

# EuroMedLab news



**EUROMEDLAB**  
ATHENS 2017  
11-15 JUNE

22<sup>nd</sup> IFCC - EFLM European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine

25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation

15<sup>th</sup> National Congress of GSCC-CB

## President's Invitation

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

On behalf of the Greek Society of Clinical Chemistry - Clinical Biochemistry (GSCC-CB) and the Congress Organizing Committee, I would like to invite you to the 22<sup>nd</sup> IFCC-EFLM European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine "**EuroMedLab Athens 2017**" which will take place in Athens, Greece, on June 11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at Megaron - the Athens Congress Center. This congress will be co-organized along with the **25<sup>th</sup> Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation (BCLF) meeting** and the **15<sup>th</sup> National Congress of GSCC-CB**, helping a fruitful exchange of opinions and visions between the Greek, the European and the International colleagues.

The scientific program, containing an interesting combination of presentations, symposia, discussions, sessions, workshops **and open** to the general public **debates**, describing the state of the art and the recent innovations in Laboratory Medicine in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, will be carefully finalized in collaboration with the European Societies through the active cooperation of the International Scientific Advisory Board. During **EuroMedLab Athens 2017** we will be organizing a large, interesting and detailed exhibition of IVD industry products as also as many Industry Sponsored Workshops. In Athens several thousand square meters will

be allocated in order that the latest innovations in the field of the clinical chemistry, molecular diagnostics, cell counting, immunochemistry, and several other will be exhibited.

Athens, a city famous all over the world for its history and culture, has many places of interest within a relatively small area surrounding the city center (Syntagma Square) and in walking distance from the congress venue. The downtown Congress Center is also conveniently situated nearby to the districts of Plaka and Monastiraki (old town) as well as Kolonaki (shopping and museums area and night life district). Acropolis, the New Museum and charming historic quarters with restored 19<sup>th</sup> century neoclassical homes, picturesque pedestrian streets, shops and restaurants, and ancient monuments from classic and Roman era will offer you unforgettable memories to take home.

I am looking forward to welcoming you in Athens in July 2017 and I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year 2016.



*A Haliassos*

Alexander Haliassos

*President of the EuroMedLab Athens 2017 Congress*

## What is EuroMedLab news?

EuroMedLab news is issued periodically to report on developments in scientific program and organization of the Congress.

EuroMedLab news is a handy tool to get in touch with Athens and the forthcoming Congress in real time.

EuroMedLab news will be sent to IFCC National Representatives, to all Officers involved in IFCC or EFLM, to IFCC Corporate Members, to IVD companies, and to anyone who has shown interest in the Congress; EuroMedLab News may be freely quoted in journals or newsletters and even photocopied, provided the editor (EuroMedLab Athens 2017 Organizing Secretariat, Milan, Italy) is mentioned.

