Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The Scientific Program of the EuroMedLab Athens 2017 congress (plenaries and symposia) has now been completed and the preliminary program of the congress has been published. We would like to present here the summary of plenary lectures and debates.

The Opening Plenary Lecture of EuroMedLab Athens 2017, will be given on Sunday, June 11, 2017 by Dr. David Epstein (USA) and is entitled ‘The original Olympic spirit: The evolution of athletes and the tiny margins between good and great’. Dr. Epstein, the acclaimed author of the highly successful bestselling book “The Sports Gene”, will analyze genetic characteristics of top athletes and identify attributes which make them great vs good in some sports. These attributes include eyesight, muscle mass, reflexes, body structure etc. He will make the point that the differences between good and great athletes are very small. He will also touch upon the menace of Olympic competition, performance enhancing techniques.

The second Plenary Lecture, which will be given on Monday, June 12, 2017 by Dr. George Pavlakis (Greece-USA) is entitled ‘New vaccines and immunotherapies for AIDS and cancer’. We are all aware of the tremendous advances made in AIDS research, which transformed an invariably highly lethal disease into a chronic disease. There is still work ahead in finding an effective preventative vaccine and even more effective immunotherapies and other therapies for AIDS, which can eradicate the infection.

The third Plenary Lecture will be given on Tuesday, June 13, 2017 by Dr. Françoise Baylis (Canada) and is entitled ‘Human gene editing: The dawn, the zenith, and the dusk’. The discovery of the CRISPR-Cas gene editing system and associated technologies, promises to revolutionize everything, from improving animals, plants, and, most importantly, for treating human genetic diseases. But there are also dangers associated with this technology. It now seems possible that the human genome can be edited for purposes that are currently deemed to be unethical, such as improving intellectual performance or appearance. These highly controversial issues will be analyzed by Dr. Baylis.

The forth Plenary Lecture will be given on Wednesday, June 14, 2017 by Dr. George Chrousos (Greece) and is entitled ‘The dawn, the zenith, and the dusk’. The discovery of the CRISPR-Cas gene editing system and associated technologies, promises to revolutionize everything, from improving animals, plants, and, most importantly, for treating human genetic diseases. But there are also dangers associated with this technology. It now seems possible that the human genome can be edited for purposes that are currently deemed to be unethical, such as improving intellectual performance or appearance. These highly controversial issues will be analyzed by Dr. Baylis.

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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 that the editor (EuroMedLab Athens 2017 Organizing Secretariat, Milan, Italy) is mentioned.

Editor: Dr. Katherina Psarra
GSCC-CB, Athens, Greece

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www.athens2017.org
Next Meeting

4th EFLM-BD European Conference on Preanalytical Phase
March 24-25, 2017
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

VISIT THE EUROMEDLAB BOOTH!!!

SAVE THE DATE!
April 30, 2017
Deadline for reduced registration fees

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Dr. Alexander Haliassos

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News from the Scientific Program Committee

‘The influence of stress in human disease risk’. It is widely known that stress can promote many diseases from cardiac diseases to cancer and neurodegeneration. Dr. Chrousos proclaims that an optimally responsive system against stress helps individuals with their well-being, successful performance of tasks and appropriate social interactions. On the contrary, excessive stress can cause significant morbidity and compromise the quality of life of individuals.

On Tuesday, June 13, 2017, the second debate will be on the ethics of gene editing and will include Dr. Nicholas Katsanis (Greece - USA) and Dr. Francoise Baylis (Canada). The ethical background of editing plants, animals and humans will be discussed in detail. The two speakers will draft a path of moving forward, without compromising the safety of our society.

On Wednesday, June 14, 2017, the third debate will explore the topic of ‘direct to consumer testing’ with Dr. Rodger Seccombe (Canada) and Dr. Daniel Holmes (Canada). While Dr. Seccombe advocates that some direct to consumer testing may be beneficial to the society at large, Dr. Holmes will argue that current state-of-the-art technologies for direct to consumer testing may produce results that are unreliable and may lead to overdiagnosis and overtreatment of certain diseases.

On Thursday, June 15, 2017, the fourth and final debate will deal with ‘antidoping testing’ with Dr. David Epstein (USA), our opening speaker, and Dr. Geoffrey S. Baird (USA). By current rules, doping of any sort is illegal, and is severely punished by the World Antidoping Agency. However, it is also well-known that many top athletes still receive performance enhancing drugs, and this doping passes undetected with current techniques. Dr. Epstein suggests that authorities should intensify antidoping testing, while Dr. Baird advocates that the free access to performance enhancing drugs by all athletes may be another way of solving this problem.

