



3rd National Congress of Pathology with International Participation

***"From Slide to Sequence: Contemporary
Pathology"***

1–3 October, 2025

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel · Skopje, North Macedonia

**Organized by the Macedonian Association of Pathology
and North Macedonia Division of IAP**



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Welcome address

Dear colleagues,

Pathology today drives the evolution of patient care—bridging classical histomorphology with cutting-edge molecular and digital techniques to deliver precise, personalized diagnoses. Recognizing this transformative moment, the **Macedonian Association of Pathology** and the **North Macedonia Division of IAP** are privileged to issue the official booklet for the **3rd National Congress of Pathology with International Participation**, a three-day event in **Skopje (October 1–3, 2025)** at the **DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton**, to explore the latest breakthroughs in tumor classification, biomarker discovery, and translational medicine.

You will join leading pathologists, research scientists, laboratory specialists, and trainees from North Macedonia, Europe, USA and Canada, to debate emerging challenges, forge collaborations, and shape the next generation of diagnostic standards.

This Congress will bring together world-leading experts, early-career investigators, and clinical practitioners to share breakthroughs in molecular diagnostics, classification criteria, and digital pathology. Attendees will gain insight into emerging biomarkers, novel therapeutic targets, and best practices in reporting—knowledge that can be directly translated into improved patient outcomes.

We look forward to your contributions and to welcoming you to Skopje for three days of rigorous scientific exchange and lasting professional connections.

With kind regards,

Prof. Rubens Jovanović

President, Macedonian Association of Pathology



Prof. Katerina Kubelka - Sabit

President, North Macedonia Division of the IAP



Keynote speakers

Prof. Andrew L. Folpe (USA)

Professor of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, and internationally recognized authority in bone and soft tissue pathology. He has authored over 250 publications and co-authored Enzinger and Weiss' Soft Tissue Tumors as well as several AFIP fascicles. His expertise has shaped the WHO Classification of Soft Tissue and Bone Tumors and modern approaches to sarcoma diagnostics.



Keynote lecture: Why do classifications change? Lessons learned from liposarcoma

Prof. Zhaneta Nikolovska-Coleska (USA)

Associate Dean for Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, Professor of Pathology at the University of Michigan, a leading cancer researcher and Visiting professor of Pathology at the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University. Her work focuses on chemical genomics and the development of small-molecule inhibitors targeting protein–protein interactions. She has published extensively and is advancing personalized approaches to cancer therapeutics through translational research.



Keynote lecture: Cancer drug discovery and development in the era of personalized molecular medicine

Prof. Kiril Trpkov (Canada)

Professor of Pathology at the University of Calgary and internationally recognized expert in genitourinary pathology. He has played a major role in the classification of renal tumors and in developing international diagnostic standards. A founding member and past president of the Genitourinary Pathology Society (GUPS), he continues to lead collaborative efforts in uropathology.



Keynote lecture: Contemporary classification of renal tumors – morphologic, molecular or a combination of both?

Prof. Xavier Matias-Guiu (Spain)

Chair of Pathology at the University of Lleida and President-elect of the European Society of Pathology (ESP). He is a global authority in gynecologic and endocrine pathology, with key contributions to the molecular classification of endometrial carcinoma. His research integrates molecular diagnostics, digital pathology, and international clinical guidelines into routine cancer care.

**Keynote lecture: Integrating molecular features in pathology of ovarian cancer****Prof. Boštjan Luzar (Slovenia)**

Head of the Dermatopathology Section at the Institute of Pathology, University of Ljubljana, and a widely recognized expert in dermatopathology. His research focuses on adnexal and melanocytic skin tumors, inflammatory dermatoses, and cutaneous soft tissue neoplasms. He has contributed chapters to key dermatopathology textbooks and serves as editor and reviewer for international journals in the field.

