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**IFCC ROCHE TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP REPORTS****BOLIVIA, A NEW IFCC MEMBER:****FORTHCOMING MEETINGS****'Shaping the Future of Laboratory Medicine'****Background:**

The organisation and delivery of laboratory medicine services is undergoing rapid change in every country in the world. The IFCC Executive Board has decided that it has a responsibility to show leadership in 'Shaping the Future of Laboratory Medicine' in order to optimise the impact that it makes to healthcare and to patient outcomes.

Accordingly, IFCC has produced a leaflet that summarises the current drivers for change in laboratory medicine and the IFCC response to that change. This leaflet was distributed in May 2013 to all IFCC Members with an invitation to use it to stimulate discussion and debate at national, regional, society and international level. IFCC hopes that this discussion and debate will also consider the implications of change for societies and for companies, as well as for IFCC.

'Shaping the Future of Laboratory Medicine' has already prompted widespread discussion and debate, which has resulted in a number of questions being posed to the IFCC Executive Board. These questions, and the answers provided by the

Executive Board, were distributed to Members in July 2013. The consultation will continue throughout 2013 and early 2014, culminating in a definitive debate at the IFCC Council meeting in Istanbul in June 2013.

**Drivers for Change in Laboratory Medicine:**

There are many current drivers for change in the organisation and delivery of laboratory medicine services. The more important ones are listed below. Not all of these drivers for change will apply in every IFCC Member country but the direction of travel is clear.

**Globalisation:**

- Laboratory medicine is becoming increasingly global thanks to instant communication and the influence of global organisations and companies.
- This has led to an appreciation of the need for a common approach to quality standards and clinical applications to meet the expectations of patients, clinicians and other health stakeholders.

**Technological Advance:**

- Technological advance continues to impact on the organisation and delivery of laboratory medicine
- Recent examples include the technological revolution in genomics, informatics and nanotechnology
- These advances have implications for the training of laboratory medicine specialists and the roles that they will undertake.

**Economies of Scale:**

- Healthcare budgets are under pressure across the world as we struggle to cope

**SHAPING THE FUTURE OF LABORATORY MEDICINE**

The organisation and delivery of Laboratory Medicine services is undergoing rapid change in every country in the world. This pamphlet summarises the drivers for change and how IFCC intends to respond.

Leading the field of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine worldwide - [www.ifcc.org](http://www.ifcc.org)

with an ageing population, medical advances and a rapidly rising workload

- Laboratory medicine has shown itself to be flexible by improving efficiency, sharing technology and adopting common practices.

#### Integrated Diagnostics:

- Technological advance and economies of scale are eroding the traditional boundaries between laboratory medicine disciplines
- The advent of patient choice, personalised medicine and new technology are creating an integrated approach to diagnostics.

#### Adding Value to Improve Patient Outcomes:

- All of the above factors highlight the need for experts who can organise services and interpret increasingly complex data
- Laboratory medicine specialists must use evidence based practice to add value in order to convert data into knowledge to improve patient outcomes.
- Adding value may best be achieved at the pre-analytical and post-analytical stages of laboratory medicine and require the active engagement of trained specialists.

## How Should Laboratory Medicine Respond to Change?

#### Embracing Change:

The IFCC Executive Board believes that the changing world of laboratory medicine offers time critical opportunities that cannot be ignored. It believes that laboratory medicine specialists across the world need to improve responsiveness, be more outward looking, be more proactive and be more inclusive. IFCC wishes to do this at global level and it encourages a similar progression at national and regional level within societies and within companies.

#### Opportunities for IFCC:

The opportunities listed below apply to IFCC at global level. Similar opportunities will be available at more local level to IFCC Members. A more inclusive IFCC will:

- Have greater global influence with the World Health Organisation and other global organisations
- Expand its role in setting quality and practice standards that will improve patient safety and clinical outcomes
- Increase its credibility with global clinical organisations in demonstrating the clinical value of laboratory medicine
- Develop a compelling 'single voice' for laboratory medicine
- Expand the number and range of collaborative projects to involve more experts from more countries and from different disciplines

- Improve the quality of services and leadership to its Members and to its Regional Federations

#### Making the Change:

The changes suggested below again apply to IFCC at global level. However, parallel changes may well be appropriate at a more local level.

- IFCC proposes to open up its membership to any properly constituted society or company that works in laboratory medicine
- New members will be welcome from any branch of laboratory medicine and from informatics and pharmaceutical companies
- IFCC also proposes to seek active collaboration with other global organisations that are active in the field of laboratory medicine, healthcare policy and patient interests.
- The future agenda and programme of activities of IFCC will be determined by the future needs of patients and the steps required by laboratory medicine specialists to meet those needs.

## How Can You Get Involved?

IFCC always works through its Members. Therefore, IFCC encourages individual laboratory medicine specialists to engage with your professional society or company and discover the extent to which this discussion and debate is occurring. If there has been no debate then you can be the person to stimulate it. Perhaps this is the key question that you should seek to answer:

- 'Is the organisation and delivery of laboratory medicine services in my society/company in tune with the needs of patients and healthcare commissioners over the next 5-10 years?'

Laboratory medicine specialists are known to be cautious and conservative. IFCC suggests that now is the time to be imaginative, flexible and decisive in the best interests of patients.

It would be wonderful if the debate at the IFCC Council in June 2014 is informed by the vision and decision of its Members.

