

*Dear Participants,*

*On behalf of the Scientific and Organizing Committee it is a great honor and pleasure to welcome you in Zagreb at HDIR-5: The Fifth Meeting of the Croatian Association for Cancer Research, with international participation, this time subtitled “Translating Science to Medicine – Targets and Therapeutics”.*

*Croatian Association for Cancer Research (Hrvatsko društvo za istraživanje raka, HDIR) is one of the Affiliate National Societies of the European Association for Cancer Research (EACR), and it is actively supported by the EACR. We are a relatively young society, with a respectable increase in the number of new members. This year we celebrate a mini-anniversary, our 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Also, for the first time the meeting will last three days and will cover main topics in basic and translational research in cancer, divided into sections: Cell Signaling Networks, Cancer Genomics and Epigenomics, Metastasis and Invasion, Immuno-oncology, Targeted Therapies. The Meeting will also include one Minisymposium, this time dedicated to Hedgehog signalling.*

*The scientific programme of the Meeting will start with an exceptional plenary lecture given by Past President of the EACR Anton Berns, followed by two lectures and two short oral presentations on cell signaling networks in cancer. On the second day, we will start with another exceptional plenary lecture given by Ivan Đikić, and each of the two sections will start with two lectures by invited speakers. The second day will end with the Hedgehog-GLI signaling pathway minisymposium. On the third day we have two more sections with two invited speakers each. At the end, a keynote lecture will be given by the respectable academic Joseph Schlessinger. From more than 60 accepted abstracts, ten have been selected for short talks. We are pleased and honored that HDIR-5 brings together so many respectable scientists who devoted their valuable time to the success of this Meeting.*

*The Organizing and Scientific Committee have done their best to make this conference successful, and I would like to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to all of you who have contributed. The goal of HDIR-5 is to promote cancer research in Croatia focused on the cooperation between basic research and clinical cancer management. The Meeting will put emphasis on international communication and cooperation, with renowned speakers from various countries. This Meeting is an opportunity for cancer researchers and clinicians to gather and establish a good working relationship with each other and with other regional societies of the EACR.*

*We hope that this Fifth Meeting of the Croatian Association for Cancer Research, this time subtitled “Translating Science to Medicine – Targets and Therapeutics”, will provide opportunities to exchange new ideas, connections and experience with others and encourage you to continue improving collaboration between basic and clinical science.*

*I would like to thank everyone for the support of this Meeting, which I am sure, will fulfill all expectations and will be a valuable contribution to our essential work.*

*Thank you all for your enthusiastic support.*

*Sincerely yours,*

*Prof. dr. sc. Sonja Levanat  
President of the Croatian Association for  
Cancer Research, HDIR*