



# e-NewsLetter



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## **NEWS FROM REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

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**IFCC REGIONAL NEWS: AFRICAN FEDERATION OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY**  
*Contributed by Professor Vanessa Steenkamp, President of the AFCC*

### **THE BIOMEDICAL SOCIETY OF ZAMBIA CELEBRATES THE NATIONAL LABORATORY PROFESSIONALS WEEK**

The Biomedical Society of Zambia (BSZ), a member country of the AFCC, recently celebrated National Laboratory Professionals week. This report by the chair of BSZ, Mr Hilary Lumano, tells of the success achieved by creating public awareness with regards to the importance of Laboratory Medicine.

“The Zambian National Laboratory Professionals week was celebrated from 20 to 25 May 2012 and apart from it being celebrated by the national executive in the capital city Lusaka it was celebrated by some provincial centres nationwide.

The theme for 2012 was “Confirmed Laboratory diagnosis for better health care” and as per tradition the Biomedical Society of Zambia (BSZ) organised various events ranging from a professional march led by a band, open air clinics, grand round (scientific presentations) at the University teaching hospital, national radio and television programs and to wrap it up a social evening at the society’s secretariat.

This year’s commemorations were flagged off by the Minister of Health who launched the week on National radio and television, and reminded the nation of the role that medical laboratories play in

modern health care. The minister further reminded the nation that for the provision of quality, cost effective laboratory services as close to the family as possible, medical laboratories should be strengthened and that the Zambian government is keenly looking into the development of human resource and infrastructure to achieve this.

In the capital, Lusaka, open air testing was this year taken to a high density compound in the east called Bauleni where free blood grouping, sugar testing, blood collections for the national transfusion service, voluntary counselling and testing (VCT), urine microscopy and general health talks were conducted. These free services provided an opportunity for lab professionals to interact with the public and uplift their understanding of the critical need to be correctly diagnosed. Zambia is characterised with blind treatment for various reasons some of which include the non-availability of testing facilities and confidence in laboratory services. The open-air clinics that are usually covered by the media therefore raise the levels of understanding and prompt government and other stakeholders to commit themselves to laboratory improvement.

The grand round that was held at the University Teaching Hospital was characterised with presentations from our medical fraternity on the need for clinical practice to receive accurate laboratory results, as these are key to proper diagnosis and prognosis. The national executive for many years now has been seeking to improve collaborations and consultations between the medical and biomedical fraternities in the hope of improving patient outcomes and such platforms have gone a long way in achieving this goal.

Key media coverage year after year is with Radio Phoenix, where medical laboratories were discussed and the general public could phone-in and ask questions on various laboratory related concerns. This has been another platform on which government and other stakeholders have responded positively to the demands of the professional body and the general public. This year our two founding members Mr Morton Sinkamba and Mr Chazya Siwale graced the show with the National Chairperson Hilary Lumano and member, Bernard Sikombe.

The year 2012 has been another year in which laboratory awareness has been successfully implemented by the Biomedical Society of Zambia not only in Lusaka but across the nation.



**NEWS FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY (SAACB)**  
*Contributed by Professor Rajiv Erasmus, President SAACB, Member of the eNewsletter WG*

**THE SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY ANNUAL CONGRESS**



The South African Association for Clinical Biochemistry (SAACB) will be holding its Annual Congress from the 28<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2012 at the Crystal Towers in Century City, Cape Town. The theme for the congress is "Driving innovative solutions for affordable health in Africa". This year's meeting is unique, as it will be held jointly with the Association of Pathologists of East, Central and Southern Africa (APECSA). IFCC will be sponsoring 4 speakers to the meeting. These are Dr Elizabeth Frank from India, Dr John Krahn from Canada, Dr Barbara Goldsmith from USA and Prof Erasmus from South Africa. The ACB-sponsored speaker is Dr Edmund Lamb (UK) while Dr Elizabeth Frank is also the APFCB sponsored speaker. The chair of the Working Group on Point of Care, Ms Rosy Tirimacco and the chair of IFCC-RIDL, Professor Kiyoshi Ichiara are also expected to attend. There will also be participation by the Royal College of Pathologists, UK (Dr Fleming), the African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM) and the College of Pathologists of East, Central and Southern Africa (COPECSA). Six SAACB members were involved in the formation of COPECSA last year in Kampala,

Uganda, and current SAACB president, Professor Erasmus is its vice president. Several themes will be addressed including Point of Care, Automation, Inborn Errors of Metabolism, Renal Disorders, Mass Spectrophotometry, with a special focus on Laboratory Management and Ethics. For the first time 4 senior SAACB members will be given an opportunity to discuss their research.

**A one-day workshop on Acid Base Disorders**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of August 2012, Dr Jocelyn Naickers plans a one-day workshop on Acid Base Disorders on behalf of the SAACB by at the Wits Medical School. Dr Naicker serves on the SAACB Council (Scientific Officer) and is currently the Chair of the National Health Laboratory Services Expert Committee on Clinical Chemistry.

