

NATIONAL CENTER OF INFECTIOUS AND PARASITIC DISEASES BULGARIAN ASSOCIATION OF MICROBIOLOGISTS



Основан 1881

Министерство на здравеопазването

Национален център
по заразни и паразитни болести

София, БЪЛГАРИЯ



9 NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ON HIV AND COINFECTIONS

40 YEARS SINCE THE FIRST CASE OF HIV
IN BULGARIA
AND THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FIRST TEST FOR HIV

November 28th and 29th, 2025 Expo Hotel Sofia

С ПОДКРЕПАТА НА:



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9TH NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ON HIV AND COINFECTIONS

November 28th and 29th, 2025 Expo Hotel Sofia

Program

Day 1 Friday 28 November 2025

12:00 Welcome Coffee

13:00 Opening Words

Session 1

Co-Chairs Maria Nikolova and Ivailo Alexiev

13:15 The first cases of HIV/AIDS in Bulgaria - fear, stigma, ignorance...

Radka Argirova

Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda Hospital, Sofia

13:30 HIV Infection in 2025: The Immunological Point of View

R. Emilova¹, Y. Todorova¹, D. Vangelov¹, R. Dimitrova², I. Aleksiev², **M. Nikolova¹**

¹National Reference Laboratory for Immunology, NCIPD; ²National Reference Confirmatory Laboratory of HIV, NCIPD

13:45 Cerebral Toxoplasmosis in a Patient with Advanced AIDS

P. Parusheva^{1,2}, N. Dimitrov¹, B. Bureva^{1,2}, L. Manchev³, L. Pekova^{1,2}

¹Clinic of Infectious Diseases, University Hospital "Prof. Dr. St. Kirkovich" AD; ²Dep. of Hygiene, Epidemiology, Microbiology, Parasitology, Infectious Diseases, Faculty of Med., Thrakia University; ³Clinic of Imaging, University Hosp. Prof. Dr. "St. Kirkovich" AD

14:00 Center for Monitoring and Therapy of People Living with HIV, Plovdiv – Characteristics, Problems and Development

M. Stoycheva, I. Baltadjiev, P. Vasilev

Department of infectious diseases, parasitology and tropical medicine, MU-Plovdiv, Clinic of infectious diseases and parasitology, UH "St George" Plovdiv

14:15 The HIV Viral Reservoir: What a Physician Should Know

Ivailo Alexiev¹ and Maria Nikolova²

¹National Reference Confirmatory Laboratory of HIV, NCIPD; ²National Reference Laboratory of Immunology, NCIPD

**14:30 Satellite Symposium, Phoenix – GSK „Effectiveness of Dovato (DTG/3TC)“
Tsetsa Doychinova; „Data and Effectiveness of Dovato (DTG/3TC) –
Overview of Dovato Data“ Pavlina Parusheva**

15:30 Coffee Break

16:00 Satellite Symposium ELTA 90

Session 2

Co-Chairs P. Parusheva and Ts. Doichinova

16:45 Case of Vit B12 Deficiency Megaloblastic Anemia in an HIV-Positive Patient with an Aortic Aneurysm

D. Strashimirov, D. Ivanov, R. Grozdeva, D. Chengolova, S. Mircheva, E. Penchev, N. Yancheva

Department of Acquired Immune Deficiency, "Prof. Ivan Kirov" Specialized Hospital for Infectious and Parasitic Diseases, Sofia.

