



**Mario Poljak, MD, PhD**  
**ESCMID President**  
**University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia**

Professor Mario Poljak, MD, PhD, specialist in clinical microbiology, is a current President of the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID), Europe's leading society in clinical microbiology and infectious diseases with 8,000+ members from all European countries and all continents.

He is Professor of Microbiology and Immunology and Head of Laboratory for Molecular Microbiology and Slovenian HIV/AIDS Reference Centre, Institute of Microbiology and Immunology at Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. Professor Poljak's laboratory offers 80 different molecular and serological assays and is also working on the development of new molecular diagnostic methods, improvement and evaluation of virological methods/assays.

The research of Prof. Poljak and his co-workers is focused on diagnostic aspects and genetic heterogeneity of human papillomaviruses (HPV), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), *H. pylori* and *M. tuberculosis*, etiopathogenesis of head and neck carcinomas, etiopathogenesis and natural history of HPV-related benign tumors and intrahospital and unusual transmission of blood-borne microorganisms.

He is author of more than 310 original research or review articles published in PubMed-cited journals including *Lancet*, *Lancet Inf Dis*, *Lancet Oncol*, *Nat Rev Clin Oncol*, *J Infect Dis*, *Clin Infect Dis*, *PLoS Med*, *J Natl Cancer Inst*, *J Clin Microbiol*, *J Clin Virol*, *Virology*, *J Gen Virol*, *J Virol*, *J Med Virol*, *Intensive Care Med*, *J Pathol*, *J Clin Pathol*, *Gastroenterology*, *Mod Pathol*, *Histopathology*, *J Viral Hepat*, *Antimicrob Agents Chemother*, *Retrovirology*, *Clin Microbiol Infect*, *Expert Rev Anti Infect Ther*, *Vaccine*, etc. His papers have been cited more than 7,500 times, his current Hirsch index is 42 and his current Hirsch i10 index is 181.

As invited speaker he gave more than 300 lectures at international and national scientific and professional meetings. He is Editor of *Acta Dermatovenerologica APA*, Associate Editor of *Journal of Clinical Virology* and Editorial Board member of *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, *AIDS Reviews*, and *Papillomavirus Research*. He serves as peer reviewer for more than 80 scientific journals.

He was supervisor of 25 PhD thesis in the field of clinical virology.

He is lifetime member of PASCV and he is regularly attending CVSs and Molecular Virology Workshops since 1994.

## Nomination Letter

Dear PASCV Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Dr. Mario Poljak, MD, PhD, for the 2018 PASCV Diagnostic Virology Award. Dr. Poljak is Professor of Microbiology and Immunology and Head of the Laboratory for Molecular Microbiology and Slovenian HIV/AIDS Reference Centre, Institute of Microbiology and Immunology at Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. His medical scientific career has been focused on viral diagnostic test development, including novel molecular diagnostic methods, and evaluation/improvement of existing methods/assays. In addition to his contributions to test development, Prof. Poljak has made important contributions to clinical virology through his research which includes determination of the clinical utility of viral diagnostic tests; elucidation of the role of viral genetic heterogeneity as a determinant of the pathogenesis of diseases caused by human immunodeficiency virus, hepatitis C virus, and hepatitis B virus; pathogenesis of HPV-related head and neck carcinomas; pathogenesis and natural history of HPV-related benign tumors; transmission of blood-borne microorganisms via nosocomial and other unusual routes.

Dr. Poljak's prolific and prestigious publication record is evidence of his contributions to clinical and diagnostic virology. He is the author of more than 280 original research or review articles published in PubMed-cited journals including Lancet, Lancet Inf Dis, Lancet Oncol, Nat Rev Clin Oncol, J Infect Dis, Clin Infect Dis, PLoS Med, J Natl Cancer Inst, J Clin Microbiol, J Clin Virol, Virology, J Gen Virol, J Virol, J Med Virol, J Pathol, J Clin Pathol, Mod Pathol, Histopathology, J Viral Hepat, Antimicrob Agents Chemother, Retrovirology, Clin Microbiol Infect, Vaccine, and Gastroenterology. His papers have been influential, having been cited more than 6,150 times (Hirsch index, 38; Hirsch i10 index, 158). His research legacy also includes significant mentorship, having trained 24 post-doctoral fellows.

Dr. Poljak is recognized internationally as a leader in the field of diagnostic and clinical virology. The most important indicator of his international renown is that he was elected President of the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID), Europe's leading society in clinical microbiology and infectious diseases with 8,000+ members from all European countries and all continents. He now serves as Past-President. He has also given more than 280 lectures at international and national meetings as an invited speaker. He is Editor of Acta Dermatovenerologica APA, Associate Editor of Journal of Clinical Virology and Editorial Board member of Journal of Clinical Microbiology, AIDS Reviews and Papillomavirus Research. He serves as peer reviewer for more than 80 scientific journals.

Finally, Dr. Poljak has demonstrated significant commitment to PASCV. He is a lifetime member of the society and he has attended CVS and Molecular Virology Workshops since 1994.

In summary, for his career of internationally recognized achievement in diagnostic and clinical virology investigation, for his international leadership, and for his dedication and friendship throughout the years to PASCV as an engaged and historical participant in its affiliated meetings, Dr. Poljak is meritorious of the 2018 PASCV Diagnostic Virology Award.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Valsamakis, M.D., Ph.D.