**NEWS FROM ZIMBABWE**

**THE ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTS OF ZIMBABWE JOINS THE IFCC – THE 86<sup>TH</sup> MEMBER!**

The Association of Clinical Biochemists of Zimbabwe (ACBZ) was formed in 1992 and was an IFCC member from 1996-1999 and rejoins the IFCC again in 2012 after a 12-year lull. ACBZ is fully entrenched in developing Clinical Chemistry in Zimbabwe from undergraduate to doctoral level. We pioneered the MSc in Clinical Biochemistry in Sub Saharan Africa have produced close to 100 graduates over the past 15 years. Our graduates are currently working in all continents and over 10 have advanced to PhD level.

ACBZ members have landed important positions in both private and public institutions with appointments as founding Dean of Studies of the second College of Health Sciences in Zimbabwe, two Deans at the University of Zimbabwe' College of health Sciences, Pro Vice Chancellor of University of Zimbabwe, Founding Vice Chancellor of Great Zimbabwe University, Leading research fellows in South Africa, Switzerland, USA and France and CEO of a suprareferal hospital in Chitungwiza.

We also pioneered an external quality assurance programme which has since blossomed into a national quality assurance programme headed by one of our graduates. Our association has also had various consultancy appointments nationally and regionally.

As a full board we hold a wealth of expertise in fields as varied as clinical Epidemiology, lipidology, cancer studies, water quality and sanitation, mining health, enzymology, liver disease, quality assurance, thyroid disorders, kidney diseases

We are currently developing expertise in clinical chemistry of infectious diseases including Tuberculosis, HIV and malaria but require support, collaboration and training in immunoassay reagent development, molecular diagnostics, postgraduate training and research, clinical laboratory equipment.



**Photo 2: ACBZ Committee Members from left to right: Kudzai Mutsaka- Committee Member, Olive Gudza- Secretary General, Witmore Mujaji – Vice President, Hilda Matarira – President and National Representative, Cuthbert Musarurwa – Committee Member. Constance Samuwi – Treasurer**

### **NEWS FROM THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL CHEMISTRY (AACC) AACC's ACADEMY PROMOTES EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE**

As AACC's Academy, the National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry, is actively engaged in promoting evidence-based laboratory medicine through collaboration with clinical and laboratory groups. Its signature program of Laboratory Medicine Practice Guidelines (LMPGs) aims to optimize patient care by presenting recommendations based on scientific evidence and clinical experience. Currently eight LMPGs are in publication and available free from AACC.

In other efforts to provide the profession with scientifically sound information on best practices, the Academy publishes a weekly blog on laboratory issues written by subject matter experts. And, beginning this fall, the Academy will launch a line of white papers on topics that deserve more extensive coverage than a blog but do not warrant the requirements for practice guidelines. The Academy also recognizes excellence in science through its awards and distinguished abstracts program that are part of the AACC Annual Meeting each year.

The Academy is composed of 575 doctoral-level scientists who reside in 35 countries and who share a commitment to advancing laboratory medicine through research, publication, and service. To learn more about the Academy visit its website at [www.nacb.org](http://www.nacb.org) or view its weekly NACBLOG at [www.nacblog.org](http://www.nacblog.org).

**NEWS FROM THE KOREAN SOCIETY OF LABORATORY MEDICINE**  
**SOUTH KOREA JOINS GLOBAL NETWORK TO EDUCATE PATIENTS ABOUT LAB TESTS**

The AACC is pleased to announce the launch of Lab Tests Online-KR, the South Korean version of the award-winning patient education website, [Lab Tests Online](#). Lab Tests Online is a global network of websites that offers patients easy-to-understand information about medical lab testing, now localized in 16 countries and 13 languages. The new website was developed in partnership with the Korean Society for Laboratory Medicine. Over the last year, a team of KSLM editors translated the content the U.S. version of Lab Tests Online and adapted it to Korean policy and practice.

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**NEWS FROM THE CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL CHEMISTS**  
**CSCC AWARDS TO 3 DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS**

At the recent joint meeting of the Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists (CSCC) and the Société Québécoise de Biologie Clinique (SQBC) held in Quebec City, June 17-20, 2012, the following individuals were recognized for their contributions to Canadian Clinical Chemistry:



**Andrew MacRae**

**CSCC Award for Outstanding Contribution to Clinical Chemistry awarded to Dr. Andrew R. MacRae.**

Amongst Dr MacRae's many contributions and achievements, figure the establishment of a research institute focused on Clinical Chemistry and its role in health services and population health. The research institute was unique in that it was situated in a community hospital. Dr. MacRae was also instrumental in introducing Maternal Serum Screening to Canadian laboratories.

**CSCC Award for Research Excellence awarded to Dr. Reinhold Vieth.**

Over the years, Dr. Vieth has garnered a national and international reputation in the field of calcium metabolism and vitamin D in particular. His influential work on vitamin D in the epidemiology of calcium and vitamin D supplementation and how this can be done safely has led to improved treatment of postmenopausal bone loss.



**Reinhold Vieth**



### **CSCC Award for Education Excellence awarded to Dr. Khosrow Adeli.**

As Director of the Post-doctoral Training Program in Clinical Chemistry at the University of Toronto, Dr. Adeli has mentored a generation of Clinical Chemists who are now practicing throughout Canada and USA. Under his leadership, the University of Toronto is the only Canadian program to receive accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation in Clinical Chemistry (COMACC). Dr. Adeli is presently vice-chair of the IFCC CPD-EC and Chair of the IFCC Committee for Public Relations.