#### Graham Beastall (IFCC President)



#### THE DRIVERS

- Globalisation
- Technological advances
- Economies of scale
- Integrated diagnostics
- Adding value

#### THE RESPONSE

- Embrace change
- Seize opportunities

#### YOUR ROLE

- Engage and stimulate debate locally

# NEWS FROM REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND MEMBER SOCIETIES

## CANADIAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL CHEMISTS (CSCC)



### CSCC pilgrimage to the IFCC General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

CONTRIBUTED BY DR. ANDREW LYON AND DR. ED RANDELL

Eleven CSCC members travelled east or west to the opposite side of the globe to attend the IFCC General Assembly in Malaysia in mid-November 2012. The Malaysian Association of Clinical Biochemists hosted the meeting and immersed the delegates with the friendly multicultural ways of life in Malaysia.

CSCC members continue to be active in supporting and leadership roles in IFCC initiatives. The following members attended the conference in Malaysia. Matt McQueen is a past-president of IFCC and member of Task Force on Ethics. Khosrow Adeli is vice-chair of the Communications and Publications Division (and incoming chair) and he also leads the Committee on Public Relations. Jim Wesenberg serves on the Congress & Conference Committee. Vijay Grey chairs the Task Force on Pediatric Laboratory Medicine. Trefor Higgins is on the Task Force on the Impact of Laboratory Medicine on Clinical Management and Outcomes. David Seccombe is on the Task Force on Chronic Kidney Disease. Adil Kahn is on the Task Force on Point of Care Testing. John Krahn is chair of the Committee on Clinical Lab



CSCC members at the IFCC dinner

Management. Loralie Langman (on behalf of AACC) is on the Committee on Public Relations. Ed Randell as president of CSCC was the official delegate from Canada to the General Assembly. Andrew Lyon serves on the committee on Internet & eLearning and as website editor. Several other CSCC members that volunteer for IFCC roles were not in attendance. The IFCC General Conference provided participating National Society representatives with insight into the activities and inner workings of IFCC, as well as the ability to provide input in IFCC activities.

### 2013 Winter Council meeting

The 2013 Winter Council meeting was held in Toronto, Canada (February, 2013). The following includes some of the engaging topics discussed.

The CSCC has partnered with the Clinical Chemistry Trainee Council, a web-based multilingual educational program initiated through the *Clinical Chemistry* journal.

The new Not-for-Profit Corporations Act in Canada has established new rules for federally incorporated not-for-profit corporations in Canada. A CSCC subcommittee revised current documentation to meet the new charter requirements; new By-Laws were approved by Council. They may now be reviewed by all CSCC members prior to voting this summer.

The Committee to Promote Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine in Canada is coming to fruition. Both CSCC membership and Laboratory Medicine vendors are highly interested in the potential of this committee. Initial stages of the mandate have been formalized; the committee and its terms of reference are being discussed.

There are a number of new council members that will be joining the CSCC Council in July, 2013. They are: Dr. Andrew Lyon (President-Elect), Dr. Allison Venner (Head, Education & Scientific Affairs), Dr. Julie Shaw (Head, Professional Affairs), Dr. Abdul-Razaq Sokoro (Councillor), and Dr. Vathany Kulasingam (Councillor). The CSCC has a number of Special Interest Groups. Terms of Reference for these groups have been developed and approved by Council to help ensure structure and accountability of each current and future group.

The CSCC Grant for Educational Activities and Professional Development has been approved by Council. It will be used to support educational activities and professional development in the field of Clinical Chemistry or Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.

CSCC Winter Council 2013



## CSCC Roundtables – Six years and going strong

CONTRIBUTED BY DR. CHRISTINE COLLIER AND DR. PAUL YIP

The CSCC has been providing Education Roundtable webinars for six years. We are tremendously grateful to our guest speakers who have shared their time and knowledge, and to the many participating sites made up of both members and other lab professionals alike. The ongoing support of the CSCC Council and the Head Office continues to make the webinars an excellent value for money and it keeps them accessible for everyone.

The topics for the 2012-2013 year continue to cover an impressive range of interest to clinical chemists and laboratorians alike. Over the 15 sessions this year, the areas included clinical topics but also several titles under the themes of quality assurance and management. The number of internationally renowned guest speakers has reached an all time high this year.

Each year the Roundtables have continued to evolve and improve upon the past years with more participating sites, the diversity of speakers and topics, and the opportunity to interact with colleagues from across Canada. The live interaction has improved with many participants using the “chat” feature built into the webinar controls that allows for real-time questions to the speaker without interrupting the flow of the presentation. More and more presentations have made use of polling to survey individual laboratory practices, or to ask pre- and post-presentation questions to see if the audience had changed their perspective or knowledge.



## 7th European Symposium of the Catalan Association for Clinical Laboratory Sciences

BY ARIADNA PADRÓ-MIQUEL



The VII European Symposium of the Clinical Laboratory and *In Vitro* Diagnostic Industry, co-organized between the Catalan Association for Clinical Laboratory Sciences and the Catalan Biology Society, was held on 28-29 May 2013 in Barcelona (Catalonia, Spain) under the IFCC auspices and the IUPAC sponsorship.

The subject of the present Symposium was “Molecular ge-



netics in the clinical laboratory” and began with an opening conference that was a stroll through the history of molecular genetics in the context of the clinical laboratory. The scientific program was structured in several two-hour length round tables that dealt with recent advances in molecular techniques for clinical microbiology, latest evidences and real applicability of Pharmacogenetics in the clinical practice, quality assurance of a molecular genetics laboratory and latest trends in prenatal genetic diagnosis.

