

Symposium

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL AND CLINICAL  
CHARACTERISTICS OF INFECTIONS  
CAUSED BY METHICILLIN-RESISTANT  
*STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS*  
AND *STAPHYLOCOCCUS*  
*PSEUDINTERMEDIUS*

Guest Editor  
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## PREFACE

On the occasion of the European Antibiotic Awareness Day, which is an annual European public health event that takes place on 18 November, Department of Medical Sciences of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts organised the symposium entitled **Epidemiological and Clinical Characteristics of Infections Caused by Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius***. The Symposium was held on 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2010 in the Palace of the Academy in Zagreb. Since methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) is not just prevalent in humans but also in animals, the environment and in food supplies, the Symposium was aimed „to highlight the importance of a comprehensive approach to controlling MRSA“ as well as „to raise widespread awareness about the threat to public health and animal health of antibiotic resistance.“ MRSA and antimicrobial resistance global crisis deserves great attention from practitioners and health authorities. The need to ensure conditions for responsible use of antibiotics at national level, both for humans and for animals, was emphasised. Monitoring and evaluating the risks of *Staphylococcus aureus* resistance to antimicrobials for human health in Croatia started in 2001 and Guidelines for Prevention, Control and Treatment of Infections caused by MRSA were accepted in 2008. MRSA and methicillin-resistant *S. pseudintermedius* (MRSP) have emerged as significant problems in veterinary medicine, including both animal and public health standpoints. With respect to this, the participants were informed about the new antimicrobial strategy adopted by the European Medicines Agency, the Committee for Medicinal Products for Veterinary Use, to guide the work in the area of veterinary medicines. We are convinced that the papers in this issue will significantly contribute to the development and dissemination of educational materials promoting prudent and responsible antibiotic use.

The articles from the Symposium are dedicated to **Academician Eugen Topolnik** on the occasion of a hundred years of his life. As veterinary microbiologist, he worked on the aetiology, prevention and control of serious

bacterial and viral infections of animals, and his remarkable scientific contribution is presented in this issue. Wishing him Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday, we are thankful for his self-denying and unselfish work.

We extend our gratitude to Academician Marko Pećina, chief editor of *Rad*, for the opportunity to publish the symposium proceedings in this special issue.

On behalf of Organising Committee

*Josip Madić*