB participants. EUROMEDLAB will take place in the biggest Congress Centre of the Czech Republic. Five lecture halls are reserved for the scientific programme and one entire floor will be dedicated for the posters displaying. We are very pleased that all significant companies from the laboratory medicine branch will exhibit their products and will also participate at symposia. The exhibition area will occupy

two floors of the Congress Centre Prague and will have free access for all participants and other people concerned. Seeing the development of the preparation work, we are sure that we can expect one of the biggest and best exhibitions with many hot technical and analytical news.

Social programme will include Welcome Party, Concert, Gala Dinner, guided tour around Prague and some great places of the Czech Republic, which - as we believe - will be another gudgeon to the Congress. Prague belongs to the most beautiful cities of the world and the end of May is the best period to see it. Not only EUROMEDLAB participants will admire its sights but there will be also visitors to the famous music festival - Prague Spring. To remind EUROMEDLAB participants a small part

of the Czech music history, we named the lecture halls after the famous Czech composers - Dvorak, Smetana, Janacek, Stamic and Martinu. The Czech capital glories in many architectonic styles, hundreds of Romanesque, gothic, baroque, renaissance and art nouveau buildings. Each of its visitors can easily identify the secession style of Obecni dum (Municipal House), where the Welcome Party is planned. The concerts will take place in Prague churches and the closing Gala Dinner is planned in the Brevnov Monastery, which is one of the oldest monasteries in the Central Europe. The social programme and Prague beauties say - you cannot miss the EUROMEDLAB congress!! EUROMEDLAB is a great event and even the Czech top celebrities and politicians supports

its significance: Personal support of EUROMEDLAB has been taken over by the Czech Republic President Mr. Vaclav Havel, Rector of the Charles University Professor Ivan Wilhelm and Prague's Lord Mayor Jan Kasl.

EUROMEDLAB is the biggest clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine event in Europe at the beginning of the new millennium.

**You cannot miss it! Accept our invitation and come to Prague to participate at EUROMEDLAB, 14th IFCC-FESCC European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine! We are looking forward to seeing you!**

*Vladimir Palicka*  
EUROMEDLAB President



Karel Kalla  
President of Czech Society of Clinical Biochemistry

Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to invite you on behalf of the Czech Society of Clinical Biochemistry to the 14th IFCC EUROMEDLAB 2001 European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine in Prague. This congress is also the 5th Congress of the Czech Society of Clinical Biochemistry.

Many members of our Society have been preparing this congress with maximum effort for months. All of them did their best - however, now it is up to you to decide how successful they were.

The professional programme was proposed by the international scientific committee and detailed by our Society members. We believe that you will find it attractive and interesting, and that you will be able to apply gained information and knowledge in your daily practice. In this respect, we suppose that the poster section and lobby discussions will attract your attention. Certainly, you will also have a chance to meet old friends, as well as establish new contacts with other colleagues. However, clinical biochemists are not only just scientists. That is why many cultural and social events will enrich the general image of the congress. We also hope that the cultural and social programme will help you in getting a good impression from the Czech Republic and its Capital, the city of Prague. Moreover, some say that May is the best month to admire Prague's beauty.

Now, please let me briefly introduce you the Czech Society of Clinical Biochemistry. The Society has 1,160 members (as of 2000-12-31), including 756 university graduates and 404 laboratory technologists. Among the university graduates there are 232 medical doctors and 524 graduates from

other universities. The society has 60 foreign members: 59 from Slovakia and 1 from Austria. The Society has 5 boards: education, scientific, management, press and international committees plus independent section of laboratory technologists.

The initial meeting of the clinical biochemistry section of the Czech Medical Society of J. Ev. Purkyne was held on October 10, 1958. The electoral meeting was held on March 3, 1959 and Professor Jaroslav Horejsi was elected its first chairman.

The Czech Society of Clinical Biochemistry was established on April 24, 1969. The most important professional event - the 2nd European Congress of Clinical Chemistry - took place in Prague in October 1976. 1,500 experts participated in this congress.

Since 1964 the working group of lab technologists has been organising national meetings called BIOLAB.

Since 1986 workshops of young clinical biochemists have been held annually, now every second year. 21 meetings of clinical biochemistry were organised together with the Slovak Society of Clinical Biochemistry alternatively in the Czech and Slovak Republics.

After Czechoslovakia split the national meetings are held every second year. In the meantime, a symposium on clinical biochemistry FONS is organized. The workshops are organised 4-5 times every year. Since February 1985 till January 1991, the board has been publishing Information of Czech Society of Clinical Biochemistry for society members. Since 1991, FONS information bulletin has been published.

The Czech Society of Clinical Biochemistry is a member of IFCC and FESCC. Some of the society members are the same time members of foreign societies of clinical chemistry. The society has been developing its international contacts. Speakers from Germany, the Netherlands, France, Denmark, Great Britain, Spain and many other took part in the congresses and meetings of the society. The Czech Society of Clinical Biochemistry cooperates with the organisers of Alps - Adria Congress that is visited by its members regularly. The Alps-Adria congress was held in Karlovy Vary spa in September 1998. Please, welcome to EUROMEDLAB 2001 in Prague.

I wish you a beautiful stay in the Czech Republic. May you enjoy it very much.

*Yours truly,*  
*Karel Kalla*

## Bursary

Dear colleagues,

When the conditions of the bursary were notified in the 2nd announcement the applications began to come into Euromedlab 2001 secretariat. Initially sporadically but as the deadline approached the sack with the applications was splitting. Since the deadline we have obtained 112 applications. We have had a difficult task to whom to rightly give the bursary grant when we have had limited amount of fund. It seemed that we could divide the grant among a very small number of the applicants. Fortunately we have obtained the extra founding from the budget of IFCC to support the bursary. We could give a grant to more than half of the applicants who complied with the criteria. 40 applications have been rejected from the bursary because they have not met some of the desired requirements.