**Keynote lecture: Melanocytic lesions**



Committees and organizers

Organizing committee

President	Rubens Jovanovic
Vice-presidents	Slavica Kostadinova Kunovska Katerina Kubelka - Sabit
Secretary	Magdalena Bogdanovska Todorovska
Members	Blagica Krsteska Vanja Filipovski

Scientific board

President	Katerina Kubelka - Sabit
Members	Magdalena Bogdanovska Todorovska Vanja Filipovski Gordana Petrushevska Ljube Ivkovski Dzjengis Jashar Selim Komina Juliya Zhivadinovikj Bogdanovska Sigurd Lax Andrew Folpe Kiril Trpkov Xavier Matias-Guiu Boštijan Luzar Zhaneta Nikolovska Choleska

Technical support

Tamara Angelovska
Milka Kochoska
Ana Jovcheva Trajkovska
Vladimir Risteski
Simona Stojanovska



About MAP

Founded in 1965 as a section of the Association of Pathologists of Yugoslavia, the Macedonian Association of Pathology gained independent status in 1971 as the Association of Pathologists of the Republic of Macedonia and adopted its current name on May 28, 2021.

Under the leadership of eminent presidents, the Association has grown into the nation's focal point for diagnostic science. It holds membership in the Macedonian Medical Association, the European Society of Pathologists, and the International Academy of Pathology, fostering national and international collaboration.

Over the decades, the Association has organized foundational congresses and inter-sectional meetings, including major events in Ohrid and Kruševo, and convened more than fifty expert workshops on wide range of topics.

Through this rich legacy of educational events, the Association advances standards in morphology, immunohistochemistry, molecular pathology, digital pathology and supports professional development and collaboration among pathologists.

Building on a legacy of landmark meetings, the 3rd National Congress of Pathology with International Participation reaffirms the Macedonian Association of Pathology's tradition of excellence by convening world-class experts in Skopje to exchange cutting-edge advances in morphologic, molecular, and digital diagnostics.

As both a celebration of six decades of scientific collaboration and a catalyst for future innovation, this Congress cements the Association's role in shaping precision patient care for the next generation.



Scientific programme

Wednesday, 01.10.2025

8:00-9:00

Registration

Moderators: Andrew Folpe, Slavica Kostadinova Kunovska
SOFT TISSUE PATHOLOGY MINI SYMPOSIUM

9:00-10:00

KEYNOTE LECTURE: *ANDREW FOLPE*

**WHY DO CLASSIFICATIONS CHANGE?
 LESSONS LEARNED FROM LIPOSARCOMA**

10:00-11:00

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LECTURES

Violeta Nikodinovska

Imaging of soft tissue tumors

Ljube Ivkovski

Cell blocks and immunocytochemistry in routine FNAC of neck lymph nodes and soft tissue

Milan Samardziski

Whoops Procedures in Soft Tissue Sarcoma Management: Why Margins Matter

Igor Stojkovski

Emerging Therapeutic Strategies for Soft Tissue Sarcoma: Integrating Targeted Therapy, Immunotherapy and Advanced Radiotherapy

11:00-11:30

Coffee break

11:30-13:30

SLIDE SEMINAR

Andrew Folpe

A morphology-based approach to the identification of selected soft tissue tumors with characteristic molecular genetics



Moderators: Zhaneta Nikolovska Choleska, Aleksandar Dimovski
MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY MINI SYMPOSIUM

13:30-14:30

KEYNOTE LECTURE: ZHANETA NIKOLOVSKA-COLESKA

**CANCER DRUG DISCOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE ERA OF
PERSONALIZED MOLECULAR MEDICINE**

14:30-15:30

Lunch / poster session

Moderators: Zhaneta Nikolovska Choleska, Aleksandar Dimovski

15:30-16:30

NATIONAL & REGIONAL LECTURES

Aleksandar Dimovski

Molecular landscape of pediatric neoplasms in Macedonia

Mileta Golubović

Imperatives and perspectives in contemporary personalized
pathological diagnostics

