



HCC – an avoidable fate: To Liver Cancer Prevention by Viral Hepatitis Elimination (and beyond) through Universal Health Coverage with additional reference to COVID-19

Scientific meeting with political goal

Zagreb, 09.06.2020. Hotel Dubrovnik, Mažuranić Hall

FACULTY AND PANELISTS

WELCOME:

TATJANA REIĆ



Back in the year 2000, Tatjana Reić has founded “Hepatos”, the first hepatitis and liver patients’ association in Croatia. Today “Hepatos” is a leading civil society organization that has played a crucial role in ensuring that viral hepatitis is recognized and put on the policy agenda as a social problem. In 2005 it became a member of ELPA where Tatjana took an active role in the Board of Directors, before serving as Vice-President (2007-2011) and being elected the President (2011-2019).

Tatjana is a doctor of veterinary medicine and holds an MSc from the University of Zagreb, Croatia. A member of the Board of Advisors for the VHPB, member of Hepatitis TAG for Georgia’s Government Hepatitis C Elimination Program and several other expert organizations in the field of liver diseases. In period from 2010-2017 she was awarded, by the Croatian Ministry of Health, the position of WHO Focal point for Hepatitis.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS ADDRESSES

ANTOINETTE KAIĆ-RAK



Professor, Faculty of Medicine, University of Zagreb, a specialist in social medicine with organization of health care, born in 1959 in Virovitica, graduated from the Medical School, University of Zagreb in 1982, MSc 1990, PhD 1996, University of Zagreb. Title of the dissertation" The Role of diet and other life styles in the development of intestinal metaplasia-precancerous lesion of gastric cancer. "

Worked at the Croatian Institute for Public Health, UNICEF and the World Health Organization. Published over 120 scientific articles. Awarded the Homeland Gratitude Testimonial. Regular member of the Croatian Medical Academy since 1999. Head, WHO Country Office in Croatia since 2001.

MASOUD DARA



Dr Masoud Dara is a physician and public health expert from Belgium. In addition to his medical degree, he has accomplished several postgraduate studies at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Harvard School of Public Health.

Dr. Dara has been working with multiple national and international organizations implementing TB and TB/HIV prevention and care programmes, public health interventions and emergency response. He has worked as the Médecins Sans Frontières programme manager and medical coordinator in Central Asia and the Head of Belgian Red Cross in Kosovo from 1998 to 2001.

Since October 2016, Dr Dara has been coordinating WHO Regional Office for Europe communicable diseases and leading the Joint Tuberculosis, HIV and viral hepatitis programme.

ŽELJKO PLAZONIĆ



Dr Željko Plazonić is State Secretary of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Croatia. He holds an MD degree with a specialty in internal medicine and subspecialty in cardiology from the University of Rijeka and has completed postgraduate studies in clinical pathophysiology. Prior to assuming his duty at the Ministry of Health, Dr Plazonić was Coordinator of endovascular medicine at the Clinical hospital Rijeka, Head of Department of Invasive and Interventional Cardiology (Clinic for Internal Medicine), Head of Department of Cardiology Laboratory (Internal Clinic Sušak), Head of Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Cardiology, and Head of Cardiology Department III. As one of the pioneers of heart surgery innovation in Croatia, Dr Plazonić performed many surgery intervention cardiology within his field of expertise,

and published numerous scientific and professional papers, articles and summaries in internationally indexed periodicals.

INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

STJEPKO PLEŠTINA



Prof. dr. sc. Stjepko Pleština is an internal medicine specialist, focusing on internal medical oncology. Head of the Oncology Clinic, Head of the Department of Digestive Tumors, full professor at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Zagreb. His professional and scientific interests are tumors of the digestive system, breast tumors, pathophysiology of tumor growth, and application of innovative drugs in oncology and management of health systems.

STEPHAN GIJSSELS



Stefan Gijssels is Chief Executive Officer and Member of the Board of Digestive Cancers Europe, the umbrella organisation of all digestive cancer patient associations in Europe. In this capacity, he is also member of the European Commission's Innovative Partnership for Action Against Cancer (iPAAC), and of the European Reference Network of Rare Cancers (EURACAN). He is one of the founders and Board Member of the Patient Expert Center in Belgium. He is Co-Chair of the Patient Advisory Committee of the European CanCer Organisation (ECCO), and a member of its Executive Committee. He is Co-Chair of the Scientific Committee of Sharing Progress in Cancer Care.