The main objective of the Symposium, which was the discussion of the transformation that molecular genetics has implied on clinical laboratories in terms of organization, specialization, interpretation of results and fast technical and knowledge evolution, was satisfactorily fulfilled. High-qualified professionals from several countries together with in-country experts formed the round tables. There were more than 80 attendants that participated actively in the debates, still increasing the overall interest. Simultaneous translation between Catalan, Spanish and English languages was available.

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## The Croatian Society of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory medicine (CSMBLM)

CONTRIBUTED BY JASENKA WAGNER

Biochemia Medica celebrates its 2012 IF – 1.873



Publishing activities of CSMBLM are related to CSMBLM's scientific journal Biochemia Medica ([www.biochemia-medica.com](http://www.biochemia-medica.com)). It publishes articles by Croatian and international authors dedicated to professionals from laboratory medicine and various fields of biomedicine that share the same interests. BM is indexed in Medline, SCIE,

JCR, Thomson Reuters, EMBASE/Excerpta Medica, Scopus, CAS, EBSCO/Academic Search Complete and DOAJ.

The journal's impact factor since the year 2009 is continuously raising, and for year 2012 we are celebrating its highest impact factor ever, 1.873! Biochemia Medica is now Journal number 13 within the JCR MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY category. Furthermore, our Journal is now ranked as the number 1 Croatian journal, across all scientific disciplines, with the highest impact factor.

Biochemia Medica has grown into the internationally appreciated Journal with distinguished scientific and professional scope and character, being recognizable for papers on quality management, preanalytical phase, biostatistics and research integrity. We would like to thank to all who contributed to this great success: authors, reviewers, assistant editors and editor-in-chief, Prof. Ana-Maria Simundic, whose hard work and enthusiasm made this possible. We hope that this achievement will keep attracting high quality submissions and wide readership across the world.

## CSMBLM celebrates its 60th anniversary

This year, Croatian Society of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (CSMBLM) is celebrating its 60th anniversary. Celebration will be held on 4th of October in Zagreb and will consist of official and social program. During the official program, monograph in honor of this big anniversary will be presented. Since CSMBLM has long tradition in cooperation with international scientists and experts, we have decided to promote three distinguished professors into our honorary members: Andrea Rita Horvath, Simone Zerah and Giuseppe Lippi. This is our way to thank them for their dedication to promote the field of laboratory medicine worldwide.

## NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY OF MEDICAL BIOCHEMISTS OF SERBIA (SMBS)

CONTRIBUTED BY SNEŽANA JOVIČIĆ

CENTER FOR MEDICAL BIOCHEMISTRY, CLINICAL CENTER OF SERBIA, BELGRADE

LIAISON OF THE SOCIETY OF MEDICAL BIOCHEMISTS OF SERBIA TO THE IFCC ENEWS WORKING GROUP

### Anniversary of Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia

Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia (SMBS) celebrated its 58th anniversary on 15 May 2013. In 1955, the Alliance of Pharmaceutical Societies of Yugoslavia (APSY) on its VI Plenary in Split, decided to establish a Section for Medical Biochemistry. The Section was renamed 10 years later in 1965, during the XVI Plenary of APSY in Banjaluka, to Society of Medical Biochemists in APSY. In May 1971, the Society became the 28th member of IFCC. From its beginnings, Section's activities were directed towards issues of education of medical



biochemists, especially the development of curriculum for postgraduate education which resulted in the specialist studies in medical biochemistry being introduced in 1960. Later, the Society pursued the foundation of separate graduate program of Medical Biochemistry in the University School of Pharmacy. The Society continuously worked on the improvement and advancement of clinical laboratory profession. One of these was the launching and implementation of an external quality assessment scheme in 1972. In 1989 the Society left APSY and became independent, since its membership included medical biochemists with various graduate education and not only pharmacy. After the disintegration of Yugoslavia, Society of Medical Biochemists of Yugoslavia was renamed once again and became Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia. SMBS continues to be actively involved in the advancement of the clinical laboratory profession in Serbia through directing its work towards government institutions. It was actively involved in the formation of Chamber of Biochemists of Serbia, professional organization of medical biochemists and clinical chemists with the mandatory membership. SMBS organizes several courses of Continuous Medical Education every year, as well as the annual EFLM Symposium for Balkan Region, and the national Congress of Medical Biochemists of Serbia biannually. Society is a member of IFCC, EFLM and Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation (BCLF), where our members contribute to the work of these international organizations through various committees and working groups. SMBS publishes Journal of Medical Biochemistry, the official journal of the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia with international peer-review. The Journal publishes original articles on all aspects of clinical chemistry, medical biochemistry and related scientific disciplines where chemistry, biochemistry, molecular biology and immunology are dealing with the study of normal and pathologic processes in human beings. The Journal is published four times a year and its 2012 impact factor is 1.084 (<http://www.degruyter.com/view/j/jomb>).



Dr Snežana Jovičić

SMBS Anniversary May 2013 - Prof. dr Nada Majkic-Singh addresses the gathering



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SMBS Anniversary May 2013 - From left to right, Executive Director, Prof. dr Nada Majkic-Singh and SMBS President, dr Zorica Sumarac, with the long time Secretary of SMBS, mr Olivera Jankovic.



