

CURRICULUM VITAE

Professor Mario Poljak, MD, PhD
Specialist in Clinical Microbiology



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Year/Place of Birth: 1965; Osijek, Croatia

Education: 1972-1979, Elementary School, Osijek
1980-1984, Secondary School, Osijek
1985-1990, Faculty of Medicine, University of Zagreb, Croatia
1990, June, MD degree
1990-1993, Postgraduate Study in Clinical Immunology and Allergology, University of Zagreb, Croatia
1993, defended MSci thesis "Typing of hantaviruses using polymerase chain reaction", University of Zagreb, Croatia
1995, defended PhD thesis "The role of human papillomaviruses in the etiopathogenesis of benign and malignant tumors of the larynx and esophagus", University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
1998, finished specialisation in Clinical Microbiology

Present Position: Full Professor at Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana and
Head of Laboratory for Molecular Microbiology and
Slovenian HIV/AIDS Reference Centre
Institute of Microbiology and Immunology,
Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Research interests: - development of novel molecular diagnostic methods/assays
- improvement and evaluation commercial virological methods/assays

- isolation of DNA from archival and complicated clinical specimens (e.g. paraffin-embedded tissue, Papanicolaou-stained smears, Giemsa - smears)
- role of human papillomaviruses (HPV) in the pathogenesis of different benign and malignant tumours
- etiopathogenesis of head and neck carcinomas and benign tumours
- role of telomerases in carcinogenesis of head and neck tumours
- etiopathogenesis of pediatric *Helicobacter pylori* infection
- intrahospital and unusual transmission of blood-borne microorganisms
- genetic heterogeneity of Slovenian isolates of blood-borne microorganisms
- genetic heterogeneity of Slovenian isolates of *H. pylori* and *M. tuberculosis* hantaviruses and tick borne encephalitis virus

Bibliography:

- 162 original research articles in PubMed-cited journals including 146 articles in Science Citation Index (SCI)-cited journals
- 60 research articles in other journals
- 24 book chapters
- 117 published full-text lectures from different scientific conferences
- app. 300 abstracts from different scientific conferences

Citations:

- app. 1,200 times cited in SCI- and Scopus-indexed journals
- Hirsch index; h=19

Editorial Board, Advisory Board or peer reviewer for scientific journals:

Editor: Acta Dermatovenerologica APA

Editorial Board: Journal of Clinical Virology, Reviews in Infection, International Journal of Virology

Advisory Board: Scandinavian Journal of Clinical & Laboratory Investigation

Peer reviewer: Journal of Clinical Microbiology, Journal of Medical Virology, Journal of Virological Methods, Journal of Clinical Virology, International Journal of Cancer, BioTechniques, Gastroenterology, Nephron, Digestive Diseases and Sciences, Croatian Medical Journal, Medical Science Monitor, Journal of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Archives of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Expert Opinion on Molecular Diagnostics, Transplant International, Therapeutic Apheresis and Dialysis, Infection, Genetics and Evolution, Journal of Medical Sciences, Applied Microbiology, Scandinavian Journal of Infectious Diseases, Scandinavian Journal of Clinical & Laboratory Investigation

Direct mentorship, scientific guidance and supervision since 1990:

Ph. D. Thesis

(completed: 8 x supervisor; 6 x co-supervisor; presently 5 candidates)

M. Sci. Thesis

(completed: 4 x supervisor; 8 x co-supervisor; presently 2 candidates)

Graduation Thesis

(completed: 29 x supervisor; 3 x co-supervisor; presently 3 candidates)

Student Research Thesis

(completed: 3 x supervisor; 1 x co-supervisor)

Clinical Microbiology Fellows

(4 x Main supervisor - 5 years each, presently 3 candidates)

Young Research Fellows

(4 x Main supervisor - 4.5 years each, presently 2 candidates)

Professional recognition/responsibilities:

European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID):

Executive Committee Member (2012-present); European Council Member (2005-present); Parity Commission-ESCMID Advocate for Geographic Balance (2010-present); Professional Affairs Advisory Committee Member (2007-present)

European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS), Section of Medical Biopathology:

Secretary General (2003-2005); European Board Member (1997-2005); European Board for Accreditation of CME in Clinical Microbiology-Member (2004-2005)

European Society for Clinical Virology (ESCV): European Council Member (2000-2010)

European Society for Antiviral Resistance (ESAR): Board Member (2010-present)

Slovenian Society for Clinical Microbiology and Hospital Infections: President (2003-2007); Vice-President (2007-2011)

Slovenian National Coordinator for Specialisation in Clinical Microbiology (2003-present)

Professional Society Member:

European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases-ESCMID(1997-present)

American Society of Microbiology-ASM (1997-present)

European Society for Clinical Virology-ESCV (1995-present)

Pan American Society for Clinical Virology-PASCV (2004-present)

European Society for Antiviral Resistance-ESAR (2011-present)

International Papillomavirus Society-IPV (2002-present)

Slovensko zdravniško društvo (1991-present)

Slovensko mikrobiološko društvo (1993-present)

List of selected publications

(For complete list search in [PubMed](#) by Poljak-M)

- Gall K, Pavelić J, Jadro-Šantel D, **Poljak M**, Pavelić K. DNA amplification by polymerase chain reaction from brain tissues embedded in paraffin. *Int J Exp Pathol* 1993; 74: 333-337.
- Poljak M**, Cerar A. Human papillomavirus type 16 DNA in oesophageal squamous cell carcinoma. *Anticancer Res* 1993; 13: 2113-2116.
- Poljak M**, Cerar A. Detection of human papilloma virus type 6 DNA in an esophageal squamous cell papilloma. *Eur J Clin Microbiol & Infect Dis* 1994; 13: 188-189.
- Poljak M**, Avšič-Županc T. Immunohistochemical detection of Hantaan virus antigen in renal tissue from patient with hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome. *Nephron* 1994; 67: 252.
- Rott T, **Poljak M**, Staniša O, Orel J, Debeljak A. p53 and lung cancer-more frequent p53 overexpression in patients with multiple primary tumours. *Radiol Oncol* 1994; 28: 271-275.
- Gale N, **Poljak M**, Kambič V, Ferluga D, Fischinger J. Laryngeal papillomatosis: molecular, histopathologic, and clinical evaluation. *Virchows Arch* 1994; 425: 291-295.
- Avšič-Županc T, **Poljak M**, Furlan P, Kapš R, Xiao S-Y, LeDuc JW. Isolation of a strain of a Hantaan virus from a fatal case of hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome in Slovenia. *Am J Trop Med Hyg* 1994; 51: 393-400.
- Pavelić J, Hlavka V, **Poljak M**, Gale N, Pavelić K. p53 immunoreactivity in oligodendrogliomas. *J Neuro Oncol* 1994; 22: 1-6.
- Seme K, **Poljak M**, Žužek-Rešek S, Avšič-Županc T. High prevalence of hepatitis C virus infection in hemodialysis patients from one dialysis unit in Slovenia. *Nephron* 1995; 71: 99-100.
- Poljak M**, Barlič J, Seme K, Avšič-Županc T, Zore A. Isolation of DNA from archival Papanicolaou stained cytological smears using a simple salting-out procedure. *J Clin Pathol: Mol Pathol* 1995; 48: M55-M56.
- Žolnir-Dovč M, **Poljak M**, Seme K, Rus A, Avšič-Županc T. Evaluation of two commercial amplification assays for detection of Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex in respiratory specimens. *Infection* 1995; 23: 216-221.
- Seme K, **Poljak M**. Use of commercial PCR kit for detection of hepatitis C. *Eur J Clin Microb Infect Dis* 1995; 14: 549-552.
- Avšič-Županc T, **Poljak M**, Matičič M, Radšel-Medvešček A, LeDuc JW, Stiasny K, Kunz C, Heinz FX. Laboratory acquired tick-borne meningoencephalitis: Characterisation of virus strains. *Clin Diagn Virol* 1995; 4: 51-9.
- Vidmar L, Klavs I, Tomažič J, Matičič M, **Poljak M**, Kristančič L, Levičnik-Stezinar S. AIDS and HIV infection in Slovenia. *Acta Dermatovenerologica A.P.A.* 1995; 4: 145-147.
- Poljak M**, Seme K, Koren S. The polymerase chain reaction: A critical review of its uses and limitations in diagnostic microbiology. *Period Biol* 1996; 98: 183-190.
- Poljak M**, Seme K, Tomažič J, Vidmar L, Koren S. Clinical evaluation of Amplicor test for detection of human immunodeficiency virus type 1 proviral DNA in peripheral blood mononuclear cells. *Period Biol* 1996; 98: 205-210.
- Poljak M**, Orłowska J, Cerar A. Human papillomavirus infection in esophageal squamous cell papillomas: a study of 29 lesions. *Anticancer Res* 1995; 15: 965-970.