The number which has met all the criteria is 72 and the reduction to 50 is introduced in the following list.

Belarus	4
Croatia	3
Czech Rep.	2
Estonia	3
Finland	1
Hungary	1
Italy	1
Lithuania	4
Macedonia	2
Netherlands	1
Poland	1
Romania	3
Russia	4
Slovakia	2
South Africa	3
Sweden	1
Tunisia	1
Turkey	5
Yugoslavia	7
UK	1

We are looking forward to meeting you in Prague. We wish you all the best in your career.

*Margita Chenickova*  
*On behalf of Organising Committee*

## Dear readers,

in this last issue of our Pre Congress News Organisation Committee would like to get you acquainted with some important information which is convenient to know about the place before your arrival to Prague. We do believe we will contribute to your satisfaction with your stay in Prague the Congress time. We look forward to meeting you.

*On behalf of Press Committee  
Miroslav Verner*

## Transportation to Prague Congress Centre

### AIRPORT

Prague airport is located in the Ruzyně district in the north-west of the capital, about 20 km from the city centre. It is accessible by public urban transport, a shuttle bus service and taxis.

All major international air carriers have representations in Prague. There are direct flights from the Czech Republic to many countries worldwide.

Further information about these services is available at the individual airline offices and travel agencies. For information about flights call: +420/2/2011 1111.

### FROM THE AIRPORT

#### By public transportation means:

Bus No. 119 runs from the airport to the underground station „DEJVICKA“. By the underground line „A“ go to station „MUZEUM“, change to line „C“ and go to station „VYSEHRAD“. About 70 minutes ride altogether during working hours.  
Price of one ticket: CZK 12 p. p.

The ticket is valid for 60 minutes, on weekends and from 8.00 p.m. till 5.00 a.m. 90 minutes.

This type of ticket enables also changing from bus to underground or tram.

#### By taxi:

There are airport taxis waiting in front of the main hall. Duration of the ride is about 30 minutes.

The fixed price : CZK 660 per car (approx. 31 CHF/19 USD/40 DEM). Always ask taxidriver for the receipt to avoid any bad experiences.

#### By shuttle bus:

There are minibuses of the company CEDAZ waiting in front of the main hall. The minibuses take clients to every major hotel in Prague and to the Prague Congress Centre as well. Duration of the ride is about 40 minutes.

Price of one ride: CZK 360 p. p.

### FROM THE MAIN RAILWAY STATION

#### By public transportation means:

Underground station of the line „C“ „HLAVNI

NADRAZI“ is just under the main hall of the station. Take this line directly to „VYSEHRAD“ (3 stops). About 8 minutes ride.

Price of one ticket: CZK 8 (max. 4 stops)

#### By taxi:

Taxis are waiting in front of the main hall of the station.

Approximate price of one ride: CZK 200 (10 CHF/6 USD/12 DEM)

The price depends on the number of kilometers and time you spend in taxi. Always ask taxidriver for the receipt to avoid any bad experiences.

### FROM HOLESOVICE RAILWAY STATION

**By public transportation means:** Underground station line „C“ „NADRAZI HOLESOVICE“ is just next to the main hall of the station. Take this line directly to „VYSEHRAD“. About 20 minutes ride.

Price of one ticket: CZK 12

**By taxi:** Taxis are waiting in front of the main hall of the station.

Approximate price of one ride: CZK 300 (14 CHF/ 9 USD/ 18 DEM)

The price depends on the number of kilometers and time you spend in taxi. Always ask taxidriver for the receipt to avoid any bad experiences.

### CUSTOM REGULATIONS

#### Import:

Non-commercial goods may be imported duty free in the following amounts per person:

- 1) Tobacco products:
  - a) 200 cigarettes or 100 cigarillos (up to 3 g per piece) or
  - b) 50 cigars or 250 grammes of tobacco or
  - c) a proportionate combination of the above
- 2) Alcoholic drinks:
  - a) 1 l of alcohol
  - b) 2 l of wine
- 3) 50 g of perfume or 0,25 l of toilet water
- 4) Medicines of the type and in the amount corresponding to the personal needs of the traveller

Articles of a combined customs value not exceeding 3 000 CZK per person are exempt from customs duty.

Accompanying pets must have an international vaccination certificate, showing that they have been vaccinated against rabies and have had a veterinary examination not older than three days before arrival.

#### Export:

Any amount of non-commercial goods can be freely exported from the Czech Republic with no permit necessary. The export of items regarded as cultural heritage is not permitted. For the export of antiques and other works of art, a certificate is needed stating that they are not regarded as cultural heritage. Further information about the export of these items will be provided by customs offices, the seller, etc.

### ROAD REGULATIONS

Road regulations in the Czech Republic are almost identical with those in other European countries. Drivers must not drink alcohol before and during driving. Seat belts are obligatory, as is a crash helmet for motorcyclists and their passengers. Police must be notified about any accident involving death or injury, or major damage to the vehicle.

Children younger than 12 and people under 150 cm of height must not sit in the front seat next to the driver.

The speed limit for cars, buses and coaches of up to 3 500 kg is 90 km/h on roads and 130 km/h on motorways. The speed limit for motorcycles is 90 km/h and for other motor vehicles 80 km/h. In built-up areas, the speed limit is 50 km/h.

Prague and several other cities have parking zones reserved for residents and institutions based there. Motorists are advised to park outside these zones. Otherwise, they risk their car being towed away or clamped. Guarded parking spaces and garages are to be preferred. Do not forget to lock your car and remove all items that could attract undesirable attention.

