

**NATIONAL CENTER OF INFECTIOUS AND PARASITIC DISEASES  
BULGARIAN ASSOCIATION OF MICROBIOLOGISTS**



МИНИСТЕРСТВО НА  
ЗДРАВЕОПАЗВАНЕТО  
НАЦИОНАЛЕН ЦЕНТЪР  
ПО ЗАРАЗНИ И  
ПАРАЗИТНИ БОЛЕСТИ

София, България



# **7<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ON HIV AND COINFECTIONS**

**40 YEARS SINCE THE DISCOVERY OF HIV**  
December 1 and 2, 2023 Expo Hotel Sofia

С ПОДКРЕПАТА НА:





# 7-TH NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ON HIV AND COINFECTIONS

40 YEARS SINCE THE DISCOVERY OF HIV  
December 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 Expo Hotel Sofia

## Program

### Day 1 Friday 01 December 2023

**12:00 Welcome Coffee**

**13:00 Opening Words**

**Iva Christova**

Director of the National Center of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases, Bulgaria

#### **Session 1**

Co-Chairs Iva Christova and Mariyana Stoycheva-Vartigova

**13:15 Monitoring of HIV Infection in Bulgaria: Achievements and Challenges in 2023**

Radoslava Emilova<sup>1</sup>, Yana Todorova<sup>1</sup>, Damian Vangelov<sup>1</sup>, Milena Aleksova<sup>1</sup>, Diana Hristova<sup>1</sup>, Ivaylo Alexiev<sup>2</sup>, Nina Yancheva<sup>3</sup>, Mariana Murdjeva<sup>4</sup>, Trifon Chervenkov<sup>5</sup>, Svetla Blazheva<sup>6</sup>, Krasimira Nancheva<sup>7</sup>, Angelina Yaneva<sup>8</sup>,

**Maria Nikolova<sup>1</sup>**

1. National Reference Laboratory of Immunology, NCIPD, Sofia. 2. National Reference Confirmatory Laboratory of HIV, NCIPD, Sofia. 3. Specialized Hospital for Active Treatment of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases, Sofia. 4. Department Microbiology and Immunology, Medical University, Plovdiv. 5. University Hospital St. Marina, Varna. 6. University Hospital Prof. G. Stranski, Pleven. 7. University Hospital Prof. S. Kirkovich, St Zagora. 8. Directorate "PPHCPR", Ministry of Health.

**13:30 What are the New Challenges in the Fight Against HIV in Bulgaria in 2023? Analysis of Policies and Practices 40 Years After the Discovery of HIV**

**Tonka Varleva**

Scientific Research Institute, Medical University – Pleven, Bulgaria

**13:45 Further Progress in Developing Preventive Vaccine Against HIV**

**Radka Argirova**

Department of Clinical Laboratory, Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda Hospital, Sofia, Bulgaria

**14:00 Advances in HIV Diagnostics and Virological Monitoring in Bulgaria**

**Ivailo Alexiev<sup>1</sup>**, Reneta Dimitrova<sup>1</sup>, Lyubomira Grigorova<sup>1</sup>, Aleksandra Partsuneva<sup>1</sup>, Asya Kostadinova<sup>1</sup>, Nina Stoyanova Yancheva-Petrova<sup>2</sup>, Maria Nikolova<sup>3</sup>

1. National Reference Confirmatory Laboratory of HIV, NCIPD, Sofia, Bulgaria; 2. Department for acquired immunodeficiency, SHATIPD "Prof. Ivan Kirov", Sofia, Bulgaria; 3. National Reference Laboratory of Immunology, NCIPD, Sofia, Bulgaria

**14:15 Discussion**

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**14:30 Satellite Symposium, Phoenix – GSK** “What can we do more for PLHIV?”  
Dovato – data from clinical trials and the real world; Our experience with Dovato – patient case from Pleven HIV center. **Tsetsa Doychinova**  
Healthy living with HIV – beyond viral suppression. **Minas Kosmidis**

