

# Welcome to the 24<sup>th</sup> annual EQALM Symposium

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

**Ljubljana, Slovenia**



## General information

This year the annual EQALM symposium and General Assembly will be held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> and Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019. The conference includes the Working Group meetings which will be held Thursday morning.

The symposium includes the following topics:

- ISO 17043 accreditation (including commutability, stability and homogeneity testing)
- Performance specifications
- Molecular Genetics
- EQALM Collaborations (including harmonisation, traceability, postanalytical EQAS)
- Presentations of selected submitted abstracts

## Organizing committees

### **Executive Board**

Anne Stavelin, chairman (Noklus, Norway)  
Finlay MacKenzie (UKNEQAS, United Kingdom)  
Stéphanie Albarède (CTBC, France)  
Piet Meijer (ECAT, The Netherlands)  
Christoph Buchta (ÖQUASTA, Austria)

### **Scientific Program Committee**

Piet Meijer, chair (ECAT, The Netherlands)  
Anne Stavelin (Noklus, Norway)  
Christoph Buchta (ÖQUASTA, Austria)  
Wim Coucke (Sciensano, Belgium)  
Ann Helen Kristoffersen (Noklus, Norway)

### **Local organiser**

Milan Skitek (SNEQAS, UKCL-KIKKB, Slovenia)  
Saša Bratož (SNEQAS, UKCL-KIKKB, Slovenia)  
Elizabeta Božnar Alič (SNEQAS, UKCL-KIKKB, Slovenia)  
Alenka France Štiglic (SNEQAS, UKCL-KIKKB, Slovenia)  
Mateja Šter (SNEQAS, UKCL-KIKKB, Slovenia)

### **EQALM Secretariat coordinator**

Xavier Albe (CSCQ, Switzerland)

*SNEQAS = Slovenian National External Quality Assessment Scheme*

*UKCL-KIKKB = University Medical Centre Ljubljana – Clinical Institut of Clinical Chemistry and Biochemistry*

## EQALM Secretariat

EQALM Office

c/o CSCQ

Swiss Center for Quality Control

2 chemin du Petit-Bel-Air

CH-1225 Chêne-Bourg

Switzerland

Email: [office@eqalm.org](mailto:office@eqalm.org)

Web page: [www.eqalm.org](http://www.eqalm.org)

## Program overview

A brief overview of the program is given below. The final program will be presented on [www.eqalm.org](http://www.eqalm.org). All delegates are welcome to participate on the Working Group sessions on Thursday morning and at the General Assembly on Friday afternoon. The meetings on Wednesday is for invited persons only.

### Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Executive Board Meeting  
Scientific Committee Meeting  
Working Group Steering Committees Meetings

### Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019

08.00	Registration desk opens
08.30-13.00	EQALM Working Groups sessions
13.00-14.00	Lunch
14.00-17.00	EQALM Symposium, day 1 (including poster session and industry exhibition)
17.00-18.00	Adam Uldall lecture

### Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019

09.00-13.00	EQALM Symposium, day 2 (including poster session and industry exhibition)
13.00-14.00	Lunch
14.00-16.00	EQALM General Assembly

## The Adam Uldall Award

The Adam Uldall lecture will be given by Annette Thomas (United Kingdom) with the following title: *"EQA– future challenges and opportunities"*. Annette Thomas has over 40 years' experience in Laboratory Medicine and External Quality Assurance, 20 years of which she has been Director of Weqas. She is a Consultant Clinical Biochemist and Director of Point of Care testing (Poct) at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, and is the National Clinical Lead for Poct in Wales. She is the current chair of the IFCC Committee on Analytical Quality, and has previously held posts on the Executive Board of EQALM, chaired the EQALM Frequency working group and chaired the National Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine Audit Committee in the UK.



The EQALM Executive Board would like to honor Annette Thomas for the good work she has done in the field of EQA for many years and for the work she has done for EQALM. The Board find her a worthy receiver of the Adam Uldall Award.

## Abstract session

In this session all EQALM members will have the opportunity to share EQA related information which could be of interest to other EQA organisations.

Oral presentations will be selected from the abstracts submitted (max. 500 words). Each EQA member organization may submit more than one abstract. Please submit your abstract using the abstract form which is available from the EQALM website [www.eqalm.org](http://www.eqalm.org). You can submit your abstract for oral and/or poster presentation.

Abstracts should be submitted **before 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019** and sent to EQALM office ([office@eqalm.org](mailto:office@eqalm.org)). Authors will be informed about the decision before 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019.

**Note!** The Scientific Program Committee will select one abstract in which the speaker will have the registration fee, travel and hotel costs covered. All other speakers in this session must cover these costs themselves.

## Registration

The registration fee for the symposium is:

Members before 31 <sup>st</sup> August:	€ 325
Members after 31 <sup>st</sup> August:	€ 405
Non-members before 31 <sup>st</sup> August:	€ 405
Non-members after 31 <sup>st</sup> August:	€ 485

The registration fee includes lunch, tea and coffee both days, and conference dinner on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October. For registration, please use the electronic registration form on the EQALM website [www.eqalm.org](http://www.eqalm.org).