**Khosrow Adeli**

### **PRESENCE OF THE CSCC AT THE 8TH NATIONAL CONGRESS ON CLINICAL PATHOLOGY, CUBA**

*Contributed by Dr. David W. Kinniburgh, CSCC President Elect*

I was invited to represent the CSCC at the 8<sup>th</sup> National Congress on Clinical Pathology, CONAPAC 2012, organized by the Sociedad Cubana de Patología Clínica (SCPC), the Cuban Society of Clinical Pathology, and held in Havana, Cuba from March 28-30, 2012. My visit was funded through the CSCC International Exchange Grant. The Chair of the organizing committee, Dr. Enrique Abraham Marcel and Manuel Morejón, were my hosts for the conference, held at the Palco Hotel Conference Centre which is a very modern conference center located on the outskirts of Havana. The conference is organized every 2 to 3 years with delegates coming primarily from Cuba and surrounding Latin American countries. This year there were 282 delegates representing Cuba as well as Argentina, Canada, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Italy, Mexico, Spain, the United Kingdom and Uruguay. Dr. Graham Beastall, president of the IFCC and Dr. Bernard Gouget, treasurer of the IFCC, were also invited presenters at the conference.

All of you will appreciate how difficult it can be to organize a conference but the organizing committee for CONAPAC 2012 had to face an unusual and unexpected challenge. After the plans for the conference, including scheduling, venue reservations and invitations had been made the Pope's visit to Havana during the conference was announced, including a national half-day holiday at the start of the meeting. It is a tribute to the resourcefulness of the organizing committee that they were able to respond and the conference was a success in spite of this challenge.

The CSCC has long history with the SCPC. In 1994, Dr. Matt McQueen and Dr. Albert Fraser were instrumental in the initiative to facilitate the Cuban society membership in the IFCC by the CSCC sponsoring the Cuban society membership fees. Over the years, there have been exchange visits between the two societies and joint participation in meetings/workshops in Cuba.

I met with Dr. Enrique Abraham and Manuel Martin of the SCPC and Dr. Beastall and Dr. Gouget, representing the IFCC, to discuss how the CSCC and IFCC could continue to work with the SCPC to enhance clinical chemistry activities in Cuba, including training, continuing education, exchange visits, conferences and other support. The IFCC has already addressed the issue of IFCC membership fees and established appropriate fees based upon a true representation of the number of Clinical Chemists in Cuba. Efforts will be made to identify Spanish language education/training material that can be made

available to Cuba, preferably on a portable media (DVD). Other initiatives to provide support for our Cuban colleagues will be explored and the CSCC, IFCC and SCPC will endeavor to maintain a regular dialogue to identify opportunities for further cooperation.

Our hosts organized a tour of the Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital Clinical Laboratory in Havana. The facility is one of the more modern laboratories in Cuba and features high volume automated equipment, a broad range of testing and dedicated specialized professionals. Our visit to the laboratory and various presentations at the conference illustrated that Cuba has made significant progress in Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. Cuba is of course isolated from the major technology, supplies and resources available in the United States but has established a clinical laboratory service with support from Latin America, Europe and Canada. There are pockets of excellence in Cuba but there are many facilities which lack modern equipment and technologies, and all laboratories have insufficient funds and resources compared to modern laboratories elsewhere in the world. One notable difficulty is the lack of a stable and widely distributed internet.

The support provided by the CSCC and the IFCC is certainly required and very much appreciated by our Cuban colleagues as they strive to continually improve the Clinical Chemistry and Clinical Pathology services they provide.



**From left to right. Dr. David Kinniburgh, Dr. Enrique Abraham Marcel, Dr. Graham Beastall, Manual Morejón and Dr. Bernard Gouget**



**The CONAPAC 2012 Organizing Committee and invited guests and presenters.**

**THE CANADIAN INITIATIVE FOR PEDIATRIC REFERENCE INTERVALS**  
*Contributed by Dr. Khosrow Adeli, CALIPER Principal Investigator*

**CLOSING THE GAPS IN PEDIATRIC REFERENCE INTERVALS: AN UPDATE ON THE CALIPER PROJECT**



The CALIPER Project (Canadian Laboratory Initiative on Pediatric Reference Intervals) is an initiative of children's hospitals across Canada that is working to establish an updated and comprehensive database of pediatric reference intervals (normal, healthy blood test values) that represent Canada's diverse population. The project was spearheaded in 2004 when the Pediatric Focus Group of the Canadian Society of Clinical Biochemists highlighted the importance of establishing this database. Most of the available normal ranges had been established decades ago using instruments and methodologies which may no longer be relevant considering advances in clinical technologies today. Due to this fact, laboratories and clinicians often relied on outdated and incomplete data derived from hospitalized children who may not reflect healthy populations. Unfortunately, this type of incomplete information can often lead to misdiagnosis of childhood diseases.

The CALIPER Project was established to begin to address these critical gaps in pediatric medicine. Since 2004, the project has grown considerably with seven participating sites across Canada in Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, St. John's, Hamilton, Saskatoon & Vancouver. In addition, over 5,000 blood samples from healthy children and teens have been collected in the Greater Toronto Area and used to develop a comprehensive database of pediatric reference intervals.

