EuPA OPEN PROTEOMICS 11 (2016) 39–40

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The Serbian Proteomics Association (SePA)

The Serbian Proteomics Association (SePA, Fig. 1; https://www.facebook.com/SerbianProteomicsAssociation/?ref=hl) is a non-governmental and non-profit association founded in Belgrade on May 29th, 2015, with the aim to improve proteomics as a scientific field in Serbia. SePA intends to support the exchange of the scientific information, development and implementation of proteomics technologies in Serbia and will organize educational activities in order to promote proteomics as an interdisciplinary scientific field through cooperation with related national organizations, as well as international proteomics associations.

Figure 1. SePA logo

The Serbian Proteomics Association (SePA) was constituted at *"The first symposium for mass spectrometry of proteins and proteomics - The application of proteomics in biochemistry, immunology and medicine"* (http://www.chem.bg.ac.rs/chmb/vesti-en.html) in the Center of Excellence for Molecular Food Science, Faculty of Chemistry, University of Belgrade (Fig. 2). With two international and six national speakers the symposium was successful, attracting approximately 100 participants from universities, institutes and pharmaceutical companies across Serbia.

- *Microbial proteomics: From antibiotic resistance to microbiome* [Paola Roncada, Universita degli Study di Milano, Italy]
- *Proteomic characterization of respiratory and food allergens: novel and hidden allergens* [Tanja Ćirković Veličković, Faculty of Chemistry, Belgrade]
- *Application of proteomics in cancer research* [Tatjana Simić, Faculty of Medicine, Belgrade]
- *MALDI MS imaging: Molecular imaging of biological samples using MALDI TOF MS* [Dušan Veličković, Faculty of Chemistry, Belgrade]
- *MALDI TOF MS in the lipid analytics: possibilities and limitations* [Marijana Petković, Institute Vinca, Belgrade]
- *Identification of glycan-bearing allergens of red meat by proteomics* [Danijela Apostolović: Faculty of Chemistry, Belgrade]
- *Proteomic in analysis of painting binders. Example of Orthodox icons from 19th century* [Tatjana Trpković, Institute for Protection of Cultural Monuments, Belgrade]
- The founding meeting of the Serbian Proteomics Association (SePA)
- *Presentation of EuPA: European Proteomic Association* [Andrea Urbani, Università degli Studi di Roma Tor Vergata, Rome, Italy]

Fig. 2. Programme of the SePA founding meeting.

The symposium was preceeded by a workshop "School of Proteomics - theoretical and practical basis" that was held from 25th to 29th of May, at the same location with approximately 130 registrations from Serbian universities and institutes. With only a small number of researchers currently engaged in proteomics' research in Serbia and only few proteomics facilities existing in the country, this relatively high number of participants reflects the need of and commitment by Serbian researchers to be engaged in proteomics studies. Given the great interest for the School of Proteomics in 2015, SePA plans a similar summer course this year, which will be expanded in time (two weeks) as well as content (1st week: basic course and 2nd week: advanced course on quantitative proteomics and higher bioinformatics).

In order to exchange knowledge and improve scientific collaborations with European researchers, SePA joined the European Proteomics Association (EuPA) as full member in June of 2015. It is currently in a process of joining HUPO as associated member.

SePA strongly supports education of young scientists in the field of proteomics by supporting their research training but also by initiating their involvement in all activities of the Association.

SePA currently has 75 members and believes that its number of associates will increase in the future. With the aim to promote proteomics as an interdisciplinary scientific field, SePA gathers researchers from different scientific fields such as biochemistry, biology, molecular biology, chemistry, chemical technology and medicine from several universities across Serbia. This is reflected in the composition of the board members of the Association (Table 1).

• Prof. Dr. Tanja Ćirković Veličković, President (Faculty of Chemistry, University of Belgrade)
• Prof. Dr. Tatjana Simić, Vice-president (Faculty of Medicine, University of Belgrade)
• Dr. Svetlana Dinić, treasurer (Institute for Biological Research, University of Belgrade)
• Dr. Marko Radulović (National Cancer Research Institute, Belgrade)
• Prof. Dr Marija Plješa Ercegovac (Faculty of Medicine, University of Belgrade)
• Prof. Dr Marija Gavrović Jankulović (Faculty of Chemistry, University of Belgrade)
• Dr. Dušan Veličković (Faculty of Chemistry, University of Belgrade)

http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.euprot.2016.03.013

• Dr. Marijana Petković (Vinča Institute, University of Belgrade)
• Dr Ivana Borišev (Faculty of Science, University of Novi Sad)
• Dr Nevena Đukić (Faculty of Science and Mathematics, University of Kragujevac).

Table 1. Composition of the SePA Board

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