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**ELECTRONIC
ABSTRACT BOOK**

**533 / ASSESING VIRULENCE POTENTIAL OF ACINETOBACTER
BAUMANNII ISOLATES RECOVERED FROM COVID-19 PATIENTS****04****Keywords:** *Virulence potential, Acinetobacter Baumannii, ICU, COVID-19***Brankica Filipić** / Faculty Of Pharmacy, University Of Belgrade, *Serbia***Katarina Novović** / Institute of Molecular Genetics and genetic Engineering, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, *Serbia***Snežana Kuzmanović Nedeljković** / Institute for Medicinal Plants Research "Dr Josif Pančić", Belgrade, *Serbia***Branko Jovčić** / Faculty Of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, *Serbia***Milan Kojić** / Institute of Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, *Serbia***Brankica Filipić** / Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, *Serbia***BACKGROUND**

From the start of COVID-19 pandemic, many patients suffering severe clinical presentation of COVID-19 and acute respiratory failure have been administered to intensive care units (ICUs). Need for noninvasive or invasive mechanical ventilation represents a high-risk factor for these patients to develop *Acinetobacter baumannii* superinfection.

OBJECTIVES

The main goal of this study was to examine virulence potential of *A. baumannii* isolates recovered from COVID-19 patients admitted to ICU as well as to compare differences in virulence among isolates originated from male and female patients or from different sample types.

METHODS

64 *A. baumannii* isolates were recovered from COVID-19 patients from December 2020 to February 2021. The isolates were originated from different sample types: blood, tip of the central venous catheter, tracheal aspirate, tip of the aspirator and sputum. Genetic relatedness of *Apal* digested *A. baumannii* isolates, was determined by pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE). Affinity to mucin binding was tested using in vitro model and isolates were examined for two types of motilities: swarming and twitching.