CALIPER's first major report was recently published in Clinical Chemistry in May 2012 issue (Clinical Chemistry 2012; 58:5; 854–868) The study reported established reference intervals for over 40 commonly used clinical chemistry tests and marked the completion of Phase I of the CALIPER Project. These tests were considered the highest priority clinical tests that required immediate attention. A key goal of the CALIPER Project was to not only establish these reference intervals, but, also, to make them widely accessible to pediatricians and other health care professionals. To this aim, an online database was created that can be accessed by anybody seeking this information at [www.caliperdatabase.com](http://www.caliperdatabase.com).

Currently, CALIPER is working towards the completion of Phase II of the project in which reference intervals will be established for 23 additional immunoassay tests. It is expected that this information will be published by Fall 2012. CALIPER is also working on a transference study designed to allow the CALIPER reference intervals to be used on any of the major platforms currently in use in clinical laboratories worldwide. This will ensure that every hospital and health care centre across the country can benefit from the results of this study.

In addition to establishing reference intervals based on sex and age, CALIPER is also striving to develop reference intervals that accurately reflect Canada's diverse population. Efforts are underway to develop ethnic-specific reference intervals for tests that may show differences between groups. CALIPER has also made it a priority to ensure that Canada's Aboriginal and First Nations groups are represented in the database so that this population will also benefit from the data provided. Efforts to establish partnerships with health centres that work with this community have begun and we hope to establish reference intervals that represent this population within the next couple of years.

The team of CALIPER co-investigators include Dr. Edward Randell, Dr. Edgard Delvin, Dr. Fabienne Parente, Dr. Nathalie Lepage, Dr. Vijay Grey, Dr. Qing Meng, Dr. Benjamin Jung, Dr. Jalaluddin Bhuiyan, Dr. Zulfikarali Verjee, Dr. David Colantonio, Dr. Lianna Kyriakopoulou, and Dr. Khosrow Adeli (as Principal Investigator, [Khosrow.adeli@sickkids.ca](mailto:Khosrow.adeli@sickkids.ca))

For latest development and to view the current database of pediatric reference intervals, please visit CALIPER websites: [www.caliperproject.com](http://www.caliperproject.com) & [www.caliperdatabase.com](http://www.caliperdatabase.com)

## NEWS FROM POLAND

*Contributed by Professor Grazyna Sypniewska, IFCC eNewsletter WG Member*

### YOUNG SCIENTISTS IN POLAND ACHIEVE SCIENTIFIC SUCCESS.

#### Grazyna Sypniewska



Katarzyna Bergmann, PhD student from the Department of Laboratory Medicine Nicolaus Copernicus University Collegium Medicum in Bydgoszcz, Poland was chosen as one of the hundred best students in the country. She was awarded the “The Diamond Grant” from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Poland in March 2012 for her project “Evaluation of new biomarkers: interleukin 33, visfatin, retinol-binding protein-4 and fibulin-1 as risk factors for insulin resistance, diabetes and cardiovascular disease in clinically healthy, non-obese subjects”. She has received 200 000 PLN (approx. 50 000 euro) to support her research. Results of the study will be used to prepare a PhD dissertation on “Prognostic value of glycated hemoglobin (HbA1c) measurement as a risk factor for diabetes and CVD in clinically healthy individuals”. She also has won a 1st Award in a nationwide competition supported by Foundation for Development of Laboratory Diagnostics for her Master thesis in laboratory medicine entitled “Non-HDL cholesterol as a risk factor for coronary heart disease”.

Katarzyna Bergmann graduated in laboratory medicine studies at the Nicolaus Copernicus University Collegium Medicum in 2010, had started the same year her PhD studies in the Department of Laboratory Medicine under the supervision of Professor Grazyna Sypniewska, head of the Department. She is already the author of 12 publications and 2 posters presented at the international and European scientific congresses (21st IFCC Congress 2011, 46th ESCI Congress 2012). In December 2011 she was honored a scholarship for scientific achievements from the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Poland. Last month she has successfully defended her master's degree in another field of study cosmetology.



**K. Bergman**

## NEWS FROM FINLAND

*Contributed by Dr. Mikko Aulu, and Dr. Sini Lähteenmäki, Helsinki University Central Hospital, Laboratory Division (HUSLAB), Helsinki, Finland*

### REPORT ON THE XXXIII NORDIC CONGRESS IN CLINICAL CHEMISTRY

The XXXIII Nordic Congress in Clinical Chemistry was held in Reykjavik, Iceland from June 12th to the 15th 2012. Arrangements were elegantly taken care of by the Nordic Society for Clinical Chemistry and the Icelandic Society for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine. The number of participants was close to 400. Mr. Agnar Helgason. Gave the intriguing opening lecture concerning the genetic background of Icelanders. The symposia and workshops included fascinating presentations on current topics such as new oral anticoagulants, high sensitive troponin assays, immunoassay vs. mass spectrometry, biomarkers & proteomics, aging and molecular diagnostics.

Mr. Nader Rifai held one of the plenary lectures. His presentation gave a comprehensive insight into biomarker research. Mr. YM Dennis Lo offered the other plenary thought-provoking talk about his work with fetal DNA in maternal plasma. Next generation sequencing of plasma DNA allows a robust classification of pregnant women carrying foetuses with trisomy 21 when compared to those carrying euploid foetuses. Plasma DNA analysis appears to be a powerful method for prenatal diagnosis. Mr. Ian D Watson held his plenary lecture on the current topic of personalized medicine and patient focused laboratory medicine. This may be a challenge but also an opportunity for a major development for our speciality.

