

Foreword of the editor

Editor in Chief: Gábor L. Kovács, MD, PhD, DSc

The current issue of eJIFCC is devoted to the role of guidelines in laboratory medicine. The guest editor of this issue is Professor Andrea Rita Horvath MD, PhD, FRCPath, FRCPA from Australia, an internationally renowned expert of the field. Dr. Horvath has been Clinical Chemistry Network Director of the South Eastern Area Laboratory Services, based at the Prince of Wales Hospital in Sydney since December 2009. She is Conjoint Professor of Medicine at the University of New South Wales and Honorary Professor at the School of Public Health of Sydney University, and at the Faculty of Pharmacology and Biochemistry of Buenos Aires University.

Dr. Horvath obtained her M.D. (1984), her National Board Certification in Clinical Chemistry (1991), and her Ph.D. (1993) from the University of Debrecen in Hungary. She attained Membership by examination (1994) and Fellowships of the Royal College of Pathologists of England (2001) and Australasia (2011). She spent 8 years in Britain: first as postgraduate research fellow in London (1988-1990); later as chemical pathology Registrar in Sheffield (1993-1994); and Senior Registrar and Lecturer in Clinical Biochemistry at Oxford University (1995-1998). She was Professor and Head of Clinical Chemistry at the University of Szeged in Hungary for 11 years (1998-2009).

Rita's key research interest is evidence-based laboratory medicine (EBLM) and evidence-based guideline development. Supported by British Government grants she successfully established an Evidence-Based Medicine Network in Hungary (TUDOR) to teach EBM and advise government in evidence-based health and reimbursement policy and guideline development programs. She currently advises the National Prescribing Service of Australia on test utilization. She has been advising the National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry (NACB) on evidence-based guideline methodology since 2005 and has been involved in NACB's and CLSI's guideline groups. She is currently the Vice Chair of AACC's EBLM Committee.

Her awards include: KoneLab Award, Association of Clinical Biochemists, UK (2003); Per Hyltoft Petersen Award for Distinguished Medical Biopathologist (2006); IFCC Visiting Lecturer Awards: Israel (2004), India, Malaysia and Indonesia (2006), and China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Thailand and Singapore (2007); Mentor of the Month of AACC (November 2011); Lorand Jendrassik Medal of the Hungarian Society of Laboratory Medicine, the Markusovszky Award for best publication in the Hungarian Medical Journal (2012) and the award of the Croatian Society of Clinical Biochemistry (2013).

Rita has held a number of national and international leadership positions: Chair of the IFCC Committee on EBLM (2003-2008); European Communities Confederation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine Secretary (2005-2007); President of the Hungarian Society (2005-2008) and the Hungarian College of Laboratory Medicine (2008-2009); President-Elect (2007-2009), President (2009-2011) and Past President (2012-2013) of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM). Currently she serves on

AACC's Board of Directors, as member of the board, and she chairs EFLM's Test Evaluation Working Group.

As editor of the eJIFCC, I am personally proud of the fact that while Rita worked in Hungary, we held two of the three chairs in laboratory medicine in the country. We had a lot of professional and scientific interactions. Her involvement in the regulatory affairs of laboratory medicine was absolutely significant for the progress of our discipline. I am very pleased to introduce her as guest editor.