

KM Conference 2022

29 June - 2 July 2022

University of Maribor, Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security (FVV), Slovenia

Themes: Knowledge Management, Cybersecurity, Learning, and Information Technology

<https://iiakm.org/conference/>

1st Day Opening Keynote Lecture

COVID-19 Pandemic: A Brief History

Professor Dr. Bojana Beovič, MD

Professor of Infectious Diseases, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Keynote Overview:

COVID-19 pandemic was not completely un-expected from virologists' point of view but its impact on public health, health-care systems, and society is un-comparable to anything that most of the global population has faced during their life-time. The pandemic started with an increase of mortality followed by fear and more or less targeted and intuitively introduced restrictive interventions. The success of the control of the early phase of epidemic mostly depended on the speed of introduction of interventions and the elimination approach seemed more effective than mitigation. With the progression of the pandemic the elimination strategy became more and more antagonized by growing pandemic fatigue. The second year of the pandemic brought promise of relief. Several effective and safe vaccines have been developed at record speed as a manifestation of the strength of modern science. Problems in vaccination implementation and immune escape of novel variants of SARS-CoV-2 dominated the second year of the pandemic. The message that professionals provided to general public has changed from the expectation that vaccines will help us eliminate the pandemic virus to the role of vaccines in preventing severe diseases thus changing COVID-19 to "common cold". The omicron variant that spread to most countries by the end of 2021 brought new threat but also hope that its lesser virulence would help stop the pandemic. The cost of the stop in vulnerable population was expected to be high and variable depending especially on vaccination rates. The pandemic as we can describe it up to now was dominated by natural course of ever mutating coronavirus, by modern science but also culture and human behavior on the individual as well as national and supranational level.

About the Keynote Presenter:

Bojana Beovič, MD, PhD is a full professor of infectious diseases and epidemiology at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, and chair of ID Consultancy Unit at the Department of Infectious Diseases, University Medical Centre Ljubljana. Since 2019 she is the chair of the Intersectoral Coordination Mechanism for Prudent Use of Antimicrobials at the Ministry of Health. From 2019 to 2021 she chaired European Working Group at the International Society of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy. At the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious diseases (ESCMID) Study Group for Antimicrobial Stewardship (ESGAP, former ESCMID Study Group for Antibiotic Policies) she served as honorary secretary from 2009 to 2014, and the chair from 2014 to 2018. During COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 she served as the chair of Scientific advisory group to the Ministry of Health. Since 2011 she has been the chair of the National Immunisation Technical Advisory Group. In 2021 she was elected the president of Medical Chamber of Slovenia. She was the organizer and co-organizer of several international and national scientific meetings and educational courses. She is the author and co-author of more than 300 publications published in national and international literature.

