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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



4th Belgrade Bioinformatics Conference

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FOREWORD

Dear colleagues and friends,

The 4th Belgrade Bioinformatics Conference - BelBi2023, where many high-quality scientific contributions were presented, has just ended. With great thanks to all participants, we now proudly present a book of abstracts that both reflects the scientific abundance and diversity of the conference and serves as a reminder of a memorable event.

Several research institutions, faculties, and scientific societies from Serbia joined forces in organizing this international conference, which covered numerous topics in computational biology, bioinformatics, and biomedical and health informatics. The main goal of BelBi2023 was to foster contact between scientists, both early stage career and senior researchers, allowing them to share experiences and latest advances in their fields. We sincerely hope that BelBi2023 has served as a platform for researchers from around the world to meet, initiate new collaborations, and expand professional contacts, and that all of you would become a part of the growing BelBi community.

We are grateful and proud to have welcomed more than 250 researchers from 21 countries. We have had 28 scientific sessions, consisting of more than 60 lectures (including eight Keynote talks), 47 presented posters, as well as three workshops and one satellite event – COST action. We have also organized seven industry lectures, including the NGS Challenge,

two Meet the Expert Sessions, and one Business Coffee Break where ten start-up companies took part. And finally, the future BIO4 campus was presented and first panel on Serbia's resources for storage and analyses of genetic data was organized.

We would like to thank all the members of the International Advisory Board and the International Program Committee for their efforts and help in making this event a success. We are very grateful to the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation of the Republic of Serbia, SAIGE project, and UNDP-Serbia for their support. Finally, the Local Organizing Committee is very grateful to all the sponsors of the conference - BGI, Illumina & Elta'90MS, PacBio & East Diagnostics, ThermoFisher Scientific & Vivogen, Huawei, Labena, DSP Chromatography, RNIDS, Telekom Srbija, Alfa Genetics, Kefo and Superlab, hoping that they will stay with us for many years to come.

Looking forward to seeing you again at the 5th Belgrade Bioinformatics Conference.

Belgrade, July 2023

*Dr. Valentina Đorđević
& Dr. Ivana Morić,*
On behalf of BelBi2023
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Poster presentation

Exploring Changes in Diagnoses during the COVID-19 Era: Comparative Analysis

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The healthcare sector is just one of several areas of society that have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This paper aims to analyze the changes observed in the medical profession's approach to diagnosing diseases between the pre-pandemic year of 2019 and the pandemic year of 2020. By examining these shifts, we explore how medical professionals have adapted their treatment strategies, leading to modifications in diagnosis for various diseases. Based on our visualization, shown in Figure 1, we observed that the diagnoses of **Obstructive Sleep Apnea** and **End stage renal disease** had consistent distributions in both 2019 and 2020. Also we need to mention, the count value for **Obstructive Sleep Apnea** was higher in 2020, whereas in 2019, the count value was higher for **End stage renal disease**, showing their representation in each year. We can conclude that the pandemic has resulted in a marked increase in the occurrence of specific diagnoses compared to the previous year, some of them being **acute pharyngitis-sore throat (J029)**, **gastro-oesophageal reflux disease (K219)** and **pure hypercholesterolemia - unspecified (E7800)**, as can be seen on Figure 1.

A notable variation can be observed when examining the months of November and December in 2020. In these months, the diagnosis **Contact with and (suspected) exposure to other viral communicable diseases** transitions from the third to the second position, indicating a higher occurrence of COVID-19 in December compared to November. This shift in ranking provides valuable insights into the increased prevalence of this diagnosis during the month of December. Through this analysis, we aim to examine the transformations that have taken place as a result of the pandemic, particularly in terms of the diagnosis of a specific disease, which has undergone notable changes compared to the pre-pandemic period. We highlight several significant changes that have occurred in defining diagnoses, showcasing the variations observed over the course of a year.

Keywords: COVID pandemic, data analytics, data visualization

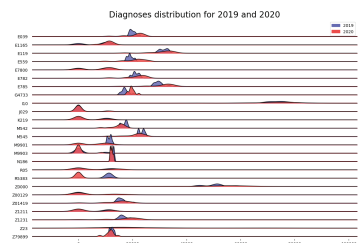


Figure 1. Diagnoses distribution for 2019 and 2020



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