**15:30 Coffee Break**

**16:00 Satellite Symposium ELTA 90**  
Innovations and Automation in Determining HIV Viral Load from Clinical Serum Samples. **Silvi Isaeva**

**Session 2**

Co-Chairs Maria Nikolova and Tonka Varleva

**16:45 Cases of HPV-associated Oropharyngeal Carcinomas in Patients with Controlled HIV Infection on Long-Term Antiretroviral Therapy**  
**Nina Yancheva-Petrova**<sup>1</sup>, Rusina Grozdeva<sup>1</sup>, Daniel Ivanov<sup>1</sup>, Ivailo Aleksiev<sup>2</sup>, Maria Nikolova<sup>3</sup>, Dimitar Strashimirov<sup>1</sup>  
1. Department for Acquired Immunodeficiency, SHATIPD "Prof. Ivan Kirov", Sofia, Bulgaria; Department of Infectious Diseases, Parasitology and Tropical Medicine – Medical University of Sofia; 2. National Reference Confirmatory Laboratory of HIV, Sofia, Bulgaria, NCIPD; 3. National Reference Laboratory of Immunology, NCIPD, Sofia, Bulgaria

**17:00 Modulating and Stimulating the Immune System Therapy in People with HIV/AIDS - Advantages and Possibilities. Report**  
**Liliya Pekova**  
Department of Hygiene, Epidemiology, Parasitology, Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, MF, TrU, Stara Zagora, Clinic for Infectious Diseases with HIV/AIDS activities, UMBAL "Prof. Stoyan Kirkovich"-AD, Stara Zagora, Bulgaria

**17:15 Protracted Pulmonary COVID-19 Infection in the Background of Late-Diagnosed Acquired Immunodeficiency (Clinical Case)**  
**Tsetsa Doychinova**<sup>1</sup>, Nikolai Bulgaranov<sup>2</sup>, Gena Stoykova<sup>2</sup>, Ivaylo Pakov<sup>1</sup>, Isabella Ognyanova<sup>1</sup>  
1. Infectious Diseases Clinic, "Dr. G. Stranski" UMHAT, Pleven, Bulgaria; 2. Clinic of Pediatrics, "Dr. G. Stranski" UMHAT, Pleven, Bulgaria

**17:30 DTG-Based Regimens. Case Report of HIV Positive HAART-Naïve Patient with Kaposi Sarcoma.**  
**Minas Kozmidis**, Ivelina Todorova, Diana Radkova,  
HIV/AIDS Sector, Infectious Diseases Clinic, University Hospital „St. Marina-Varna“, Bulgaria

**17:45 Distinguishing Recent and Long-Term HIV Infection**  
**Reneta Dimitrova**<sup>1</sup>, Aleksandra Partsuneva<sup>1</sup>, Asya Kostadinova<sup>1</sup>, Lyubomira Grigorova<sup>1</sup>, Radoslava Emilova<sup>2</sup>, Yana Todorova<sup>2</sup>, Damian Vangelov<sup>2</sup>, Maria Nikolova<sup>2</sup> and Ivailo Alexiev<sup>1</sup>  
1. National Reference Confirmatory Laboratory of HIV, NCIPD; 2. National Reference Laboratory of Immunology, NCIPD

**18:00 Discussion**

**18:15 Working dinner**

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## Day 2 Saturday 02 December 2023

### Session 3

Co-Chairs Liliya Pekova and Minas Kozmidis

#### 9:30 Cryptococcosis in HIV-infected Patients

**Petya Argirova**<sup>1</sup>, Ivan Baltadziev<sup>1,2</sup>, Yordan Kalchev<sup>3,4,5</sup>, Mariyana Stoycheva-Vartigova<sup>5</sup>

