

Editor: Tahir Pillay MB ChB, PhD, FRCPath (Lon), FCPATH(SA)
 Department of Chemical Pathology
 University of Pretoria - Pretoria - South Africa
 e-mail: tspillay@gmail.com

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL:
THE NEW IFCC ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEM RESULTS OF A TRIAL BALLOT UNDER REAL CONDITIONS

NEWS FROM REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND MEMBER SOCIETIES

- [ETHIOPIA](#)
- [TURKEY](#)
- [CANADA](#)
- [GUATEMALA](#)

PEP REPORTS

MEXICO, A NEW IFCC MEMBER:

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO ISO 15189 IN

LABORATORY MEDICINE

OBITUARY: DR PONTET

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

The New IFCC Electronic Voting System



Introduction:

At the IFCC Council meeting held in Berlin in May 2011 a decision was taken for IFCC to move to electronic voting. This simple decision has presented the IFCC Executive Board with an interesting challenge. Unlike most national societies IFCC has a small number of eligible voters (currently the 88 Full Member national societies). Therefore, the chances of a tied vote on a single ballot are quite high.

For this reason IFCC investigated voting systems based on preferential voting. These systems allow voters to rank the candidates according to preference. So the most favoured candidate is ranked first, the second most favoured candidate is ranked second - and so on until voters have expressed all their preferences.

The Executive Board adopted the Alternative Vote (also known as Instant Run-off Vote) system of counting the votes. This requires the winning candidate to achieve >50% of Member votes before he/she can be declared the winner. If no candidate achieves >50% of votes based on first preference votes then the candidate with the least number of votes is eliminated. The voters who gave their first preference votes to the eliminated candidate then have their second preference votes allocated to the remaining candidates and the votes are counted for a second time. This

process continues until one candidate achieves >50% of the votes. A detailed explanation of the Alternative Voting System can be found at the following [Wikipedia link: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Instant-runoff_voting](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Instant-runoff_voting)

A light-hearted trial of the new voting system was conducted at the IFCC General Conference in November 2012. This proved successful but it was agreed that a more formal trial ballot should be conducted under real IFCC election conditions.

Method: The Trial Ballot

The IFCC Office wrote to IFCC National Representatives of all 88 Full Member national societies one month in advance of the trial ballot. The message, sent in late July 2013, indicated that the trial ballot would run from 01-31 August 2013. National Representatives were asked to ensure that the individuals who would cast the vote of their national society had a valid email address registered with the IFCC Office. A second message was sent as a reminder to National Representatives one week before the ballot opened.

The ballot subject was linked to the IFCC Strategic Plan. IFCC Members were invited to rank, in order of importance to their society, the following five IFCC priority areas:

- " Facilitating the standardisation of laboratory medicine
- " Increasing distance learning provision
- " Extending activity into new areas of laboratory medicine
- " Promoting the contribution of laboratory medicine to healthcare

Supporting laboratory accreditation

the autumn of 2013 and which will elect the President and the Executive Board for 2015-2017.

IFCC commissioned an independent company (Election Buddy) to conduct the ballot on its behalf. Ballot papers were sent out by email to National Representatives (or their nominated deputies) just before the ballot opened on 01 August. The ballot remained open throughout the month of August allowing voters to express their preferences on-line by clicking on the voting link contained within the call. Only one vote was allowed for each registered email address. The IFCC Office sent out a reminder to Full Members during August to confirm that the ballot would close on 31 August. Immediately the ballot had closed IFCC was able to access the results, counted using the Alternative Voting system, from Election Buddy.

Results:

The detailed results of the ballot can be accessed from:

<https://electionbuddy.com/elections/9113/results/sx9mm8def>

The headlines from the results are:

- " A percentage of 52.3% of IFCC Members voted
- " Three of the five areas from the IFCC Strategic Plan were very close on first preference votes
- " Once second and third preference votes were taken into account the narrow winner was 'Facilitating the standardisation of laboratory medicine'

Conclusions:

From an IFCC Executive Board perspective the trial election was a success:

- " The election process appears to have gone well with no problems reported.
- " The results were available immediately the ballot closed.
- " The Alternative Voting system of counting the votes has produced a 'winner' even though there were three very close contenders based on first preference votes.
- " The importance of second and third preferences is well illustrated
- " IFCC is delighted to see that three of its 'flagship' policies attracted equal support and that there was significant support for two emerging policies.
- " The only disappointment is the relatively low number of IFCC Members who voted. There are many possible reasons for this and the IFCC President has contacted all those Members who did not vote urging them to ensure that they do vote in the next ballot, which will occur during

Graham Beastall (IFCC President)