The poster session allowed scientists to present and discuss their results. Exhibitors had ample opportunity to meet congress attendees in a friendly atmosphere. The social program consisted of a get-together, of several excursions and of a Gala Dinner held in the brand new ocean front Harpan Convention Centre.

The next Nordic Congress will take place in 2014 in Gothenburg, Sweden.

### AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS RECEIVED DURING THE NORDIC CONGRESS IN CLINICAL CHEMISTRY

The Astrup Prize 2012 to reward contemporary Nordic research work related to the field of clinical chemistry was given to Mr. Emil D Bartels of Denmark. His presentation considered LDL metabolism within the arterial wall. The winner is selected by a Nordic committee and based on the scientific value of the paper, and the quality of its oral presentation.

The Eldjarn Prize, awarded every other year to the first author of the best article published in The Scandinavian Journal of Clinical and Laboratory Investigation during the five preceding years, was given to a Danish investigator, Mrs. Mandana Haack-Sørensen for her work on mesenchymal stromal cells and ischemic heart disease.

## **NEWS FROM SRI LANKA**

*Contributed by Mr. H. Weerawarna, President ACB, Sri Lanka*

### **NEW OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY, SRI LANKA APPOINTED**

New office bearers of the Association for Clinical Biochemistry, Sri Lanka were appointed for the year 2011/2012 at the Annual General Meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2011. They are as follows: President: Mr. H. Weerawarna, Secretary: Dr. B. K. T. P. Dayanath, Treasurer: Ms Sriyani Amarasinghe. The Executive Committee consists of 8 members that are: Prof. Sumedha Wijerathne, Dr. Saroja Siriwardane, Dr. M. Gunathikake, Dr. Gaya Katulanda, Dr. Chandrika Meegama, Dr. Saman Peduruhewa, Dr. Rajitha Nandasena, Ms Nadie Perera.

The Address of the Association is the following:  
Association for Clinical Biochemistry, Sri Lanka  
100, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 8, Sri Lanka  
Email : chandraw@sltnet.lk

## **NEWS FROM THE CHILEAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY**

*Contributed by Dr. Eduardo Aranda, National representative, Chilean Society of Clinical Chemistry*

### **REPORT ON 17<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS OF THE CHILEAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY.**

The Chilean Society of Chemical Clinical (ChSCC) organized the 17<sup>th</sup> Chilean Congress of Clinical Chemistry held from 16-18<sup>th</sup> May 2012 in Santiago, Chile. The congress, held under the auspices of the Latin-American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI), the International Technical Cooperation (PTB) and the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC), received many participants from public and private laboratories from the entire country.

The three-day event had an extensive scientific program that included lectures, symposia and poster exhibition. The conferences covered, among other topics, the advances in immunology, monitoring of clinical and forensic drugs, markers of depression, accreditation. Three industry-sponsored workshops were included: one by SYSMEX, one by SIEMENS, and one by Bio RAD/Galenica. An exhibition (EXPOLAB) of equipment and reagents in the field of clinical lab was on display.

Thanks to the IFCC-ABBOTT Visiting Lecturer Program, congresses had the great opportunity to listen to two lectures by Professor Mario Plebani: "Quality indicators for reducing laboratory errors and improving patient safety" and "The future of laboratory medicine: Challenges and opportunities"



**From left to right: Maria Elena Arredondo (Vice-Chair ChSCC), Dr. Fernando Mönckeberg, Dr. Angelica Lagos, ChSCC President and Dr. Eduardo Aranda, Congress President.**



**From left to right: Dr. Eduardo Aranda and Professor Mario Plebani**



**17th Chilean Congress of Clinical Chemistry: Members of the scientific and organizing committee.**

#### **NEWS FROM ARGENTINA**

*Contributed by Alejandra Arias, IFCC eNewsletter Liaison  
CUBRA Treasurer and Chair of the Communication Committee*

#### **1ST NEA BIOCHEMICAL CONGRESS**

The 1st Biochemical Congress of NEA organized by the colleges of Chaco and Corrientes Biochemical and held in Resistencia, Chaco – Argentina between last June 13th and 16th attracted over 350 participants from the entire country as well as from Paraguay.

The keynote speaker topic addressed the important topic of “Clinical Biochemistry involvement in the patient care” and gave a lucid account of the position of the clinical biochemists in the society and in the health system. The principal topics presented by high academic standards scientists, included Leishmaniasis, Legal aspect laboratory medicine, toxicology and evidence-based medicine.

COCERBIN certificates, that certify the professional practice, were awarded during the closing ceremony.

The 1st NEA congress having met all expectations both in terms of the organization, content and attendants, it was decided that a 2nd Biochemical Congress of NEA will be held in 2014 in the neighboring city of Corrientes.