1. Department of Infectious Diseases, Parasitology and Tropical Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Medical University – Plovdiv, Bulgaria; 2. Clinic for Infectious Diseases, University Hospital St. George, Plovdiv, Bulgaria; 3. Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology "Prof. Dr. Elisey Yanev", Faculty of Pharmacy, Medical University – Plovdiv, Bulgaria; 4. Laboratory of Microbiology, University Hospital St. George, Plovdiv; 5. Research Institute, Medical University – Plovdiv, Bulgaria

#### 9:45 Molecular Virological Analysis of HIV-1 Phylogenetic Transmission Clusters in Bulgaria

**Lyubomira Grigorova**, Aleksandra Partsuneva, Reneta Dimitrova, Asya Kostadinova and Ivailo Alexiev

National Center for Infectious and Parasitic Diseases, National Reference Confirmatory Laboratory for HIV, Sofia, Bulgaria

#### 10:00 Analysis of the Phylogenetic Relationships and Resistance Mutations in HIV-1 Subtype A1 in Bulgaria

**Aleksandra Partsuneva**, Reneta Dimitrova, Asya Kostadinova, Lyubomira Grigorova and Ivailo Alexiev

National Reference Confirmatory Laboratory of HIV, NCIPD, Sofia, Bulgaria

#### 10:15 Satellite Symposium, MSD

Gardasil® 9 is Now in Bulgaria: The Broadest Protection against HPV-related Diseases. **Iliya Karagyozev**

#### 11:00 Coffee Break

#### 11:30 Satellite Symposium AA Medical

Droplet Digital PCR - Clinical Applications for Detection of Viruses and Pathogens. **Milka Georgieva**

### Special Session 4 Meet the expert

Chair Ivailo Alexiev

#### 11:45 HIV Transmission Clusters Analysis to Inform Prevention and Surveillance

**Maja Stanojevic**

University of Belgrade Faculty of Medicine, Belgrade, Serbia

#### 12:00 Prevalence and Dynamics of Non-B Subtypes in HIV Epidemics in Serbia

**Marina Šiljić**

University of Belgrade, Faculty of Medicine, Institute of Microbiology and Immunology, Belgrade, Serbia

