

## **Mendel University in Brno hosted the participants of metallomics conference**

In the period from 14th to 18th June 2015 a Metallomics Technology Conference took place in the premises of Mendel University in Brno. The conference dealt with the latest trends and strategies of the metallomic research. Metallomics is an interdisciplinary scientific discipline, which systematically studies metallomes, i.e. metals and metalloid ions in living systems. The conference was the culmination of the project Metallomic Scientific Network, which was solved by scientists from Laboratory Metallomics and Nanotechnologies, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Faculty of Agronomy, Mendel University in Brno, during this year. Funding for the project was obtained from The International Visegrad Fund. The purpose of the project was to create a functional metallomic scientific network linking top research metallomics workplaces within the countries called Visegrad Group - Czech and Slovak Republics, Hungary and Poland. The partners of the grantee were specifically Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, University of Debrecen and Wroclaw Medical University.

The conference was organized under patronage of rector of Mendel University Prof. RNDr. Ladislav Havel, PhD. The first day at the conference, the invited lectures Prof. Hajo Haase from the Technical University of Berlin on the effect of zinc on the immunity cell functions and Prof. Juan Hidalgo from the Autonomous University of Barcelona on the effects of metallothionein in neuroinfection were presented. In the second lecture session, scientists from Masaryk University and from Laboratory Metallomics and Nanotechnologies from Mendel University in Brno presented their lectures devoted to metallothionein. The first day of the conference was finished with a guided tour of the premises of the hosting laboratory.

During the second day, the project partners presented the results connected to the project topic achieved by their departments, and discussed possibilities for future cooperation in research projects.

During the third day of the conference, the participants visited the Department of Pathophysiology, Masaryk University, where, among other things, they were acquainted with the results of the joint research of prostate cancer obtained through the ongoing collaboration of Masaryk University and Mendel University in Brno.

The fourth day of the conference was, within the framework of so-called Round table, devoted to the determination of major joint research interests in relation to the creation of the metallomics scientific network. This aims to not only at close cooperation between the scientific institutions of the Visegrad Group but also the transfer of expertise and exchange of information related to monitored metallomics issues. The possibility of reciprocal meetings either at the level of direct contact at meetings, workshops or conferences, or at least indirectly via new media technologies such as teleconferences, which was also widely used in the project, is invaluable in solving technical problems encountered by researchers in everyday life. When dealing with the project, the possibilities of effective, functionally complementary and mutually reinforcing cooperation and opportunities for effective coordination in research tasks performance were successfully tested. Thanks to this fact, the



principal investigator and the project partners believe that one of the most important results of the project, besides technical outputs resulting from it (titles to conference proceedings articles in the journal, etc.), is the established mutually beneficial and rewarding cooperation, in which they want to continue in the coming years.

Websites of the project:

[http://web2.mendelu.cz/af\\_239\\_nanotech/V4dp.php?ip=138](http://web2.mendelu.cz/af_239_nanotech/V4dp.php?ip=138)

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## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **Principal investigator:**

**Associate Professor Vojtěch Adam, PhD.**

Mendel University in Brno

Faculty of Agronomy

Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Laboratory Metallomics and Nanotechnologies

Zemědělská 1, 613 00 Brno

Czech Republic

Tel.: + 420 545 133 350

E-mail: [vojtech.adam@mendelu.cz](mailto:vojtech.adam@mendelu.cz)

### **Project partners:**

Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava

Faculty of Chemical and Food Technology

Institute of Analytical Chemistry

Radlinskeho 9

812 37 Bratislava

Slovak Republic

Contact person: **prof. Ing. Ján Labuda, DrSc.**

Tel.: +421 918 674 277

E-mail: [jan.labuda@stuba.sk](mailto:jan.labuda@stuba.sk)

Wrocław Medical University

Faculty of Medicine

Department of Biomedical and Environmental Analyses

ul. Borowska 211

50-556 Wrocław

Poland

Contact person: **dr inż. Marta Kepinska**

Tel.: +48 71 784 01 73

E-mail: [marta.kepinska@umed.wroc.pl](mailto:marta.kepinska@umed.wroc.pl)

University of Debrecen

Faculty of Medicine

Department of Dermatology

Nagyterdei krt. 98

4012 Debrecen

Hungary

Contact person: **Dr. Gabriella Emri**

Tel: +36 524 116 00

E-mail: [gemri@med.unideb.hu](mailto:gemri@med.unideb.hu)

**ADDITIONAL AND ILLUSTRATIVE PICTURES FOR PRESS RELEASE**



Frame no. 01 - Lecture by Prof. Hajo Haase from the Technical University of Berlin on the impact of zinc on immunity cell functions



Frame no. 02 - Lecture by Associate Professor Vojtech Adam of Mendel University in Brno on the role of metallothionein in cancer



Frame no. 03 - View into the plenum of Metallomics Technology Conference



Frame no. 04 - View into the plenum of Metallomics Technology Conference





Frame no. 05 - Excursion to the Department of Pathological Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, Masaryk University



Frame no. 06 - "Round table" of principal investigator and project partners of Metallomic Scientific Network



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Photo source: Project Metallomic Scientific Network

Note .: If you are interested in more pictures or pictures in high definition, please contact Vlastimil Sochor, tel. + 420 545 133 312, E-mail: [sochor@mendelu.cz](mailto:sochor@mendelu.cz)