Aleksandar Eftimov

Novel molecular diagnostic approaches for targetable mutations in
colorectal cancer: A five-year retrospective study

Magdalena Bogdanovska Todorovska

Unveiling lung tumors: Five years of pathology and molecular data

16:30-17:30

Industry-sponsored symposium

17:30-19:00

NATIONAL & REGIONAL LECTURES

Liljana Tadić Latinović

Histological and molecular classification of SCLC

Radmila Janković

Colorectal Cancer: Biomarkers That Guide Therapy



Zoran Trajkovski

Challenge of Macrobiopsy in Molecular Diagnostics

Rubens Jovanović

AI in molecular pathology - Algorithms for VUS reclassification

Sofija Pejкова

Molecular Mechanisms of Glymphatic and Meningeal Lymphatic Dysfunction in Neurodegenerative Diseases: From Impaired Protein Clearance to the Feasibility of Microsurgical Lymphatic Reconstruction

Discussion

19:00-22:00

Opening ceremony and cocktail

Thursday, 02.10.2025

Moderators: Magdalena Bogdanovska Todorovska, Vanja Filipovski

8:00-9:00

Oral free / Poster session

Moderators: Kiril Trpkov, Vanja Filipovski

UROPATHOLOGY MINI SYMPOSIUM

9:00-10:00

Kiril Trpkov

Prostate carcinoma – diagnosis, grading and reporting – what's important and why

10:00-11:00

Kiril Trpkov

Practical issues in diagnosing and reporting urothelial urinary bladder carcinoma

11:00-11:30

Coffee break

11:30-12:30

Industry-sponsored symposium



Moderators: Kiril Trpkov, Vanja Filipovski

12:30-13:30

NATIONAL & REGIONAL LECTURES

Vanja Filipovski

Pathologic-radiologic correlation of prostate carcinoma in everyday practice

Selim Komina

Guidelines for the Pathologic Assessment of Nephrectomy Specimens in Renal Cell Carcinoma

Dzengis Jashar

Rare case of brain metastasis from prostate carcinoma: histopathological and immunohistochemical findings

Bashkim Shabani

Laparoscopic radical prostatectomy: A single center experience

13:30-14:30

Industry-sponsored symposium

14:30-15:15

Lunch / Poster session

15:15-16:15

KEYNOTE LECTURE: *KIRIL TRPKOV*

**CONTEMPORARY CLASSIFICATION OF RENAL TUMORS -
MORPHOLOGIC, MOLECULAR OR A COMBINATION OF
BOTH?**

Moderators: Dzengis Jashar, Selim Komina

16:15-17:15

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LECTURES

Slavica Kostadinova Kunovska

Rare cases of mesenchymal female genital tract tumors



Katerina Kubelka Sabit

Mesonephric-like adenocarcinoma of the uterus

Igor Aluloski

Survival of advanced stage High-grade serous ovarian cancer patients: Challenges for the future

Kornelija Trajkova

Vaginal microbiome and HPV interplay

17:15-20:00 Workshop on Archiving pathology reports, slides and paraffin blocks

20:30-22:00

Gala dinner

Friday, 03.10.2025

Moderators: Rubens Jovanovic, Katerina Kubelka-Sabit

8:00-9:00

Oral free / Poster session

Moderators: Sigurd Lax, Xavier Matias-Guiu

GYNECOLOGIC PATHOLOGY MINI SYMPOSIUM

9:00-10:00

Sigurd Lax

Overview of mesenchymal uterine neoplasms - diagnostic difficulties

10:00-11:00

Xavier Matias-Guiu

Pathology of endometrial carcinoma

11:00-11:15

Coffee break

11:15-12:15

Xavier Matias-Guiu

Molecular classification of endometrial carcinoma



Moderators: Sigurd Lax, Xavier Matias-Guiu

12:15-12:45

NATIONAL & REGIONAL LECTURES

Goran Dimitrov

Modalities of surgical treatment for cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN)