We are looking forward to welcoming you in EuroMedLab Athens 2017.

On behalf of the Scientific Program Committee

Eleftherios Diamandis
Chair of the EuroMedLab Athens 2017 SPCommittee
News from the
Abstracts Evaluation Committee (AEC)

As in any other EuroMedlab Congress, a vital part in EuroMedlab Athens 2017 will be the opportunity for every Laboratory Specialist to present novel research ideas and applications through vivid discussions in the poster area or after an oral communication in one of the EuroMedlab symposia.

The call for abstracts in 30 topics—practically, in every field of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine—culminated in almost a thousand submissions (precisely, 995) till the deadline set by the Scientific Committee (Nov.1st, earlier than any other time!). Presenting authors had also the option to choose whether their abstract could be a candidate of an oral presentation in a corresponding (or at least, relevant) session of the Scientific program.

The task to review and evaluate these submissions fell upon the members of the Abstracts Evaluation Committee (AEC). Members of the International Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB) of the EuroMedlab Athens 2017 Congress were asked to propose 2-5 reviewers per country. One-hundred sixteen proposals of experts from 24 EFLM National Societies came out. The AEC selection was based both on merit (publication record, both overall and specific according to the topic in need) and on an effort to include as many EFLM National Societies as possible; 55 reviewers were selected from 18 countries (except for the host country National Society, all others had a maximum number of five reviewers).

Two reviewers were assigned per topic and they were grading each abstract on a scale 0-5 (5 for the excellent abstract on a novel idea). The burden of abstracts' reviewing was different per reviewer due to the fact that some topics were more popular than others: Analytical technologies and applications topped with 104 abstracts, Biomarkers in cancer followed closely with 98 abstracts and then a cluster of topics such as Laboratory Management/Accreditation, Microbiology/Infectious diseases, Endocrinology and Cardiovascular diseases/Cardiac markers with 62, 58, 57 and 56 abstracts respectively. On average, each reviewer had to review 36 abstracts (range 6-104).

The quality of the abstracts was judged to be very satisfactory by AEC members (the average grade from all 1990 reviews was 3.41). One hundred thirty-six abstracts with a total score 8-10 among those with a positive reply for an oral communication were sent to the Symposia chairs for their final pick of those speakers that will fill the frame of their respective Symposia. Forty six abstracts were rejected due to their total low grade (≤2), thus reaching a 4.6% rejection rate for our EuroMedlab Congress. Another 52 presenting authors were asked for revisions (clarifications on missing points, rephrasing, clerical or syntax errors) before the final acceptance of their work.

The selected posters are going to be displayed at the Congress, arranged by topics on Monday, 12th June, Tuesday, 13th June and Wednesday, 14th June. In order to encourage discussions about posters, the poster Presenter must be at the assigned poster panel from 13:00 to 14:30. Poster walking tours will also be organized from 13:30 to 14:30.

Christos Kroupis, MSc, PhD, EurSpLM
Asst. Prof. of Clinical Biochemistry and Molecular Diagnostics,
Attikon University General Hospital
University of Athens Medical School, GREECE
AEC chair and Member of the Scientific and Organizing Committees of Athens 2017 EuroMedlab
The EuroMedlab Athens 2017 Congress Scientific Program Committee would like to thank all the AEC members for their careful review process:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Breimer Lars</td>
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<td>Moutsatsou Paraskevi</td>
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### SUMMER BALKAN MEETING 2023

**Day: Wednesday, June 14**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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| 09:00-10:30 | **PLENARY** - The Influence of Stress in Human Seizing Risk  
George P. Chrousos |
| 10:30-12:30 | **SYMPOSIUM** - Performance Specifications in Laboratory Medicine  
Part I  
Rodger Sessa & Dan Holmes |
| 12:30-13:30 | **DEBATE** - OBST & CONSUMER TESTING  
Rodger Sessa & Dan Holmes |
| 13:30-14:30 | **POSTER SESSION**  
EduW: 13:30-15:30 BIAOD  
EduW: 13:30-15:30 RANDOX  
EduW: 13:30-15:30 SIEMENS  
EduW: 13:30-15:30 MENARINI  
EduW: 13:30-16:45 MEET THE EXPERT  
EduW: 13:30-16:45 MINDRAY  
EduW: 13:30-16:45 BECTON DICKSON  
EduW: 13:30-16:45 SIEMENS  
EduW: 13:30-16:45 THERMOFISHER  
| 14:45-16:00 | **POSTER SESSION**  
EduW: 14:45-16:00 TBA  
EduW: 14:45-16:00 TBA  
EduW: 14:45-16:00 DIASORB  
EduW: 14:45-16:00 TBA  
| 16:00-20:00 | **SOCIAL EVENT FOR DELEGATES**  
SPECIAL TICKET REQUIRED  
| 20:00-22:30 | **CLOSING CEREMONY** |
| 22:30-00:00 | **OPENING CEREMONY** |

