



Dear Colleagues,

**Fifteenth of March** was not only the deadline for **the abstract submission** but also a **national holiday** in Hungary. It commemorates the bloodless revolution in Pest in 1848. The uprising grew into a war of independence from the Habsburg rule. More detail on this historical event (highlighting some important names that you will meet very often when looking around in Hungary) are provided at the end of this newsletter. But first, we come up with the important conference news.



Let us shortly introduce the **statistics of the upcoming conferences** so far:

- We have already more than **80** persons registered for the ISVLV and **50** for the IRS. Participants will represent about **20** countries from **5** continents.
- We received more than **70** and **30** abstracts for the **ISVLV** and **IRS**, respectively.
- Outline of the scientific programs will be shared on the web sites soon.

Here are the important dates to remember:

- **Early Bird Fee payment** period ends 31 March 2017
- **Regular registration** period ends 31 May 2017
- **The abstract submission is now extended till 15 April 2017**

Availability of American travel grants offered to US citizens can be viewed at the links below:

<http://kabafalvi.wixsite.com/isvlv-2017/us-travel-grant> OR  
<https://www.rana-2017.com/travel-grant-for-us-citizens>

**Registration is still open** and available: <http://kabafalvi.wixsite.com/isvlv-2017/registration> OR  
<https://www.rana-2017.com/registration> with a **Credit Card payment option** via the GRC homepage: [www.ranavirus.org/store](http://www.ranavirus.org/store)

And now some details for those of you who wish to learn about the Hungarian history. It is most likely that you will encounter some of the names, highlighted in bold, during your stay in Budapest.

### History of 15<sup>th</sup> March

The revolution started in Pest and Buda (two separate cities at that time) on 15th March 1848, following a series of uprisings throughout Europe. **Lajos Kossuth**, a famous journalist at the time, emerged as a leader and the revolution seemed to be very successful. A new, independent and democratic government was elected with Hungary's first Prime Minister, **Lajos Batthyány**. As Vienna faced its own revolution, the Habsburg Empire first accepted the new government and its demands. However, after the Austrian revolution was defeated, troops were sent to dissolve the newly elected Hungarian parliament, turning the revolution into a war between Austria and Hungary. **Hungarian hussar** troops fought majored victories in many battles.

The war for independence lasted until August 1849. Initially the Hungarian forces achieved several victories, which led to Hungary's complete independence from Austria and **Lajos Kossuth** was named Governor-President. This prompted the Habsburgs to ask for help from their most powerful ally, Tsar Nikolas I. The Russian army invaded Hungary and the revolution was eventually defeated. **Kossuth** resigned and fled into exile. He visited several countries including the US, where he was widely honoured for his achievements. **Kossuth County** in Iowa State was named after him. He died at the age 92 in Turin, Italy. Following the war of 1848–49, **Lajos Batthyány**, the first Hungarian Prime Minister was executed in Pest on a place called Szabadság (Liberty) square presently. Additionally, 13 generals were also executed in the city of Arad (being part of Romania nowadays). Among these martyrs was the major-general **János Damjanich** of Serbian origin. Two Polish soldiers, **József Bem** and **Henryk Dembinsky** also served as lieutenant generals in the Hungarian army. **Lipót Rottenbiller** was the mayor of Pest in that era. Some streets around the Veterinary University are named after these distinguished heroes.

### Celebrations at 15 March and Cockade

Today, 15 March is a national holiday in Hungary and there are several buildings and traditions, which have become a symbol of the revolution and site of the commemorative ceremonies. Hungarians proudly wear cockades on this day and some of the official celebrations are held at the Hungarian National Museum where young Hungarian revolutionaries, led by poet **Sándor Petőfi**, held a mass demonstration on the first day of the revolution in 1848.



Thanks for reading! We look forward to welcoming you in the historic Budapest. Please, forward this message to your colleagues and friends who might be interested in the topic. Also, please let us know if you wish to be omitted from our mailing list. Thank you!

*Mária Benkő, Balázs Harrach and Tibor Papp*

members of the local **Organizing Committee** (IVMR CAR HAS)