- Poljak M**, Barlič J. Rapid and simple method for extraction of DNA from archival Papanicolaou stained cervical smears. *Acta Cytol* 1996; 40: 374-375.
- Poljak M**, Cerar A, Orlowska J. p53 protein expression in esophageal squamous cell papillomas: a study of 36 lesions. *Scan J Gastroenterol* 1996; 31: 10-13.
- Seme K, **Poljak M**, Lešničar G, Močivnik M. Dialysis unit without hepatitis C virus infection in Slovenia. *Nephron* 1996; 73: 322.
- Poljak M**, Seme K. Rapid detection and typing of human papillomaviruses by consensus polymerase chain reaction and enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay. *J Virol Methods* 1996; 56: 231-238.
- Seme K, **Poljak M**. Evaluation of Amplicor HCV Test: Our experiences after one year of routine use in a diagnostic laboratory. *Infection* 1996; 24: 140-143.
- Uršič-Vrščaj M, Kovačič J, **Poljak M**, Marin J. Association of risk factors for cervical cancer and human papilloma viruses in invasive cervical cancer. *Eur J Gynaec Oncol* 1996; 17: 368-371.
- Poljak M**, Gale N, Kambič V, Ferluga D, Fischinger J. Overexpression of p53 protein in benign and malignant laryngeal epithelial lesions. *Anticancer Res* 1996; 16: 1947-1952.
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- Seme K, **Poljak M**, Lešničar G, Brinovec V, Štepec S, Koren S. Distribution of hepatitis C virus genotypes in Slovenia. *Scan J Infect Dis* 1997; 29: 29-31.
- Poljak M**, Gale N, Kambič V. Human papilloma viruses: A study of their prevalence in the epithelial hyperplastic lesions of the larynx. *Acta Otolaryngol (Stockh)* 1997; Suppl 527: 66-69.
- Gale N, Zidar N, Kambič V, **Poljak M**, Cör A. Epidermal growth factor receptor, *c-erbB-2* and p53 overexpressions in epithelial hyperplastic lesions of the larynx. *Acta Otolaryngol (Stockh)* 1997; Suppl 527: 105-110.
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- Poljak M**, Gale N, Kambič V, Luzar B. P53 protein overexpression in laryngeal squamous cell papillomas. *Anticancer Res* 1997; 17: 2201-2205.

Poljak M, Žener N, Seme K, Kristančič L. Particle agglutination test "Serodia HIV-1/2" as a novel anti-HIV-1/2 screening test: Comparative study on 3311 serum samples. *Folia Biol (Prague)* 1997; 43: 171-173.

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Poljak M, Cerar A, Seme K. Human papillomavirus infection in esophageal carcinomas: A study of 121 lesions using multiple broad spectrum polymerase chain reaction and literature review. *Hum Pathol* 1998; 29: 266-271.

Poljak M, Seme K. Simple one-tube reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction protocol containing anticontamination procedure for detection of GB virus C/hepatitis G virus RNA. *J Virol Methods* 1998; 71: 1-6.

Poljak M, Tomažič J, Seme K, Matičič M, Vidmar L. Prevalence of mutant CCR5 allele in Slovenian HIV-1-infected and non-infected individuals. *Acta Virol* 1998; 42: 23-26.

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Gale N, Kambič V, **Poljak M**, Cör A, Velkavrh D, Mlačak B. Chromosomes 7, 17 polysomies and overexpression of epidermal growth factor receptor and p53 protein in epithelial hyperplastic laryngeal lesions. *Oncology* 2000; 58: 117-125.