SMBS Anniversary May 2013 - Throughout the evening, guests were reminded of the past years with slide show of photographs made during numerous activities of the Society.

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SMBS celebrated its 58th anniversary in new offices with guests from organizations to whose work it contributed and which aided its work – Dean and professors of the University School of Pharmacy in Belgrade, Director of Chamber of Biochemists of Serbia, Director of Chamber of Pharmacists of Serbia, President of the Pharmaceutical Association of Serbia, and many representatives of clinical laboratory industry. During this gathering, Executive Director and longtime President, Prof. dr Nada Majkic-Singh reminded guests about the Society's beginnings and growth. Also, on this occasion the Society's renewed web page was presented (<http://www.dmbj.org.rs>) by the newly elected President dr Zorica Šumarac, emphasizing that it would improve and facilitate communication with members through numerous new contents. After more than half a century of fruitful work, SMBS continues to be the leader and support for clinical laboratory professionals in Serbia.

SMBS continues to be the leader and support for clinical laboratory professionals in Serbia.

## REPORTS FROM THE RECIPIENTS OF IFCC ROCHE TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIPS TO ATTEND THE EUROMEDLAB CONGRESS - MILAN, 19-23 MAY 2013

**ALMA SHKELQIM BARBULLUSHI**

**ALBANIAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE  
(ASoLAM)**



First of all it was a great honour for me to be part of IFCC/Roche Travel Scholarship 2013 and as such to attend the 20th IFCC-EFLM European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine held in Milano, Italy. Foremost, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the IFCC committee, especially IFCC past president, Professor Jocelyn Hicks, IFCC president, Professor Graham Beastall, and the IFCC executive board for giving me the opportunity (IFCC-Roche award) to participate at the Euromedlab Milano 2013 Congress.



Euromedlab Congresses have always presented an extraordinary opportunity to meet friends and professional colleagues from all over the world and to exchange with them valuable scientific opinions and information.

The entire Congress was well formatted and organized as to provide the most important and up to date information to a vast range of health professionals and researchers. I especially found some of the lectures to be of great interest such as: Pathophysiological roles of the proteasome in vertebrate- Biomarkers of renal function and injury- Acute coronary syndromes – The present and future role of biomarkers; Iron Metabolism and Pathophysiology; Sick Molecules and Amyloidosis: I found the workshops such as: Advance in Hematology: New approaches in Thrombocytopenia management: New approaches and clinical utility of body fluid evaluation: Diagnosis and monitoring of multiple myeloma, free light chain diseases very interesting and informative. In general, I must say that the vast diversity of lectures and workshops have impacted my everyday job by giving me a different perspective throughout my research.

Furthermore, the congress was a great opportunity for a young physician like me to be in touch with the new developments in laboratory medicine. The area of exhibits of several instrument providers were very helpful as I had the opportunity to see the newest auto-analyzers and cell counters, and to establish a communication with the representatives that will provide me with the latest developments in laboratory medicine.

No doubt the place where the congress was selected to be organized was very beautiful and interesting to visit. I left Milano and this congress with new ideas where to focus my future research.

**SASWATI DAS**

**ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTS OF INDIA (ACBI)**



This summer I had the wonderful opportunity to present my research at the EUROMEDLAB MILANO 2013 thanks to the

IFCC- Roche scholarship that I received. The conference gave me the perfect platform to present my work. Being from clinical medicine background it was a great experience interacting with a chemical pathologists and researchers from all over the world.

The congress venue MICO was world class. The place has wonderful architecture and was really well equipped. The opening ceremony was just the beginning of a great experience.

The first day of the congress was an extremely enriching experience as I got to attend the various scientific sessions specifically the one on 'genetic profiling in determining cardiovascular risk' followed by educational workshops. The award function at the IFCC booth the toast thereafter gave me the chance to interact with the other IFCC travel grant winners, and IFCC past president Prof. Jocelyn Hicks. In the next two days there were many exciting sessions and plenary lectures which I thoroughly enjoyed and gained a lot professionally. The lab expo was huge and introduced me to many new autoanalyzers and new biomarkers. The plenary lecture on biomarkers of Acute Coronary Syndrome on the last day was of particular interest to me as this was my area of work.

On the fourth day of the congress I had the chance to present my poster. The poster presentation session was one of the best part of the congress as I got comments about my research work and discussed my outcomes with international colleagues and also got to know about their work. The kind of exposure I received was overwhelming. I got chance to savour upon Italian cuisine in the social evening at Sforzesco Castle. It was an honour to be on stage with IFCC president at the awarding ceremony of the congress.

As this was my first visit to Milan I went around the city and got a chance to visit Da Vinci's historic art-piece "The Last Supper" and the Duomo. The hospitality I received was amazing. The whole experience was so memorable that I will cherish for long time. I will be indebted to IFCC for the grant which gave me the chance to attend the grand event.

**WIDODO JOKO**

**INDONESIAN ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL CHEMISTRY (HKKI)**



For first time, I would like to say thank you for awarding me the IFCC-Roche Travel Scholarship to attend Euro Medlab Milano. It was my first experience to attend a conference of member societies of the whole world, where I have been able to interact with Scientists from various parts of the world. The opening ceremony was especially great with concert by Orchestra "La Verdi" and Choir from Milan, followed by the plenary lecture on *Pathophysiological roles of the proteasome in vertebrate*.