## Cancellation policy

Cancellations must be sent to [office@eqalm.org](mailto:office@eqalm.org) and received no later than 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019. A € 75 administrative fee will apply. No refunds will be issued after 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

## Payment

The payment for the registration fee should be made to EQALM. Please remember to include the names of the participants and organization with your payment.

### Bank account details

EQALM c/o CSCQ

Swiss Center for Quality Control

2 chemin du Petit-Bel-Air

CH-1225 Chêne-Bourg

Bank : UBS SA

IBAN : CH16 0024 0240 6999 7470 F

BIC : UBSWCHZH80A

Further details: Stéphanie Albarède ([s.albarede@ctcb.com](mailto:s.albarede@ctcb.com))

## Conference venue

### Best Western Premium Hotel Slon

Slovenska cesta 34  
SI 1000 Ljubljana  
Tel: +386 1 4701156

[www.hotelslon.com](http://www.hotelslon.com)

## Weather in Ljubljana in October

Weather in Ljubljana in October is mild with average daytime temperatures around 16°C whilst at night is 7°C. Rainy and windy days are not unusual.

## Social event details (evening of Thursday 17 October)

The Congress Dinner will be held in the glass atrium of the main Post building which offers a spectacular ambiance and is situated just across the street from the Hotel Slon.



## Hotel reservation

The participants themselves should make hotel reservations. Please note that the hotel reservation at the Hotel Slon have to be made by the link below in order to get the special prices. The room availability is guaranteed from Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October to Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October if booked **before 10 September 2019**.

### Best Western Premium Hotel Slon

The hotel is situated in the very heart of Ljubljana city centre. It is only a few steps away from the old city core, Ljubljana castle and all the main city sights. It is an excellent starting point for exploring the enchanting streets of the old city core or simply enjoying Ljubljana's pulse, which you feel as soon as you step through the door onto the street.

- Economy single room (per night): € 128
- Comfort room for single use (per night): € 143
- Comfort room for double use (per night): € 158

Breakfast, free wireless internet access, VAT and unlimited use of fitness and saunas are included in the price. City tourist tax is not included in above rates and is extra charged 3,13 € per person per night.

Book your room by follow this link: <https://reservations.travelclick.com/102655?userType=GRP>

**User will be required to enter Attendee Code: EQALM**

## How to get to the The Hotel Slon

### LJUBLJANA AIRPORT-LJU

Nearest airport is Jože Pučnik Ljubljana Airport, which is approximately 26 km / 16 miles away from Ljubljana. Travelling by car takes about 26 minutes. Car directions and map can be found [here](#). More about traffic information can be found [here](#).

For a comfortable transfer from [Jože Pučnik Airport](#) use the **hotels shuttle service**, which has the only one exclusive access right to the hotel door. The drive to the hotel takes approximately 30 minutes. You can order it when booking your room or send an e-mail to [sales@hotelslon.com](mailto:sales@hotelslon.com) with your flight details (arrival time and flight number). At arrival, the driver will be waiting at the exit gate with your name written on the blackboard.

Hotels shuttle transport from the airport to the city or vice versa costs 9 EUR per person per direction. When departing, you need to leave the hotel at least two hours before your scheduled flight.

## OTHER HOTEL OPTIONS

Please contact the hotels directly using the links below (no special rates).

[www.hotelurban.com](http://www.hotelurban.com)

<http://www.antiqpalace.com>

[www.cityhotel.si](http://www.cityhotel.si)

<http://vanderhotel.com/sl/about-vander-urbani-hotel>

<https://www.hotelcubo.com>

<https://www.hotel-emonec.com/sl/>

<https://www.hotelpark.si/>

## Social event (Friday evening 18<sup>th</sup> October)

### The sights of Ljubljana and a Boat Cruise

A walk takes you around the historical city centre giving an opportunity to see all of its major sights. It continues with a half an hour tourist boat cruise along the river Ljubljanica. The tour ends with tasting the original Carnolian sausage accompanied with a glass of Slovenian special wine "cviček", one of the rare wines in the world made from red and white grape varieties.

*Estimated duration of event is 2 hours.*

This event is **not covered** by the EQALM registration fee. Please indicate your interest by emailing to [alenka.stiglic@kclj.si](mailto:alenka.stiglic@kclj.si) as the event will need to be pre-booked. The approximate price which **includes** guidance, boat cruise and tasting session will be 20 €, final cost will depend on number of interested. Payment will be possible only in cash at the registration desk.

### Other recommended visitor sites

Dragon Bridge

Ljubljana Castle

Triple Bridge

Robba Fountain

Križanke – outdoor theater

Catherdral Saint Nicholas

Metelkova mesto (old barracks turned now to Autonomous Cultural Centre)

Central Market

National and University Library

Town Hall

Franciscan Church of the Annunciation

Parliament Building

<https://www.visitljubljana.com/en/visitors/>

The official tourism website of *Ljubljana* and the Central Slovenia region, with information on sights, events, hotel booking, city tours, day trips