Ermina Iljazović

Pathology and classification of cervical cancer

12:45-13:30

Lunch / Poster session

13:30-14:30

Industry-sponsored symposium

14:30-15:30

KEYNOTE LECTURE: *XAVIER MATIAS-GUIU*

INTEGRATING MOLECULAR FEATURES IN PATHOLOGY OF OVARIAN CANCER

Moderators: Bostjan Luzar, Zlatko Marusic

SKIN PATHOLOGY MINI SYMPOSIUM

15:30-16:15

Zlatko Marusic

Pathology of inflammatory skin lesions

16:15-17:15

KEYNOTE LECTURE: *BOSTJAN LUZAR*

MELANOCYTIC LESIONS

17:15-17:30

Coffee break

17:30-18:30

SLIDE SEMINAR

Bostjan Luzar

Melanocytic lesions



Moderators: Bostjan Luzar, Zlatko Marusic

18:30-20:00

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LECTURES

Bisera Nikolovska

Surgical treatment of melanoma

Smilja Tudzarova

Melanoma malignum – inoperable doesn't mean incurable

Maja Ivanova

Therapeutic Options in Advanced Melanoma

Discussion

20:00-20:15

Closing remarks

20:30-01:00

Closing party



Accreditation

The Congress is accredited by:

- **The European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME®).**

The 3rd National Congress of Pathology with International Participation, Skopje, North Macedonia 01/10/2025 - 3/10/2025, has been accredited by the European accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME®) with 11.0 European CME credits (ECMEC®s). Each medical specialist should claim only those hours of credit that he/she actually spent in the educational activity.

Through an agreement between the Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes and the American Medical Association, physicians may convert EACCME® credits to an equivalent number of AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Information on the process to convert EACCME® credit to AMA credit can be found at <https://edhub.ama-assn.org/pages/applications>.

Live educational activities, occurring outside of Canada, recognised by the UEMS-EACCME® for ECMEC®s are deemed to be Accredited Group Learning Activities (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

- **Doctors' chamber of North Macedonia (LKRSM)**

Accreditation with 20 points for active participants and 12 points for passive participants.

Awards

To encourage excellence in research and presentation, the Scientific Committee will grant distinctions for the **Best Oral Presentation** and the **Best Poster Presentation**.

These awards celebrate the most impactful and innovative contributions presented at the National Congress of Pathology.



Registration

Registration is still available for passive participants on the website and during the event at the registration desk

Registration and payment received	On site registration
Macedonian Medical Association (MMA) members	80 EUR
Macedonian Association of Pathology (MAP) members	70 EUR
Non-members	120 EUR
One-day registration fee (available for members of MMA/ MAP only)	30 EUR

Medical students: registration is free of charge. Please provide your student ID (index) number and name of the University on the registration page.

Registration for the Congress is available through the official website of the Macedonian Association of Pathology (www.mzp.mk), which will direct you to the registration platform (www.goldentour.com.mk/3rdnationalcongress-pathology). Please follow the instructions provided there to complete your registration.



Abstracts

Participants are encouraged to submit abstracts, which will be considered for poster or oral free presentation.

Abstracts should be **structured**, not exceeding **250 words**, and prepared in **Times New Roman**, font size **12**.

Submissions should be sent to info@mzp.mk

Deadline for abstracts submission: September 20, 2025.

In the submission email, applicants should indicate **whether they are applying for poster or oral free presentation**.

All abstracts will be reviewed by the Scientific Committee, and authors will receive confirmation and detailed instructions by email few days after the submission.

Presentation guidelines

Printed posters: Size A1 (or max. 610 × 850 mm).

Posters should be prepared with a clear, structured layout.

The title should be in large, easily readable font (at least 72 pt), section headings in 36–48 pt, and the main text no smaller than 24 pt to ensure visibility at a distance. Figures, tables, and images should be of high quality, with legends in a minimum of 20 pt font.

