



# TBS Turkish Biochemical Society: Celebrating 41<sup>st</sup> Years with the Doctrine of Continuous Support for Young Scientists in Basic and Applied Biochemistry

Turkish Biochemical Society (TBS) was founded in 1975 at Ankara, with the leadership of Professor Şerafettin Özkurt, to serve as an umbrella for establishing and supporting professional contacts and information exchange among all those working in the field of basic and applied biochemistry (clinical chemistry, molecular biology, biotechnology, molecular medicine, bioinformatics, etc.) mainly through organization of scientific activities. Besides stimulating scientific collaborations within professionals of the field, TBS aims to advance research in the science of biochemistry and to improve undergraduate and postgraduate biochemistry education. Another mission of TBS is to enhance patient care through trainings on competence, quality and accreditation of medical laboratories in Turkey for improvement of their standards and service. Through active collaborations with concerned governmental (Ministry of Health, etc.) and non-governmental institutions (educational and research bodies), the society also delivers assistance on related health issues and is involved in developing health policies.

Today, TBS is one of the leading national associations of Turkey with more than two thousands (2.000) members and official branches at major cities like Istanbul, Izmir and Adana. The Society represents graduate students and professionals working in the area of basic and applied biochemistry (clinical chemistry, molecular biology, biotechnology, molecular medicine, bioinformatics, etc.) and also accepts non-residential scientists living in other countries as members as long as they are Turkish citizens.



Fig. 1. TBS Executive Board with former and honorary presidents: (Left to right) Ali Ünlü (EBM), Mehmet Şeneş (Treasurer), Oytun Portakal (EBM), Gül Sevim Saydam (EBM), Şerafettin Özkurt (Honorary President), Doğan Yücel (President), Nazmi Özer (Former President), Ferhan Girgin Sağın (Vice-President), Z. Günnur Dikmen (General Secretary), Aylin Sepici Dinçel (EBM), Suat Hayri Küçük (EBM).

## International Scientific Affiliations

- Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS, 1978)
- International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB, 1978)
- Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation (BCLF, 1996)
- International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC-LM, 1997)
- European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (previously FESCC and now EFLM, 1997)
- Balkan Association of Biosciences (BAB, 1999)
- World Association of Society of Patologists and Laboratory Medicine (WASPaLM, 2013)

## Key offers

- National congresses - Between 1978 – 2000, TBS organized a National Congress every 18 months while after 2000, annual nationwide congresses were organised in various cities of Turkey. The 27<sup>th</sup> National Congress was

Fig. 2. The Gala Dinner of the 27<sup>th</sup> National Congress



organized in Antalya with more than 600 participants (Fig. 1 and Fig. 2).

- Hosting international conferences or meetings – Up to date, TBS hosted 3 congresses of the Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation (the latest was the 15<sup>th</sup> Congress of BCLF organized under the Auspices of IFCC, in Antalya between September 3-7, 2007), 3 meetings of Balkan Biochemical Biophysical Days as well as a meeting of the Balkan Association of Biosciences, each with 800-1 000 participants. The Society also hosted the 31<sup>st</sup> FEBS Congress in Istanbul between 24-29 June, 2006, receiving 2500 participants from 67 countries. At this Congress, 394 young scientists were supported by TBS, only 18 of them were Turkish citizen.
- Wide-ranging programme of smaller thematic symposiums & courses on basic and applied biochemistry - Some of these theoretical and/or applied national and/or international courses & symposiums include: "Internal and External Quality Control", "Standardization of Clinical Laboratories" (1998, 2002, 2004, 2008), "Accreditation of Clinical Laboratories", "Analytical Quality Management in Clinical Laboratories", "Automation in Clinical Laboratories" (Istanbul-1997), "Biostatistics"



