

In March-April 2008 I spent three weeks training at the Cystic Fibrosis Center, Institute of Biology and Medical Genetics in Prague, Czech Republic headed by Professor Milan Macek Jr., MD, PhD. This training was supported in part by EuroGentest Organization coordinated by Jean-Jacques Cassiman at the Leuven Catholic University, Belgium.

The national Center for Diagnosis and Treatment of Cystic Fibrosis is very experienced molecular genetics laboratory with technological accreditation for the molecular genetic diagnosis of CF and performs newborn screening and detection of CFTR gene mutation in patients, their families and their close relatives.

The types and distribution of mutations of CFTR gene varies widely between different countries and /or ethnic groups, and is relatively unknown in Armenia. That is why we wanted to continue investigation in CFTR gene in Armenian patients with CF. My goal was to use new molecular biology techniques to find some more common mutations for our own samples. During the training period I have gained an important and useful practical knowledge including several techniques for mutation detection in CF (sequencing, MLPA) and have also studied the protocols of mutations screening in CF. We discussed about using of the new techniques in CFTR gene investigation.

During the training period in the lab we sequenced 4 exons of CFTR gene of the samples of Armenian patients and analyzed 5 samples by MLPA technique. In one case we detected duplication in 17a exon and in two other cases - substitution in 17a exon in position 3123 G>C.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Prof. Milan Macek Jr. for this possibility of training in this laboratory. I would like also to thank Professor Macek's collaborators for their full support and warm attitude toward me.

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Nora Nalbandyan PhD.
Head of Laboratory of Molecular Genetics
Center of Molecular Genetics and
Primary Health Care
Yerevan
Armenia