<b>12:15</b>	<b>Reconstructing the Evolutionary History of HIV-1 Subtype F1: a Molecular Epidemiological Approach</b> <b>Simona Paraschiv</b> , Leontina Banica, Ionelia Nicolae, Marius Surleac, Robert Hohan, Mihaela Fratila and Dan Otelea Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory, National Institute for Infectious Diseases “Matei Bals”, Bucharest, Romania
<b>12:30</b>	<b>HIV-1 Pretreatment Drug Resistance in the PrEP Era in Slovenia</b> <b>Maja M. Lunar</b> <sup>1</sup> , Janez Tomažič <sup>2</sup> , Tomaž D. Vovko <sup>2</sup> , Blaž Pečavar <sup>2</sup> , Gabriele Turel <sup>2</sup> and Mario Poljak <sup>1</sup> 1. Institute of Microbiology and Immunology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia; 2. Department of Infectious Diseases, University Medical Center Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia
<b>12:45</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<b>13:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>14:00</b>	<b>Satellite Symposium, Bulmar ML</b>
<b>14:25</b>	<b>Satellite Symposium, Sinmed Bulgaria</b> NeuMoDx - Next Generation Molecular Diagnostics from QIAGEN <b>Mariana Ivanova</b> , "Sinmed Bulgaria"
	<b>Session 5</b> Co-Chairs Tsetsa Doychinova and Nina Yancheva-Petrova
<b>14:45</b>	<b>Sexually Transmitted Infections in Bulgaria, 2022-2023</b> <b>Ivva Philipova</b> National Reference Laboratory “Mycoses and STIs”, NCIPD, Sofia, Bulgaria
<b>15:00</b>	<b>Prevalence of Syphilis in Patients with HIV in Bulgaria (Preliminary Analysis)</b> <b>Asya Kostadinova</b> <sup>1</sup> , Reneta Dimitrova <sup>1</sup> , Aleksandra Partsuneva <sup>1</sup> , Lyubomira Grigorova <sup>1</sup> , Iva Filipova <sup>2</sup> and Ivailo Alexiev <sup>1</sup> 1. National Reference Confirmatory Laboratory of HIV, NCIPD, Sofia, Bulgaria; 2. National Reference Laboratory “Mycoses and STIs”, NCIPD, Sofia, Bulgaria
<b>15:15</b>	<b>Elispot Method for Identification of Toxoplasma Gondii Specific T-Cells in People Living with HIV</b> <b>Yana Todorova</b> <sup>1</sup> , Mihaela Videnova <sup>2</sup> , Iskren Kaftandjiev <sup>2</sup> , Maria Nikolova <sup>1</sup> , Radoslava Emilova, Nina Yancheva <sup>3</sup> , Eleonora Kaneva <sup>2</sup> , Nina Tsvetkova <sup>2</sup> , Raina Borisova <sup>2</sup> , Iskra Rainova <sup>2</sup> 1. National Reference Laboratory of Immunology, NCIPD, Sofia, Bulgaria; 2. National Reference Laboratory for Diagnosis of Parasitic Diseases, NCIPD, Sofia, Bulgaria; 3. Specialized Hospital for Active Treatment of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases “Prof. Ivan Kirov”, Sofia, Bulgaria
<b>15:30</b>	<b>Detecting Drug Resistance Nontuberculous Mycobacteria</b> <b>Yuliana Atanasova</b> , Stanislava Yordanova, Ana Baikova, Elizabeta Bachiiska National Reference Laboratory of Tuberculosis (NRL TB), NCIPD, Sofia, Bulgaria
<b>15:45</b>	<b>Post-transcriptional IRP2 Regulation on Iron Transport in T - lymphocytes in the Settings of HIV Infection - a Pilot Study</b> <b>Radoslava Emilova</b> <sup>1</sup> , Damian Vangelov <sup>1</sup> , Yana Todorova <sup>1</sup> , Reneta Dimitrova <sup>2</sup> , Lyubomira Grigorova <sup>2</sup> , Milena Aleksova <sup>1</sup> , Ivailo Alexiev <sup>2</sup> , Nina Yancheva <sup>3</sup> , Maria Nikolova <sup>1</sup> 1. National Reference Laboratory of Immunology, NCIPD, Sofia, Bulgaria; 2. National Reference Confirmatory Laboratory of HIV, NCIPD, Sofia, Bulgaria; 3. Specialized Hospital for Active Treatment of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases, Sofia, Bulgaria

**16:00 Coffee Break**

**Session 6**

Co-Chairs Nina Yancheva-Petrova and Radoslava Emilova

**16:30 Plasma Superoxide Dismutase Activity - an Assisting Marker for Immune Monitoring of Chronic HIV Infection**

**Damian Vangelov**<sup>1</sup>, Radoslava Emilova<sup>1</sup>, Yana Todorova<sup>1</sup>, Reneta Dimitrova<sup>2</sup>, Lyubomira Grigorova<sup>2</sup>, Milena Aleksova<sup>1</sup>, Ivailo Alexiev<sup>2</sup>, Nina Yancheva<sup>3</sup>, Maria Nikolova<sup>1</sup>

1. National Reference Laboratory of Immunology, NCIPD, Sofia; 2. National Reference Confirmatory Laboratory of HIV, NCIPD, Sofia; 3. Specialized Hospital for Active Treatment of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases, Sofia, Bulgaria

**16:45 Biomarkers of Chronic Inflammation in the Aging Process with HIV and Long-term Antiretroviral Therapy**

**Ivaylo Pakov**<sup>1</sup>, Adelaida Ruseva<sup>2</sup>, Irena Gencheva<sup>2</sup>, Tsetsa Doychinova<sup>1</sup>, Milena Karcheva<sup>1</sup>, Kalina Terzieva<sup>1</sup>, Lyudmila Pakova<sup>3</sup>, Biserka Vasileva<sup>4</sup>, Galya Gancheva<sup>1</sup>