The payment of a toll for the use of motorways and dual carriage ways has been introduced in the Czech Republic, and motorways toll stickers have to be affixed to the windscreen. The toll to be paid annually for different categories of vehicles (total weight of up to 3,5 tonnes: one year sticker: 800 CZK, one month sticker: 200 CZK, 10 days sticker: 100 CZK).

The stickers are on sale at post offices, major border crossings, selected petrol stations and other facilities for motorists.

## FROM WESTERN BORDER VIA PILSEN/PLZEN

Follow the highway No. D5/E50 from the direction Rozvadov/Plzen. Before entering Prague use the exit direction **BRANIK**, cross the Vltava river and continue along the highway until you come to the exit **PANKRAC, CITY CENTRE**.

Use this exit to get to the city highway leading to the left in direction **PANKRAC**. This highway passes the **Prague Congress Centre** on your left hand side after a few minutes ride. Just opposite to the Congress Centre on your right hand side you can see the hotel **CORINTHIA TOWERS**.

## FROM SOUTH BORDER VIA BRNO

Follow the highway D1/E55, E65. This highway enters Prague and continues as the Prague's main city highway connecting South and North edges of Prague through the city centre. This highway passes the **Prague Congress Centre** on your left hand side. Just opposite to the Congress Centre on your right hand side you can see hotel **CORINTHIA TOWERS**.

## PETROL STATIONS

Petrol stations in the Czech Republic offer the following range of fuel: 90-octane Special (leaded), 96-octane Super (leaded), Natural 95 D and Super Plus 98 (both unleaded) and diesel. Many petrol stations operate nonstop.

## ROAD DISTANCES FROM PRAGUE TO SOME OF THE CITIES IN EUROPE

Amsterdam	956 km
Berlin	348 km
Bern	823 km
Bratislava	323 km
Brussels	911 km
Budapest	574 km
Copenhagen	809 km
London	1 285 km
Madrid	2 284 km
Moscow	1 900 km
Munich	365 km
Paris	1 050 km
Rome	1 420 km
Warsaw	670 km
Wien	309 km
Zurich	670 km

## SOME USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT PRAGUE TRANSPORT

### Underground/Metro

The Prague Underground (called „Metro“

network consists of 3 lines designated by letters and differentiated in colours:

**A line – green colour** (Skalka station–Dejvicka station)

**B line – yellow colour** (Ceskomoravska station–Zlicin station)

**C line – red colour** (Nadrazi Holesovice station–Haje station)

with transfers possible at Museum station (lines A and C), Mustek station (lines A and B), Florenc station (lines B and C).

Underground operates daily from 5,00 a. m. to 12,00 p. m. The time interval between train departures is approximately 2 minutes during the workday rush hours and 4 to 10 minutes during off-peak hours.

Tickets can be bought from special machines, as well as newsagents and tobacconists. In Prague and some other cities, travel passes valid for up to several days can be purchased. Tickets must be validated in the stamping machines immediately after one gets on board a bus or tram, and at the entrance to the underground station.

### Trams

Daytime operation is from 4,30 a. m. to 12 p.m. Nighttime operation is from 12,00 p. m. to 4,30 a. m. and is provided by tram numbers 51 to 58. The central transfer-station for nighttime lines is Lazarská stop. Tram schedules are located at individual stops.

### Buses

The daytime or nighttime operation of buses is similar to those of trams. Nighttime services is provided by bus numbers 501 to 512. Bus schedules are located at individual stops.

## PRAGUE CITY TRANSPORT FARES

### Regular transfer ticket 12 CZK

Concessions (children 6 to 15, the retired and OAPs up to 70 – residents of Czech Republic – owners of the pass issued by the Dopravní podnik hl. m. Prahy) 6 CZK

\* the regular ticket is valid for 60 minutes after marking. During off-peak hours, i. e. 8 p. m. to 5 a. m. on working days and all day Saturdays, Sundays, public holidays, ticket validity is lengthened to 90 minutes.

### Short-hop nontransfer ticket 8 CZK

Concessions 4 CZK

\* in trams and buses a short-hop nontransfer ticket is valid for 15 minutes after marking and does not allow changing of lines. In the underground the nontransfer ticket is valid for 4 stations after marking (excluding the station where it was marked) and allows transfers between the underground lines. Time validity of the nontransfer ticket in the underground is limited to 30 minutes.

\* nontransfer tickets are not valid on night trams and buses and for the Petřín Funicular.

### Freight

\* luggage, dogs, prams without babies, bicycles in the underground 6 CZK

### Tourist Ticket

* for 24 hours	70 CZK
* for 3 days	200 CZK
* for 7 days	250 CZK
* for 15 days	280 CZK

– these tickets are valid for all the city transport facilities and allow transfers. On such a ticket, the owner's name and the date of birth have to be filled in.

### Taxis

The maximum prices for taxi services in the district of the capital city of Prague: ride in the district of the capital city of Prague 22 CZK/1 km, boarding fee 30 CZK, waiting 4 CZK/1 min. The maximum prices are valid for all the vehicles offering taxi services in the district of the capital city of Prague. The price for waiting includes waiting in a traffic jam (slow traffic) as well as waiting on customer's request. Fare outside the district of the capital of Prague is not limited.

## WARNING FOR CUSTOMER OF TAXI

Hotel and airport taxi is always more expensive than if you order a taxi with nonstop dispatching office.

Each taxi has to be equipped with permanently installed yellow roof lamp with the TAXI sign in black letters.

The registration number, company name and the price list including the standard rate, kilometer rate and one-minute-waiting rate must be displayed on both front doors of the taxi. These prices must correspond with the prices set on the meters in the taxi.

Customers are recommended to order a taxi with nonstop dispatching offices where the information on fares is available in advance, not to take taxi directly on the street.

After the journey is completed, the customer has the right to ask the taxi driver for an orderly and fully filled in receipt for the payment. The receipt has to be issued by the taximeter printer.



