



Crossroads in Life Sciences

TIHOMIR BALOG¹
MAJA KATALINIĆ²
ZRINKA KOVARIK²

¹ Ruđer Bošković Institute, Bijenička cesta 54,
Zagreb, Croatia

² Institute for Medical Research and Occupational
Health, Ksaverska cesta 2, Zagreb, Croatia

E-mails: balog@irb.hr, mkatalinic@imi.hr,
zkovarik@imi.hr

This entire volume of *Periodicum biologorum* is dedicated to molecular life sciences with two papers written by the Spiridion Brusina Medal laureates and 14 papers as an overview of the scientific topics presented at the HDBMB2019 “Crossroads in Life Sciences” that was held in Lovran, Croatia from 25 to 28 September 2019. We are pleased that *Periodicum biologorum* will serve as a support to disseminate scientific achievements of this Congress, and we are honoured to give assistance as guest editors. This collaboration between HDBMB and *Periodicum biologorum* has proven successful in 2016 when an issue was dedicated to the 40th Anniversary of the Croatian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (HDBMB). We also hope to continue down this road and justify the trust given by the readers.

The Congress HDBMB2019 “Crossroads in Life Sciences” was organized under the auspices of the Croatian Parliament, the Primorsko-Goranska County, the University of Rijeka, the University of Osijek, the University of Split, and the University of Zagreb. In addition to the main programme, and by the support of the Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS), HDBMB organised the Workshop on Molecular Life Science Education “Better skills for better jobs: education and training for successful research careers” with the objective to provide the opportunity for young scientists to improve skills and capabilities in their current, but also future jobs. Therefore, the congress presented important molecular life sciences gathering in Croatia with eminent experts and young scientists not just from Croatia but also from the abroad (Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Ireland, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, and Turkey).

The scientific committee was headed by Tihomir Balog (Ruđer Bošković Institute, Zagreb) while members were Ljubica Glavaš-Obrovac (School of Medicine, Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, Osijek), Maja Herak-Bosnar (Ruđer Bošković Institute, Zagreb), Zrinka Kovarik (Institute for Medical Research and Occupational Health, Zagreb), and Jasmina Rokov Plavec (Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb, Zagreb). The organizing committee was formed by Damjan Franjević (president; Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb, Zagreb), Maja Katalinić (secretary; Institute for Medical Research and Occupational Health, Zagreb), Jerka Dumić (Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry, University of Zagreb, Zagreb), Morana Dulić (Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb), Hrvoje Fulgosi (Ruđer Bošković Institute, Zagreb), Antonija Jurak Begonja (Department of Biotechnology, University of Rijeka, Rijeka), Ivana Novak Nakir (School of Medicine, University of Split, Split), Nino Sinčić (School of Medicine, University of Zagreb, Zagreb), and Igor Stuparević (Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology, University of Zagreb, Zagreb).

The scientific program covered many “crossroads in molecular life sciences” within topics: Nucleic Acids, Proteins, Cellular Biochemistry,

Plant Biomolecules, Molecular Basis of Disease and Therapy, Food and Nutrition, Ecology and Toxicology, Neuroscience, New Technologies and Bioinformatics. The programme was headed by the FEBS National Lecture given by Sven B Gould (Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf, Germany). Along with the other three plenary lecturers, Seamus J Martin (Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland), Robert Harris (Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden) and Iva Tolić (Ruđer Bošković Institute, Zagreb, Croatia), programme comprised 15 invited lectures, 15 short presentations, 8 speed talks and 72 posters. We are, therefore, pleased that 14 speakers and presenters decided to contribute to this volume covering a whole range of topics as mentioned above and more.

Within this volume you will also take pleasure in reading two papers written by laureates of the *Spiridion Brusina Medal* – Professor Jutta Ludwig-Muller (Technische Universität Dresden, Dresden, Germany) for 2019 and Ivan Mijaković (Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden) for 2020. The award is established by the Croatian Society of Natural Sciences in memory of its founder, and is given to distinguished scientists for the promotion and support of Croatian science and scientists.

In the end, we thank all of the authors for their scientific contributions as well as all of the reviewers for their valuable comments and help. We hope that the audience will find something interesting to read and challenge themselves for writing a paper for *Periodicum Biologorum* as well.