In the scientific presentations with all the topics providing an update for Clinical Chemistry, I had difficulty choosing the topics to attend because of parallel sessions. I selected several such as Laboratory Management And Patient Safety that are relevant and can be implemented in my job in PRODIA Clinical Laboratory in Indonesia. The use of identification of reliable quality indicators (QIs) in the total testing process (TTP) represents a crucial step in enabling users to quantify the quality of laboratory services as current evidence underlines the multitude of errors that continue to occur in the pre- and post-analytical phase. This method is a key element in improving quality and ensuring patient safety in laboratory medicine.

The other topic was biomarkers in stroke diagnosis, classification, and prognosis and this is relevant to my dissertation in my PhD study at Medical Faculty of Hasanuddin University in Indonesia. Biomarkers include glutathione S-transferase pi (GSTP1), nucleoside diphosphate kinase A (NDKA) and Parkinson disease protein 7 (PARK7 also called DJ-1). A recent study publication concluded that these 3 biomarkers show best performance with respect to differentiating stroke patients from controls and discriminating early time-point from late time-point stroke patients.

Finally, I attended the Scientific Program at EuroMedLab Congress. I have experienced and learned many things. I had the opportunity to gain recent and up-to-date knowledge from scientists from across the world. I would like to thank the IFCC again for awarding me and also I want to give my appreciation to Ms Silvia Colli Lanzi for correspondence, explanation, and hospitality during my stay in Milan.

**NEDA MANSOUR**

**JORDAN SOCIETY FOR MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES**



I attended the Conference in Milano from the 19-23 May. My attention first went to the organization of the Conference and how well it was done, during the registration period, everything was ready and in place. What was really nice was watching the Opera act in Opening Ceremony, which was led by the Maestro Jader Bignamini, which really was my first time to see and enjoy an Opera Act.

It was a great opportunity, to be part of what the conference experience has included, as pointed out below:

More than four thousand delegates from 101 different countries; around 400 hundred young delegates; around 2500 visitors and more than 80 exhibitors.

And for that, I would like to come forward with my deepest thanks and appreciations for the *IFCC-Roche Travel Scholarships*. The Scientific Program has included lectures presented by the most recognized Scientists in the world, covering different topics. The Social Events were very interesting, but lecture time was always my favorite. also got the chance to attend Different Educational Workshops, some Courses and Lunch Breaks, and I also received many Scientific Brochures that cover a wide range of our field, in which all was really interesting. Meeting new people coming from all around the world is always a very thrilling and exciting experience, and my experience in Milano added beautiful memories to mind that I will certainly live to remember.

Thank you again, and even a third time and a thousand, for all who work to always offer us what's good and beautiful.

**IFEYINWA OSEGBE**

**ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL CHEMISTS NIGERIA (ACCN)**



The morning after my birthday greeted me with a pleasant surprise- I had just been awarded the IFCC Roche scholarship to attend EuroMedLab 2013 with the following perks- free registration to the conference, return air travel ticket, accommodation, and transport tickets within Milan! Yippee! I was instantly excited about this trip to Europe, which

I would be visiting for the first time in my life.

On arrival in Milan, despite having downloaded few Italian phrases from *google*, and directions on where to go, I still felt like I was lost. Fortunately, a pleasant lady on the bus helped me, and became my first taste of Italian hospitality. She practically hand-held me to the station, helped me buy a ticket, and showed me how to take the *underground* to my destination.

The MiCo Congress centre was a wonderful site to behold with its unique architecture. I was impressed by the provision of directions for the delegates attending the conference, including: maps, signs, and the big notice board at the entrance which displayed

the various activities and the rooms where they were holding. It was well organized.

The congress was attended by many distinguished personalities and reputable companies in Laboratory Medicine.



Of particular note was my mentor- James Westgard, who I had the delightful pleasure of meeting. Having a flare for mathematics, my choice to become a laboratory physician was influenced by the statistical tools he developed to detect errors and ensure quality results.

It was an honour to meet the President of the IFCC- Graham Beastall, an amiable man despite his prestigious status; as well

as the past-president- Jocelyn Hicks, the luminary who developed the scholarship initiative to sponsor young scientists (people less than 40years) from developing countries to attend this meeting, and I am especially grateful to her for this.

The exposure was great, as issues discussed at the conference were pertinent to the profession such as: POCT, prostate cancer biomarkers, diabetes monitoring, thyroid disease, and cardiac markers; which were presented with current trends and controversies. The workshop on scientific writing conducted by the editor-in-chief of Clinical Chemistry, Nader Rifai and the deputy editor, Thomas Annesley was enlightening and appropriate for my fledgling career in publishing.

Gladly, it wasn't all work and no play. I made good friends with other delegates and we had a nice time site-seeing Milan. It was educative and fun as we visited the magnificent Duomo cathedral, San Siro stadium, and the Castello Sforzesco. I felt so privileged to see art works by great men like Leonardo da Vinci, and Michelangelo, but also contemporary art like Gucci, Giorgio Armani, and Versace's fashion designs among others.

In general, it was a splendid trip, which exposed me to strategies I can undertake to uplift my practice, and thereby, my contribution to health-care. I now serve as a role model to my colleagues back at home who are gingered to make a difference in Laboratory Medicine in our environment, no matter how little.

#### **BOLONGHOGE DAYANATH**

**ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY OF SRI LANKA (ACBSL)**

I would like to thank the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) for awarding me the IFCC – ROCHE travel scholarship to attend EUROMEDILAB 2013, in Milano, Italy. It could have been a dream to attend this type of advanced conference without a sponsorship for a member like me from a developing country.