PRAHA 2001

**AIRPORT RUZYNE**

Dejvicka M

Hradcanska M

Prague Castle

Malostranska M

Staromestska M

Charles Bridge

TRAM

Mustek M

Wenceslas Square

Namesti Republiky M

Florenc M

BUS

TRAM

Hlavni nadrazi

RAIL

Muzeum M

Karlovo namesti M

Charles Square

I. P. Pavlova M

Andel M

BUS

TRAM

14<sup>TH</sup> IFCC  
PRAHA 2001

TRAM

RAIL

Smichovske nadrazi M

Vysehrad

Congress Center M

BRNO

# EUROMEDLAB

## THE PEOPLE OF PRAGUE – IN PAST AND AT PRESENT



Prague is one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Next to Athens, Rome, Paris and London it is one of the most historic cities in the West World. In an area of just 800 hectares more than 2000 important buildings were built among them about 70 noble palaces, 80 churches and 35 monasteries and convents. Prague used to be the hometown for inhabitants of many nations. There lived many Czechs, Germans and Jews. After the World War II a new dictatorship came from the East which lasted for about 40 years, during which the Stalinist regime exercised unrelenting control over the lives of the Czech people.

In November 1989 students, artists and common citizens awoke to a new dawn. The city rubbed the sleep from its eyes and slowly restored itself to its former splendour.

The people of Prague do realise that now it is time for engagement, energy and initiative. The city now attracts thousand of tourists every year. Pride and interest in history is characteristic for the inhabitants of Prague. Their castle is not just the former residence of kings and emperors. Hradcany is a symbol of their independence and autonomy that dates back over 1.000 years to the reign of Prince Wenceslav who was later canonised and became the patron saint of the Czech nation. The Czechs have chanted ever since their moving anthem: „Holy Vaclav, Duke of Bohemia, preserve us and our children!“ It was not by coincidence that the biggest demonstration during the Velvet Revolution of 1989 was centred around the statue of the prince, seated majestically astride his steed, that dominates Wenceslas Square.

Princess Libuse, the founder of Prague, stood above the Vltava river at Vysehrad and prophesied: „I see a great city, the glory of which will reach to the stars.“ Twice in its history Prague has ranked among the most

famous cities in Europe and both times the glory ended in catastrophe. Prague basked in a golden age under Charles IV (1346–1378). He built the Charles Bridge, several Gothic churches and in 1348 he founded the first central European University and the New Town. The heyday of the country under Charles IV was followed by the destructive fury of the Hussite Wars. In 1526 first Habsburg – Rudolf II – came to the Bohemian throne – which was quite wealthy at the time and made Prague his imperial residence. Prague under Rudolf II became the glittering centre of the empire and astronomers, artists and alchemists flocked to the city from all over Europe. Prosperous reign of Rudolf II was followed by the Thirty Years War. The country was then ruled for a further 300 years by foreigners and the Habsburgs.

In the 19th century a growing national pride led to a rebirth of the Czech people and the foundation in the 1918 of the Czechoslovakia Republic. This period of Czech history was significant by the highly advanced industrial development of the country. Czechoslovakia took the sixth place among the most prosperous countries all over the world like Germany, France, Great Britain, Italy and the United States. It was a period of social and cultural prosperity. This life of the country was interrupted in 1938 by the Munich Treaty, which handed over our beautiful home country to the Nazi Germany. After the Second World War the whole country started its reconstruction with hopes for better future. Communists came to power through a coup in 1948 and in 1968 Alexander Dubcek attempted to reform the totalitarian state. Soviet tanks finally brought this budding „Prague Spring“ to a violent end.

The first demonstrations of 1988 and the subsequent turn to democracy of 1989 finally put the end to the Communist regime. In 1993 the country was finally split into two independent states, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic.

„The stones on the bed of the Vltava constantly move“ wrote Bertold Brecht poetically and the history of the city on the Vltava is constantly moving. What will the coming years bring? Another voice should be added to that: „I do not assume that the people whose language I speak are better or worse than the others. I am at one with the fate of the world's catastrophes and I have a little freedom to live and to die (Vitezslav Nezval 1930).“



*You need only comfortable walking shoes and open heart.*

The history consists of human destinies full of hatreds and betrayals but also of the love and passion. As May is a month of love, let's come together walk through romantic places of Prague where probably arisen the beginning of its legends.

#### The view from the sky

Prague, which was built on seven hills, presents itself best from the higher vantage points.

- The charm and beauty of the capital on the Vltava river can be admired from the top of the **Petrin Hill**, where is a miniature version of the Eiffel Tower.
- Very interesting view is offered by the **Powder Tower** and **Little Quarter Bridge** towers and from the **Tower of Old Town Hall** you can admire all Old Town Square around you.
- From the rocky hill of Vysehrad princess Libuse, the mystical founder of the city and progenitrix of the Premyslid dynasty, predicted a glorious future for the city of Prague. Everybody is always very impressed by the Vltava river.
- And at noon the air reverberates with the sound of church bells that were banned for so long. The multitude of bell towers in the town below ring over their response – it is on these occasions that one senses how old Prague actually is unique.

#### From one legend to another

- **Old Jewish Cemetery** is one of the most important places among Jewish burial ground world-wide. The oldest grave dates back to 1439, the most recent is dated 1787. The hilly location was due to a shortage of space (the cemetery is only 200 m/660 ft long), which led over centuries to new graves being piled on the top of the old ones, containing the remains of at least 200,000 people. Thus the tomb of Rabbi Low – famous scholar and legendary creator of the Golem – is marked with a lion, and next to it is a pinecone, a symbol of immortality. Visitors to the cemetery place small stones rather than flowers on the graves, probably a custom from desert, as a sign of their honour and respect.
- **Golden Lane**  
This picturesque blind alley is one of the most popular sights in Prague. It is also been called Alchemists Alley since legend has it that the alchemists who lived in these little cottages used to produce the philosophers' stone, the elixir of life and above all, gold for Emperor Rudolf II.