WG COMMUTABILITY

The IFCC Scientific Division has recently established a working group on commutability (WG-C). The WGC is charged with advancing procedures for the formal assessment of commutability of reference materials used as calibrators, trueness controls or EQA samples. There have been several statistical approaches reported to evaluate commutability but a key issue to be addressed is the degree of commutability needed, taking into account the intended use of a reference material and the intended clinical use of a measurand. Issues such as the confounding influences of measurement specificity, measurement imprecision, replacement lots of a reference material, and assessment of commutability of an existing material when a new measurement procedure is introduced are among the items to be addressed. The WGC will provide education on calibration and accuracy assessment issues influenced by commutability and guidance to manufacturers and laboratories about what information should be provided in relation to the commutability and intended use of reference materials.



Greg Miller , Chair WG-C

Professor of Pathology

Director of Clinical Chemistry

Director of Pathology Information Systems

Virginia Commonwealth University 403
N. 13th Street, Room 501 Richmond,
VA 23298-0286 USA

NEWS FROM REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND MEMBER SOCIETIES



ETHIOPIAN MEDICAL LABORATORY ASSOCIATION (EMLA)

New Board elected on Addis Ababa-Introducing Current EMLA Executive Board Members

CONTRIBUTED BY DR. GIZACHEW TADESSE AKALU

The Ethiopian Medical Laboratory Association (EMLA) held its general assembly from 08 - 09 June, 2013 in Addis Ababa at Ghion Hotel. The general assembly elected the president, Vice President and Executive Board members to serve EMLA for the next years;

- | | | |
|----|------------------------|--|
| 1. | Mr Asaye Birhanu | President |
| 2. | Mr Eyob Abera | Vice President, Conference and Event Affairs |
| 3. | Mrs Yodit Alemayehu | Member, Research and Scientific Division Affairs |
| 4. | Mr Tekliln Biza | Member, Chapter office Affairs |
| 5. | Ms Milka Theodros | Member, Member Affairs |
| 6. | Mr Yosef Tiruneh | Member, Public Relation Affairs |
| 7. | Mr Achamyelah Mulugeta | Member, Education and Training Affairs |



The general assembly also endorsed the opening and appointment of the Executive Director to lead the office. Therefore, EMLA is delighted to introduce its leaders and request to continue your usual cooperation for the advancement of laboratory medicine in Ethiopia and beyond.

TURKISH BIOCHEMICAL SOCIETY: Turkey Treads Safety Steps

CONTRIBUTED BY DOGAN YUCEL, VICE PRESIDENT

Turkish Biochemical Society (TBS) and BD Diagnostics Preatalytical Systems in Turkey had embarked on a journey to drive best practices in Healthcare Worker (HCW) Safety. This was reinforced by conducting two symposia in February and May across the country.



The first "Patient and Healthcare Workers Safety Symposium" was organized on February 16th at Conrad Hotel, Istanbul. More than 200 healthcare professionals working in laboratory field, infectious diseases, nursing and quality departments participated in the symposium from Istanbul. The guests were welcomed by Dr. Dogan Yucel (Turkish Biochemical Society Vice-President) and Dr. Aparna Ahuja (Head of Clinical Affairs - BD Diagnostics). Dr. Gabriella De Carli (National Institute for Infectious Diseases, Rome, Italy) was the guest of honor for the meeting. During her presentation the EU Directive adaptation process and implementation of safety protocols within healthcare settings were discussed. She explained the key elements of the 2010/32/EU Directive that will be implemented from May 11th 2013. Dr. Emel Filiz from Konya Selcuk University presented "Safety Culture in Healthcare Organizations". She underlined that the patient safety culture can be created by starting with the creation of general safety culture in the organizations. With the presentation entitled "Approach to needle stick injuries (NSI)", Dr. Alpay Azap from Ankara University, gave information about infection rates caused by sharps injuries, the steps that need to be taken after injuries, cost of injuries and the necessary preventions. Dr. Dildar Konukoglu and Dr. Murat Bolayirli from Istanbul University lectured on "Safety in the Laboratory Environment and Laboratory Accidents" and "Phlebotomy and Impact of Phlebotomy on the Test Results", respectively.