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## Congress Committees

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### CONGRESS PRESIDENT

**Dr. Alexander Haliassos**

### CONGRESS ORGANISING COMMITTEE

**Dr. Alexander Haliassos** Chair

**Dr. Efi Mpotoula** Treasurer

**Prof. Christos Kroupis** Scientific Committee Liaison

**Dr. Aggeliki Ferderigou** Social Events

**Dr. Nota Spyropoulou** Social Events

**Dr. Katherina Psarra** Public Relations

**Dr. Irene Leimoni** Executive Manager

**Dr. Bernard Gouget** EuroMedLab 2015 Liaison

**Dr. Angelos Evangelopoulos** Corporate Members Representative

**Prof. Tomas Zima** IFCC Representative

**Prof. Grazyna Sypniewska** EFLM Representative

### SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM COMMITTEE

**Prof. Eleni Bairaktari**

**Prof. Eleftherios Diamandis**

**Prof. Maurizio Ferrari**

**Dr. Alexander Haliassos**

**Prof. Christos Kroupis**

**Prof. Evi Lianidou**

**Dr. Konstantinos Makris**

**Prof. Paraskevi Moutsatsou**

**Prof. Mauro Panteghini**

**Prof. Demetrios Rizos**

**Prof. Andreas Scorilas**

**Prof. Georgia Sotiropoulou**

**Prof. Christos Tsatsanis**

## Scientific Program Topics

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1. Advanced technologies - New biomarker discovery
2. Analytical technologies and applications
3. Atherosclerosis - Lipids and Lipoproteins
4. Autoimmune diseases - Allergy
5. Bioinformatics - Information technology applications
6. Biology of extreme ages - Pediatric and Geriatric laboratory medicine - Prenatal and postnatal testing
7. Biomarkers in cancer
8. Bone metabolism - Osteoporosis
9. Cardiovascular diseases - Cardiac markers
10. Clinical Studies - Outcomes
11. Critical care, Emergency medicine, Blood gases, POCT
12. Education and Training in Laboratory Medicine
13. Endocrinology
14. Evidence based medicine - Guidelines
15. Gastrointestinal diseases
16. Hematology - Hemostasis
17. Inflammation, Vascular biology, Endothelium, Oxidative stress
18. Inherited disorders - Metabolic disorders
19. Kidney diseases
20. Laboratory and Sports medicine
21. Laboratory Management, Accreditation, Quality Assurance
22. Microbiology - Infectious diseases
23. Molecular diagnostics - Genetic testing
24. Neurological - Neurodegenerative diseases
25. Nutrition, Vitamins and Trace Elements
26. Obesity, Metabolic syndrome, Diabetes
27. Patient sample management, (standardization, harmonization, reference ranges, etc)
28. Pharmacogenetics - Personalized Medicine
29. Rare Diseases
30. Toxicology - Therapeutic Drug Monitoring

## Scientific Program Highlights

The aim of the scientific program will be to provide attendees with the most up-to-date information on a wide variety of topics related to the Laboratory Medicine and its clinical applications. The program will include an Opening Lecture, 4 Plenary Lectures, 23 Symposia (15 organized by the Scientific Program Committee "SPC", 4 by IFCC, 3 by EFLM and 1 by BCLF), 39 Educational Workshops and 3 Poster sessions.

- Four open (to the press and public by free on-line registration) **Debates** will be organized by the SPC. This is a new feature of EuroMedLab 2017. Controversial issues of general interest will be discussed in these sessions.
- **Plenary Lectures** will cover medical issues of paramount interest and should be useful to all attendees, irrespective of sub-specialty.
- The 23 **Symposia** coordinated by SPC will cover a wide spectrum of important topics, including new areas of service, research and development. They will consist of three invited lectures and two presentations selected from the posters' abstracts.
- A substantial part of the program will be devoted to **Poster** viewing and discussion.
- The **Educational Workshops** will be organized with the active support of IVD Industry, and they will be reviewed by the SPC, in order to be fully integrated in to the EuroMedLab Congress.
- A number of **Satellite Meetings** will be organized before and after the main Congress in collaboration with other Scientific Societies from Greece and other European countries.

## SAVE THE DATES!

1 November 2016

Deadline for poster abstract submission\*

\* The early deadline is due to the recent rules for the financing and/or the participation in congresses that require about 3 months for the authorization of PRESENTING authors from the regulating authorities.

30 April 2017

Deadline for reduced registration fees





## How to get to Athens

Athens is easily accessed by air, sea and land (road and railroad) as it is the Greece's capital and one of the major cities of the Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean area. Moreover, moving around the city is a real pleasure. Athens public transportation system connects the city center and Megaron - Athens International Conference Center, the Congress Venue, with all surrounding areas through a modern network combining many lines of metro, suburban railway, train, buses, trolleys and trams. The road system has been modernized in recently with new highways. The capital is connected with other parts of the mainland through a

York, Larnaca and Dubai come in at least once per day. Located 33 km (20 miles) southeast of Athens, it is easily accessible via Attiki Odos, a major highway part of the Athens City Ring Road. Public transport to Athens and the port of Piraeus is provided by the new metro system, express airport bus connections, taxi and high-speed rail.

A free return metro ticket to Athens as also as a transport title allowing the unlimited use of the entire Athens public transportation system during the Congress period will be offered to all registered delegates and accompanying persons, at their arrival at the airport.



network of railways, buses and coaches. Furthermore, Athens has direct connections to all Greek islands through the ports of Piraeus, Lavrio and Rafina.

### BY AIR

The new award-winning "Eleftherios Venizelos" Athens International Airport, has been serving the Greek capital since its opening to the public on March 28th, 2001. Its exciting design has, according to surveys, made it one of the world's leading airports in overall passenger satisfaction for the last four years and Europe's fastest growing airport.