**Day: Thursday, June 15**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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| 10:00-12:15 | **PLENARY** - Whole Genome Sequencing in Health and Disease  
Nicholas Karouzas |
| 10:30-12:15 | **SYMPOSIUM** - NEW VACCINES AND IMMUNOTHERAPIES FOR AIDS AND CANCER  
George Pavlakis |
| 10:30-12:30 | **SYMPOSIUM** - WHOLE GENOME SEQUENCING IN HEALTH AND DISEASE  
George Pavlakis |
| 10:30-12:30 | **SYMPOSIUM** - CHALLENGES IN KIDNEY DISEASES  
Wendy Knepper |
| 10:30-12:30 | **SYMPOSIUM** - ADVANCES IN THE INTERFACE BETWEEN KIDNEY DISEASES AND Cardiometabolism  
Rouven Schmitt-S鸱ck |
| 10:30-12:30 | **SYMPOSIUM** - FUTURE OUTLOOK  
Marc Rauhaus |
| 12:30-14:30 | **DEBATE** - ANTI-DOPING TESTING  
David Epstein & Geoffrey J. Baird |
| 14:45-16:00 | **POSTER SESSION**  
EduW: 14:45-16:00 TBA  
EduW: 14:45-16:00 TBA  
EduW: 14:45-16:00 DIASORB  
EduW: 14:45-16:00 TBA  
| 16:00-19:00 | **MEET THE EXPERTS**  
EduW: 16:00-17:00 TBA  
EduW: 16:00-18:00 TBA  
EduW: 16:00-19:00 DIASORB  
EduW: 16:00-19:00 TBA  
| 19:00-21:00 | **SOCIAL EVENT FOR DELEGATES**  
SPECIAL TICKET REQUIRED  
| 21:00-22:30 | **CLOSING CEREMONY** |

**Day: Friday, June 16**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</table>
| 09:30-13:30 | **SYMPOSIUM** - Meet the Expert  
Feng Zhang  
I.Papassotiriou  
Wim Huisman  
Laura Esserman  
Feng Zhang  
I.Papassotiriou  
Wim Huisman  
Laura Esserman |
| 13:30-15:30 | **SYMPOSIUM** - Meeting the Expert  
Feng Zhang  
I.Papassotiriou  
Wim Huisman  
Laura Esserman  
Feng Zhang  
I.Papassotiriou  
Wim Huisman  
Laura Esserman |
| 17:00-21:00 | **SOCIAL EVENT FOR DELEGATES**  
SPECIAL TICKET REQUIRED  
| 21:00-22:30 | **CLOSING CEREMONY** |
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 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 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 shuttle bus service, courtesy of Mindray, from airport to Megaron Athens International Conference Center and Downtown Athens hotels, will be offered to all registered delegates and accompanying persons at their arrival at the Athens International Airport.

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.
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
Demeter, the goddess of agriculture and harvest was grieving her virgin daughter's Persephone abduction from Hades and the seasons halted, living things ceased their growth and began to die. That was how ancient Greeks understood winter and waited for Persephone's return from the Hades in order life and spring to come back on earth. 

Winter can be hard in Greece. There is snow and rain and low temperatures but sunshine always is just nearby, and then everything shines again under sun's light and warmth. Greeks love visiting the winter destinations, well preserved villages on the mountain slopes near the ski resorts, the beautiful rivers, the canyons. They love mountain hiking (or walking) on the mountains, kayaking in the rivers, sitting by the fireplace in the village houses listening to old stories. 