1. Department of Infectious Diseases, Epidemiology, Parasitology and Tropical Medicine, Faculty of Public Health, Bulgaria; 2. Department of Clinical Immunology, Allergology and Clinical Laboratory, Faculty of Health Care, Medical University – Pleven, Bulgaria; 3. Group Practice Outpatient Clinic for Primary Medical Care – Dr Elina Stefanova and Dr Lyudmila Pakova – OOD, Bulgaria; 4. Department of Therapeutic Care, Faculty of Health Care, Medical University – Pleven, Bulgaria

**17:00 A Case of Sepsis Caused by Burkholderia Cepacia and Staphylococcus Aureus in an HIV-Positive Patient with PML and Kaposi Sarcoma**

**Dimitar Strashimirov**, Lyubomir Padarski, Daniel Ivanov, Rusina Grozdeva, Nina Yancheva

Department for AIDS – Specialized Hospital for Infectious and Parasitic Diseases - Sofia, Bulgaria

**17:15 HIV/AIDS and Pneumocystis Jerovecii Pneumonia. A Clinical Case.**

**Petar Vasilev**<sup>1,2</sup>, Antonina Dineva<sup>2</sup>, Ivan Baltadzhiev<sup>1,2</sup>, Mariyana Stoycheva<sup>4</sup>.

1. Department of Infectious Diseases, Parasitology and Tropical Medicine, Medical Faculty, MU Plovdiv; 2. Clinic of Infectious Diseases, Parasitology, University Hospital “St George”, Plovdiv, Bulgaria; 3. Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology, Medical Faculty, MU Plovdiv; 4. Department of Science and Research, MU Plovdiv, Bulgaria

**17:30 Laboratory Detection of Monkeypox Virus in Bulgaria in HIV Positive Patients**

**Stefka Krumova**<sup>1</sup>, R. Stefanova<sup>1</sup>, D. Ivanov<sup>2</sup>, R. Chipeva<sup>2</sup>, I. Georgieva<sup>1</sup>, A. Stoyanova<sup>1</sup>, M. Pishmisheva<sup>3</sup>, S. Kotsev<sup>3</sup>, I. Alexiev<sup>1</sup>, L. Nikolaeva-Glomb<sup>1</sup>, I. Christova<sup>1</sup>

1. National Centre of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases (NCIPD), Sofia, Bulgaria; 2. University Hospital for Infectious and Parasitic Diseases “Prof. Iv. Kirov”, Sofia, Bulgaria; 3. MBAL “Pazardzhik”, Pazardzhik, Bulgaria

**17:45 Assessment of the Distribution of Hepatitis B in HIV Seropositive Patients due to Their Transmission Groups (2018 – 2021)**

**Viliana Yontcheva**<sup>1</sup>, Chiydem Ismailova<sup>1</sup>, Tencho Tenev<sup>1</sup>, Elica Markova<sup>1</sup>, Reneta Dimitrova<sup>2</sup>, Ivailo Aleksiev<sup>2</sup>

1. National Reference Laboratory of “Hepatitis viruses”, NCIPD Sofia, Bulgaria; 2. National Reference Confirmatory Laboratory of HIV, NCIPD, Sofia, Bulgaria

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**18:00 Prevalence of Serological and Molecular Markers against Hepatitis C Virus among HIV Positive Patients**

**Chiydem Ismailova**<sup>1</sup>, Viliana Yoncheva<sup>1</sup>, Lyubomira Grigorova <sup>2</sup>, Ivailo Aleksiev<sup>2</sup>, Tencho Tenev<sup>1</sup>, Elica Golkocheva-Markova<sup>1</sup>

1. National Reference Laboratory of "Hepatitis viruses", NCIPD Sofia, Bulgaria; 2. National Reference Confirmatory Laboratory of HIV, NCIPD, Sofia, Bulgaria

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**18:15 Discussion and closing remarks**

**18:30 Working dinner**

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