



The consecutive 9th Balkan Congress of Microbiology, *Microbiologia Balkanica'15*, was carried out in Thessaloniki at October 22-24, 2015. The number of registered participants was 231, 53 of which young scientists. The participants were from the following countries: Albania - 17, FYROM - 38, Greece - 80, Hungary - 1, Montenegro - 2, Romania - 13, Serbia - 34, Turkey - 19. Bulgaria was presented by 28 scientists, which gave 4 plenary lectures, 12 oral reports and 15 posters. Prof. M. Murdjeva's lecture was on microbiological and immunological aspects of autism, Prof. A. S. Galabov - on a novel and original approach preventing the drug-resistance for treatment of enterovirus infections, Prof. H. Najdenski on the role of migrating birds as carriers of zoonotic pathogens, and Prof. S. Groudev - on the achievements and perspectives of biohydrometallurgy. Three Bulgarian scientists co-chaired the Sessions "Immunology-Vaccines" (M. Murdjeva), "Food Microbiology-Parasitology-Mycology" (G. Sachanska) and "Environmental Microbiology" (H. Najdenski). Quite impressive was the direction of medical microbiology, in which could be emphasized the plenary lecture of Prof. Athanasios Tsakris "Phenotypic Strategies for Detection and Differentiation of Carbapenemases" with several newest and original methodological approaches. Among the participants was Prof. Jean-Claude Piffaretti (Massagno, Switzerland), the President of FEMS, with a lecture "Antibiotic Resistance: a Perspective on the Future". The Congress was very well organized and provided a very favorable atmosphere for fruitful, extensive, and critical discussions.



Before the Congress Opening Ceremony the traditional meeting of the Board of the Balkan Society for Microbiology (BSM) was performed. The BSM Board consists of three representatives from each South-East European Country's society (Bulgaria, Greece, Serbia, FYROM, Romania, Turkey, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro). Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro representatives did not attend the meeting. The BSM President (Prof. A. S. Galabov) presented a short report on BSM activities within the period 2013-2015. The discussion carried out pointed to the future development of the Society and new perspective for scientific cooperation in BSM. Following the By-Laws of BSM Prof. A. Tsakris (Athens), the 9th Congress organizer, was proved as the BSM President for the next two years (2015-17). Prof. Cigdem Kayacan (Istanbul), President of the Turkish Microbiological Society, proposed Istanbul as the host of the 10<sup>th</sup> BSM Congress in October 2017. The BSM Board accepted this proposal. Thus, the BSM officers for 2015-17 were announced: A. Tsakris (Athens) - President, C. Kayacan (Istanbul) - President-Elect, A. S. Galabov (Sofia) - Past-President, H. Najdenski (Sofia) - General Secretary.