- 17:00 Residual Immune Activation and Inflammation Under Well-Controlled HIV-1 Infection**
R. Grozdeva^{1,2}, D. Ivanov^{1,2}, D. Strashimirov^{1,2}, E. Penchev^{1,2}, S. Mihailova³, M. Nikolova⁴, Y. Todorova⁴, I. Alexiev⁵, L. Grigorova⁵, E. Naseva⁶, N. Yancheva-Petrova^{1,2}
¹Department of Infectious Diseases, Parasitology and Tropical Medicine, Medical University Sofia, Sofia, Bulgaria; ²Department of HIV/AIDS, Specialized Hospital for Active Treatment of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases "Prof. Ivan Kirov", Sofia, Bulgaria; ³Central Laboratory of Clinical Immunology, University Hospital Alexandrovska, Sofia, Bulgaria; ⁴National Reference Laboratory of Immunology, NCIPD; ⁵National Reference Confirmatory Laboratory of HIV, NCIPD; ⁶Department of Health Economics, Faculty of Public Health "Prof. Tsekomir Vodenicharov, MD, DSc", Medical University of Sofia, Sofia, Bulgaria
- 17:15 Cytokine Profiles of Peripheral Mononuclear Cells from HIV+ Individuals with Different Responses to Antiretroviral Therapy**
Radoslava Emilova¹, Yana Todorova¹, Damian Vangelov¹, Ivailo Alexiev², Reneta Dimitrova², Lyubomira Grigorova², Nina Yancheva³, Maria Nikolova³
¹National Reference Laboratory of Immunology, NCIPD, Sofia; ²National Reference Confirmatory Laboratory of HIV, NCIPD, Sofia; ³Department of Infectious Diseases, Parasitology and Tropical Medicine, MU-Sofia SBALIPB "Prof. Ivan Kirov" EAD, Sofia
- 17:30 Current Status and Trends in the Prevalence of Syphilis, Gonorrhoea, and Urogenital Chlamydial Infection**
I. Philipova¹, V. Milanova¹, E. Birindjieva², D. Vangelov³, R. Dimitrova⁴, A. Partsuneva⁴, V. Levterova⁵
¹NRL STIs, NCIPD; ²CheckPoint Sofia, Center for Sexual Health; ³NRL for Immunology, NCIPD; ⁴National Reference and Confirmation Laboratory for HIV, NCIPD; ⁵NRL for Molecular Microbiology, NCIPD
- 17:45 People Living with HIV-1 Infection Associated with Injection Drug Use**
Reneta Dimitrova¹, Aleksandra Partsuneva¹, Asya Kostadinova¹, Anna Gancheva¹, Radoslava Emilova², Yana Todorova², Damian Vangelov², Maria Nikolova², Ivailo Alexiev¹
¹National Reference Confirmatory Laboratory of HIV, NCIPD, Sofia; ²National Reference Laboratory of Immunology, NCIPD, Sofia
- 18:00 Discussion**

18:15 Working dinner

Day 2 Saturday 29 November 2025

Special Session 3 Meet the expert

Co-Chairs Ivailo Alexiev and Simona Paraschiv

- 09:00 What's new in WHO HIV guidelines?**
Viatcheslav Grankov
 WHO EURO
- 09:15 Crossing Borders, Confronting HIV: Health Equity for Migrants and Refugees**
Viatcheslav Grankov
 WHO EURO
- 09:30 40 years of community-based HIV testing in Slovenia: achievements and challenges**
Mario Poljak
 Institute of Microbiology and Immunology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
- 09:45 Community-based HIV testing for men who have sex with men in Slovenia: results of testing from 2009 to 2025**
Katja Seme¹, Jana Mlakar¹, Dino Šarec¹, Maja M. Lunar¹, Sebastjan Sitar², Mitja Čosić², Mario Poljak¹
¹Institute of Microbiology and Immunology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia; ²Društvo kulturno informacijsko in svetovalno središče Legebitra, Ljubljana, Slovenia
- 10:00 Satellite Symposium, MSD "The Need for Gender-Neutral Vaccination Against Certain HPV-Related Cancers and Other Diseases" Nina Yancheva**
- 10:45 Coffee Break**
- 11:15 Satellite Symposium, Diahem „Genius: Redefining HIV Confirmation – A Game-Changer“ Katarzyna Malesa**

Special Session 4 Meet the expert

Chair Mario Poljak and Katja Seme

11:45 **Transmission clusters, resistance to antiretroviral drugs and molecular epidemiology of HIV in Croatia: recent trends**

Snježana Židovec Lepej, Ana Planinić

University Hospital for Infectious Diseases „Dr. Fran Mihaljević“, Zagreb, Croatia

12:00 **Current epidemiological drivers of HIV-1 epidemics in Romania: a molecular phylogenetic analysis**

Simona Paraschiv^{1,2}, Leontina Banica^{1,2}, Robert Hohan¹, Ionelia Nicolae¹, Raluca Patrascu^{1,2} and Dan Otelea¹

¹National Institute of Infectious Diseases “Matei Bals”, Bucharest, Romania; ²Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy “Carol Davila”, Bucharest, Romania

12:15 **A review of 2025 updated list of mutations associated with resistance to antiretroviral drugs: implications for real-world clinical practice**