Poljak M, Seme K, Gale N. Rapid extraction of DNA from archival clinical specimens: our experiences. *Pflug Arch Eur J Physiol* 2000; 439 Suppl: R42-R44.

Poljak M, Seme K, Marin IJ, Tomažič J, Vidmar L, Matičič M, Kasper P. Seroprevalence of HIV-1 subtypes A-E among HIV-1 infected individuals from Slovenia. *Pflug Arch Eur J Physiol* 2000; 439 Suppl: R45-R46.

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Matičič M, **Poljak M**, Kramar B, Tomažič J, Vidmar L, Zakotnik B, Skalerič U. Proviral HIV-1 DNA in gingival crevicular fluid of HIV-1 infected patients in various stages of HIV disease. *J Dent Res* 2000, 79: 1496-1501.

Avšič-Županc T, Nemirov K, Petrovec M, Trilar T, **Poljak M**, Vaheri A, Plyusnin A. Genetic analysis of wild-type Dobrava hantavirus in Slovenia: co-existence of two distinct genetic lineages within the same natural foci. *J Gen Virol* 2000; 81: 1747-1755.

Matičič M, **Poljak M**, Kramar B, Seme K, Brinovec V, Meglič-Volkar J, Zakotnik B, Skalerič U. Detection of hepatitis C virus RNA from gingival crevicular fluid and its relation to virus presence in saliva. *J Periodontol* 2001, 72: 11-16.

Marin IJ, **Poljak M**, Seme K, Meglič-Volkar J, Matičič M, Lešničar G, Brinovec V. Comparative evaluation of semi-automated Cobas Amplicor Hepatitis B Virus Monitor Test and manual microwell plate-based Amplicor HBV Monitor Test. *J Clin Microbiol* 2001; 39: 758-761.

Vince A, Begovac J, Kessler H, Rabenau HF, **Poljak M**, Šiftar Z, Židovec S, Jeren T. AIDS-related body cavity-based lymphoma. A case report. *Acta Cytol* 2001; 45: 420-424.

Banič S, Koren S, Tomažič J, Vidmar L, Ihan A, **Poljak M**, Avšič-Županc T. Influenza vaccination of human immunodeficiency virus 1 - infected patients receiving antiretroviral therapy. *Acta Virol* 2001; 45: 39-44.

Poljak M, Marin IJ, Seme K, Brinovec V, Matičič M, Meglič-Volkar J, Lešničar G, Vince A. Second-generation Hybrid capture Test and Amplicor monitor test generate highly correlated hepatitis B virus DNA levels. *J Virol Methods* 2001; 97: 165-169.

Luzar B, **Poljak M**, Marin IJ, Fischinger J, Gale N. Quantitative measurement of telomerase catalytic subunit (hTERT) mRNA in laryngeal squamous cell carcinoma. *Anticancer Res* 2001; 21: 4011-4015.

Poljak M, Babič D, Seme K. Retrospective evaluation of the Vidas HIV DUO test for simultaneous detection of anti-HIV antibody and p24 antigen. *Acta Dermatovenerol Alp Pannon Adriat* 2002; 11: 11-13.

Seme K, **Poljak M**, Marin IJ, Tomažič J, Vidmar L. Hepatitis C virus infection in HIV-1 positive individuals from Slovenia. *Acta Dermatovenerol Alp Pannon Adriat* 2002; 11: 41-43.

Brinovec V, Lešničar G, Matičič M, Meglič-Volkar J, **Poljak M**, Seme K, Ferlan-Marolt V. Efficacy of chronic hepatitis C therapy with interferon alpha (IFN alpha) in Slovenia. *Hepato-Gastroenterol* 2002; 49: 1320-1325.

Marin IJ, **Poljak M**, Seme K, Brinovec V, Matičič M, Meglič-Volkar J, Lešničar G, Gradišek P. Comparative evaluation of three commercial assays for quantitative measurement of hepatitis B virus DNA in serum samples. *Hepato-Gastroenterol* 2002; 49: 1390-1394.

