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eJIFCC

Foreword of the editor

Editor in Chief: Gábor L. Kovács, MD, PhD, DSc

The current issue of the eJIFCC is devoted to laboratory harmonization. Harmonization is a fundamental aspect of quality in laboratory medicine and its ultimate goal is to improve patient outcomes through the provision of accurate and actionable laboratory information. Two excellent and renowned laboratory scientists (Ms. Jillian Tate from Australia and Dr. Gary L. Myers from the US) were asked to invite specialists on harmonization and guest-edit the issue.

Jill Tate is a Senior Scientist working in the Department of Chemical Pathology at the Pathology Queensland Central Laboratory in Brisbane, Australia and currently co-ordinates the laboratory's Research and Development Unit which collaborates closely with local, national and international clinical and laboratory groups. She has been involved with harmonization activities since the 1990's through work with lipoprotein(a) standardization and the IFCC Working Group on the Standardization of Lp(a) Assays, then with cardiac troponin and the IFCC Committee on the Standardization of Markers of Cardiac Damage. Between 2008 and 2014 Jill chaired the IFCC WG-TNI, which is developing a secondary reference material for the standardization of troponin I assays. In October 2010 in Gaithersburg, USA, the AACC held their inaugural harmonization meeting. Following this meeting, which was attended by Jill on behalf of the Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists (AACB), the AACB Harmonization Committee was formed in 2011. As chair of the committee since its inception, Jill coordinates many of the AACB's harmonization activities including workshops and the formation of working parties involved with various aspects of harmonization, e.g. AACB Committee on Common Reference Intervals, AACB-RCPA Working Party on Management of Critical Laboratory Test Results. Over this time, she has guest-edited special issues on harmonization for The Clinical Biochemist Reviews and Clinica Chimica Acta.

Jill's main passion in the routine laboratory for over 30 years has been to work in the protein electrophoresis area and she has written widely on serum free light chain measurement. Standardization and harmonization of free light chain measurements remain controversial. Currently she is co-guest editing a special proteins issue on protein electrophoresis and serum free light chain measurement for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, due out in May this year. Above all Jill is enthusiastic about the role of the profession in Laboratory Medicine and believes that harmonization is an important way that the profession can add value to Laboratory Medicine.

Gary Myers, PhD, currently serves as Chair of the Joint Committee for Traceability in Laboratory Medicine. He also serves as Chair of the Council for the International Consortium for Harmonization

of Clinical Laboratory Results (ICHCLR). His most recent position was Vice President, Science and Practice Affairs for the American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC). Prior to joining AACC, Dr. Myers served as Chief, Clinical Chemistry Branch at the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). During his 33+ year career at CDC he directed programs to improve and standardize the laboratory measurement of biomarkers used to assess chronic disease status, particularly for cardiovascular disease and diabetes. Dr. Myers served as Secretary for the Scientific Division of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine from 2009-2014. In 2015 Dr. Myers received AACC's Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine. He served as AACC President in 2007.