At the crossroads of Europe, Africa and the Middle East, Athens is a city that is easily accessible from virtually any point of the world. Flights from major airport hubs in London, Frankfurt, Paris, Berlin, Zurich, Milan, Rome, Istanbul, New

### BY ROAD

Athens can be reached by road via the Western Balkan countries, Bulgaria, Albania and Turkey.

### BY RAILROAD

The main railway network of Greece currently provides links between Athens and Northern and Southern Greece and the rest of Europe through the Western Balkan countries and Bulgaria.

### BY SEA

There are daily ferryboat connections from Italy (Ancona, Bari and Brindisi, Venice and Trieste) to Patras the second largest port of entry to Greece; approximately 220 km (135 miles) from Athens. The Middle East is accessible via the port of Volos located 300km (180 miles) from Athens.

## Congress Venue

The EuroMedLab Athens 2017 Congress will be held at the Megaron Athens International Conference Center, one of the finest and technologically advanced conference venues in Europe. The center offers an impressive environment of beauty, cutting edge facilities and unrivalled client service.

### MEGARON

#### ATHENS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER

Vassilisis Sophias Ave. & Kokkali Str.

Athens GR-115 21, Greece

Phone: +30 2107282000



## Athens Metro Map





## Christmas in Athens

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Usually they are not white Christmas but there are lights everywhere, shops competing for the best Christmas, extraordinarily imagined decoration and lighted Christmas trees that can be seen throughout the city, in all neighborhoods. What is unique in Athens during these holidays, in addition to numerous Christmas trees, are the traditional, and decorated with lights, little boats. Not long time ago, young children used to carry them around when singing Christmas carols from door to door on Christmas Eve. Why a decorated boat instead of a tree? Where this tradition is coming

from? Is it because of the eternal love of the Greeks for the sea? Is it because of so many Greeks actually made a living from whatever the sea had to offer? Is it because the patron saint of the sea is Aghios Nikolaos (Saint Nicolas) who is celebrated on December 6<sup>th</sup>? No matter what, nowadays a lot of lighted boats, away from the sea, can be seen around decorated squares in Athens reminding Greeks their unique tradition in addition of course to Christmas trees. On the eves of Christmas, New Year day, and "Foton" (lights) or Epiphany Day (on the January 6<sup>th</sup>), groups of children of all ages, sometimes wearing Santa Claus hats or carrying and hitting the traditional, made of iron, primitive music in-



struments called "triangles", are singing carols. They are walking through the neighborhoods, knocking at the doors, asking from the owner of the house to give them permission to sing the carols. During Christmas Eve they are singing "In this house where we have come we wish the owner to live a thousand years and his house never to fall apart". Or on New Year's Eve they are singing "Aghios Vasilis" (the Greek Santa Claus) is coming from Caesarea, he is bringing us gifts and..." And what do they get in return? In the old days, the housewife used to share her freshly baked tra-

ditional Christmas sweets "kourampiedes" and "melomakarona" but now, most people give to the singing kids mainly money. During these days, all around the streets, shops and houses, people can hear the echo of Christmas carols. Very few Greek people must exist who never walked as kids endlessly around the streets singing Christmas carols and very few houses all over Greece must exist which do not bake or buy from pastry shops quantities of kourampiedes and melomakarona to last them for all the holiday season. And who is the one who brings the gifts for the kids in Greece? The Greek version of Santa Claus. Aghios Vassilis, is a Greek orthodox wise Saint from Asia Minor who wears



the same traditional Santa Claus red costume, and he places the gifts under the tree on New Year's Eve night. But no milk and cookies for the Greek Santa Claus. The first day of the year is full of surprises, joy and laughter for all the kids no matter where they live.

On New Year's Eve a big concert takes place on Syntagma square in the center of Athens, not far from our EuroMedLab congress venue, in front of the Parliament. From there, people can stroll to the old part of the city under the Acropolis. On January 6<sup>th</sup>, towards the end of the festive days, according to Greek Orthodox religion the waters are sanctified. In Athens this ceremony takes place in the big fountain by the city Cathedral, but also in all the nearby ports like Piraeus. There, a wooden cross is thrown into the water and many courageous men jump into the sea to grab the cross and

bring it out. It is considered a big blessing for the winner and it is a great attraction for all Greeks, another opportunity to be again outdoors, by the sea.





The Congress Organizing  
Committee and the  
Scientific Program Committee  
together with the  
Organizing Secretariat  
wish you a  
Merry Christmas