Snježana Židovec Lepej

University Hospital for Infectious Diseases „Dr. Fran Mihaljević“, Zagreb, Croatia

12:30 **Lunch**

13:30 **Satellite Symposium, Bulmar ML**

Special Session 5 Meet the expert

Chair Nina Yancheva-Petrova and Petar Vasilev

14:00 **Tracing the Growing Trend of HIV-1 subtype A Epidemic in Serbia: a Phylodynamic Perspective**

Marina Siljic¹, Valentina Cirkovic², Luka Jovanovic³, Marija Suka¹, Dubravka Salemovic⁵, Ivana Gmizic⁵, Ivana Pesic Pavlovic⁴, Jovan Ranin,⁵ and Maja Stanojevic¹

¹Faculty of Medicine, Institute of Microbiology and Immunology, Department of Virology, University of Belgrade, Dr Subotica Street, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia; ²Group for Medical Entomology, Centre of Excellence for Food and Vector Borne Zoonoses, Institute for Medical Research, University of Belgrade, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia; ³Institute for Oncology and Radiology of Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia; ⁴Virology Laboratory, Microbiology Department, Clinical Center Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia; ⁵Clinic for Infectious and Tropical Diseases, University Clinical Center of Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia

14:15 **Transmission Characteristics and Subtype Diversity of HIV-1 Epidemic in Montenegro: Phylogenetic Evidence of Increasing Subtype A Epidemic**

S. Dragas¹, M. Siljic², V. Cirkovic³, L. Jovanovic⁴, M. Suka², M. Nikolic¹, B. Dupanovic¹, M. Stanojevic²

¹Clinic for Infectious diseases, Clinical Centre, Podgorica, Montenegro; ²University of Belgrade, Faculty of Medicine, Institute of Microbiology and Immunology, Belgrade, Serbia; ³Group of Medical Entomology, Centre of Excellence for Food and Vector Borne Zoonoses, Institute for Medical Research, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia; ⁴Institute for Oncology and Radiology, Belgrade, Serbia

14:30 **Discussion**

Session 6

Co-Chairs R. Grozdeva and R. Emilova

14:45 **Gut microbiota and persistent immune activation in people living with HIV**

Nina Stoyanova Yancheva-Petrova

Department of Infectious Diseases, Parasitology and Tropical Medicine, MU-Sofia
SBALIPB "Prof. Ivan Kirov" EAD, Sofia

15:00 **Dynamics of Newly Diagnosed and Restarted HIV Patients in The Plovdiv Region: Molecular-Epidemiological Characteristics and Therapeutic Response (2018–2024)**

Petar Vasilev^{1,2}, Ivan Baltadzhiev^{1,2}, Antonina Dineva¹, Petya Gardzheva^{3,4}, Ivailo Alexiev⁵, Mariyana Stoycheva⁶

¹Clinic for Infectious Diseases and Parasitology, University Hospital "St. George" – Plovdiv; ²Department of Infectious Diseases, Parasitology and Tropical Medicine, Medical Faculty, Medical University –Plovdiv; ³Laboratory of Microbiology, University Hospital "St George" – Plovdiv; ⁴Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology „Prof. Dr. Elissay Yanev“, Faculty of Pharmacy, Medical University Plovdiv; ⁵National Reference Laboratory of HIV, National Center of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases, Sofia, Bulgaria; ⁶Department of Science and Research, Medical University Plovdiv