Oral presentations: PowerPoint format, Widescreen (16:9).

Oral presentations should be prepared in PowerPoint format, with a maximum of 8 minutes presentation time plus 2 minutes discussion.

Presenters are encouraged to limit the number of slides to ensure focus and clarity within the allotted time. Presenters are expected to deliver their files in advance to the technical team to ensure smooth projection during the sessions.

All accepted abstracts will be published in the **Academic Medical Journal (Acad Med J)**, peer-reviewed open access journal of the Faculty of Medicine, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje.

Social Events

Opening ceremony

The Opening Ceremony of the National Congress of Pathology will take place on **October 1 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel**, Skopje, marking the formal beginning of our scientific and professional gathering. Following the ceremony, participants are invited to a cocktail reception in a collegial and welcoming atmosphere, accompanied by the **classical quartet Struni**, whose repertoire combines timeless classical works with expressive interpretations.



Gala dinner

“The Gala Dinner will take place on the evening of **October 2 at the DoubleTree by Hilton’s Grand Ballroom**, offering an elegant setting for networking and celebration. Participation is optional and requires a separate fee of € 60, which includes a full multi-course meal, drinks, and evening entertainment.

The evening will feature **live music by Ljubojna**, a celebrated Macedonian band known for blending traditional Macedonian roots with contemporary sounds—combining folk, ethno-jazz influences, and modern arrangements.

Fronted by the evocative vocals of **Vera Miloshevska**, Ljubojna invites guests on a musical journey that is rhythmic, soulful, and deeply tied to the Macedonian identity.



Closing party

The Closing Party will be held on **October 3, starting at 20:30**, with a **karaoke night** inviting participants to unleash their inner singer, accompanied by **complimentary drinks and a cocktail dinner**.

The event will take place at **Bar Mr. Jack, Partizanski Odredi br. 3**, in the heart of Skopje.

Optional Excursions

Skopje City Tour

Discover Skopje's rich tapestry of history and modern architecture on a guided half-day tour. You will stroll through the vibrant Old Bazaar, admire the panoramic views from Kale Fortress, and pass by the iconic Stone Bridge, Theatre Square, and memorials lining the Vardar River.

This tour is optional; pricing and exact departure times will be available on the registration desk.

Matka Canyon Excursion

Escape the city for an afternoon in Matka Canyon, with an artificial lakes set amid dramatic limestone cliffs. Guests can enjoy a boat cruise to Vrelo Cave, visit the 14th-century St. Andrew's Monastery, and explore scenic hiking paths. Participation is optional, pricing and exact departure times will be available on the registration desk.

Ohrid Day-Trip

Journey to the shores of Lake Ohrid—Europe's oldest lake and a UNESCO World Heritage Site—on an optional full-day outing. Highlights include a boat ride on the crystal-clear waters, visits to the medieval Samuil's Fortress, the Church of St. John at Kaneo, and the Old Town's cobblestone streets.

This excursion is optional; pricing and exact departure times will be available on the registration desk.

Congress Information

Congress Venue

Double Tree by Hilton Skopje
Blvd ASNOM 17, Skopje,
1000, North Macedonia



<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/skpabdi-doubletree-skopje/>

Congress Website

Further and updated information will be available on the internet at
www.mzp.mk

Congress Language

The official language of the 3rd National Congress of Pathology with International Participation is English.

Host Organisation

Macedonian Association of Pathology

Address: Institute of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine, UKIM in Skopje,

Ul. 50 Divizija no. 6, 1000 Skopje

tel. +389 2 3104 470;

e-mail: info@mzp.mk

Host

North Macedonia is a land where millennia of history converge amid dramatic mountain landscapes and shimmering lakes. From the ancient Roman city of Scupi to the medieval monuments of Ohrid—Europe's oldest lake and a UNESCO World Heritage Site—the country offers a tapestry of cultural and natural treasures.



