



For scientific research activity

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2024 – Rector's Award of UPJŠ for Research Activity



The Rector's Award of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice for Scientific Research Activity and Publication Activity is one of the most prestigious academic recognitions annually granted by the university for exceptional contributions in the field of science and research. Its purpose is not only to acknowledge the excellent results of teachers, researchers, and doctoral students but also to support and encourage excellence, independent creative work, and the maintenance of high-quality research at UPJŠ in Košice. The award is conferred by the Rector based on outstanding scientific outputs and their significance for the scientific community both nationally and internationally.

During the ceremonial opening of the 2024/2025 academic year, the Rector of UPJŠ, **Prof. MUDr. Daniel Pella, PhD.**, awarded the **Rector's Award** to **RNDr. Ivana Večurkovská, PhD.** a doctoral student at the Department of Medical and Clinical Biochemistry, Faculty of



Medicine, UPJŠ in 2020-2024, for her **exceptional publication activity and active scientific presentation of achieved results**, particularly in the field of diagnostic and prognostic biomarkers of gastrointestinal malignancies.

During her doctoral studies, **RNDr. Ivana Večurková, PhD.** was the author or co-author of 38 scientific outputs, of which 17 were presented at national and international scientific conferences. Her exceptional engagement in scientific life and international research presentation is thoroughly documented in the section [Presentation of Doctoral Students' Results.](#)

This award is not only a recognition of her individual efforts but also a testament to the collective contribution of the Department of Medical and Clinical Biochemistry UPJŠ FM, whose members

professionally guided, inspired, and supported her throughout her studies. The importance of this recognition is further emphasized by the fact that, following the submission of a successful postdoctoral project, she was appointed to the position of **“young talented post-doctoral research fellow”**, reflecting the university's trust in her further academic development and scientific potential. The Rector's Award for Scientific Contribution is, therefore, not only a personal success but also a representation of the high-quality research conducted at the Department of Medical and Clinical Biochemistry UPJŠ FM.



2024 – International FEBS Congress

The 48th International **FEBS Congress** (Federation of European Biochemical Societies) was held in Milan, Italy, from **June 29 to July 3, 2024**, under the motto “Mining biochemistry for human health and well-being.” The event welcomed scientists from across Europe and around



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the world and provided an exceptional platform for presenting the latest research in biochemistry, molecular biology, and related biomedical fields.

Among the highlights of the scientific program was the poster section, where **RNDr. Monika Švecová, PhD.**, presented her research titled “**Metabolomic data mining for early detection of endometrial cancer.**” Her work demonstrated the potential of combining fluorescence-based metabolomic analysis with machine learning models for early screening of endometrial carcinoma.

Monika Švecová received two awards for her contribution:

- On the day of her presentation, she received the FEBS Journal Award for the best poster presentation of the day.
- Subsequently, she was honored with the main award – the FEBS Journal Award for the best poster of the entire congress.



Award for Monika Švecová's presentation at the FEBS Congress 2024

This significant international recognition highlights the quality and innovativeness of our fluorescence-based research and demonstrates that Slovak science can successfully compete at the highest global level. Her success also confirms the importance of integrating biochemistry with analytical and computational techniques in addressing current biomedical challenges.



2024 – Young Oncologists Competition

On the occasion of Cancer Research Day, held annually on **March 12**, the Cancer Research Foundation organized the 9th edition of the **Young Oncologists Competition**. The event aims to support the next generation of oncology researchers by providing them with a platform to present their work publicly and exchange knowledge within the scientific community.

The competition was divided into three categories: university students, PhD students, and young researchers under 35. **The PhD student category** was particularly competitive this year, with a **record number of 27 participants** from various research institutions across Slovakia. Each participant had 10 minutes to present their research, followed by a 5-minute discussion led by an expert evaluation panel composed of prominent figures in both clinical and experimental oncology – including Prof. MUDr. Dalibor Ondruš, DrSc. (chair), Mgr. Gabriela Pavlíková, PhD., MUDr. Mária Rečková, PhD., RNDr. Jana Jakubíková, PhD., Assoc. Prof. RNDr. Zora Lasabová, PhD., and Assoc. Prof. RNDr. Rastislav Jendželovský, PhD.

Among the participants was **RNDr. Monika Švecová, PhD.**, who presented her research titled **“Fluorescent Metabolomics: A New Approach to Diagnosing Endometrial Cancer.”** The jury praised her for the originality of the topic, the quality of her analysis, and the clarity of her presentation. In a highly competitive field, she achieved an excellent **3rd place** in the PhD student category.