**Dr. Carlos Navarro, Chair of CUBRA and Chair of COLABIOCLI**

### **2ND BIOCHEMICAL CONGRESS IN CUYO**

The 2nd Conference on Clinical Biochemistry, held in Cuyo - Argentina on May 29th, 2012, consisted of workshops covering blood bank and laboratory emergency and attracted 512 participants. In this occasions we were honored by the presence of The Health Minister of Mendoza and authorities of the Confederación Latinoamericana de Bioquímica Clínica (COLABIOCLI), the Confederación Unificada Bioquímica de la República Argentina (CUBRA), the Fundación Bioquímica Argentina (FBA) and of the different universities of country, honored the Congress of their presence. The 3rd Conference will be held in San Luis in March 2014



**Dr. Jorge Alegre, Vice President of CUBRA**

## UNIQUE BIOCHEMICAL NOMENCLATURE NBU 2012

The Technical Permanent Committee on the Unique Biochemical Nomenclature announced the launch of the 2012 version. This nomenclature is available as a PDF document at: (<http://www.cubra.org.ar/novedades.asp?Accion=VerCompleto&IdNoticia=312>).

This document benefited from the input of clinical biochemists from all regions of Argentina. The Unique Biochemical Nomenclature is an essential tool for laboratory performance in relation to different segments of the Argentina health care system as it includes upgrades in the practice of the mandatory health plan, the special practices of high and low frequency, and the rules and interpretations.

This Technical Committee hopes once again, having met the expectations of their colleagues.



The technical permanent committee of Unique Biochemical Nomenclature

### NEWS FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF BIOCHEMIST OF PARAGUAY

*Contributed by Dra Montserrat Blanes Gonzales,  
National Representative Paraguayan Biochemistry Association, Chair WG-IANT*

#### INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR: "ADDED VALUE TO THE PATIENT CARE USING QUALITY CONTROL" HELD IN ASUNCIÓN, PARAGUAY

This seminar, held on June 7 and 8 in Asunción, Paraguay, was organized and sponsored jointly by the Association of Biochemist of Paraguay, the American Association of Clinical Chemistry and the Wallace H. Coulter Foundation with the co-sponsorship of the Faculty of Chemical Sciences and the Institute of Health Sciences Research of the National University of Asunción, the Faculty of Chemical Sciences, Guaira Branch of the "Nuestra Señora de la Asunción" Catholic University and the Pan American Health Organization.

The lecturers were from Argentina (Gabriel Migliarino, Daniel Maziotta), EEUU (Angel Colon, Eduardo Callejas), Guatemala (Ana Leticia Maselli), Mexico (Rosa Sierra Amor), Peru (José Jara Aguirre), Uruguay (Stella Raymondo) and Paraguay (M. Montserrat Blanes, Lourdes Pozzolli and Graciela Velazquez)

The subjects were varied and included: Terms of quality at the clinical laboratory, Planning and implementation of the quality control program, Statistical analysis, Selection of the right quality control program and the use of good practices, How to compare results between laboratories and why it is important, Laboratory staff in the implementation of quality control programs, Consequences of not performing a quality control, Impact of quality in the patient care completed by a workshop of practical exercises. Dr. Angel Colòn for AACC and Prof. Dr. M Montserrat Blanes G. for ABP coordinated this event.

Index SACI, as representative of Abbot Diagnostica, also sponsored an industrial workshop on "Vitamin D: Clinical applications and considerations for its valuation in the clinical laboratories", given by Dr. Rafael G Vargas.

The 240 participants, equally distributed between professionals from clinical laboratories and students finishing their degree studies, expressed their high satisfaction for this event.

The seminar was preceded by an interactive continuous education session on the "Planning of the internal quality program and on the clinical usefulness of laboratory results", held at the Auditorium of the Faculty of Chemical Sciences of the National University of Asuncion. Dr. Gabriel Migliarino, academic authorities and students lectured during this session, planned and coordinated by the Academic Direction and Coordination of Biochemistry of the Faculty of Chemical Sciences.



**From left to right: Prof. Dra. M Montserrat Blanes, General National Representative ABP IFCC; Dra. Graciela Velazquez, ChairABP Accreditation Department; Prof. Dra. Juana Ortellado de Canese, President ABP**



The executive Board of the Paraguayan Biochemistry Association and speakers

## REPORT ON THE IFCC PROFESSIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

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*M<sup>o</sup> Avellaneda Díaz Díaz , 4th year Resident in Laboratory Medicine, Department of Laboratory Medicine, Clinical San Carlos Hospital, Madrid.*

### **MY EXPERIENCE AT THE STEM CELLS & CHROMATIN TEAM, MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY DIVISION, INSTITUTE OF CANCER RESEARCH, SUTTON, UNITED KINGDOM**

In order to expand my knowledge in the field of molecular biology, I decided to do an internship at the Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) during the last year of my 4-year Medicine Laboratory Residence Training Program.

Two campuses, Sutton and Chelsea, constitute the ICR that collaborates with the Royal Marsden Hospital (RMH). The Division of Molecular Pathology based in Sutton, brings together basic science and translational research teams that include the Stem cells and Chromatin team, part of the Hemato-Oncology Unit, a research management group formed by ICR and RMH researchers/clinicians, in which I accomplished my internship.

Upon arrival, I received the warmest welcome by Dr Tomoyuki Sawado, who toured with me the Institute, and by Drs. Lukasz Jasnos and Osamu Suyari, post-doctoral members of the team, who explained their projects and the techniques available.