#### •Daliborka Tower

At the end of the lane there is a prison tower, which bears the name of the rebel Dalibor. According to legend he learned to play the violin in prison to such perfection that many came from the city to listen to him. In 1468, however, the violin was silenced. Dalibor was beheaded. Bedrich Smetana used this story for the theme of his opera „Dalibor“.

#### •National Theatre – the story about the Czechs, which is more than only the legend.

The neo-Renaissance National Theatre – well known affectionately among the Czechs as „The Golden Chapel on the Vltava river“ is probably the only theatre in the World, which was not built by the State, by the city or by the ruling élite. It was built on financial funds donated by the entire Czech nation, including the very poorest inhabitants which collected their pennies for several decades to build themselves a National Theatre base. Josef Zidek, designed it when a fire broke out and almost completely destroyed the building shortly after construction was completed in 1881. In merely 47 days Prague's citizen united forces once more to collect over one million florins. In two years time the National theatre was officially reopened. The greatest artists of the age contributed to the décor, both inside and outside of the theatre. The first performance of the National Theatre was the brand new especially composed for such significant social and cultural event Czech opera Libuse by Bedrich Smetana.

#### • For Young and Old

- An experience for the young and the old are the excursion **trips on the Vltava river**, for example on the two almost sixty-years-old paddle steamers Vltava and Vysehrad with a meal on board in the restaurant with musical entertainment.
- The **Krizik Fountain** located at the old Trade Fair Hall offers onlookers an evening of unforgettable artistic experience in multimedia style, comprising music, aquatic choreography and colourful lighting effects in the evening.
- The romantic island of **Kampa** is separated from Mala Strana by small strip of water, known as Certovka (the Devil's Stream) – on the northern side of the Charles Bridge, the Certovka flows past a small cluster of houses – this is the Little Venice of Prague. This peaceful island – also known as the Island of love is the perfect place for quiet stroll through the gardens and offers enticing views over the Vltava, the Charles Bridge and the National Theatre.
- The jewels in the crown of **Prague's garden** are terrace-like areas with delightful glories, wells and balconies, which rise up on the castle hill. The Ledebour Garden and the large and small Palfy Gardens were re-opened in 1995.
- **New World (Novy Svet)**  
Like Columbus you can discover behind Hradcany the district called Novy Svet (New World). You will come into a magical spot of the 16th century Prague where tourists are seldom found. In the 1600 Johannes Kepler ran down over these cobblestone when he wished to visit his friend, the Danish astronomer Tycho de Brahe at 1 Novy svet. The little lane Novy Svet is a centre of artists today.

- On May 1, young people from Prague lay bouquets of flowers at the memorial to the Czech romantic **poet Karel Hynek Macha on Petrin Hill**. From there a cable car ascends Petrin Hill – its name derives from the Greek „petra“ (rock). During the day we can see families walking with children, in the evening we could see lovers quietly strolling in the park.
- There is our small sister of the Eiffel Tower on the top of the hill. It has 299 steps and was built in 1891 within five months. From this place there is a grand view over the city.
- The tower is an attraction for the young and the old, a pavilion with a mirrored cabinet, mirror labyrinth, and a diorama of the battle of the Prague students with the Swedes on the Charles Bridge in 1648.
- The intermediate stop on the distance covered by the cable car is the Nebozizek restaurant. We get off at the terminus near one of the lovely vista paths leading through the Strahov Garden. We pass the Gothic Hunger Wall from 1360, which was once a part of the city fortifications. According to legend, Emperor Karel IV built it to create work for the starving Bohemian people.
- A passage through the Hunger Wall leads into the Ruzovy Sad (Rose Garden). There are comfortable banks for you, the air is full of smell and the place is ready to fulfil your secret wishes. Don't be afraid, if you asleep, you can expect your desired Prince/Princess to wake you up ...