Wander the cobblestone streets of Ohrid Old Town to visit Byzantine churches perched above crystal-clear waters, explore the 9th-century Ohrid Literary School founded by Saints Cyril and Methodius, or hike the gorges of Matka Canyon where rugged cliffs cradle hidden monasteries.



Sample award-winning reds in the fertile Tikveš Valley, and experience warm Macedonian hospitality in family-run tavernas and rural guesthouses. For congress participants, North Macedonia provides a perfect blend of scholarly engagement and unforgettable exploration—where every excursion becomes part of a broader narrative stretching back through antiquity to the vibrant present.

About Skopje

Skopje, the nation's dynamic capital, epitomizes this synthesis of past and future. Straddling the Vardar River, the city's skyline is anchored by the 15th-century Stone Bridge and dominated by the restored walls of Kale Fortress, which offer sweeping views of a metropolis that melds Ottoman bazaars with bold neoclassical boulevards.



Lose yourself in the labyrinthine Old Bazaar—one of the Balkans' largest—then pay homage at Mother Teresa's Memorial House and admire the eclectic array of statues and fountains in Macedonia Square.

Just beyond the city limits, Matka Canyon beckons for half-day retreats, while nearby wine routes and archaeological parks enrich your stay. Whether savouring local specialties in bustling cafés or networking against a backdrop of storied architecture, congress attendees will find Skopje an inspiring gateway to North Macedonia's rich heritage and modern promise.



Climate in Skopje

Skopje in early October enjoys pleasantly warm days and cool evenings. Average daytime temperatures range from 18 °C to 24 °C, with lows around 10 °C–12 °C after sunset. Rainfall is modest—occasional showers keep the air fresh without disrupting outdoor plans.

TAXI

Prices: start 60 mkd (0,97 €) + 35 mkd (0,57 €) per km

You can download specific applications for some of the TAXI companies:

Wizzi: <https://wizi.hr/en/>

Nase Taxi: <https://nasetaxi.mk/#application>

Taxi Service (intercity and international): <https://taxiservice.mk/pricelist/>

Taxi Skopje: <https://taxiskopje.mk/pricelist.html>

Public Transportation

The city is served by a comprehensive bus network, with over 20 routes connecting the city center, suburbs, and major landmarks. Buses run every 10–20 minutes during peak hours; single-ride tickets are inexpensive (around 1 EUR per ride) and can be purchased from the central bus station or in the bus.

Bus lines 3, 5, 15, 23 are direct lines to the congress venue from the city center and central bus station.

More information on <http://www.jsp.com.mk/PlanskiVozenRed.aspx>



Airport

Skopje “Alexander the Great” Airport (SKP) lies just 17 km south-east of the city centre. Shuttle buses link the terminal to the main bus station in about 30 minutes; taxis and ride-share services offer door-to-door transfers in 20–25 minutes priced around 20-25 euros.

More information about the shuttle bus timetable <https://skp.airports.com.mk/en-EN/passenger-guide/to-from-the-airport/page/bus>

Travelling by Car

The A1/E75 motorway passes just east of Skopje, providing direct access from Greece, Serbia, and Kosovo. Well-maintained ring roads ease congestion, and on-site parking is available at most city hotels and the Congress venue.

Hotels in Skopje

A range of accommodations—from boutique city-centre inns to international chains such as the DoubleTree by Hilton—are within easy reach of the Congress. More information will be provided on the Golden Tour’s website <https://www.goldentour.com.mk/3rdnationalcongress-pathology>.



Industry symposia

Wednesday 01.10

16:30-17:30 Industry-sponsored symposium MSD

Thursday 02.10

11:30-12:30 Industry-sponsored symposium Biotek

13:30-14:30 Industry-sponsored symposium Roche

Friday 03.10

13:30-14:30 Industry-sponsored symposium MSD

Acknowledgements

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САЛВУС довел Скопје
SALVUS dooel Skopje
salvus@salvus.mk





www.mzp.mk