Stefan is a metastatic colon cancer survivor.

Since 2016, he also works as an independent health policy advisor, publicist, facilitator and moderator, working for public health authorities, patient organisations and industry. He has a a master's degree in Literature and Philosophy from Leuven

University, Belgium.

PART I From Elimination to Prevention- why is it important especially in COVID 19 era

ADRIANA VINCE



Full Professor, employed at the School of Medicine, University of Zagreb and the University Hospital for Infectious Diseases "Dr. Fran Mihaljevic " in Zagreb (head of Department for Gastrointestinal Infections / Division of Viral Hepatitis.

Principal researcher in numerous scientific research projects, mentor to residents and doctoral students, has published more than 100 scientific and professional papers indexed in the Current Contents and web of science databases, with more than 3300 citations.

Head of the Croatian National Reference Center for Diagnosis and Treatment of Viral Hepatitis of the Ministry of Health. Member of the Ministry of Health National Committee for specialist training of medical doctors. President of the working group for developing Croatian Action plan for prevention and control of viral hepatitis..

Secretary general of the Croatian Medical Association.

Member of international societies UEMS-ID, EASL, ESCMID. Served as a secretary of UEMS ID section 2008-2015. WHO advisor for Viral hepatitis Guidelines in Montenegro.

Areas of scientific interest: viral hepatitis, treatment and clinical research of infectious diseases, molecular diagnostics of infectious diseases, infections in the immunocompromised hosts, human papillomaviruses, etc.

MODERATED PANEL DISCUSSION: National hepatitis strategy / plans: Where we got “stuck” in this corner of Europe?

Moderator:



HOMIE RAZAVI

Homie A. Razavi is the founder and managing director at the Center for Disease Analysis Foundation. Since 2008, Homie has led a team of epidemiologists and modellers to quantify the epidemiology of hepatitis, forecast the future disease burden and help countries develop national strategies. His team has been responsible for the development of a number of mathematical models currently used by countries to develop intervention strategies for hepatitis B & C. In addition, his team has developed the Polaris Observatory, which collects and reports HCV, HBV, and HDV epidemiology, and disease burden and treatment rates for all countries. He has a broad background, which includes basic research, commercial development, portfolio management, and decision analysis. He has a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from the University of Colorado and an MBA from Washington University.

Panellists:



ANTONS MOZALEVSKIS

Dr. Antons Mozalevskis is a Medical Officer at the WHO Regional Office for Europe in Copenhagen, Denmark. He is responsible for all viral hepatitis-related activities at the Regional Office and technical support to the Member States in the Region. He completed his medical training and residency in Family Medicine at Riga Stradins University, Latvia. He worked as a clinician for seven years and was involved in a number of civil society, professional organisations and regional expert networks active in the field of HIV/viral hepatitis prevention and research. In 2012–2014, he completed the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET) and received a Master Degree in Applied Epidemiology from the National School of Public Health in Madrid, Spain.

Croatia- Professor Adriana Vince, MD, PhD Infectious disease specialist; Head of Croatian National Reference Centre for Diagnostics and Treatment of Viral Hepatitis of the Ministry of Health; Professor of Infectious Diseases, University of Zagreb, Croatia School of Medicine; University Hospital of Infectious Diseases, Head of Department for Viral Hepatitis

Slovenia - Professor Mojca Maticič MD, PhD Infectious disease specialist; Head, Dpt for Viral Hepatitis, Clinic for Infectious Diseases and Febrile Illnesses, University Medical Centre Ljubljana, Full Professor, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia



Mojca Maticic is Head of the Viral Hepatitis Unit and Head of the STI Outpatient Service at the Clinic for Infectious Diseases and Febrile Illnesses, University Medical Centre in Ljubljana, Slovenia. She is also a Full Professor of Infectious Diseases and Epidemiology at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana. Professor Maticic's research interests focus on viral infections, primarily viral hepatitis and STIs.

