



ISCB  **2009**



30th Annual Conference of the International Society for Clinical Biostatistics

August 23rd – 27th, 2009

University of Economics – Prague, Czech Republic



PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT

INVITATION

In August 2009, the International Society for Clinical Biostatistics will reach a significant milestone in its history, as it will convene its 30th annual conference. On the occasion of this anniversary, all members of the Local Organising Committee and the Scientific Programme Committee of the Conference invite you cordially to take part at this important event, which is going to take place in Prague, Czech Republic. Apart from the more traditional themes, the scientific programme of the Conference will include special topic of Health Economics Evaluation and Thursday Symposium on Biomedical Informatics. Hope to see you in Prague in summer of 2009!

ISCB

The International Society for Clinical Biostatistics (ISCB) was founded in 1978 to stimulate research into the principles and methodology used in the design and analysis of clinical research and to increase the relevance of statistical theory to the real world of clinical medicine.

LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Chairman: Zdeněk Valenta
Vice-chairman: Marek Malý
Treasurer: Věra Lánská
Secretary: Jindra Reissigová
Members: Jana Zvárová, Marek Brabec, Arnošt Komárek

CONGRESS SECRETARIAT:

Guarant International / ISCB 2009
Opletalova 22
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Fax: +420 284 001 448
Conference e-mail: iscb2009@guarant.cz
Conference website: <http://www.iscb2009.info>

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Chairman: Geert Molenberghs (Belgium)
Members: Andrew Briggs (UK)
Marie Davidian (USA)
Rolf Holle (Germany)
Michal Kulich (Czech Republic)
Cathérine Legrand (Belgium)
Ulrich Mansmann (Germany)
Robert O'Neill (USA)
Rodolphe Thiébaud (France)
Zdeněk Valenta (Czech Republic)
Jana Zvárová (Czech Republic)

The chairman and all members of the Scientific Programme Committee cordially invite you to contribute to the success of the Conference through your active participation. Themes for contribution will cover major areas of biostatistics with applications in clinical, pharmaceutical and biomedical research.

PRESIDENT'S INVITED SPEAKER

The President's invited speaker for the occasion of convening the Society's 30th annual conference will be Marc Buyse from Belgium.

PRE-CONFERENCE COURSES

Two full-day and two half-day pre-conference courses will be organised on Sunday August 23rd, 2009.

MINI-SYMPOSIUM

Mini-symposium on Biomedical Informatics will take place on Thursday August 27th, 2009.

ISCB AWARDS

Student Conference Awards will be awarded to registered postgraduate students. Conference Awards for Scientists will be awarded to biostatisticians from ISCB's targeted countries. For both award schemes, application forms, and details of the selection process, please, check out the conference website <http://www.iscb2009.info>.

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CONFERENCE VENUE



Campus of the University of Economics in Prague is located within 15 minutes walking distance from the historic city centre of Prague (University website: <http://www.vse.cz>).

ATTRACTIONS

The Czech Republic has much to offer to its visitors, especially thanks to the wealth, diversity and accessibility of cultural, historical and natural places of interest. These are all concentrated in a relatively small area that boasts high quality accommodation and dining facilities.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation will be arranged in different hotel categories including 5-star hotels for those who require high-quality services and university student dormitories for those who prefer good quality at a reasonable price.

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

The Conference dinner will be served in the historic premises of Keiserštejn Palace located in Prague's Lesser Town. It is a real treasure trove of architectural elements and details that was founded in 15th century. The Petzold Building, today known as Keiserštejn Palace, has been restored in 1970s. It preserves objects of history of art and valuable furnishings and collections. Keiserštejn Palace's unique position, and, its great historic atmosphere in particular, render the Palace a unique place for meeting your colleagues in a relaxed atmosphere.

TOURS



Special tours and excursions have been arranged exclusively for the delegates and accompanying persons attending the 30th annual conference of ISCB. All tours will leave from and return to the Congress Venue.