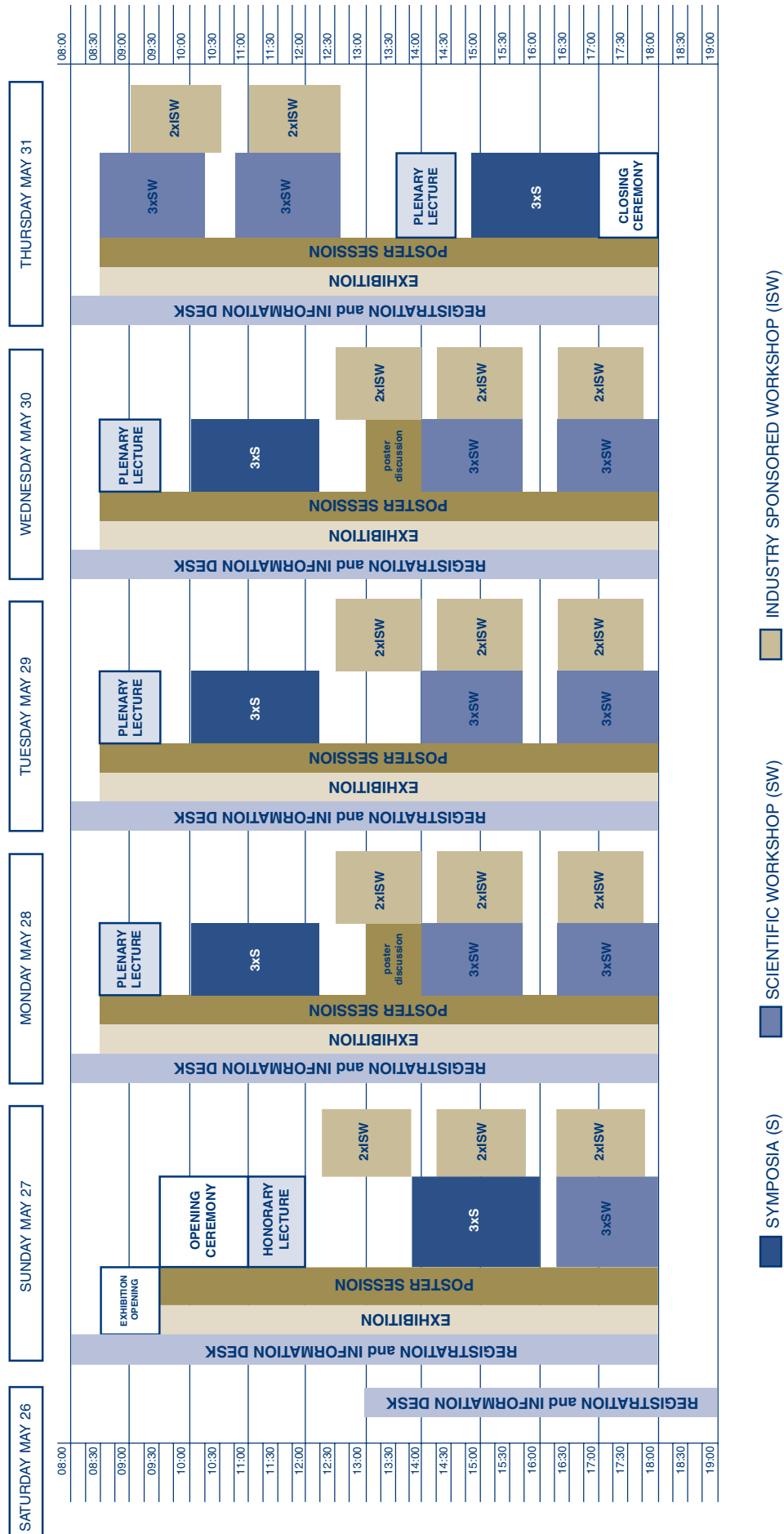
Don't forget to take your dreams with you.

Using Marco Polo information by  
*Lenka Novakova*



Photos Lenka Novakova

## Programme Schedule of EUROMEDLAB Prague 2001





## Scientific programme – Updated! (only significant changes)

Scientific committee worked hard during the preparation of Euromedlab News No. 3. Scientific programme is updated again and you can find many interesting sessions and lectures. In summary, we have three new workshops, new satellite symposium and more detailed scientific content of symposia and scientific workshops is now available. Last but not least, Prof. W. H. Gispen (The Netherlands) accepted our invitation for a plenary lecture on biochemistry of ageing. We hope that the programme of the congress is even more attractive today. Thank you for your co-operation, which has been fruitful. I am looking forward to meeting you all in Prague.

*Antonin Jabor,*

Local Scientific Committee, Euromedlab 2001

### Plenary lecture

PL 4

Thursday, May 31 13.30–14.30 DVORAK

**The Biochemistry of Ageing**  
will be given by Willem Hendrick Gispen (The Netherlands).

### Symposia

S11

**Point-of-Care-Testing in Hospitals: A Challenge for the Clinical Laboratory**

(under the auspices of German Society for Clinical Chemistry)

**Chaired by H. Schlebusch, Germany and Rene Dybkaer (Denmark)**

**Introduction: POCT - Why, Where and How?**  
(A. Gruenert, Germany)

**Brave New World of POCT - Expectations, Problems and Recommendations**  
(H. Schlebusch, Germany)

**Planning for POCE**  
(R. Dybkaer, Denmark)

**POCT: Perspective and Experience from the U.S.A.**  
(S. Ehrmeyer, U.S.A.)

S12 **Computers in the Clinical Laboratory**

(under the auspices of Spanish Society for Clinical Biochemistry and Molecular Pathology)

**Chaired by Mariano Cortez and Jose Maria Queraltó (Spain)**

**Computers in Clinical Laboratories**  
(H. E. Solberg, Norway)

**Genetic Algorithms: Application in Clinical Laboratory Management**  
(J. C. Boyd, U.S.A.)

**Unambiguous Identification of Measured Properties when Interfacing LIS in Clinical Laboratories and Clinical Wards**  
(G. Nordin, Sweden)

**Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery**  
(J.M. Queraltó, Spain)

S15 **Endocrinology of Diabetes**

(under the auspices of the Netherlands Society for Clinical Chemistry)

**Chaired by Kor Miedema and Istvan Vermes (The Netherlands)**

**Pathophysiology of Diabetes Mellitus**  
(J. Thijssen, The Netherlands)

**Laboratory Tests in Diabetes Mellitus**  
(K. Miedema, The Netherlands)

**Autoantibodies in type 1 Diabetes**  
(M. R. Batstra, The Netherlands)

**Role of Advanced Glycation Endproducts in Vascular Complications**

(C. G. Schalkwijk, The Netherlands)

**New Therapies for type 1 Diabetes**  
(E. Van Ballegoie, The Netherlands)

### Scientific Workshops

SW04 **Cytokines in Clinical Diagnosis (dedicated to the memory of Prof. Zdenek Masek, Prague)**

Prof. Zdenek Masek, a member of the organizing committee and former chairman of SW04 on cytokines, died suddenly during the preparation of the congress. Above mentioned

scientific workshop will be dedicated to the memory of our friend and colleague, Zdenek Masek. Scientific workshop will be chaired by Axel M. Gressner (Germany) and Jacques Bienvenu (France).