A member of numerous professional societies including EASL (European association for the Study of the Liver), where she is a member of the Policy and Public Health Committee (PPHC), ESCMID (European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases) where she was co-chairing the Study Group for Viral Hepatitis (ESGVH), and INHSU (International Network for management of Hepatitis in Substance Users), she is an advisor for the VHPB, and served as an advisor for the World Health Organization HIV/Viral Hepatitis/STI Committee. Professor Maticic is also a member of the HIV/AIDS Committee of the Slovene Ministry of Health and a co-author of the National strategy for the management of HCV infection in Slovenia (in 1997). She leads the Slovene National Viral

Hepatitis Expert Board and co-authored the national clinical practice guidelines for the treatment of HCV and HBV. She was one of the founders of the National Healthcare Network for the management of HCV in PWID in Slovenia (in 2007). She has authored or co-authored more than 450 articles in national and international peer-reviewed journals.

Bulgaria - Associated Professor Marieta Simonova, MD, PhD Gastroenterologist, Head of Section, Clinic of Gastroenterology Department of Gastroenterology, HPB Surgery and Transplantology, Military Medical Academy



Marieta Simonova is Associate Professor of Gastroenterology and Head of the Hepatology Section at the Clinic of Gastroenterology, Department of Gastroenterology, HPB surgery and Transplantology at the Military Medical Academy, Sofia, Bulgaria. Her scientific interests are in the field of viral hepatitis, HCC and liver transplantation. Since 2012 she is Honorary Research Fellow at the Foundation for Liver Research, King's College London, UK. Assoc. Prof. Simonova is a former member of Eastern European Focus Group (2013-2018) and Public Health CAG (2015 -2018) at the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL). She was Head of Working group for treatment of viral hepatitis in substance users at the

Bulgarian Association for the Study of the Liver (BgASL), which created first National consensus for diagnosis, antiviral treatment and management of chronic hepatitis in substance users. Assoc. Prof Simonova currently is Lancet Commissioner at EASL - Lancet Commission.

Serbia – Associated Professor Ksenija Bojović, MD, Infectious disease specialist; University of Belgrade, Chair of infectious diseases Clinic for Infectious and Tropical Diseases, University Clinical Centre of Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia



Associate Professor Bojović experienced physician, ID specialist and gastroenterologist/hepatologist with a remarkable background of 25 years of work various clinical settings. She works in Clinic for Infectious and Tropical Diseases at the University Clinical Centre of Serbia in Belgrade. Areas of special interest include acute and chronic viral/ non-viral liver diseases, viral and bacterial respiratory infections, bloodstream infections, nosocomial infections and vaccines. Her academic career is very fruitful, she is an Associate Professor at School of Medicine and a successful researcher who has published several high-quality articles in prestigious peer-reviewed journals. Very experienced in clinical trials as a Study Subinvestigator

Invited Panel Participants: Representatives from South and South-East European countries and Visegrad Group

Albania: Arjan Harxhi, Jovan Basho, Silvia Bino

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Azra Husić-Selimović, Antonija Verhaz, Zdenko Simonović

Bulgaria: Marieta Simonova, Yuliya Georgieva

Czech Republic: Vratislav Rehak

Croatia: Adriana Vince, Tihana Đuran, Diana Nonković, Tatjana Reić



Dr. Tihana Đuran, M.D. Spec. graduated from the School of Medicine, University of Zagreb. She is a specialist of obstetrics and gynecology and worked as a medical practitioner in general medicine, emergency medicine, specialist in hospital wards and as a chief specialist in outpatient obstetrics and gynecology clinic for more than ten years. The last eight years she works in the Division for drugs and medicinal products of the Croatian Health Insurance Fund, with many responsibilities in the area of medical expertise for the expenditure of the special groups of reimbursed drugs. She is a member of the Commission for Hepatitis C that approves specific treatment for each patient, previously approved by the hospital's commission for medicines.

Dr. Đuran is a member of the Croatian Medical Chamber and several sections of the Croatian Medical Association.

Cyprus: Elisabeth Konstantinou, Elena Xenofontos, Yiannoula Koulla

Kosovo*: Lindita Ajazaj, Xhevat Jakupi, Elvira Surdulli

Monte Negro: Aleksandra Marjanović, Brankica Dupanović, Marija Nikolić

North Macedonia: Victoria Chalovska, Milan Mishkovikj

Romania: Corina Pop, Marinela Debu

Serbia: Ksenija Bojović, Zorana Maravić

Slovakia: Helena Glasova, Jozef Glasa, Ivana Šabova

Slovenia: Mojca Matičić, PAG representative

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

PART I From Elimination to Prevention- why is it important especially in COVID 19 era (cont.)