15:15	Life Expectancy in People with HIV Infection – Clinical Cases from the Specialized Center for HIV/AIDS Treatment in Plovdiv Petya Argirova ¹ , Ivan Baltadzhiev ^{1,2} , Mariyana Stoycheva ¹ ¹ Department of Infectious Diseases, Parasitology and Tropical Medicine, Medical University of Plovdiv; ² Clinic of Infectious Diseases, University Hospital "St. George" Plovdiv
15:30	Analysis of Circulating Genetic Variants of Monkeypox Virus in Bulgaria – Initial Data St. Krumova ¹ , Iv. Trifonova ² , D. Ivanov ^{3,4} , R. Stefanova ¹ , L. Veleva ¹ , N. Yancheva ^{3,4} , I. Christova ^{1,2} ¹ NRL "Measles, Mumps, Rubella", Department of Virology, NCIPD; ² NRL Influenza and ARI, Department of Virology, National Center for Infectious and Parasitic Diseases – Sofia; ³ Department for AIDS, SHATIPD Prof. Ivan Kirov, Sofia; ⁴ Department of Infectious Diseases, Parasitology and Tropical Medicine, Medical University – Sofia
15:45	Coffee Break
	Session 7 Co-Chairs E. Pentchev and D. Vangelov
16:15	Follow-up of Phenotypic and Metabolic Characteristics of CD4 and CD8 lymphocytes of HIV+ “Elite Controller” D. Vangelov ¹ , R. Emilova ¹ , Y. Todorova ¹ , S. Blazheva ² , I. Alexiev ³ , I. Ognyanova ⁴ , E. Smirnova ⁴ , M. Nikolova ¹ , T. Doichinova ⁴ ¹ National Reference Laboratory of Immunology, NCIPD, Sofia; ² Clinical Immunology Laboratory, University Hospital „prof. G. Stranski“, Pleven; ³ National Reference Confirmatory Laboratory of HIV, NCIPD, Sofia; ⁴ Infectious Disease Clinic, University Hospital „prof. G. Stranski“, Pleven
16:30	Prevalence and Characteristics of Sexually Transmitted Infections in People Living with HIV in Bulgaria: A Preliminary Study D. Ivanov ^{1,2} , K. Ivanova ³ , D. Strashimirov ^{1,2} , E. Pentchev ¹ , A. Timchev ¹ , R. Grozdeva ^{1,2} , N. Yancheva-Petrova ^{1,2} ¹ Department of Acquired Immunodeficiency, SBALIPB “Prof. Ivan Kirov”; ² Department of Infectious Diseases, Parasitology and Tropical Medicine, MU-Sofia; ³ Virology Laboratory, SBALIPB “Prof. Ivan Kirov”
16:45	Options and Approaches in Drug Resistance to Integrase Inhibitors, Illustrated by a Clinical Case of a 2-Year-Old Child Living with HIV E. Pentchev ¹ , D. Strashimirov ^{1,2} , D. Ivanov ^{1,2} , A. Timchev ¹ , S. Mircheva ¹ , D. Chengolova ¹ , I. Aleksiev ³ , A. Partsuneva ³ , M. Nikolova ⁴ , I. Pakov ⁵ , T. Doichinova ⁵ , N. Yancheva ^{1,2} ¹ Department of Acquired Immune Deficiency, SHATIPD, “prof. Ivan Kirov”, Sofia; ² Department of Infectious Diseases, Parasitology and Tropical Medicine, Medical University – Sofia; ³ National Reference Confirmatory Laboratory of HIV, NCIPD; ⁴ National Reference Laboratory of Immunology, NCIPD, Sofia, Bulgaria; ⁵ Infectious Diseases Clinic at UMHAT "Dr. G. Stranski" – Pleven
17:00	The Epidemiological Pattern of Hepatitis D Virus Antibody-Positive HIV-Positive Patients: Preliminary Study E. Golkocheva-Markova ¹ , D. Ivanov ^{2,3} , D. Strashimirov ^{2,3} , Ch. Ismailova ¹ , V. Yoncheva ¹ , T. Tenev ¹ , N. Yancheva-Petrova ^{2,3} ¹ NRL of Hepatitis viruses, National Center of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases, Department of Virology, Sofia; ² Department for acquired immune deficiency, Specialized Hospital for Treatment of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases „Prof. Ivan Kirov“, Sofia; ³ Department for Infectious Diseases, Parasitology and Tropical Medicine, Medical University of Sofia
17:15	Assessment of the Distribution of Hepatitis C in HIV Seropositive Patients Due to Their Transmission Groups (2018 – 2025) V. Iontcheva ¹ , Ch. Ismailova ¹ , T. Tenev ¹ , E. Markova ¹ , R. Dimitrova ² , I. Aleksiev ² ¹ NRL “Hepatitis viruses”, NCIPD, Sofia; ² National Reference Confirmatory Laboratory of HIV, NCIPD
17:30	Animal Adapted Species of M. Tuberculosis Complex and Their Distribution in Bulgaria S. Yordanova ¹ , Y. Atanasova ¹ , A. Baykova ¹ , E. Bachiyska ¹ , S. Yordanov ¹ , M. Evtimov ² ¹ National Center of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases, Department of Microbiology, National Reference Laboratory of tuberculosis; ² University hospital “St.Georgi”, Plovdiv
17:45	Discussion and closing remarks
18:00	Working dinner