I was amazed by the organisational skills of IFCC and its member associations in organising such a highly advanced event. I learned essential components to be applied when organising a scientific congress back in Sri Lanka.

Congress opened with the welcome speech by the congress president Mauro Panteghini. He highlighted major participation of young scientists in this congress assuring future of clinical chemistry is secured and broadening with scientific research.

Out of Monday sessions biomarkers of renal function and injury was particularly important to me as in Sri Lanka we encounter increasing number of renal diseases

of unknown etiology. I learned a lot on publication ethics and scientific writing from the afternoon workshop which is an essential element for a young scientist to know.

It was a great pleasure to receive the certificate of the travel award from the past president of IFCC and chair of the Roche/IFCC Committee Prof. Jocelyn M. B. Hicks who initiated the travel scholarship project for scientists from developing countries. I had a memorable opportunity to talk with both past IFCC President and present IFCC President Graham Beall during IFCC awarding ceremony on Monday.

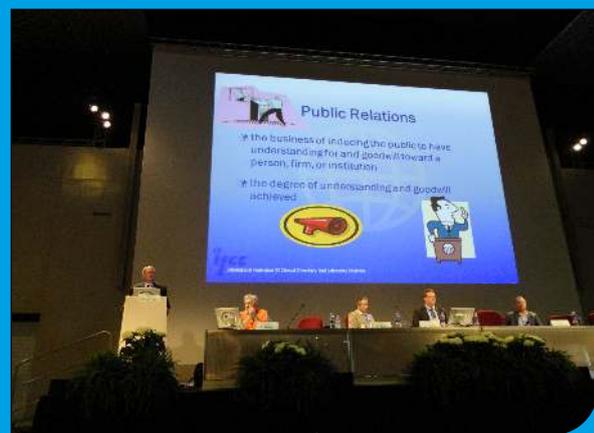
It was a great experience to share knowledge on clinical applications of quantitative mass spectrometry a very important technology which is currently not available in Sri Lanka and we are looking for to establish in Sri Lanka to initiate a newborn screening programme. I had the opportunity to participate in a live demonstration on LCMS by AB SCIEX during the conference. Emerging Biomarker in stroke and Novel Biomarkers in chronic kidney disease provoked ideas on possible research back in home. Educational workshop on use of Aldosterone to Renin ratio to identify primary Aldosteronism was very helpful lecture as these assays currently not available in Sri Lanka.

EFLM session on clinical guidelines and cardiac markers was very informative and stressed the importance of working together with clinical staff in developing clinical guidelines. Plenary lecture on acute coronary syndrome by Professor B. Lindahl was very informative.

Presented posters struck me about possible research back in Sri Lanka and will be showing to the membership importance of participating in such programmes. Industrial exhibition was an excellent opportunity to discover new instruments, technologies and compare one product from the other at one place.

This was a great opportunity get to know colleague scientists from other countries as well as share their experience with our experience.

Again I must thank ROCHE/IFCC committee for giving me this valuable opportunity and IFCC office staff Silvia Colli for the assistance given for making this scholarship success.



**ANCHALEE CHITTAMMA**

**THAILAND ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY**



The EuroMedLab is the most prestigious conference in the professional field, not only in the field of clinical chemistry, but also provides many interesting and up-to-date topics in clinical laboratory sciences. For this year, the IFCC/Roche travel award

gave me a great opportunity to attend the 20<sup>th</sup> IFCC-EFLM European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine in Milan, Italy. During the congress, I attended various scientific sessions where there were many excellent presentations by world-known experts for each session that I can use to expand my knowledge for teaching and doing research topics of my interest. In addition, the exhibition of diagnostic companies provided a wealth of information on state-of-the-art technology and latest advances of laboratory medicine that helped me to improve in laboratory services. The poster session was very pleasant because I had a great opportunity to present, share my researches, discuss others and mine, get some new ideas and information that can inspire me to further develop my researches. After the conference, I have shared update knowledge I gained from the conference to my colleagues for improving the quality of our services we provide in our laboratory and also shared with my undergraduate and graduate students. However, this great experience would have not realized without the generous support from the IFCC/Roche travel award. I do appreciate and would like to offer my sincere gratitude to the IFCC/Roche Scholarship Committee for giving me the privilege to participate in this conference. I also would like to give many thanks to Ms Colli Lanzi for her kind responses and explanations to my questions before and after the congress. Finally, I hope this kind of award will be continued for aspiring and supporting participants from developing countries to join the congress.

**HILARI LUMANO**

**BIOMEDICAL SOCIETY OF ZAMBIA**



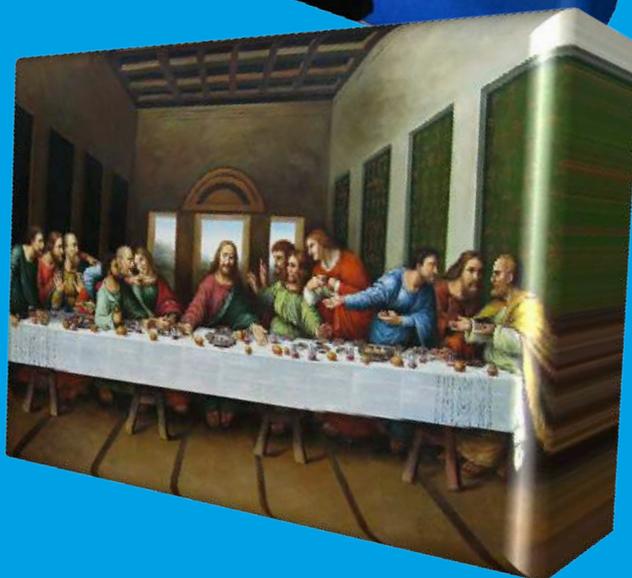
In May 2013 I attended the EuroMedlab Congress in Milan Italy courtesy of Roche Diagnostics. I wish to express my deep gratitude to Roche for granting me an opportunity to interact with medical laboratory professionals from all over the world and to share in our experiences.