IRENA HRSTIĆ



Irena Hrستیć is Director of General Hospital Pula with education in hepatology and gastroenterology

She teaches in School of Medicine Zagreb, Rijeka and Pula.

Holds an PhD (Mutation of hepatitis C in hipervariable region 1 and quasispecies in patient with chronic hepatitis C” since 2008.

She has participated in several clinical investigations in field of gastroenterology and hepatology

Publications:

CC publications = 23, IM & EM publications = 21; Abstracts - CC = 25; Abstracts – others = 45; Chapters in books = 12; Manuals = 3

MASSIMO COLOMBO



Professor Massimo Colombo is Director of the Center for Translational Research in Liver Disease at Humanitas Research Hospital, Rozzano Italy. In the past 15 years he has been Chairman of the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology and Chairman of the Department of Medicine and Liver, Kidney, Lung, Bone Marrow and Organ Transplantation at IRCCS Maggiore Hospital in Milan, Italy. He has also been a Professor of Medicine and Gastroenterology at the University of Milan for more than 25 years.

Professor Colombo's research interests include the diagnosis and treatment of viral hepatitis and liver cancer. A member of many professional societies including EASL, AASLD and several Italian societies, he is the recipient of numerous awards including the 2010 European Association Study Liver (EASL) Recognition Award for outstanding medical and scientific contributions, the Italian Association for the Study of the Liver (AISF) Distinguished Service Award, the Thannhauser Medal Award of the German Society of Gastroenterology and the Nelson Fausto Award of the International Liver Cancer Association (ILCA). Professor Colombo was Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Hepatology from 2005–2009 and currently sits of the editorial boards of many hepatology journals, is Special Section Editor of Journal of Hepatology (2015-2019), Strategic Advisor of Editor of Liver

International(2015-2019) and contributor of Selected Summary for Gastroenterology(2010-2021).He was Associate Editor of Journal of Hepatology in 1996-2000 and chaired the writing committees of EASL Clinical Practice Guidelines of Benign Liver Tumors in 2014 and of Occupational Liver Diseases in 2017. In September 2016 he was appointed Chairman of EASL International Liver Foundation (Geneva, Switzerland). He has authored 490 original manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals, with an H-index of 91(Google Scholar) and more than 27,000 citations.

GREET HENDRICKX



After I my studies as Biomedical Engeneer In Leuven, Belgium in 1986, I followed a postgraduate course certificate in the Biotechnology Biomedical sciences at the University of Louvain. Since 1989 I worked for more than 18 years in research and development and later as product manager in a starting-up Biotech company INNOGENETICS in Gent, specialised in diagnostics for Infectious diseases, including Hepatitis assays and assays to detect genetic disorders. From 2007 I'm working as a senior project coordinator at the University of Antwerp within [VAXINFECTIO](#) at the [Centre for the Evaluation of Vaccination](#). Since then I'm mainly supporting all activities of the Viral Hepatitis Prevention board (www.vhpb.org) and I'm also involved in several vaccine preventable disease projects within this Centre. Next to work, I'm also a mother, I play music and have an interest in photography.

LUIS MENDAO



Luís Mendão concluded his studies in biochemistry in 1983 at the University Pierre et Marie Curie, in Paris. Luís Mendão is currently the Chair of the Board of GAT – Treatment Activist Group, an NGO founded in 2001, focusing on prevention, early diagnosis, treatment and care of HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis while working with key populations.). He is a former co-chair of the Civil Society Forum on HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis and Tuberculosis at the European Commission and a former chair of the European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG). Luís Mendão also integrates to the Steering Committee of the HIVPORTUGAL initiative. In the last ten years, he has acted as community consultant of the Regional Office of the World Health Organization Europe (WHO Europe), EMCDDA and ECDC. Luís Mendão was diagnosed with HIV and HCV in 1996.

JEFFREY LAZARUS



Prof Lazarus is head of the health systems team at the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal), the Faculty of Medicine, University of Barcelona. Prior to that, his decade-long career as a health systems and communicable diseases expert at WHO's Regional Office for Europe was followed by three years at the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria He is Vice-Chairman of the board of the EASL International Liver Foundation, where he leads on the micro-elimination of hepatitis C, and Chair of the Lancet HIV Fourth 90 Commission. He is the author of more than 200 publications. In 2017, he was awarded The Economist Intelligence Unit Hepatitis C Changemaker award.

