

WELCOME TO THE THIRTEENTH ISABS CONFERENCE ON APPLIED GENETICS AND MAYO CLINIC LECTURES IN TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE!

Dear Colleague,

We invite you to join us at the 13th ISABS Conference on Applied Genetics and Mayo Clinic Lectures in Translational Medicine, Split, Croatia, June 17 – 20, 2024. The conference is the next in a series of biennial events organized by the International Society for Applied Biological Sciences (ISABS), a society dedicated to promoting applied molecular biology (www.isabs.hr).

Since initiating the series in 1997, we have strived to focus and broaden the scope of the conferences. The focus has been on applying cutting-edge analytical methodology in forensic science. In 2003, programs in forensic medicine and in cellular and molecular medicine ran in parallel with the introductory and closing sessions held jointly. The Cellular and Molecular Medicine program was co-organized with the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, USA. Since 2007, we have broadened the area of interest by the introduction of molecular anthropology that, in large part, shares the methodology with forensic genetics. In 2009, we introduced selected topics from individualized medicine, another applied discipline based on the advances in mapping the human genome. In 2011, we included the most recent and most interesting topics in molecular medicine. In 2013 we included genetics applied to the crossing of forensic science, anthropology, and translational medicine. Mayo Clinic again, same as in the past ten years, joined our efforts. It provided a critical link to the cutting-edge clinical applications of genetics. The overall effort culminated in the incorporation of individualized medicine as the third cornerstone, together with forensic and anthropological genetics. We feel this integration of the three areas, united by technology and applicative intent, provides an unprecedented opportunity for further progress in every respect. In the clinical part of the conference, topics covered the latest achievements in regenerative medicine, gene and cell therapy, individualized medicine, new molecular procedures and methodology for early detection of cancer, the clinical importance of circulating tumor cells and immune therapy in cancer treatments. In 2015 we introduced up-to-date results in genomics of individualized medicine, a program in anthropology genetics concerning ancient and modern human genome history, and human genetic history of the continents and forensic genetics program with special emphasis on new knowledge in Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) in forensics, DNA investigative intelligence, and advancements in forensic DNA routine. At the jubilee 10th ISABS conference in Split in 2017, the Nobel Spirit session took place for the first time. This jubilee conference marked a breakthrough towards regenerative medicine and microbiome analysis in forensics, anthropology and medicine and in 2019 we continued with the same "Nobel Spirit" achievements.

We are pleased that the program in 2024 will be more interesting than ever and it will include the following topics: Whole Genome Sequencing for Implementation of Precision Medicine, Gene and Cellular Therapy, Immunotherapy, Pharmacogenomics, Tissue Engineering, Artificial Intelligence in Clinical Medicine, Dendritic Cell Vaccination, Forensic Genetic Genealogy, etc. This year, the fourth "Nobel Spirit" will provide a forum for the four Nobel laureates to stimulate public discussion on the role of science in solving global health issues, acute regional problems such as brain drain, demographic decline, and cultural and social change.

Together with several conference regulars, this 2024 year will bring many new and exciting names, including Nobel Prize laureates Aaron Ciechanover, Sir Richard John Roberts, Svante Pääbo and Gregg L. Semenza. ISABS Lecture "Science, scientists, and scientific publications: the quest for reproducible and useful research." will be held by John Ioannidis (Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA).

As before, the conference is structured to allow close interaction of the international faculty and attendees. We continue to have traditional Young Investigator Awards and High School Student Future Scientist Awards. Together with formal presentations, there will be meet-the-professor sessions, a gala dinner, and other social occasions meant to enhance opportunities for scientific intercourse, but also to introduce the participants to the town of Split, a destination famous for unspoiled nature and cultural, historic and sporting attractions. We invite you to Split and its Diocletian's Palace, seventeen centuries old, yet swarming with contemporary life. Discover and enjoy the beauties of Croatia, the mild climate, the crystal clear and warm sea, beautiful beaches, virgin nature, and the rich history and cultural heritage. And, above all, enjoy Croatia's warm and friendly people.

We look forward to seeing you in Split!

*Dragan Primorac
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Program/Conference Directors*