The projects I was involved in during my internship were essentially related to the link between epigenetic inheritance and clonal heterogeneity, of strong interest to the Unit who has published seminal articles on this subject. The working hypothesis is that inaccurate epigenetic inheritance during DNA replication results in clonal heterogeneity. This is based on the assumption that distinct epigenetic states on two replicated sister chromatids are independently delivered to daughter cells during mitosis,

generating asymmetric daughter cells. In this context, I have been involved in single cell RNA analyses using mutant Embryonic Stem cells (ES cells), including murine Embryonic stem cells (mESCs) and medulloblastoma (MB) tumor lines, which lack modifiers for epigenetic inheritance, analyzing and generating mutants ES cells, and carrying out daughter cell separation and cell cycle arrest tests.

The projects I was involved in at the end of my residence gave me the opportunity to acquire advanced skills in cell culture and molecular biology, and to widen my scientific interests. They will help building up my scientific career.

I encourage young scientists who are interested in learning new skills in laboratory medicine and fundamental science to participate in the IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Program. The aim of the PSEP is to promote and to facilitate the exchange of laboratory scientists of IFCC member societies, to increase high-level education through science and scientific activities in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine and to transfer the knowledge of new technology among IFCC member societies, becoming really useful not only for the scientist involved in the program but for the institution he/she works in.

I am grateful to IFCC, and particularly Dr. Graham Beastall, IFCC president, for supporting my application. I also thank Professors Alan Ashworth and Mel Graves, Heads of the ICR Division of Molecular Pathology, and extend my heartfelt gratitude to my supervisor, Dr Tomoyuki Sawado (ICR), for allowing me to join the Stem Cells & Chromatin team, as well as supervising my internship projects. I would also like to thank Drs Lukasz Jasnos, Osamu Suyari (ICR) and all the ICR staff for their training assistance and for making my stay at the Institute so comfortable.

I am also grateful to the Spanish Society of Clinical Biochemistry and Molecular Pathology (SEQC) for supporting my application, particularly Dr. Álvarez Menendez, President of the Society, Dr. Antoja Ribó, previous Secretary of the Society, for all the information and to the current Secretary, Dra Padrós Fluviá, for the administrative work.

Finally, I would like to thank my Employer Clinical San Carlos Hospital in Madrid, for supporting the internship.

## OBITUARY

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### A FAREWELL NOTE

by Dra. Rosa Isabel Sierra-Amor, IFCC National Representative, México.

Maria Antonieta Garza Galindo-Lopez was born in the city of Mexico, D.F., in October 29th, 1933, being the oldest of five brothers. In 1950, she attended the Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo León, where she graduated in 1955 as biologist clinical chemist. The same year, in Monterrey, she met Dr. José Bernardo Molina, MD, cardiologist and pediatrician whom she married in 1956. The couple traveled to United States, where she performed a rotating internship in the clinical laboratories of the Hospital Saint Luke's in Milwaukee, WI. Back in Mexico, with a family of three children and one to be born, she maintained the desire to continue her professional career. In November 1970, with seven children, she was recruited as Clinical Chemist at the General Clinical Laboratory in the ISSSTE Regional Hospital. In 1982, she moved to the Clinical Laboratory of the ISSSTE "Lic." Regional Hospital "Adolfo López Mateos", and became its Head from 1987 to 1998. She was invited to join the Trade Union of Workers of the ISSSTE as Executive Secretary for Press and Publicity, a position she held from 1986 to 1990.



**Maria Antonieta Garza Galindo-Lopez, Head of Clinical Chemistry Laboratory, ISSSTE Mexico City 1987.**

Maria Antonieta Garza Galindo-Lopez was part of the Group of experts and tutors who lent their support to the creation in 1985 of the program of External Quality Assessment of the Mexican Association of Clinical Biochemistry created under the auspices of the IFCC and the World Health Organization at the laboratory in Birmingham, United Kingdom. A year later, she took part into the 1st and 2nd training courses in Clinical Chemistry for tutors taught by the Group of experts of the IFCC at the CIESS in Mexico City. These ultimately lead to the later courses given in Mexico, Guatemala and Uruguay.

In 1992, Marianto, as she wanted be called, took part to the Continuous Quality Improvement Project and participated to the course "Quality Assurance in Clinical Laboratories" at Reading University in London, England. She was Professor of this course until 1994. She also coordinated the Hematology program from 1992 until the end of 2004, and in 2005 she was designated General Coordinator of the first EQAS program of Mexico.

Marianto became an important pillar for the Mexican Association Clinical Biochemists becoming the Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors from 1995 to 1996, and President, in 1997, position that she held for two more years.



**Mariantonieta Garza Galindo-Lopez. President AMBC1998**

In 1996, she was elected full member of the National Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences, a prestigious professional distinction in Mexico. She was the National Representative to IFCC from 2005 to 2006. Her most recent international activity took place in 2010, when Mariantonieta was part of the Group of professors who taught the workshop on "Added Value to patient care using quality control" held in the city of Quito, Ecuador in 2010, under the auspices of the American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC), sponsored by the Wallace H. Coulter Foundation, and in collaboration with the Ecuadorian Society of Clinical Biochemistry, SEBIOCLI was her most recent international contribution to Clinical Biochemistry.

Mariantonieta was a big-hearted person with an exemplary professionalism. Her 30-year career history reveals her vocation for the service to the patients and the profession.

She is survived by nine of her ten children, Beatrice, Roberto, Ignacio, Mariantonieta, Agustin, Analu, Miguel, Pablo, and Isabel.



