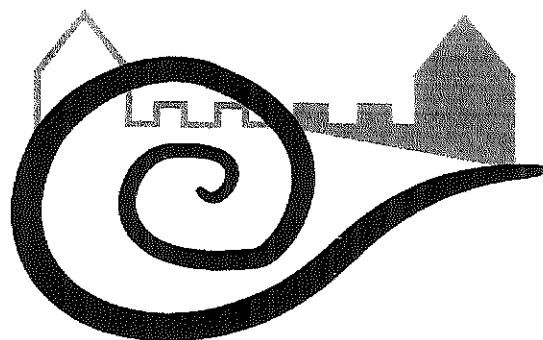


Materiały konferencyjne
IX Międzynarodowej Konferencji Naukowej

**CURRENT PARASITOLOGICAL
HAZARDS IN FOOD**



25 – 27.09.2024 Hotel Zamek Ryn

ORGANIZER

*Department of Parasitology and Invasive Diseases
National Veterinary Research Institute in Pulawy*



Organizing Committee

President

Dr. Ewa Bilaska-Zajac

Vice President

Prof. Tomasz Cencek

Vice President

Dr. Weronika Korpysa-Dzirba

Sekretary

MSc Aneta Belcik

Members:

Dr. Jacek Sroka

Dr. Jacek Karamon

Dr. Jolanta Zdybel

MSc. Aneta Gontarczyk

MSc Ewelina Antolak

MSc Martyna Chojcka

MSc Malgorzata Samorek-Pieróg

Scientific Committee

Prof. Stanisław Winiarczyk

Prof. Anna Bogucka-Kocka

Dr. Beata Szostakowska

Dr. Joanna HildebrandProf. Krzysztof Tomczuk

Dr. Mirosław Michalski

Prof. Krzysztof Szkucik

Foodborne Parasitic Zoonoses in Serbia

Saša Vasilev¹, Ivana Mitic¹, Jasna Kureljusic², Ana Vasic², Milos Korac³, Ljiljana Sabljic¹, Dragan Vasilev⁴

¹University of Belgrade, Institute for the Application of Nuclear Energy – INEP, Belgrade, Serbia

²Scientific Institute of Veterinary Medicine of Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia

³University of Belgrade, University Clinic for Infectious and Tropical Diseases, University Clinical Center of Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia

⁴University of Belgrade, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Belgrade, Serbia

Corresponding author: svasilev@inep.co.rs

Zoonotic transmission of parasitic infections is frequently overlooked or not fully acknowledged. Humans contract these infections through contaminated food, water, soil, direct animal contact, or through vectors. In Europe, the top five significant foodborne parasites (FBPs) include *Echinococcus multilocularis*, *Toxoplasma gondii*, *Trichinella spiralis*, *Echinococcus granulosus*, and *Cryptosporidium* spp., all of which are zoonotic. In Serbia, as in many other countries, global food sourcing, increased travel, shifts in culinary habits such as consuming raw vegetables and undercooking for flavor and nutrient preservation, can increase the risk of foodborne pathogens. In the same time improvements in diagnostic tools are obtained. The aim of this study is to present an overview of FBPs within both human and animal populations in Serbia, including meat inspection practices and strategies for reducing the risk of infection. In Serbia, parasitic zoonoses transmitted through meat consumption, such as *Trichinella* spp., *Echinococcus* spp., *Taenia* spp., *Sarcocystis* spp., and *Toxoplasma gondii*, significantly contribute to illness and/or economic losses. However, foodborne parasites receive less attention compared to other pathogens in Serbia. Human surveillance for most FBPs is passive, although trichinellosis and echinococcosis are notifiable diseases. There is a deficiency in sufficient surveillance programs for these FBPs in animals, with the exception of *Trichinella* spp., which is subject to active surveillance in susceptible animals as per Serbian regulations. One Health approach to control FBPs involves educating farmers and increasing awareness about parasite contamination in our environment and its health implications. Additionally, enhancing veterinary sanitary measures in animal farming and waste management is crucial.

Keywords: foodborne zoonotic parasites, Serbia