Award for Monika Švecová's presentation at the Young Oncologists Competition 2024

2024 – Interactive Young Scientists Conference

From **March 10 to June 30, 2024**, the [Interactive Young Scientists Conference 2024](#) was held, organized by the civic association **PREVEDA**. The conference provides young researchers with a high-quality platform to present the results of their scientific work and engage in expert dialogue through interactive discussions under individual contributions.

We are pleased to share that two of our colleagues were among the award-winning participants, impressing the expert jury with their presentations:

- **RNDr. Ivana Večurkovská, PhD.** was awarded for an outstanding contribution in the Biochemistry section,



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- **RNDr. Monika Švecová, PhD.** was awarded for an outstanding contribution in the Basic and Clinical Medicine section.



Awards for the contributions of Ivana Večurkovská and Monika Švecová

Both presentations stood out not only for their scientific content and quality but also for their format and the topicality of the themes. The discussions their presentations inspired were stimulating and demonstrated their professional growth and ability to engage audiences from various biomedical fields. This conference, aimed at supporting the young scientific community in Slovakia, is also a valuable opportunity for presenting research activities, forming new collaborations, and obtaining valuable feedback from peers across different scientific disciplines.



2023 – L'Oréal-UNESCO: For women in science in Slovakia

This year's **L'Oréal-UNESCO: For women in science award in Slovakia**, in the category of live sciences, was awarded to employee of the **Department of Medical and Clinical Biochemistry**, UPJŠ in Košice, Faculty of Medicine, doc. RNDr. **Miroslava Rabajdová, PhD.**, who was elected by the committee from 21 nominees. The laureate of this prestigious award devotes her scientific and research activities to non-invasive diagnostics in the *in vitro* fertilization process, using new laboratory techniques for selection of embryos with the highest implantation potential and the receptivity of the endometrium. "The award does not belong only to me, it is an award for long-term team, interdisciplinary and international cooperation. A big THANK YOU, belongs mainly to clinical specialists in the field of reproductive medicine, under the guidance of doc. MUDr. Silvia Toporcurová, PhD. from the Department of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, UPJŠ FM and the Center for Assisted Reproduction Gyncare, for mutual cooperation and acceleration of scientific research in the field of infertility. The same thanks goes to her colleagues MVDr. Miroslava Popelková, PhD. and embryologists Mgr. Dominika Šeršen and Mgr. Dana Glovová. I am thankful to my colleagues from Brno, especially to the Research Group of prof. Slabý from CEITEC, and to all my colleagues from the Department of Medical and Clinical Biochemistry UPJŠ LF for the creative environment, support and cooperation," said doc. Rabajdová.





2023 – Award of Košice Self-Governing Region

The nomination of the **Department of Medical and Clinical Biochemistry**, UPJŠ in Košice, Faculty of Medicine for an award by the Award of Košice Self-Governing Region (KSK) was successful and the award was presented at the Award Ceremony on April 23, 2023 in the Košice National Theater, where the following statement was announced:

KOŠICE SELF-GOVERNMENT REGION

grants

AWARD OF THE KOŠICE SELF-GOVERNMENT REGION

to Department of Medical and Clinical Biochemistry UPJŠ FM

for excellent results and long-term contribution in pedagogical and scientific research activities in the field of clinical biochemistry and laboratory medicine

The team of this institute under the leadership of the head prof. Ing. **Mária Mareková**, CSc., stands out in all areas of its activity. It is a top-class and recognized workplace that has been achieving excellent results in the pedagogical and scientific research fields for a long time. The creativity and imagination of the cohesive team is reflected in the publication of original results in prestigious international journals as well as in the awards of the employees on national and international level. Thanks to the equipment, the commitment of the workers and the participation in important scientific research projects, they keep up with innovations, thus representing not only the Faculty of Medicine of the UPJŠ in the field of clinical biochemistry and laboratory medicine, but also KSK.

More Info at: <http://osobnostiksk.sk/>, <https://www.upjs.sk/lekarska-fakulta/en/departament/medical-and-clinical-biochemistry/>.





2022 – Award of Mayor of Košice

A total of 26 individuals and collectives from the fields of science, research, healthcare, art, culture and sport received the **Awards of Košice** and the **Awards of Mayor** of the city Košice. Prof. Ing. **Mária Mareková, CSc.**, was among the awardees. who received the Award of Mayor on the occasion of her life jubilee, for scientific and pedagogical activities in the preparation of future doctors and PhD. students in the clinical biochemistry study program.



In his speech, the mayor highlighted the historical significance of May 7, when we commemorate the 653rd anniversary of the first heraldic document granted to the city of Košice by King Louis I the Great of Hungary, as well as the 792nd anniversary of the first written document mentioning the city of Košice. The culmination of the Košice City Day celebrations, which are a holiday and a symbol of local patriotism for the residents, was also the presentation of awards to individuals and teams for their significant results and extraordinary deeds.