Prague City

This tour offers a general impression of the "Golden City" through walks and visits to several important sites. It starts at Prague's Castle and continues to the Lesser Town, Charles Bridge and the Old Town Square where you can see the Old Town Hall and its 15th century Astronomical Clock, as well as the Church of Our Lady of Týn and the romantic streets of the Royal Way. Enjoy this tour, full of ancient legends and tales, while observing and experiencing the vibrant heart of a Central European metropolis.

Prague's Castle



This half-day sightseeing tour of Prague Castle, which is the seat of the Czech President, includes the Royal Palace - the seat of the kings of Bohemia - along with Vladislav Hall, St. Vitus Cathedral from the 14th century, St. George's Basilica with its treasury of old Czech art, Baroque paintings and sculpture, the Royal Garden and the Golden Lane whose famous inhabitants included the writer Franz Kafka.

Old Town and Jewish Quarter

This half-day walking tour will take you to the historical heart of the city - the Old Town, which was settled more than 1000 years ago. The tour begins at the Powder Gate, through which you get to the Old-Town Square with its beautiful houses, palaces and churches of various architectonic styles and the famous astronomical clock. The tour continues to the Jewish Quarter, where the medieval Jewish Ghetto was located. The story of Prague's Jewish community can be traced back to the mid-10th century. You will visit the impressive Old Jewish Cemetery, which dates from the 15th century, Europe's oldest Synagogue - the Gothic style Old-New Synagogue, the High Synagogue, the Town Hall, the Pinkas Synagogue and the Ceremonial Hall with its collection of children's art from Terezín concentration camp.

Prague by Boat



This tour offers you the opportunity to observe Prague from the deck of a boat. The river cruise calms the psyche, evoking a romantic atmosphere and reviving one's fantasies. During the cruise you will have the opportunity to admire Prague's cultural, historical and architectural jewels. Further you can enjoy the tour by relaxing over coffee and cake, and some music on the river under the ancient stone abutments of Charles Bridge.

Karlštejn Castle

This half-day trip to the 14th century Karlštejn Castle takes you on a tour of a historical site where the crown jewels and personal relics of the Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV are stored. The castle, surrounded by a beautiful romantic countryside, ranks among the most visited castles in the Czech Republic.

Pilsner Brewery



Pižň is the place where golden lager beer was born in 1842, since when the whole beer world has been trying to imitate it. Beers bearing names such as "pils", "pilsner" or "pilsener" number in the hundreds; however, the only original recognized worldwide is Pilsner Urquell. In the Pilsner Urquell Beer World you will discover the secret of this original and will become acquainted with the renowned Czech art - that of brewing good beer.

Karlovy Vary

This full-day tour out of Prague will take you to the most famous West Bohemian spa town of Karlovy Vary, which was founded by the Bohemian King Charles IV in the 14th century. You can taste the water from the 12 curative thermal mineral springs, admire the beauty of both the historic and modern colonnades, and purchase some of the typical souvenirs, such as special wafers, Moser porcelain and glass, or Becherovka liqueur, also known as the 13th curative spring of Karlovy Vary. The Karlovy Vary spa is known for the treatment of diseases of the digestive tract and metabolic and endocrinal disorders. The tour includes city sightseeing and a visit to the Becherovka factory, where participants will taste this delicious liqueur.

Křivoklát Castle and Glassworks in Nižbor



This day-long tour visits the 12th century Křivoklát Castle, tucked away in pinewoods along the Berounka river valley. King Otakar II of the Přemyslid dynasty built the castle, which was later inhabited by King Václav IV. The Round Tower and a dungeon served as prisons, and brutal instruments of torture are on display today. The castle chapel, 55,000-volume library, and works of art can be seen on this tour. Internationally renowned Bohemian crystal will be featured on the visit to the Nižbor Glassworks. Company owner Jiří Ruckl continues the family tradition of manufacturing and marketing high-quality household and decorative glassware, perfume bottles, decanter sets and other beautiful items in crystal and glass.