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-born microorganisms.


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-born microorganisms via nosocomial and other unusual routes.


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.