Fig. 3. The 1<sup>st</sup> IVD Symposium organized by the TBS Izmir Branch

(Istanbul-2009), "Project Writing and Management" (Izmir-2007, Cappadocia-2008), "Clinical Enzymology" (Antalya-2005), "Techniques in Molecular Biology" (Izmir-2007, Cappadocia-2008, Istanbul-2009), "Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)", "The Hidden Face of the PCR", "Gene Transfer to Prokaryotic and Eucaryotic Cells", "Data Mining" (Ankara-2010), "Reference Intervals", "Computer Applied Method Validation" (Eskisehir -2010, Ankara - 2012, Konya-2012), "TS EN ISO/IEC 15189 and Accreditation in Clinical Laboratories", "Oxidative Stress, DNA Damage, DNA Repair and its Relation to Disease", "Electrophoresis Applications in Clinical Laboratories", "Evidence-based Laboratory Medicine" (Istanbul-2008, Izmir-2009), "Information Technologies in Clinical Laboratories" (Ankara-2010), "Interactive Laboratory Applications: Screening, Diagnosis, Therapy and Risk Analysis", "Protein Chemistry" (2009), "Patient and Laboratory Personal Safety", "Abnormal Hemoglobins and Diagnostic Methods in Thalassemia", "Proteomics Researches: Basics and Clinical Application" (Istanbul-2009), "New Faces of Vitamin D", "The Role of Biostatistics in Scientific Research", "What's New in Prenatal Screening?" "Molecular Genetic Methods in



*Diagnosis - Biochemistry Summer School: Application of DNA Microarray*" (Adana-2006)" *"FEBS Advanced Course-360 Degree Lysosome (October, 2014), "Optimization of Clinical Laboratory Practice"* (Antalya 2015), *"Mass Spectrometry Applications in Clinical Laboratory"* (Konya – 2012, Istanbul-2014, Antalya-2015), *"Flow Cytometry Applications in Clinical Laboratory"* (Antalya-2015). The last but not least, TBS Izmir Branch organized the first IVD Symposium and brought together laboratory professionals, the IVD sector and the legal authorities (Fig. 3).

- Undergraduate and postgraduate educational meetings – In cooperation with IUBMB Educational Committee, TBS organized 5 *"Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Education"* meetings of which 2 were in Ankara (1987, 1998) and the rest in Izmir (1992, 2000, 2012). Recently, 8th FEBS Workshop on Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Education: *"Trends in Undergraduate Biomolecular Science Education and Tips for Postgraduate Students and Beyond"* was organized in Izmir (March, 2012) followed by *"New Perspectives in Molecular Life Sciences Education"* which was organized in Istanbul (November, 2012). Another major event in the area of education is the workshop *"Multidisciplinary Approach to Biochemistry Laboratory Education"*, organized on May, 2012 at Ankara.
- Publications – Turkish Journal of Biochemistry (TJB) is published by TBS since 1976 on a quarterly basis and covers research and review articles on all aspects of biochemistry and related fields. The journal is indexed in Chemical Abstract since 1979, in addition to Index Copernicus and Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), SCI Expanded, Journal Citation Reports/Science Edition (SCIE-2007), EMBASE, Scopus, Ulrich's Periodical Directory, EBSCO and Turkish Medical Index. TJB is open-access for TBS members and online since 2002 (<http://www.turkjbiochem.com>) and is published by the independent academic publisher De Gruyter since 2015.
- Supports for young biochemists – TBS provides bursaries and awards particularly for strong encouragement of young graduate students and post-docs to present their work orally or as posters in meetings. On the occasion of the national congresses, TBS also gives prizes for the best poster or selected oral communication.

### Recent achievements

TBS was honored to host the "IFCC WORLTLAB 2014", at the IFCC Conference in April 2008. The Congress Organising Committee worked very hard to create a state of the art Congress both scientifically and socially (Fig.4). The Congress took place in Istanbul Convention Center (ICC), between the dates of June 22-26, 2014. This Congress differs from the preceding IFCC Congresses because for the first time, in the history of IFCC, all the sister federations/societies were together; AACC, AFCC, APFCB, BCLF, COLABIOCLI, EFLM and WASPaLM and each of them contributed to IFCC Worldlab/Istanbul Congress with a symposium. We are happy to state that many colleagues from 116 different countries had joined us and we received more than 1600 abstracts.



