



4th Central Eastern European Symposium on Free Nucleic Acids in Non-Invasive Prenatal Diagnosis

Split, 25-26 May 2016

Second Announcement

www.cee-nipd2016.mefos.hr

Dear Colleagues, dear Guests,

It is our great honor to welcome you to the "4th Central Eastern European Symposium on Free Nucleic Acids in Non-Invasive Prenatal Diagnosis" which will be held in Split, May 25-26, 2016.

Non-Invasive Prenatal Diagnosis has been one of the most fascinating fields in medicine during the last decade and is still rapidly evolving. New methodologies and approaches are being implemented in routine practice, opening more opportunities but also more ethical challenges, which will all be discussed during the 4th CEE-NIPD.

The successful tradition of Central Eastern European Symposiums on Free Nucleic Acids in Non-Invasive Prenatal Diagnosis started in Budapest in 2010 and was followed by Symposiums in Olomouc (2012) and Martin (2014). In 2016, we will meet in Split, the biggest town at the Croatian coast and also a 1700-year old open-air museum which includes one of UNESCO's heritage site, the Diocletian's Palace. The congress venue will be the beautiful Radisson Blu Resort in Split, which is just a steps away from a beautiful pebble beach along the Adriatic Sea and only 3 kilometers from the city centre.

Taking into account the tradition and quality of our previous meetings and the vibrant and positive atmosphere of Split, we have an excellent foundation to believe that the 4th Central-Eastern European Symposium on Free Nucleic Acids in Non-Invasive Prenatal Diagnosis will be as successful as the previous ones.

More details about symposium can be found via website:
<http://www.cee-nipd2016.mefos.hr/index.php>

We look forward to welcoming you,

Chairman of the Scientific Committee
Ingeborg Barišić

Chairman of the Organising Committee
Jasenska Wagner

Organisers:

J. J. Strossmayer University in Osijek, Faculty of Medicine
Croatian Society of Human Genetics

Honorary presidents of Scientific committee:

Dennis Y.M. Lo (Hongkong)
Howard S. Cuckle (Tel Aviv)
Erik A. Sistermans (Amsterdam)

International advisory committee:

Ewa Brojer (National Blood Institute, Warsaw)
Peter Celec (Comenius University, Bratislava)
Ishraq Dhaifallah (Palacky University, Olomouc)
Ilona Hromadnikova (Charles University, Prag)
Zora Lasabova (Comenius University, Martin)
Gordan Lauc (University of Zagreb)
Balint Nagy (University of Debrecen)
Borut Peterlin (University Medical Center Ljubljana)
Hakan Savli (Kocaeli University, Kocaeli)
Marta Szell (University of Szeged)
Jasenka Wagner (J.J.Strossmayer University in Osijek)

Scientific committee:

Ingeborg Barišić (chairman), Aleksandar Včev (co-chairman), Vida Čulić, Tomislav Hafner, Marija Heffer, Sanda Huljev Frković, Ratko Matijević, Oleg Petrović, Silvija Pušeljić, Damir Roje, Snježana Škrablin

Organising committee:

Jasenka Wagner (chairman), Balint Nagy (co-chairman), Ivanka Bekavac Vlatković, Ljubica Boban, Kristina Crkvenac Gornik, Irena Drmić Hofman, Andrijana Muller, Feodora Stipoljev, Ivana Škrlec

Technical organisation:

Filida travel agency, Park Kate Šoljić 3, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia,
Phone: +385 1 4616 520, Fax: +385 1 4616 521, E-mail: ceenipd@filidatravel.hr

Venue:

HOTEL Radisson Blu Resort Split ****, Put Trstenika 19, Split Croatia (Hrvatska),
+385 (21) 30 30 30, <https://www.radissonblu.com/en/resort-split>

ABOUT KEY NOTE SPEAKERS



Dennis Y.M. Lo

Dennis Lo is the Director of the Li Ka Shing Institute of Health Sciences, Li Ka Shing Professor of Medicine and Professor of Chemical Pathology of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. He received his undergraduate education from the University of Cambridge, and his Doctor of Medicine and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from the University of Oxford. He discovered the presence of cell-free fetal DNA in maternal plasma in 1997. This work has resulted in a paradigm shift in prenatal medicine, making prenatal testing safer for pregnant women and their babies. Prof. Lo is a Fellow of the Royal Society and a Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Sciences, and has been awarded the King Faisal International Prize in Medicine in 2014.