I benefited a great deal in listening to scientists as they discussed point of care analysers their suitability for third world countries particularly for hard to reach areas where health services are critical. I also learned a great deal about new advances in the management of diabetes, the tests associated with the disease and the general optimism about the future management of the disease was encouraging. Kidney function tests and the new approaches which move somewhat away from conventional creatinine testing were also very stimulating. On the whole the congress was excellent and I wish to commend also the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) for organizing such a high profile event.

My interactions with vendors and key officers from the IFCC will grant the medical laboratory professional body that I represent (Biomedical Society of Zambia) opportunities for continuous professional development (CPD) and various other linkages and networks to help advance the profession in Africa and in particular Zambia. One major opportunity for Zambia is the external quality assurance program for clinical chemistry supported by

Randox through initiatives by the IFCC will go a very long way in helping Zambian laboratories assure quality in clinical chemistry and also strengthen the accreditation process. Zambian laboratories in the public sector are currently undergoing transformational changes in conformity to ISO 15189 through a program call Step wise laboratory improvement toward accreditation (SLIPTA). This program demands that laboratories be enrolled on an external quality assessment scheme for all laboratory testing and Zambia will score reasonable points on the SLIPTA checklist for being enrolled on an internationally recognized clinical chemistry EQA scheme.

In all, the Biomedical Society of Zambia and the general medical laboratory sector in Zambia stands to benefit from these interactions and as the achievement of the millennium development goals is pursued strengthened laboratories are key to the achievement of some of the health related goals. Going forward it is my hope that Zambia medical laboratories will improve through participation in events such as this and the establishment of key partners for better health, a better tomorrow and a healthier world.



## BOLIVIA, A NEW IFCC MEMBER

CONTRIBUTED BY DR. ALVARO JUSTINIAN GROSZ

PRESIDENT SOCIETY OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY BOLIVIANA(SBBC)



The Society of Clinical Biochemistry Boliviana was founded in Santa Cruz, on February 16, 1969, with the participation of representatives of the nine departments of Bolivia, with the intention of forming an association for all professionals congregating Biochemical Professionals- Pharmacists in the country to devote to the activity of Bioanalysis, more properly the Clinical Analysis Laboratory.

The Society of Clinical Biochemistry Boliviana just turned 44 years of uninterrupted existence. It has an organic statute and regulations governing various activities not only of the scientific body but Biochemical professionals life of our country in matters relating to occupation, categorization and others that apply to professionals providing services both in the private area and in public institutions.

Throughout its history, the Society organized Ordinary XVII National Congresses, National Scientific Conferences for professional development, Courses, Seminars and Workshops with National and International Professionals in coordination with various institutions and national and international institutions. The Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI), the Brazilian Society of Clinical Analysis (SBAC), the National Program Quality Control (PNCQ), the Biochemistry Foundation Argentina, the Biochemicals Unified Confederation of Argentina (COVER) and other international institutions contributed to the scientific development and the consolidation of our organization as a scientific academic institution - without political or economic purposes - that represents professionals Biochemical members in our country.

Currently the National Executive Council of the Bolivian Society of Clinical Biochemistry, is chaired by Dr. Alvaro Justinian Grosz. Dr. Lizandra Morales Jury is the Vice Chair, Dr. Rocio Navarro Ramirez is Secretary General and others who accompany the present management within the National Executive Council. For the period 2012-2015 the headquarter is located in Tarija; in 2015 the Ordinary XVIII National Congress will be held in Oruro. It will be an administrative and scientific event where the election of the National Executive Council ( CEN) of the Bolivian Society of Clinical Biochemistry will be held.

The Bolivian Society of Clinical Biochemistry in an effort to keep its members updated, planned scientific activities related to the profession and to all areas of health, with the participation of foreign professionals, linking the Biochemical activity in the country to the international arena. So far this year, in Cochabamba, the Extraordinary National Congress was held on 12 and 13 April with the goal of approving new statutes of the Society of Clinical Biochemistry Boliviana; in Sucre an International Conference was organized the International Mayas days, from 1 to 3 May with participation of invited professionals from Argentina and Brazil.

Recently the Society of Clinical Biochemistry Boliviana, has been recognized as Full Member No. 87 to IFCC (INTERNATIONAL

FEDERATION OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY) a longing for many years searched through the directives of the Company and today come true.

The Society of Clinical Biochemistry Boliviana, also strives to be present through their representatives in international events, so that their president is present from 15 to June 19, 2013 in Florianópolis, Brazil, on the 40th Brazilian Congress of Clinical Analysis and 4th-Day Forensic Genetics.