SW10 **Proteome analysis**

**Chaired by Miroslav Cervinka, (Czech Republic) and Ivan Lefkovits (Switzerland)**  
**Proteomics in the Postgenomic Era.**

**Transcription and Translation Profile of Lymphocyte Populations**

(I. Lefkovits, Switzerland)

**Study of Therapy Resistance in Cancer Cells with Functional Proteome Analysis**

(S. Pranav, Germany)

**Proteomics of Rat Serum: Inflammatory Pattern in Stroke-Prone Spontaneously Hypertensive Rats (SHR-SP)**

(E. Gianazza, Italy)

**Pharmacoproteomics: Search for a New Generation of Anti-Cancer Drugs**

(H. Kovarova, Czech Republic)

SW12 **Coagulation: New Technologies**

**Chaired by Christine Mannhalter, Austria and Laszlo Muszbek, Hungary**

**Molecular Genetic Markers for Risk Assessment in Vascular Diseases**

(C. Mannhalter, Austria)

**Biochemical Background of a Polymorphism (Factor XIII Val34Leu) Protective Against Arterial Thrombosis**

(L. Muszbek, Hungary)

**Cell-Derived Microparticles: Their Role in Coagulation and Inflammation**

(A. Sturk, The Netherlands)

**Venous Thrombosis: Importance of Genetic Risk Factors**

(R. Zadro, Croatia)

SW24 **Biochemistry of Ageing**

**Chaired by Gerard Siest, France and Willem Hendrick Gispen, The Netherlands**

**Laboratory Medicine and Population Ageing**  
(G. Siest, France)

**Environment Effects and Ageing: Apo AI as an Example**

(P.V. Luoma, Finland)

**Role of Homocysteine in Higher Age**  
(W. Herrmann, Germany)

**Proposition of an Ageing Indicator**  
(R. Gueguen, France)

### Industry Sponsored Workshops

Some new data appeared in the composition of Industry Sponsored Workshops.

ISW03 **In vitro Testing and Effective Medical Interventions (EDMA Workshop)**

**Chaired by John F. Place (Belgium) and Carl A. Burtis (U.S.A.)**

**Review of First 5 Years of Screening for Familial Hypercholesterolaemia in the Netherlands**

(M. Umans-Eckenhausen, The Netherlands)

**Troponin T: Its Role in Altering Patient Management and Enabling Earlier Discharge From a District General Hospital**

(A. Owen, United Kingdom)

**Clinical Value of Human Glandular Kallikrein 2 and Free and Total Prostate-Specific Antigen in Serum From a Population of Men With Prostate-Specific Antigen Levels 3,0 ng/ml or Greater**

(C. Becker, Sweden)

ISW04 **Presentation of Multi-Centre Evaluation Results for a New Highly Speed Heterogeneous Immunoassay Analyser, the E170 Module for MODULAR ANALYTICS (sponsored by Roche)**

Introduction of the E170 Module for MODULAR ANALYTICS and High Speed Heterogeneous Immunoassay Testing for Clinical Laboratories

(T. Raichle, Germany)

Performance of MODULAR ANALYTICS <EE> in a Multi-Centre Evaluation Site  
(M. Roth, Germany)

ISW07 **Homocysteine Determination in Laboratory Diagnostics: Novel Aspects and Clinical Guidelines (sponsored by Axis), chaired by Ebba Nexø, Norway and Per Magne Ueland, Norway.**

**Screening of Homocysteine in Newborns**  
(H. M. Refsum, Norway)

**Utility of Homocysteine – Determinations in the Elderly**

(R. J. Clarke, United Kingdom)

**Utility of Homocysteine - Determination in Cardiovascular Disease: A Randomized Trial of Folic Acid on Serum Homocysteine Levels**  
(J. McPartlin, Ireland)

ISW08 **The Evolution of Cardiac Troponin I: Testing in 2001 and Beyond (sponsored by Beckman Coulter)**  
**Chaired by Claude Darte (Belgium)**

ISW14 **Molecular Diagnostics: From Research to Routine - Bridging the Gap (sponsored by Roche)**

**Integration and Automation of Molecular Analysis in the Clinical Routine Laboratory**  
(G. Schmitz, Germany)

**Application of LightCycler Real Time PCR in Clinical Virology**  
(T. Smith, U.S.A.)

**Automated Sample Extraction for Quantitative HCV RNA Testing: Full Automation of Viral Load Testing for the Management of HCV infection**

(H. G. M. Niesters, The Netherlands)

**Diagnostic Testing and Therapeutic Intervention: Beyond Infectious Disease**  
(H. Erlich, U.S.A.)

ISW15 **Disease State Management: Role of the Lab (sponsored by Dade Behring)**

**Chaired by Pierangelo Bonini (Italy)**

**Introduction to Disease State Management**  
(P. Bonini, Italy)

**Cardiovascular Disease Management: How to Improve Patient Outcomes?**

(M. Galvani, Italy)

**Therapeutic Drug Monitoring in Transplant Recipients**

(T. Van Gelder, The Netherlands)

ISW16 **Biochip Array Technology (sponsored by Randox)**

**Chaired by Peter J. Orsulak, U.S.A.**

**Application of Biochip Array Technology for Screening Drugs of Abuse**  
(M. E. Wright).

ISW17 **From Choice of Matrix to Clinically Relevant Outcomes: Unique Challenges for EQAS Organisers (sponsored by Bio-Rad)**

**Chaired by Per Hyltoft Petersen (Denmark)**

ISW20 **The Progressive Automation Approach from Beckman Coulter Brings Solutions to your Laboratory (sponsored by Beckman Coulter)**

**Chaired by Ralph Dadoun (Canada)**

ISW 22 **At the Point of Care: Clinical and Laboratory Perspectives - From Measurement to Diagnostics to Disease Management (sponsored by Agilent Technologies)**

**Chaired by Rene Dybkaer (Denmark)**  
**Lectures will be given by A. Marocchi (Italy), G. P. Zaloga (U.S.A.)**



Dear readers,

Prague is ready to reveal its beauty to you. May you not miss this opportunity.