Howard Stephen Cuckle

Educated in the Universities of Oxford and Leeds, he is Visiting Associate Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Tel Aviv University, Israel, Adjunct Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Columbia University Medical Center, New York, USA and Emeritus Professor, Reproductive Epidemiology, University of Leeds, UK. He is a member of the editorial boards of several journals and has 457 publications in various books and medical journals. The central focus of his research is screening and current projects are largely concerned with screening for Down's syndrome and adverse outcome of pregnancy such as early pre-eclampsia. The principal research technique is the linked biological and data bank. Banked material (blood, urine, slides, cells and DNA) is collected from pathological pregnancies and routinely from large numbers of apparently normal pregnancies. Screening markers are investigated either prospectively on all samples or in retrospective case-control subsets. A large network of collaborators in the field provides access to vast amounts of data and samples.



Erik A. Sistermans

Erik Sistermans studied chemistry between 1983 and 1989 at the State University in Leiden. During this study he specialised in molecular genetics. He also spent 6 months in Paris (France) at the University Pierre and Marie Curie (PARIS VII) to study immunology and virology. After graduation he moved to the (then) Catholic University in Nijmegen as a PhD student. This work was started at the department of Human Genetics, but the last three years were spent at the department of Cell Biology and Histology. He obtained his PhD degree in 1996, the title of his thesis was "Murine creatine kinase B: cell-type specific expression and biochemical role".

In 1994 he started working as a clinical laboratory geneticist at the section of DNA-diagnostics of the department of human genetics in Nijmegen. During this period he specialised in the genetics of intellectual disability and of neurological disorders. He also has a huge interest in laboratory automation. May 2007 he moved to the VU University medical center Amsterdam, to become head of the section of genome diagnostics at the department of clinical genetics. In September 2011 he was appointed as deputy head of the department.

He is (co)author of more than 90 papers in peer reviewed journals, of international Best Practice Guideline and book chapters and he is reviewer for several international journals, including American Journal of Human Genetics, Journal of Medical Genetics, European Journal of Human Genetics, Prenatal diagnosis and Human Mutation.

From 2001-2006 he was Member of the steering committee of the United Kingdom-External Quality Assessment Schemes for Molecular Genetics (UK-NEQAS). He is assessor of the Friedreich Ataxia best practice scheme of the European Molecular Genetics Quality Network (EMQN) and he is assessor and member of the specialist advisory group of the joined cytogenetics and molecular genetics scheme for rapid aneuploidy detection of UK-NEQAS. Erik Sistermans is chair of the Clinical Genetics steering group of the Hartwig Medical Foundation, and project leader of the TRIDENT study which aims at implementing NIPT in the Netherlands.

Symposium topics

1. **Deciphering the origin of DNA in plasma: implications for non-invasive prenatal testing** (Dennis Lo)
2. **NIPT cost revisited** (Howard Cuckle)
3. **NIPT and the future need for traditional markers** (Howard Cuckle)
4. **Introducing NIPT analysis in the Netherlands, a story of science and politics** (Erik A. Sistermans)
5. **The role of genetic services in provision of NIPT** (Aleš Maver, Alenka Hodžić, Borut Peterlin)
6. **The progress in noninvasive determination of fetal blood cell antigens used for prevention and management of fetal/neonatal diseases caused by alloimmunisation** (Brojer Ewa, Orzińska Agnieszka, Guz Katarzyna)
7. **Perspectives of NIPD in monogenic diseases** (Marta Szell)
8. **Is there a role for extracellular DNA in the pathogenesis of preeclampsia?** (Peter Celec)
9. **The hidden treasure, miRNAs in the NIPT** (Balint Nagy)
10. **First trimester screening of circulating C19MC microRNAs can predict subsequent onset of gestational hypertension** (Ilona Hromadnikova, Katerina Kotlabova, Lucie Hympanova, Ladislav Krofta)
11. **Circulating heat shock protein mRNA profiles in gestational hypertension, preeclampsia and fetal growth restriction** (Ilona Hromadnikova, Lenka Dvorakova, Katerina Kotlabova, Lucie Hympanova, Ladislav Krofta)
12. **Our experience with non-invasive prenatal testing** (Lasabová Zora, Švecová Iveta, Mendelová Andrea, Loderer Dušan, Danko Ján)

Abstracts submission

The official language of the Symposium is English.