The President of the Society of Clinical Biochemistry Boliviana, Dr. Alvaro Justinian Grosz, planned his participation in the annual Meeting of the AACC (American Association for Clinical Chemistry) as well as holding meetings with Latin American Working Groups of the AACC. Among its goals, the Society of Clinical Biochemistry Boliviana, strives to achieve the consolidation of the National External Quality Control Programme (PEEC) that has now become an urgent necessity for the existence of laboratories, not only to advance the work quality, but because it is a requirement that makes the normal development of laboratory activities as well as being a requirement in the process of licensing and accreditation of clinical laboratories. Currently the policy of our scientific entity seeks to consolidate agreements-agreements with national authorities and institutions to achieve PEEC to all laboratories in the country.

The Society of Clinical Biochemistry Boliviana, as a leading professional body developing the Biochemical and Clinical Analysis Laboratories, is promoting the creation in our country of a Programme External Quality Assessment (EQA), which where already existing is quite meaningless. In an effort to achieve desired quality professional work in Biochemistry, the Society of Clinical Biochemistry Boliviana is also working on the rules of the process of accreditation of laboratories. Among its most important upcoming events planned by the Society are:

Course on "*Focus on Added Value of Quality in the Labs*" event sponsored by the Foundation Coulter and AACC (American Association for Clinical Chemistry) in the cities of La Paz and Santa Cruz in November 2013.

XXX National Conference Days and International day of the Society of Clinical Biochemistry Boliviana to be held in the city of Santa Cruz in April 2014.



## Calendar of IFCC Congresses/Conferences and Regional Federations

2013	Sep 23-24	<u>Turning Science into Caring 2013, 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Asia Pacific and Japan Scientific Symposium</u>	Taipei, TW
	Oct 27-30	<u>APCCB 2013 - 13<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Asia-Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine</u>	Bali, ID
	Oct 29-31	<u>COLABIOCLI 2013 - XXI Congreso Latinoamericano de Bioquímica Clínica</u>	Lima, PE
2014	Jun 20-22	<u>XIII International Congress of Pediatric Laboratory Medicine</u>	Istanbul, TR
	Jun 22-26	<u>WorldLab 2014 - 22<sup>nd</sup> International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine</u>	Istanbul, TR
2015	Jun 21-25	<u>EuroMedLab 2015 - 21<sup>th</sup> IFCC-EFLM European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine</u>	Paris, FR
	Oct	<u>COLABIOCLI 2015 - XXII Congreso Latinoamericano de Bioquímica Clínica</u>	Quito, EC
	Nov	<u>ArabMedLab 2015 - 14<sup>th</sup> Arab Congress of Clinical Biology (AFCB)</u>	Khartoum, SD
2017	Oct	<u>WorldLab 2017 - 23<sup>rd</sup> International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine</u>	Durban, ZA

## Calendar of events with IFCC auspices

2013	Jun-Sep	<u>Ortho PATHShala - Training course for Laboratory Technologists (4 modules)</u>	Mumbai, IN
	Sep 3-6	<u>XXV National Biochemistry Congress</u>	Izmir, TR
	Sep 8-12	<u>5<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and 14<sup>th</sup> Iranian Congress of Biochemistry</u>	Tehran, IR
	Sep 15-18	<u>XVIII Congress of Polish Society of Laboratory Diagnostics (PTDL)</u>	Warsaw, PL
	Sep 22-24	<u>XI<sup>th</sup> Czech National Congress of Clinical Biochemistry</u>	Olomouc, CZ
	Sep 22-25	<u>7<sup>th</sup> Brazilian Congress of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine</u>	São Paulo, BR
	Sep 25-28	<u>21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation - 1<sup>st</sup> Montenegrin Conference of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine</u>	Budva, MN
	Sep 26-28	<u>Second Conference of European Society of Pharmacogenomics and Theranostics "Pharmacogenomics: From Cell to Clinic - ESPT Conference 2103"</u>	Lisbon, PT
	Oct 3-5	<u>9<sup>th</sup> EFLM Symposium for Balkan Region "Integrative Algorithms in Patient Focused Laboratory Medicine"</u>	Belgrade, SRB
	Oct 9-11	<u>XII Congreso Nacional Bioquímico (CUBRA) and 70 ° Congreso Argentino de Bioquímica (ABA)</u>	Buenos Aires, AR
	Oct 19-20	<u>13<sup>th</sup> EFLM Continuous Postgraduate Course in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine: New Trends in Diagnosis and Monitoring using POC Instruments</u>	Dubrovnik, HR
	Oct 23-25	<u>VII National Congress of Clinical Laboratory</u>	Bilbao, ES

## Calendar of events with IFCC auspices

2013	Oct 23-26	<u>10<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress of the German Joint Society for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine</u>	Dresden, DE
	Nov 1-4	<u>13<sup>th</sup> Congreso Internacional del Colegio Nacional de Bacteriología</u>	Bogota, CO
	Nov 7-9	<u>IX Congreso de Bioquímica Clínica</u>	Montevideo, UY
	Nov 13-15	<u>Journées Internationales de Biologie (JIB)</u>	Paris, FR
2014	Feb 6-7	<u>Labquality Days</u>	Helsinki, FI
	Sep 24-27	<u>7<sup>th</sup> Santorini Conference "Systems Medicine Personalized Health and Therapy"</u>	Santorini, GR
	May 20-24	<u>Second World Congress on Water Channel Proteins (Aquaporins and Relatives) Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Discovery of the First Water Channel Protein</u>	Cluj-Napoca, RO

## Retrospectroscope: Scenes from EuroMedlabMilano

