



LLMD

The Lithuanian Society of Laboratory Medicine

The Lithuanian Society of Laboratory Medicine is the main society, which unites specialists in laboratory medicine – laboratory medicine physicians and medical biologists working in clinical laboratories as well as carrying out research at universities and institutes. It is also open for laboratory technicians and students for participation in the educational events and training. Currently 250 specialists of laboratory medicine are full members of the Society.

The origin of the Lithuanian Society of Laboratory Medicine reaches the year 1966, as the Republican Society of Laboratory Physicians was founded. Activities of this Society were based on pedagogical, scientific and practical work. At that date two Laboratory Physicians Societies from major cities Vilnius and Kaunas, active since 1955, and the organizer of the courses for the education and advanced training of specialists in laboratory medicine at Vilnius University, established in 1964 under the guidance of Associated Professor Stasys Ruibys PhD, initiated the set-up of the organization. The official date of the registration of the Republican Society of Laboratory Physicians is year 1969, when the Statute was approved and the resolution issued by the Minister of Health of Lithuania.

The title "Republican Society of the Laboratory Physicians" was changed to the title "Lithuanian Society of Laboratory Medicine" in 1991 during the first congress of laboratory specialists after Lithuania regained its independence. Its Statute was registered in 1996 and the last updated version issued in 2012.

In year 1989 under the initiative of the Lithuanian Society of Laboratory Medicine (LLMD) and Vilnius University the course of lectures in laboratory medicine for medical students was initiated. In 1991 doctoral studies and in 1992 a 4-year residency studies in laboratory medicine specialty were introduced. Master degree studies in medical biology have been started at Vilnius University in year 2000. At the same time, the advanced training courses were organized, of which programs are being continually and constantly reviewed.

In 1997, a list of specialties and subspecialties was approved by the resolution of the Ministry of Health. Among them the following were legalized: laboratory medicine – for physicians; medical biology – for scientists with Master degree;

clinical laboratory practice – for specialists, who graduated higher (not university) medical education. In 1998, the medical standards for laboratory medicine physicians, medical biologists and laboratory technicians were composed and approved. These legal provisions are constantly reviewed and the last issue was certified in 2008.

A very important event in the life of the Society was the foundation (1999) and publication of a scientific journal titled "Laboratorine medicina" ("Laboratory medicine"). In year 2000, journal was approved as acceptable for doctoral publications in Lithuanian scientific papers list. Since November 15th of 2006 the journal is indexed at INDEX COPERNICUS.

In 2003, for the first time „Laboratory medicine days" were organized in Vilnius. In 2001, the three Baltic countries – Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have founded and registered the Baltic Association of Laboratory Medicine (BALM) and the Statute of this organization has been approved. The three Baltic countries are the organizers of the Baltic Congresses of Laboratory Medicine since 1992. The first congress took place in Tartu (Estonia). Then every second year these congresses are being organized in one of the three Baltic countries. In Lithuania 4 such congresses took place. The last one – the 11th Baltic Congress of Laboratory Medicine was held in 2012 in Vilnius – the capital of Lithuania. The Congress was organized under the auspices of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) and the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory



LLMD Board 1987



Opening of the Xth Baltic Congress of Laboratory Medicine - BALM: Board members and distinguished guests, Vilnius, 2012



Medicine (EFLM). 526 congress participants from 22 different countries attended the event (see photo).

Since 1993 LLMD is the member of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFCC), since 1996 – the member of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC), also the member of the registry of the European Communities Confederation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EC4). The latter organization has approved the conformity of the education program of the Lithuanian specialists in laboratory medicine, namely laboratory medicine physicians, according the requirements of the European Syllabus in 2009. The conformity of the Master degree program of the education of medical biologists is in its accomplishment process.

Starting the year 1990, after Lithuania has regained its independence, 14 specialists of laboratory medicine (laboratory physicians and medical biologists) have defended their doctoral theses and four continue their PhD studies. Specialists with scientific degree combine their clinical laboratory work with the teaching and research work, publish articles in scientific journals, and write textbooks. In 2008, professor Zita Aušrelė Kučinskienė has written a textbook "Basics of Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Diagnostics", which was published by Vilnius University Publishing House.

Starting the year 1983 and until year 2012 professor, habilitated doctor Z.A. Kučinskienė – Head of the Department at the Faculty of Medicine of Vilnius University, the Director of the Center of Laboratory Medicine of Vilnius University Hospital "Santariškių klinikos" has been elected and was the leader of the Lithuanian Society of Laboratory Medicine, in total for 29 years. She also has represented the Lithuanian specialists in laboratory medicine in various international organizations, as WHO, European Medical Research Council, other. Prof. Z.A. Kučinskienė is the full member of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences. She is elected as the Honorary Member of the Finnish Society of Clinical Chemistry, and is the full member of Albert Schweitzer World Medical Academy, which awarded her with an Albert Schweitzer Golden medal.

In 2012 Dalius Vitkus PhD – associated professor of Vilnius University, Head of the Laboratory of Biochemistry of the Center of Laboratory Medicine of Vilnius University Hospital "Santariškių klinikos" undertook the leadership of the Lithuanian Society of Laboratory Medicine.