

Editorial

Mario Plebani

CCLM Award for The Most Cited Paper Recently Published

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In 2008, the Editors of the journal *Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (CCLM)* and de Gruyter Publishers established the “CCLM Award for the Most Cited Paper Recently Published”. The Award is given out every 3 years, and the last time it was presented at the IFCC WorldLab Berlin in 2011.

The award honors the most cited original article published in the last 3 years and rewards the authors of articles that generate high interest among the *Journal's* readership.

In 2014, the prize goes to Dr. Walter Michael Halbmayr and Dr. Guenter Weigel (Institute of Laboratory Medicine, Municipal Hospital Hietzing-Rosenhuegel, Vienna, Austria, and Central Institute of Medical and Chemical Laboratory Diagnostics, University Hospital – State Hospital Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria), co-authors of the article: “Interference of the new oral anticoagulant dabigatran with frequently used coagulation tests” published in *CCLM* 2012;50(9):1601–1605. The Award was presented during the Opening Ceremony of the 3rd EFLM-UEMS Congress – EuroLabFocus 2014 “Laboratory Medicine at the Clinical Interface” organized in Liverpool from October 7–10, 2014. The awardees were presented an award certificate, a 1-year free online subscription to the *Journal* and a monetary prize.

Here is the brief description of the paper provided by the two co-authors:

From 2010 to 2011 we completed a multicenter-in-vitro-trial with CE labeled, lyophilized, dabigatran-spiked plasma samples in coagulation laboratories of six major Austrian hospitals under routine conditions using standard reagents and analyzers. Dabigatran led to a dose-dependent prolongation of the clotting times in coagulometric tests and influenced the majority of the parameters measured. Statistically significant interference could be observed with the prothrombin time (PT), activated partial thromboplastin



Dr. Walter Michael Halbmayr



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time (aPTT), fibrinogen according to Clauss and PT/aPTT-based assays such as extrinsic/intrinsic factors and APC-resistance test as well as lupus anticoagulant testing. Even non-clotting tests, such as the colorimetric factor XIII activity assay and to a minor extent the amidolytic antithrombin activity assay (via factor IIa) were affected. Our data demonstrated that laboratories should expect to observe strong interferences of coagulation tests with increasing concentrations of dabigatran. Our paper was intended as an early warning for medical laboratories and turned out to be true in the daily clinical routine especially in the elderly, patients with renal impairment as well as patients whose blood was drawn at peak levels of dabigatran.

Articles receiving many citations significantly contribute to increasing not only the impact factor but above all the overall quality of a journal. We are confident that the efforts to improve the quality of articles published in *CCLM* and the decision to assure continuity of the Award in times marked by increasing economic pressure will be acknowledged and welcomed by the scientific community.

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