

#BelBi2023 • Belgrade, Serbia

# BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



## 4th Belgrade Bioinformatics Conference

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EDITORS

**Dr. Ivana Morić**

**Dr. Valentina Đorđević**

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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 5<sup>th</sup> Belgrade Bioinformatics Conference.

Belgrade, July 2023

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

### Different approaches in microRNA analysis

Barbara Jenko Bizjan<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Bine Stančič<sup>1</sup>, Iva Sabolić<sup>3</sup>,  
Maja Štalekar<sup>1</sup> and Uršula Prosenc Zmrzljak<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> BIA Separations CRO, Labena d.o.o., Ljubljana, Slovenia

<sup>2</sup> Clinical Institute of Special Laboratory Diagnostics, University Children's Hospital, UMC, Ljubljana, Slovenia

<sup>3</sup> eDNA labs, Labena d.o.o., Zagreb, Croatia

**barbara.jenko@biaseparationscro.com**

MicroRNA might serve as a predictive biomarker for treatment response in stem cell treatment in knee osteoarthritis. Different sample types are going to be collected to enlighten the true biological role. MicroRNA analysis necessitates diverse approaches based on the sample type. In this study, we examined microRNA profiles in plasma samples, synovial fluid, and adipose-derived fat tissue. We conducted a comparative analysis of different microRNA analysis methods to assess the data.

The first approach involved a series of steps, including adapter trimming, quality filtering, size filtering, and mapping of all reads to the human reference genome (GRCh38.p12). Subsequently, genome-mapped reads were aligned to known miRNA sequences from miRBase. Reads that did not match miRNAs were subjected to further classification using additional databases, such as RNAcentral. The second pipeline also encompassed adapter trimming, quality filtering, and size filtering. Additionally, it involved collapsing individual reads into repeat sequences, followed by alignment to the mature index of miRBase. Unaligned reads were classified as isomiRs based on their alignment to the hairpin index of miRBase.

We processed sequences from three plasma samples, three adipose fat tissue samples, and three synovial fluid samples. Although there were slight variations in microRNA read counts, the average ratio between counts was 0.92 (SD=0.29). Notably, the second pipeline yielded higher read counts compared to the first pipeline.

The results obtained from both microRNA bioinformatic pipelines demonstrated similar outcomes, suggesting that the choice of pipeline is unlikely to have a significant impact on the derived biological insights.

**Keywords:** bioinformatics, microRNA, sequencing

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