**Family get together in Mexico City, December 2005**

**The professional community will always remember you!  
2012.07.03†**

## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

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MEETING	DATE	VENUE	INFORMATION
30 <sup>th</sup> World Congress of Biomedical Laboratory Science	August 18-22, 2012	Berlin, Germany	<a href="http://www.ifbls-dvta2012.com/">http://www.ifbls-dvta2012.com/</a>
XIX Jornadas Bioquímicas del Noa	September 13-15, 2012	Catamarca, Argentina	<a href="mailto:cubraa@yahoo.com.ar">cubraa@yahoo.com.ar</a>
20 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation, 8 <sup>th</sup> EFCC Symposium for Balkan Region, 18 <sup>th</sup> Congress of Medical Biochemists of Serbia	September 17-22, 2012	Belgrade, Serbia	<a href="http://www.bclf2012.org/">http://www.bclf2012.org/</a>
EQAS 2012 - a 3-day Conference organised by the UK National External Quality Assessment Services (UK NEQAS) for Endocrinology and Cardiac Markers	September 24-26, 2012	Edinburgh, UK	<a href="http://www.eqas2012.org.uk/6430.html">http://www.eqas2012.org.uk/6430.html</a>
XXIV National Congress of the Turkish Biochemical Society (TBS)	September 25-28, 2012	Konya, Turkey	<a href="http://www.turkbiyokimyadernegi.org.tr">www.turkbiyokimyadernegi.org.tr</a>
9 <sup>th</sup> Annual Congress of the German Joint Society for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine	September 26-29, 2012	Mannheim, Germany	<a href="http://www.dgkl2012.de">www.dgkl2012.de</a>
IX National Congress of the Bulgarian Society of Clinical Laboratory	September 27-29, 2012	Sofia, Bulgaria	<a href="mailto:ktzatchev@gmail.com">ktzatchev@gmail.com</a>
6 <sup>th</sup> Santorini Conference Biologie Prospective "Systems Biology and Personalized Health - Science and Translation"	September 30 - October 2, 2012	Santorin, Greece	<a href="http://www.santorini2012.org">www.santorini2012.org</a>
Clinical Chemistry Conference on "Impact of Biomarkers on Cardiovascular Disease"	October 1-2, 2012	Singapore, Republic of Singapore	<a href="http://www.aacc.org/events">http://www.aacc.org/events</a>
Promoting a Culture of Quality and Consistency in Critical and Point-of-Care Testing. 24 <sup>th</sup> International Symposium	October 3-6, 2012	Prague, Czech Republic	Sponsored by the AACC in collaboration with CSKB, EFCC, and under the auspices of IFCC <a href="http://www.aacc.org/events/meetings/Pages/6752.aspx#">www.aacc.org/events/meetings/Pages/6752.aspx#</a>
2 <sup>nd</sup> EFCC-UEMS European Joint Congress - Laboratory Medicine at the Clinical Interface	October 10-13, 2012	Dubrovnik, Croatia	<a href="http://www.dubrovnik2012.com">www.dubrovnik2012.com</a>

MEETING	DATE	VENUE	INFORMATION
Vitamin D: minimum, maximum, optimum	October 19-20, 2012	Warsaw, Poland	<a href="http://www.ifcc.org/media/145727/Programme.pdf">www.ifcc.org/media/145727/Programme.pdf</a>
XI Ecuadorian and VII International Congress of Clinical Biochemistry	October 23-27, 2012	Cuenca, Ecuador	<a href="mailto:mariapasquelc@yahoo.com">mariapasquelc@yahoo.com</a>
International Conference of National Strategies for TORCH complex, Chlamydia Trachomatis, and Human Papillomavirus	November 15-16, 2012	Kiev, Ukraine	<a href="http://www.iecclm.org">http://www.iecclm.org</a>
2 <sup>nd</sup> European Joint Congress of EFCC and UEMS	October 10-13 2012	Dubrovnik, Croatia	Under the auspices of the IFCC <a href="http://www.dubrovnik2012.com">www.dubrovnik2012.com</a>
12 <sup>th</sup> EFCC Continuous Postgraduate Course in Clinical Chemistry: New trends in Classification, Diagnosis and Management of Gastrointestinal Diseases	November 10-11, 2012	Dubrovnik, Croatia	<a href="http://www.dubrovnik-course.org/">www.dubrovnik-course.org/</a>
2 <sup>nd</sup> EFLM-BD European Conference on Preanalytical Phase	March 1-2 2013	Zagreb, Croatia	Scientific Programme and Abstract Submission available at <a href="http://www.preanalytical-phase.org">www.preanalytical-phase.org</a>
EuroMedLab 2013 - 20 <sup>th</sup> IFCC-EFCC European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine	May 19-23, 2013	Milano, Italy	<a href="http://www.milan2013.org">www.milan2013.org</a>
APCCB 2013 - 13 <sup>th</sup> Asian Pacific Congress of Clinical Biochemistry	November 17-20, 2013	Bali, Indonesia	<a href="http://www.apccb2013.org">www.apccb2013.org</a>
COLABIOCLI 2013 - XXI Congreso Latinoamericano de Bioquímica Clínica	October 29 - November 1, 2013	Lima, Peru	
WorldLab 2014 - 21 <sup>st</sup> International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine	June 22-26, 2014	Istanbul, Turkey	<a href="http://www.istanbul2014.org">www.istanbul2014.org</a>