

Foreword of the editor

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

This special issue has been dedicated to the laboratory diagnosis of chronic kidney diseases. The IFCC Task Force on Chronic Kidney Disease sheds light on several aspects of the field, from basic research to daily clinical practices, uniting many IFCC member countries working in different aspects of the laboratory in chronic kidney care. Dr. Flavio Ferraz de Paes e Alcantara (Brazil), the chair of the task force and Dr. Vanja Radišić Biljak (Croatia), a member of the task force, were asked to guest-edit the issue.

Dr. Flavio Ferraz de Paes e Alcantara graduated in medicine in Santos, Brazil. He earned the specialization degree in clinical pathology after finishing medical residency at the clinical hospital of the University of Sao Paulo. Worked as a post-doctoral fellow at The Scripps Research Institute (USA), from 1996 to 2001. In 2001, he came back to Brazil as associated director of a medium size private clinical laboratory (IACS), working there part time, and as of 2012 became the leading director of IACS. Dr. Alcantara also works part time at the University of São Paulo. Initially as a research fellow, since 2006 he holds a tenure position as assistant physician at the Central Laboratory Division - Molecular Biology Section, the largest public hospital in South America. Dr. Alcantara is an active member of the Brazilian Society for Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, where he is frequently invited for lectures and

meetings. In 2010, Dr. Alcantara started a term at the IFCC-WASPaLM Task Force on Chronic Kidney Diseases, and became the chair person for the 2016-2018 term.

Dr. Vanja Radišić Biljak, PhD, from Zagreb, Croatia, studied medical biochemistry at the Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry, University of Zagreb (1999-2004). In 2005, she started her postgraduate doctoral study in medical biochemistry and defended her doctoral thesis „Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and glutathione cycle” in 2010, gaining her PhD degree. Since 2010 she has been employed in Merkur University Hospital where she started her residency in Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine and graduated in 2014. Her major interest shifted towards nephrology, diabetes, and medical informatics. In 2010, she got a scholarship for EASD Young Scientists Training Course “Reactive metabolites in late diabetic complications” (University Hospital Heidelberg, Dept. of Medicine I and Clinical Chemistry) in Heidelberg, Germany. In 2013, she received a travel grant for the EFLM Postgraduate Course in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine New Trends in Diagnosis and Monitoring using POC Instruments. In 2016, she was awarded as the best young scientist for 2015. The award was presented by the Croatian Society for Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine.