

Chronicle

Second National Scientific Food Conference with International Participation, March 20-21, 2015, Sofia

Currently, the food safety is a topic of mankind's great interest. In March 2015 at New Bulgarian University the IInd National Scientific Food Conference with international participation was held. The conference was organized by the Bulgarian Society for Microbiology, New Bulgarian University (NBU), Department of Natural Sciences and Biolaboratory, The Stephan Angeloff Institute of Microbiology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, and the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency. The Organizing and Scientific Committee members were prominent scientists of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia University, University of Food Technologies in Plovdiv and top-level managers of the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency. The Second Food Conference was under the auspices of New Bulgarian University's Rector. It was financially supported by the Central Fund for Strategic Development of NBU as well as by the laboratory equipment business companies. Recent results of the NBU Biolaboratory and the ongoing projects laid the foundations of the Food Conference and its future organization in each two consecutive years.

During the conference the 110th Anniversary of the discovery of *Lactobacillus bulgaricus* by Dr. Sta-

men Grigoroff was celebrated. A solemn speech was given by Academician Angel Galabov.

The conference was a large-scale local scientific event gathering together over 150 delegates who presented 100 plenary lectures, oral presentations and posters in six topics: Food Quality, Food Biotechnology, Food Safety, Microbiological Control of Food, Probiotics and Prebiotics and Varia. Great interest was paid on the plenary lecture of Prof. Vaso Taleski (University "Goce Delchev", Stip, FYROM) focused on the nanomicrobiology, the application of nanobiosensors in detecting food pathogens and the advantages of metal nanomaterials that possess unique antimicrobial activities as silver, gold and titanium. Prof. Encho Savov (Military Medical Academy, Sofia, Bulgaria) gave a key plenary lecture that explored the end of the post-antibiotic era and multidrug- and pandrug-resistant bacteria. Assoc. Prof. Milen Georgiev (Stephan Angeloff Institute of Microbiology, BAS) presented a plenary lecture on metabolomics applied in natural products and biotechnology. A novel probiotic product was presented by Kiril Petkov. The product contains *Lactobacillus bulgaricus*, which was isolated from mountain snowdrop.



It is currently patented in USA and on the USA market. The product inhibits in 48h 100% of the growth of pathogenes *Escherichia coli*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Acinetobacter baumannii* as well as *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.

The conference attended both Bulgarian and foreign scientists form Switzerland and Balkan Peninsula countries - Serbia, FYROM and Kosovo.

The conference coursed as a small congress with plenary lectures, oral presentations and a poster session with more than 60 posters. Three posters were selected by the Scientific Committee for The Best Poster of Young Scientist Award: 1st place was awarded to the poster of Zahmanov *et al.* (Bulgaria) called “Beyond the nutritional value of *Sambucus ebulus*: metabolomics and antioxidant activities”; 2nd place won the poster of Nemska *et al.* (Bulgaria) on the topic “Isolation and initial characterization of lactic acid bacteria from traditional dairy products”. The 3rd place was honored to Logonia *et al.* (Serbia) for their research “Electrochemical determination of redox potential in infant formula

and human breast milk”. All awarded authors were PhD students.

The second day of the Conference was devoted to a Workshop on Molecular Methods in Food Control. The Workshop was conducted in the Biolaboratory of New Bulgarian University, with the participation of ELTA-90, BIORAD and Progene Molecular Diagnostic Ltd.

More information is available at the conference website: <http://ebox.nbu.bg/2foodconference/>. Abstract book can be downloaded be the above mentioned website. Presentations and posters were included and edited in a CD-ROM, ISBN 978-954-535-624-7.

The next, Third International Food Conference will be held at March 23-25, 2017, in New Bulgarian University, Sofia.

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