Deadline for submitting of abstracts: **10th of March 2016**

Please submit an abstract of your presentation electronically at <http://www.cee-nipd2016.mefos.hr/index.php>

All submitted abstracts as well as the abstracts of invited lecturers will be published as a supplement of the official journal of the Croatian society of human genetics, Paediatrica Croatica.

All abstracts should be submitted in English language and should not exceed 300 words. Abstracts should include Title, 3-5 Key Words separated by comma, First and Last Name of all contributors (without titles), Institution name, City, Country. Abstracts shouldn't contain references nor figures/graphs.

Registration fees

Please register electronically at <http://www.cee-nipd2016.mefos.hr/index.php>

Type of registration	Early registration Before 10th of March 2016	Late and on-site registration After 10th of March 2016
Regular	€ 100 / 770,00 HRK	€ 140 / 1080,00 HRK
Reduced (students residents)	€ 70 / 540,00 HRK	€ 100 / 770,00 HRK
Accompanying person	€ 70 / 540,00 HRK	
Exhibitors	€ 70 / 540,00 HRK	

Accommodation information

For reservation or additional information on accommodation and travel arrangement, please contact Filida travel agency by phone (+385 1 4616 520) or e-mail (ceenipd@filidatravel.hr).

Accommodation	Distance from the Venue (km)	Price for Single Room (€/HRK)	Price for Double Room (€/HRK)	Price for Apartment (€/HRK)
Radisson Blu Resort 4* https://www.radissonblu.com/en/resort-split	venue	145 / 1115	165 / 1270	-
Hotel More 3* http://www.hotelmoresplit.hr/	1.5	112 / 865	150 / 1155	-
Hotel Fanat 4* https://hotelfanat.com/hr/	1.5	140 / 1080	160 / 1235	-
Apartments M http://www.split-apartmani-m.com/	1.0	-	-	75 / 580 (4 persons) 88 / 680 (5 persons) 95 / 730 (6 persons) 110 / 850 (6 persons)

Travel Information

Split can be easily reached by plane, car, bus, train and boat.

From the Airport Split flights connect the city with Zagreb several times a day, as well as with nearly all European capitals during the summer, directly or via Zagreb. Split's airport is located 25km from the city port. You can take a bus from the airport to Split, which is available after every arrival and drives you to the sea port, and taxi services are available. You may also sign up for a rent-a-car at the airport.

Croatia is well connected with its inland as well as with the rest of Europe by fast highways. To enter Croatia, a driver's licence, an automobile registration card and vehicle insurance documents are required. An international driving licence is required for the use of rent-a-car services. Pay-toll is paid according to the number of passed kilometers and according to the vehicle's category.

Bus station and railway station Split are located in the very centre of the city, right next to city harbour.

Currency and banking

National currency is Croatian kuna (HRK) in Croatia. Exchange rate is 7.67 HRK for 1 EUR. There are many places to exchange currency in Split. Most banks are open from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Major credit cards are widely accepted.

Climate

Split has a *hot* Mediterranean/dry-summer subtropical climate that is mild with moderate seasonality.

Places to visit in Split

Split is the second largest city in Croatia, and is the largest city on the Adriatic coast. Located on the eastern shore of the Adriatic, between the wooded slopes of Marjan Hill to the west, and rocky beaches of the picturesque villages to the east, overlooking middle Adriatic islands on the horizon, Split is the pulsating heart of the Dalmatian coast. There are many historic places in Split, like **Diocletian's Palace (UNESCO heritage site)**, **St. Dujе's cathedral**, **Peristil square**, **Prokurative**, **Jupiter's temple**, **People's square**, **Let Me Pass Street** and **Riva**.