DADE BEHRING

BIORAD

OLYMPUS DIAGNOSTICA



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THERMO CLINICAL LABSYSTEMS  
TRANSASIA BIO-MEDICALS LIMITED

**On Monday, May 27 at 08:30 the exhibition will be open. The organisers would be very happy if especially the representatives of all Sponsors and Exhibitors accept the invitation for a toast!**

## EXHIBITORS

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### New Satellite symposium

#### Terumo Satellite Symposium on Preanalytical Phase

Terumo, the world well known producer of sampling devices, accepted an invitation to organise a satellite symposium on preanalytical phase. The symposium will be held on Saturday May 26, 13:00-18:00 (Congress Centre, Club A) under the chairmanship of Walter Guder (Germany). For details see: <http://www.terumo-europe.com>

### Three new workshops

Scientific committee accepted the offer to organise three new workshops. We believe that all new workshops will increase the attractivity of the Euromedlab 2001.

#### W1 Graphical and statistical techniques for the interpretation of method comparison studies

Chairman of the symposium is Sverre Sandberg from Norway.

Workshop W1 will be held on Tuesday May 29, 14:30-17:30 (Club B).

#### Graphical Techniques for the Interpretation of Method Comparison Studies

(presented by D. Stoeckl, Belgium)

#### Statistical Techniques for the Interpretation of Method Comparison Studies

(K. Linnet, Denmark)

#### The Role of Specifications

(P. H. Petersen, Denmark)

#### Interpretation of Method Comparison Studies Against Specifications with Combined Graphical and Statistical Techniques

(L. Thienpont, Belgium)

#### W2 How to Read and Write Articles on Diagnostic Accuracy

Workshop W2 will be held on Tuesday May 29, 10:00-12:00 (Club B)

The very important issue will be discussed under the chairmanship of Erik Magid (Denmark) and Mathew McQueen (Canada), with cooperation of David Bruns (U.S.A.). Participants in this workshop will become familiar with the background and objectives of the Clinical Chemistry checklist for diagnostic accuracy and STARD initiative, discuss and practice the application of the checklist to

selected articles, discuss and contribute views on how to improve the evidence base for diagnostic interventions.

#### W3 Telebiology and Medical Practice in Training on Health Education: Challenges for Laboratory Medicine

Workshop W3 will be held on Thursday May 31, 10:00-12:00 (Club B).

IFCC Communication and Publications Division is preparing this workshop **under the chairmanship of Bernard Gouget (France).**

#### Telebiology and the Language of the On Line Web

(presented by B. Gouget, France)

#### Assets and Obstacles in Telebiology Training

(R. Sierra-Amor, Mexico)

#### Internet, A Tool for Information and Electronic Services

(A. Pesce, W. Kaplan, U.S.A.)

#### Designing and Implementing a Telebiology System in Critical Care Units: Implications for Good Laboratory Practices

(S. Ehrmeyer, U.S.A.)

## Satellite symposia

### SAT 01 Beckman Coulter Protein Conference (Satellite Pre-Congress Symposium)

May 25-26, 2001, Corinthia Panorama Hotel

See web site: [www.beckmancoulter.com/beckman/clinddiag/promotions/ifcc\\_protein.asp](http://www.beckmancoulter.com/beckman/clinddiag/promotions/ifcc_protein.asp)  
e-mail: [proteins@beckmancoulter.com](mailto:proteins@beckmancoulter.com)

### SAT 02 EQUALM Meeting - Satellite Symposium

Friday, June 1, 2001, Hall of Institute for Postgraduate Education, Prague, Budejovicka 15

Contact person: Libeer J.-C. (Belgium)

e-mail: [jean-claude.liber@iph.fgov.be](mailto:jean-claude.liber@iph.fgov.be)

### SAT 03 Satellite Symposium on Preanalytical Phase

Saturday May 26, 13:00 - 18:00 (Congress Centre, Club A) under the chairmanship of Walter Guder (Germany).

For details see: <http://www.terumo-europe.com>

## EUROMEDLAB is now organised under the auspices

**Mr. Vaclav Havel, President of the Czech Republic**

**Prof. Ivan Wilhelm, Rector of the Charles University**

**Mr. Jan Kasl, Lord Mayor of Prague**

## ADDRESSES OF CO-OPERATING INSTITUTIONS

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<http://congress.cls.cz/euromedlab2001/>

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS REGISTERED ACCORDING TO THEIR COUNTRIES AS OF MARCH 31, 2001

Albany	3	India	2	Russia	48
Argentina	6	Iran	3	Singapore	1
Australia	10	Ireland	10	Slovakia	21
Austria	9	Israel	4	Slovenia	12
Belarus	11	Italy	152	South Africa	28
Belgium	36	Japan	16	Spain	32
Bosnia	2	Kenya	1	Sweden	33
Brazil	1	Kuwait	1	Switzerland	17
Bulgaria	2	Latvia	25	Taiwan	2
Canada	14	Lebanon	6	Thailand	5
Croatia	50	Lithuania	13	Tunisia	4
Cyprus	1	Luxembourg	5	Turkey	33
Czech Republic	97	Macao	3	Turkmenistan	1
Denmark	31	Macedonia	19	Ukraine	2
Egypt	4	Namibia	1	UK	47
Estonia	12	Netherlands	69	Uruguay	1
Finland	99	New Zealand	3	USA	42
France	14	Norway	41	Uzbekistan	2
Germany	60	Peru	1	Venezuela	1
Greece	21	Poland	71	Yugoslavia	42
Hungary	40	Portugal	2		
Iceland	4	Romania	13		
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