AMIRAN GEMKRELIDZE



Dr. Amiran Gamkrelidze has been currently working on a position of a Director General of the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health of Georgia since 2013. He is a professor of the School of Sciences and Public Health at the University of Georgia and a visiting professor (on Global Health) at the Tromsø University (Norway) / Department of Medicine since 2005; a visiting professor at the International Public Health School of the Tbilisi State Medical University since 2008; has been a scientific advisor at the Center of Allergology and Immunology since 2005 and a Chair of Allergy and Immunology Alliance since 1990.

Dr. Gamkrelidze's featured research experience accounts for more than 40 years; Since 1996 Prof. Gamkrelidze has been participating as a permanent member on a regular basis in WHO WHA, RCs, Regional retreats and various expert meetings; currently a member WHO SCRC / Euro; also known his expert activities in elaboration of the new European policy Health 2020; is a member of the Editorial Boards of Journals: World Allergy Organization Journal, Allergo Journal (Germany), Georgian Medical News, Georgian Respiratory Journal; Member of the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, German Association of Allergology and Clinical Immunology, Board of Georgian Association of Allergology and Clinical Immunology; member of working group of WHO Global Coordination Mechanism on the Prevention and Control of NCDs; an author and a co-author of 150 publications.

PART II NAFLD management as precondition to prevent HCC

IVICA GRGUREVIĆ



Graduated at University of Zagreb School of Medicine in 1997 (summa cum laude). PhD in medicine 2010. Residency in Internal medicine 2000-2004, Fellowship in gastroenterology 2006-2008, University Hospital Dubrava, Zagreb. Postgraduate education: Medical School Hannover, Germany 2006 (Hepatology); University of Bologna, Italy 2007 (Endoscopic ultrasound); Sheila Sherlock Liver Centre at Royal Free Hospital, University College London, 2014 (Hepatology).

Bord certified consultant in internal medicine (2004) and gastroenterology (2008). Head, Department of hepatology (2011-); Head, Department of gastroenterology, hepatology and clinical nutrition (2016-2020); Head, Department of internal medicine University hospital Dubrava, Zagreb (2017-).

Assistant Professor of Internal medicine at University of Zagreb School of medicine (2012-); Associated Professor at University of Zagreb Faculty of Pharmacy and

Biochemistry (2018-).

President, Section for ultrasound, Croatian society of gastroenterology (2013-2019); President-elect, Croatian society of gastroenterology; Vice-president, Croatian Society for the Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology. Member: European Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (EFSUMB), European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL). Fellow of the European board of gastroenterology and hepatology (FEBGH), Member of the Governing board, Central European hepatologic collaboration (CEHC).

He introduced several novel methods in the field of gastroenterology and hepatology in Croatia: Quantitative real-time ultrasound elastography, from 2011, Contrast-enhanced ultrasound in hepatology from 2014, Invasive measurement of portal pressure from 2015. Publications: 53 papers in international peer-reviewed journals, 85 congress abstracts, 10 chapters in University manuals. Editorial board member: World Journal of Hepatology, Clinical and Experimental Hepatology. Reviewer: Gastroenterology, Journal of Hepatology, Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology, European Journal of Ultrasound /Ultraschall in der Medizin etc. Partner in the Horizon 2020 project: Liverscreen Screening for liver fibrosis – population-based study across European countries.

LUCIJA VIROVIĆ JUKIĆ



Specialist of internal medicine and a gastroenterologist-hepatologist working in the Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at the Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital Center in Zagreb, and an Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine at the University Of Zagreb School Of Medicine. Dr. Virović Jukić is especially interested in viral hepatitis, toxic liver damage and nonalcoholic fatty liver disease.

Dr. Virović Jukić published 25 papers in indexed journals, with a number of congress abstracts, chapters in textbooks and other educational texts. Currently she holds the position of the Secretary of the Croatian Society of Gastroenterology. She is involved in initiatives regarding education, screening and prevention of liver diseases.

