



**Serbian Biochemical Society  
Ninth Conference**

*"Diversity in Biochemistry"*

*Proceedings*

*Faculty of Chemistry – Kolarac Endowment  
Belgrade 2019*

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## Proceedings

**Editor:** Ivan Spasojević

**Cover design:** Zoran Beloševac

**Publisher:** Faculty of Chemistry, Serbian Biochemical Society

**Printed by:** Colorgrafx, Belgrade

Serbian Biochemical Society  
Ninth Conference  
with international participation

University of Belgrade – Kolarac Endowment  
14-16.11.2019. Belgrade, Serbia

*“Diversity in Biochemistry”*

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# Kinetics of amyloid fibril formation in the presence of metal ions and low-molecular-weight compounds

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Jelica Milošević<sup>\*1</sup>, Nemanja Mijin<sup>1</sup>, Luka Maleš<sup>1</sup>, Aleksandra Milovanović<sup>2</sup>, Branko Jovčić<sup>3,4</sup>, Natalija Polović<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Chemistry, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia*

<sup>2</sup>*Institute of Chemistry, Technology and Metallurgy - Center of Chemistry, University of Belgrade*

<sup>3</sup>*Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Faculty of Biology, University of Belgrade*

<sup>4</sup>*Institute of Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering, University of Belgrade*

\*e-mail: jelica@chem.bg.ac.rs

Proteins are prone to structural changes due to their marginal stability. There are multiple pathways of structural rearrangements leading to misfolding and aggregation among which amyloids stand out as highly ordered and remarkably stable forms which appear to be a global minimum of protein free energy landscape of all proteins. *In vitro* studies on different proteins show that destabilizing conditions that favor the state of molten globule are likely to lead to ordered fibril formation. The presence of various organic and inorganic molecules was reported to affect amyloid fibril formation, either as stimulators or inhibitors. We investigated the formation of amyloid fibrils of human serum albumin, ovalbumin and papain in the presence of metal ions, as well as low-molecular-weight compounds. Proteins were incubated in destabilizing conditions optimized to prolong the solubility of molten globule state and induce amyloid-like structural changes. The effects of inorganic and organic additives on fibrillation process were monitored using Thioflavin T fluorescence, 8-Anilino-1-naphthalene-sulfonic acid fluorescence, Attenuated total reflection Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy, electrophoretic and microscopy techniques. Our results show that the kinetics of amyloid formation is dependent on the presence of iron, copper, zinc and aluminum salts, as well as different lipophilic low-molecular-weight compounds. While some compounds act as complete inhibitors of fibrillation, others increase the rate of fibrillation process and promote the formation of mature fibrils.

## Acknowledgements

This study was financially supported by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Republic of Serbia, Grant no. 172049.