2021 – Innovation of Slovakia 2021

This year, the winner in the category "Innovation of Slovakia 2021" is the biomedical project "MicroRNA test of success of the in vitro fertilization (IVF) process and diagnostics of a quality embryo for the IVF process". The presented innovative diagnostic-predictive method was created on the basis of cooperation between UPJŠ in Košice, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Medical and Clinical Biochemistry, SAFTRA BIOMai, Clinic of Gynecology and Obstetrics UPJŠ FM and UNLP in Košice, GynCare a.s. in Košice, CU, Faculty of Science, Department of Microbiology and Virology in Bratislava and MU CEITEC in Brno. The international cooperation resulted in the filing of the international patent application PC/SK2021/050004: A method of non-invasive testing of the success of an in vitro fertilization process. The Prize for Technology Transfer in Slovakia is awarded by the Center for Scientific and Technical Information of the Slovak Republic. The awards were presented at the [COINT](#) - Cooperation Innovation Technology Transfer conference, which took place on 19-21 October 2021 at the FIIT of the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava. More on the site [UPJŠ](#).



The staff of the Department of Medical and Clinical Biochemistry made a significant contribution to the creation of an innovative diagnostic-predictive method. Staff of the department - associate professors, researchers, doctoral students under the guidance of prof. Ing. Mária Mareková, CSc. have been actively involved for almost 4 years in solving several scientific research projects, while the project VEGA 1/0620/19 under the leadership of associate professor **Miroslava Rabajdová**, PhD. was key to innovation.

Thanks to the winning project "in Slovakia, too, the solution of artificial insemination can be moved one step further ([Tlačová agentúra Slovenskej republiky - TASR.sk](#)).





2021 – Best paper awards of CEOG 2021



Dear Dr. Birková,

Thank you very much for choosing Clinical and Experimental Obstetrics & Gynecology (CEOG) to publish your work. To acknowledge the authors' contribution and to recognize their outstanding scientific accomplishments, we set up “2021 CEOG Best Paper Awards”.

All papers published in 2019 are eligible to compete for the awards. After rounds of careful evaluation and voting by the Selection Committee, which was composed of CEOG Editorial Board Members and chaired by the Editor-in-Chief, two papers won the Award after taking into consideration:
(1) Scientific rigor; (2) Significance; (3) Originality.

We are very pleased to inform you that your published paper titled “**Telocytes: a brief review for the obstetrics/gynecology clinician**” has been selected to receive the 2021 CEOG Best Paper Award. We congratulate you on your hard work and wish you every success in the coming new year.

Best wishes,
On behalf of the CEOG Editorial Office
Ms. Lily Cheng
Assistant Editor
CEOG (<https://ceog.imrpess.com/EN/0390-6663/home.shtml>)



2019 – EFLM

Research activity of a young researcher at the institute - **RNDr. Ivana Špaková PhD.**, was awarded by the European Society for Laboratory Medicine - EFLM Bursary for Young Students - 23rd IFCC-EFLM (2019) as the only one from Slovakia among young scientists from all over Europe. The award was presented during an introductory lecture at the EFLM European Congress in Barcelona in May 2019.





EFLM

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY
AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

This is to certify that EFLM awarded to

IVANA ŠPAKOVÁ

*a bursary supporting the attendance at the
23rd IFCC-EFLM European Congress of
Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine
Barcelona (SP), 19-23 May 2019*

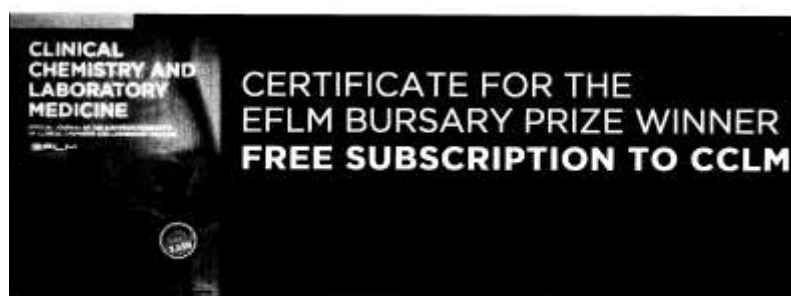

Prof. Michael Neumaier
EFLM President





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Department of Medical and Clinical Biochemistry



IVANA ŠPAKOVÁ, Slovak Republic

As prize winner of the
EFLM Bursary for Young Students

you get a 1-year free subscription to *Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine* (CCLM). You will have access to the full contents of all articles of CCLM from 01 June 2019-01 June 2020.

Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (CCLM) publishes articles on novel teaching and training methods applicable to laboratory medicine. CCLM welcomes contributions on the progress in fundamental and applied research and cutting-edge clinical laboratory medicine. It is one of the leading journals in the field, with a 2017 impact factor of 3.556. CCLM is issued monthly, and it is published in print and electronically. (www.degruyter.com/cclm)





2017 – EFLM award

Research activity of a young employee of the institute - **RNDr. Miroslava Rabajdová PhD.**, was awarded by the European Society for Laboratory Medicine - EFLM Bursary for Young Students - 22rd IFCC-EFLM (2017) as the only one from Slovakia among young scientists from all over Europe. The award was presented during an introductory lecture at the EFLM European Congress, which took place in Athens in May 2017.



Our Bursaries

It is always gratifying to find out the important work some young people have already accomplished at such an early age. And what would be more fruitful than offering them bursaries in order to have the opportunity to show their work and come in contact with experts in the field, in order to help them plan an even brighter future.



10 European Young Scientists were awarded with an EFLM bursary covering travel and accommodation
The registration was kindly offered by the Congress Organizing Committee



Gizem Calibasi
(TR)



Jelena Culej
(HR)



Wendy Den Elzen
(NL)



Isabel Fort
(SP)



Zoltan Horvath-Szalai
(HU)



Miroslava Rabajdova
(SK)



Benoît Rucheton
(FR)



Marie-Louise Schleck
(BE)



Elisabetta Sotgiu
(IT)



Sandra Vladimirov
(RS)

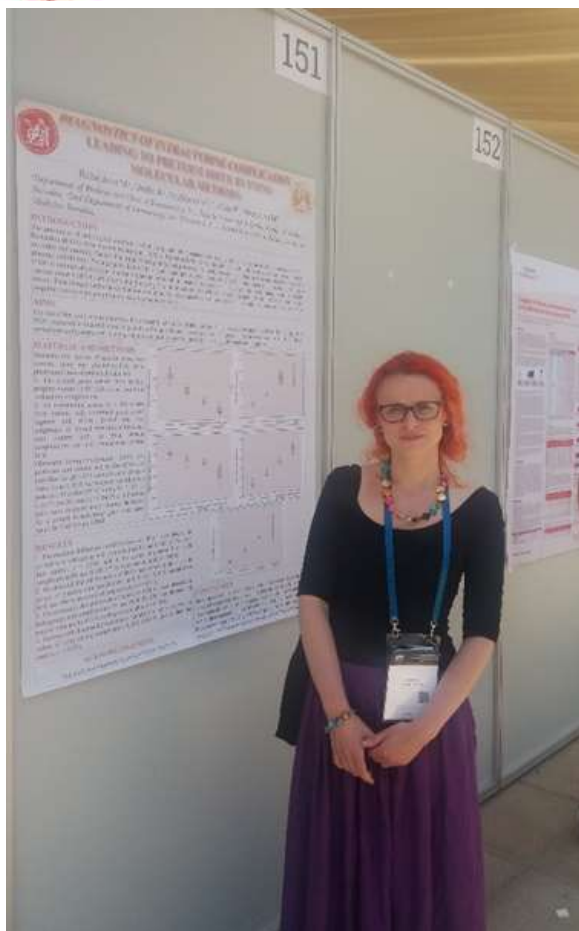


6 Young Scientists were awarded with a GSCC-CB bursary
Covering registration and accommodation



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EFLM

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY
AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

This is to certify that EFLM awarded to

Dr. MIROSLAVA RABAJDOVA

*a bursary supporting the attendance at the
22nd IFCC-EFLM European Congress of Clinical Chemistry
and Laboratory Medicine "EuroMedLab Athens 2017"
Athens (GR), 11-15 June 2017*


Prof. Sverre Sandberg
EFLM President




Miroslava RABAJDOVA, Slovak Republic

As prize winner of the

EFLM Bursary for Young Students

you get a 1-year free subscription to *Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine* (CCLM). You will have access to the full contents of all articles of CCLM from 15 June 2017-30 June 2018.

Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (CCLM) publishes articles on novel teaching and training methods applicable to laboratory medicine. CCLM welcomes contributions on the progress in fundamental and applied research and cutting-edge clinical laboratory medicine. It is one of the leading journals in the field, with a 2015 impact factor of 3.017. CCLM is issued monthly, and it is published in print and electronically. (www.degruyter.com/cclm)

 Follow @cclm_degruyter on Twitter!



2016 – Competition of young oncologists of Slovakia

RNDr. Miroslava Rabajdová PhD., won 1st place in the category of researcher under 35 years of age.