HELENA CORTEZ PINTO



Helena Cortez-Pinto (MD, PhD) is a specialist in Gastroenterology, dedicated predominantly to Hepatology. She is mostly interested in alcoholic and nonalcoholic fatty liver, nutrition, and public health. She is Full professor in Faculdade de Medicina de Lisboa, since 2017. Her activities include teaching pre and post-graduate students, director of a master's degree in clinical nutrition as well the coordination of several disciplines of the area Medicine and Gastroenterology, from the Integrated Mastership in Medicine and Nutrition Science. She is director of Clínica Universitária de Gastrenterologia, Faculdade de Medicina, Universidade de Lisboa, and Coordinator of the Hepatology Unit, of the Gastroenterology Department of Hospital de Santa Maria/Centro Hospitalar Lisboa Norte, Portugal. She is the Vice President of United European Gastroenterology, since October 2019. She was the Policy Councillor for EASL EU affairs from 2016-2019, and she was also President of the Portuguese Association for the Study of the Liver (APEF). She was associate editor of Liver International and is a member of the "Editorial Board" of Journal of

Hepatology. Published more than one hundred twenty scientific articles in indexed Journals including JAMA, Gastroenterology, Hepatology, Journal of Hepatology and Liver International.

ELISABETTA BUGIANESI



Prof. Bugianesi MD, PhD, is an international acknowledged expert on Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD) with over 15-years experience in the field where she has made a particular impact with work describing the metabolic mechanisms of insulin resistance related to the onset and progression of liver damage, the natural history of the disease (including the first demonstration of HCC as a complication of NASH), the development of non-invasive markers of fibrosis, including the NAFLD Fibrosis score (currently recommended by the EASL-EASD-EASO Clinical practice Guidelines on NAFLD) and the involvement in several trials for the treatment of NAFLD/NASH. She has been national PI of major EU funded research consortia: Fatty Liver: Inhibition of Progression (FLIP) (2010-2013), 'EPoS' Elucidating Pathways of Steatohepatitis (2015-2019) and 'LITMUS' Liver Investigation: Testing Marker Utility in Steatohepatitis (IMI2, 2017-2022). As clinician, she is a practicing Hepatologist based at the GI Division of the University

Hospital "Città della Salute e della Scienza of Torino", Italy, where she is the lead physician for the Hepatology Outpatient Clinic and the Head of the Gastro-hepatology Laboratory. Her contribution to science is testified by over 200 publications, an H Index = 59, N. Citations = 19856 (Scopus).

TAJANA FILIPEC KANIŽAJ



Tajana Filipec Kanizaj is Associate Professor at School of Medicine, University of Zagreb working in University hospital Merkur. She graduated at School of Medicine, University of Zagreb in 1997.

From 2005 until today she works as a specialist in internal medicine, subspecialist of gastroenterology at the University Hospital Merkur, Department of Gastroenterology. From 1st of July 2013 she is Head of the Department of Gastroenterology, University hospital Merkur.

Current scientific research is directed to research in liver transplantation and chronic liver diseases. She is scientific associate on a project financed by the Croatian Science Foundation related to the investigation on pathogenesis of HCV infection.

Tajana Filipec Kanizaj is author and co-author of many papers in the field of research of liver diseases, Helicobacter pylori infection and liver transplantation. She is organiser and lecturer of 4 undergraduate courses and 5 postgraduate courses at

School of Medicine, University of Zagreb, and mentor of 6 PhD students and more than 10 residents of gastroenterology.

From 2005 she is member of the liver transplant team University hospital Merkur. Tajana Filipec Kanizaj is member of the Croatian Medical Association, the Board of Directors at Croatian Society of Gastroenterology, Subcommittee for liver transplantation at the Ministry of Health and Croatian transplant association and regular member of EASL and ILTS. Since 2008 she is member of the Croatian consensus team for the treatment of viral hepatitis.

IVANA MIKOLAŠEVIĆ



Dr Ivana Mikolašević, PhD holds the position of an assistant professor of Internal Medicine at the University Hospital Rijeka and University School of Medicine Rijeka. Asst. prof. Mikolašević received her MD from the University of Rijeka, School of Medicine in 2007. and PhD in 2014.

Her main scientific interests are focused on transplantation and liver diseases. She was awarded four main scientific awards – L'oreal and UNESCO award for woman in science, 2015., "B. Nakić" award of Croatian Academy of Medical Sciences, 2014., Award of School of medicine, University of Rijeka for best young scientist in 2014. in category Award for Clinical Medical Sciences, Dentistry and Public Health and Award of the University of Rijeka 2015.