Fig. 4. A scene from Gala Dinner of WorldLab2014 The Esma Sultan Mansion Istanbul

The Scientific Program included:

- 1 outstanding Opening Lecture and 4 Plenary Lectures, from the world's most renowned scientists.
- 26 Symposia, 42 Oral Communications selected from the abstracts and 1614 poster were displayed.
- 8 Symposia by contributing sister Federations, 5 IFCC Sessions and 3 poster lunch sessions.
- 23 ISW and 3 Satellite Meetings (XIII. ICPLM, PoCT, LC-MS/MS in Clinical Chemistry).
- An education workshop by the IFCC-FEBS-ORPHEUS education committees on "PhD training in Clinical Chemistry, Clinical Biochemistry, and Laboratory Medicine: Where are we heading?"

Recently, TBS was also honored to host 41<sup>st</sup> FEBS Congress that will take place between September 3-8, 2016 at the Ephesus Convention Center in Kusadasi, Turkey. The opening ceremony & cocktail as well as the opening lecture are planned to take place at the worldwide known, ancient city of Ephesus.



### **TBS Members in IFCC and EFLM Board, Committees and Task Forces (as of March 2016)**

- Tomris Özben (IFCC Executive Board, Treasurer), (BCLF Representative of Turkey)
- Sedef Yenice (IFCC Committee of Clinical Laboratory Management (C-CLM), Chair)
- Yesim Ozarda (IFCC Committee on Reference Intervals and Decision Limits (C-RIDL), Chair)
- Sevgi Eskiocak (IFCC Committee for Standardization of Thyroid Function Testing (C-STFT, Corresponding member)
- Dogan Yucel (IFCC Task Force for Chronic Kidney Disease (TF-CKD), Corresponding member)
- Diler Aslan (IFCC Task Force on Point of Care Testing (TF-POCT), Corresponding member) (IFCC Committee on Education in the Use of Biomarkers in Diabetes, Corresponding member)
- Mehmet Senes (IFCC Task Force on Proficiency Testing (TF-PT), Corresponding member)
- K. Okhan Akın (IFCC Task Force on Ethics (TF-E), member)
- Ferhan G. Sagin (IFCC-Task Force on Geriatric Laboratory Medicine (TF-GLM), member)
- Sedat Abusoglu (IFCC Task Force Young Scientists, Corresponding member)
- Mesude Falay (EFLM Working Group on Harmonisation of Total Testing Process, member)
- Merve Sibel Güngören (EFLM Working Group on Promotion and Publications, member)
- Eser Sozmen (EFLM Working Group on Congresses and Postgraduate Education, Corresponding member) (EFLM Working Group on Postanalytical Phase, Corresponding member)
- Ali Unlu (EFLM Working Group on Distance Education and e-Learning, Corresponding member)
- Abdurrahman Coskun (EFLM Working Group on Biological Variation, member) (EFLM Task and Finish Group on Total Error, member) (EFLM Task and Finish Group on Biological Variation Database, member)
- Z. Gunnur Dikmen (EFLM Working Group on Patient Focused Laboratory Medicine, Corresponding member)
- Pinar Eker (EFLM Working Group on Preanalytical Phase, Corresponding member)
- Muhittin A. Serdar (IFCC Committee on Distance Learning, Corresponding member)
- Suleyman Demir (IFCC Committee on Evidence Based Laboratory Medicine, Corresponding member)
- Aysun Bay Karabulut (IFCC Committee on Public Relations, Corresponding member)
- Kadir Batcioglu (IFCC Committee on Reference Systems of Enzymes, Corresponding member)
- Goncagul Haklar (IFCC Committee on Traceability in Laboratory Medicine, Corresponding member)



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