Seme K, **Poljak M**, Begovac J, Vince A, Tomažič J, Vidmar L, Kniewald T. Low prevalence of hepatitis C virus infection among human immunodeficiency virus type 1 infected Individuals from Slovenia and Croatia. *Acta Virol* 2002; 46: 91-94.

Gale N, Zidar N, **Poljak M**, Luzar B. Epithelial hyperplastic laryngeal lesions. *Histopathology* 2002; 41 (Suppl. 2): 477-481.

Poljak M, Marin IJ, Seme K, Vince A. Hybrid Capture II HPV test detects at least 15 human papillomavirus genotypes not included in its current high risk cocktail. *J Clin Virol* 2002;25 (Suppl. 3): S89-S97.

Vince A, Kutela N, Iscic-Bes J, Harni V, Ivanisevic M, Sonicki Z, Culig Z, **Poljak M**. Clinical utility of molecular detection of human papillomavirus in cervical samples by hybrid capture technology. *J Clin Virol* 2002; 25 (Suppl. 3): S109-S112.

Luzar B, Ferlan-Marolt V, Brinovec V, Lešničar G, Klopčič U, **Poljak M**. Does end-stage kidney failure influence hepatitis C progression in haemodialysis patients? *Hepato-Gastroenterol* 2003; 50: 157-160.

Matičič M, **Poljak M**, Seme K, Skalerič U. The IgG antibody profile to various antigen regions of hepatitis C virus differs in oral fluid and serum of patients with chronic hepatitis C. *Oral Microbiol Immunol* 2003; 18: 176-182.

Lešničar G, **Poljak M**, Seme K, Lešničar J. Pediatric tick-borne encephalitis in 371 cases from an endemic region in Slovenia, 1959 to 2000. *Pediatr Infect Dis J* 2003; 22: 612-618.

Poljak M, Seme K, Marin IJ, Babič DZ, Matičič M, Meglič J. Frequency of the 32-base pair deletion in the chemokine receptor CCR5 gene is not increased in hepatitis C patients. *Gastroenterology* 2003; 124: 1558-1560.

Kansky AA, **Poljak M**, Seme K, Kocjan BJ, Gale N, Luzar B, Golouh R. Human papillomavirus DNA in oral squamous cell carcinomas and normal oral mucosa. *Acta Virol* 2003; 47: 11-16.

Zupan S, **Poljak M**, Avšič-Županc T. Prevalence of *Bartonella* infections in Slovenian intravenous drug users. *Ann N Y Acad Sci* 2003; 990: 414-418.

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Žolnir-Dovč M, **Poljak M**, Eržen D, Šorli J. Molecular epidemiology of tuberculosis in Slovenia: Results of a one year (2001) nation-wide study. *Scan J Infect Dis* 2003; 35: 863-868.

Brinovec V, Lešničar G, Meglič-Volkar J, Matičič M, Baklan Z, **Poljak M**, Seme K, Ferlan-Marolt V, Luzar B. Treatment of chronic hepatitis C: Our experience. *Hepato-Gastroenterol* 2004; 51: 506-511.

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Baklan Z, Reberšek-Gorišek J, **Poljak M**, Pišec A. Prevalence of HIV, hepatitis B, C and G virus infections among injecting drug users on methadone maintenance treatment in Maribor. *Wien Klin Wochenschr* 2004; 116 (Suppl. 2): 5-7.

Škof A, **Poljak M**, Krbavčič A. Real-time polymerase chain reaction for detection of *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in pharmaceutical products for topical use. *J Rapid Meth Aut Mic* 2004; 12: 169-183.

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Kocjan BJ, **Poljak M**, Seme K, Potočnik M, Fujs K, Babič DZ. Distribution of human papillomavirus genotypes in plucked eyebrow hairs from Slovenian males with genital warts. *Infect Genet Evol* 2005; 5: 255-259.

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Ocepek M, Pate M, Žolnir-Dovč M, **Poljak M**. Transmission of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* from human to cattle. *J Clin Microbiol* 2005; 43: 3555-3557.

Luzar B, **Poljak M**, Cör A, Klopčič U, Ferlan-Marolt V. Expression of human telomerase catalytic protein in gallbladder carcinogenesis. *J Clin Pathol* 2005; 58: 820-825.

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