

## **La medicina molecolare in Austria: il ruolo del tecnico**

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Molecular medicine gets more and more important nowadays and offers the possibility of diagnostic, prospective, prophylactic and predictive laboratory analysis as well as therapeutical survey. The number of molecular investigations in pathology (e.g. PCR, DNA sequencing, FISH) has increased enormously within the last years.

The Austrian Biomedical Technologists are increasingly involved in investigations concerning gene expression, function of genes, function of proteins, and so on. Thus a profound knowledge of molecular techniques is inevitable. PCR for example is a fundamental technique used in molecular medicine and there are hardly any fields of laboratory science where PCR is not included in everyday's work.

Therefore the Austrian Academies for Biomedical Technologists are teaching molecular methods more intensive every year. Since the beginning of 1992 molecularbiology is enclosed in the curriculum. Molecularbiological and cellcultural test procedures are implemented in the second years training. Lecturers from different fields of molecular medicine impart a basic knowledge of molecular biology (replication, transcription, translation) pertaining

technologies like nucleic acid analysis, PCR, hybridisation process including micro arrays and FISH, cloning and sequencing.

Nevertheless methods and techniques are changing rapidly. For being well informed Austrian Biomedical Technologists have to attend CPD (continuing professional development) programmes which are mostly organized by the Austrian Biomedical Technologists Association – ÖBV MTA (Österreichischer Berufsverband der Medizinisch Technischen AnalytikerInnen). According to the European „Professional Dossier of Continuing Development“ everyone attending the CPD meeting will get a certain amount of Eurocredits (UEC) which enables the Biomedical Technologist to proof his annual CPD which is acknowledged in all memberstates of the European Union.

Due to the increasing requirements in molecular medicine the Austrian Association of Biomedical Technologists together with the EPBS (European Association for Professions in Biomedical Science) is working on developing key areas such as education, continuing professional education, competencies and accreditation.