What about the famous islands during the winter? Deserted beaches, the wind blows, high waves come to the shore. People walk in the wind looking for seashells, some of them swim, some of them play, it is so invigorating! In the small towns very few people are left, they live in peace, they relax, they take their time. So different from the summer! But the summery weather is there too, during the winter. And here is one more ancient Greek myth. Aristotle named alkyonides the summery days of January, when the star Alcyone lies in the middle of the sky, at its zenith, during
the evening hours of the day. This star is visible during the cloudless nights of January and the ancient Greeks named these beautiful days after its name. It is a meteorological phenomenon concerning Greece and a lot of myths, involving the sea bird Alkyon, who used to be Aeolus' (the god of winds) daughter. Zeus stopped the winds to allow the bird to lay its eggs safely. So more summery days for the Greeks in the middle of the winter.

Winter is there. But spring is not too far. Never too far for Greece!
The on-line systems for registration and abstract submission is available at [www.athens2017.org](http://www.athens2017.org)

## REGISTRATION FEES
All delegates must register to the congress, in order to have access to the lecture rooms.

### BEFORE APRIL 30, 2017

<table>
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<th>Registration Type</th>
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<td>Full Registration</td>
<td>€680 (€548 + 24% VAT)</td>
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<td>Young Registration (≤35 years)</td>
<td>€340 (€274 + 24% VAT)</td>
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<td>€310 (€250 + 24% VAT)</td>
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### AFTER APRIL 30, 2017

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<td>Young Registration (≤35 years)</td>
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<td>Day Registration except Thursday</td>
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### ON-SITE REGISTRATIONS

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<tr>
<td>Full Registration</td>
<td>€925 (€745,96 + 24% VAT)</td>
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<td>Young Registration (≤35 years)</td>
<td>€495 (€399,19 + 24% VAT)</td>
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<td>Day Registration except Thursday</td>
<td>€430 (€346,77 + 24% VAT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Thursday Registration</td>
<td>€300 (€242 + 24% VAT)</td>
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The full registration and young registration fees include:

1. Entrance to plenary lectures, symposia, industry-sponsored workshops, posters sessions and exhibition
2. Possibility to submit abstracts
3. Certificate of attendance
4. Shuttle busses from airport to Athens and vice-versa
5. Coffee and tea service during morning intermissions
6. Opening Ceremony and Welcome Party (Sunday, June 11th, 2017)
7. Closing Ceremony (Thursday, June 15th, 2017)

The day registration fee includes, for the day of registration only:

1. Entrance to plenary lectures, symposia, industry-sponsored workshops, posters sessions and exhibition
2. Certificate of attendance
3. Coffee and tea service during morning intermissions
Social event Ticket

**Wednesday, June 14th 2017**

Delegates **€45** (€36,29 + 24% VAT) Accompanying persons **€85** (€68,55 + 24% VAT)

Remittance

Registration fees shall be paid by credit card or bank transfer through the on-line system available on the congress web site.

When paying by bank transfer, a copy of the transfer receipt must be sent at registrations@athens2017.org. Registrations without proof of payment will not be accepted.

On-site registrations may be paid only by credit card or cash. Cheques will not be accepted.

The organising secretariat will send registration receipt upon receipt of payment, via e-mail. Be sure your e-mail address is filled in correctly.

Currency

Registration fees and charges for all events related to the EuroMedLab Athens 2017 Congress as well as hotel cost must be paid in euros.

Cancellation and refund

Cancellations must be sent in writing to registrations@athens2017.org. The amount equal to 80% of the fee paid will be refunded for cancellations received by April 30th 2017. Until May 31st 2017 a refund of 50% of the fee will be granted. After May 31st 2017 no refunds will be issued. All refunds will be paid in euros after the congress.

**On-line registration is available on the congress website [www.athens2017.org](http://www.athens2017.org)**

**Registration can be submitted on-line only.**

### SATELLITE MEETING REGISTRATION FEES

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<th>Registration Type</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full Registration</td>
<td><strong>€200</strong> (€161 + 24% VAT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Registration (≤35 years)</td>
<td><strong>€60</strong> (€48 + 24% VAT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EuroMedLab Registrant Full Registration</td>
<td><strong>€140</strong> (€113 + 24% VAT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EuroMedLab Registrant Young Registration (≤35 years)</td>
<td><strong>€40</strong> (€32+ 24% VAT)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SATELLITE MEETING ORGANIZING SECRETARIAT & HOTEL RESERVATION**

ERA Ltd, Official Partner of EuroMedLab Athens 2017 offers customized services for your hotel reservations and related services.

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The Congress Organizing Committee and the Scientific Program Committee together with the Organizing Secretariat wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2017!!