May 11th was chosen as the date for the second symposium in Ankara to emphasize the safety messaging and increase awareness about the new EU Directive that came in effect in each EU member state from the same

date. The symposium was attended by 180 healthcare workers from various laboratories and clinical settings in Ankara. The meeting was attended by the Ministry of Health Representatives from the Accreditation and Quality Department. Followed by the welcome note by Dr. Dogan Yucel, the opening speech "The Target of MoH on Quality and Accreditation" was presented by Dr. Dilek Tarhan. The presentation was followed by Dr. Gabriella De Carli's presentation on "EU Directive Adaptation Process and Implementation of Safety Protocols" which underlined important facts about infectious diseases in Turkey. "Safety Culture in Healthcare Organizations" was



A scene from the second Patient and Healthcare Workers Safety, Ankara

Emel Filiz's topic from Selcuk University and "Approach to NSIs" was discussed by Dr. Necla Tulek from Ankara Training and Research Hospital. Dr. Ferzane Mercan, Head of the Laboratory Services Department in MoH gave updates on "Medical Laboratory Regulations and Patient and HCW safety". "Safety in the Laboratory Environment and Accidents" was covered by Dr. Aslı Pınar from Hacettepe University. Dr. Serkan Tapan from Gulhane Military Medical Academy, underlined the importance of using safety engineered devices and referred to CLSI Guidelines for best practices in phlebotomy.

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.

There are always new and exciting twists in the field of clinical chemistry, and it is certainly our hope that everyone can benefit from knowing about the latest trends.

The major aims of these symposia were awareness raising and training about patient and HCW safety. The two symposia were covered well by the local and national media. Along with newspaper coverage, the symposia were also telecasted on TV channels and found strong presence in print and digital media.

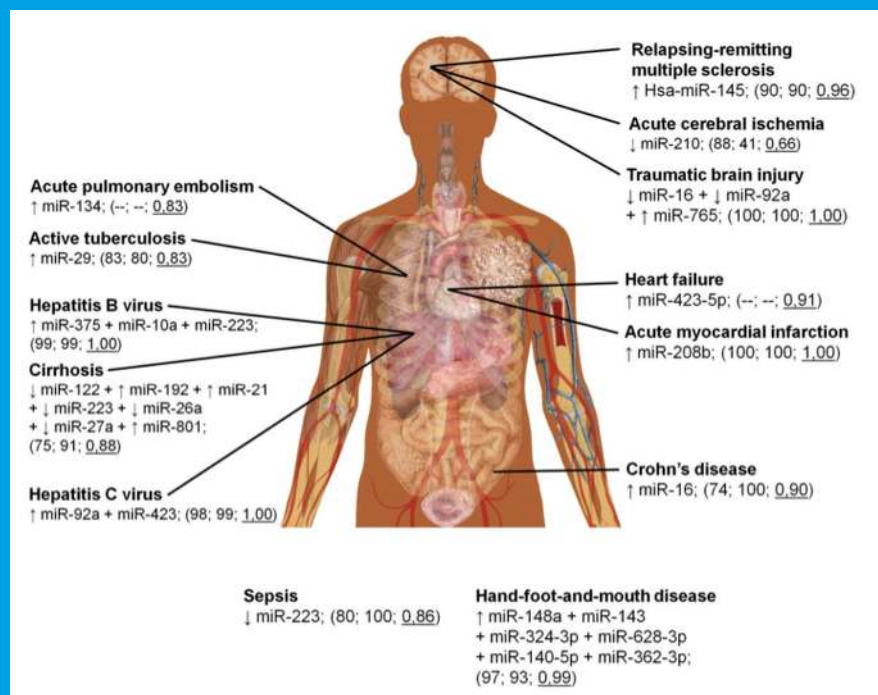
TBS is now preparing for the 25th National Congress of Biochemistry of the Society which will be held in Izmir, 3 - 6 September 2013. After this scientific activity, the Society will devote all efforts for IFCC-Worldlab 2014 Istanbul. TBS invites all colleagues to participate in this international congress for clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine occurs only once in every three years.

CANADIAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL CHEMISTS (CSCC) miRNAs in Clinical Practice

ARTICLE PREPARED BY DR. VINCENT DE GUIRE; SUBMITTED BY DR ISOLDE SEIDEN-LONG



Who could have predicted that in less than a decade the diagnostic world would be revolutionized by the discovery of a new class of human biomarkers comprised of more than 1400 members. These little RNAs, of about twenty nucleotides, have been implicated in almost all essential biological processes such as the regulation of cell differentiation and proliferation, apoptosis and even including insulin secretion. One of the key players in the regulation of gene expression, they act mainly by inhibiting the translation of multiple target genes. Hundreds of miRNAs can be detected in most biological fluids such as blood, and urine in addition to in tissue biopsies. They are surprising stable and so miRNAs appear to be the ideal analytes for the clinical laboratory. Figure 1 highlights the thousands of articles that already attest to their great specificity in the diagnosis, treatment follow-up and prognosis in almost all diseases known to mankind.

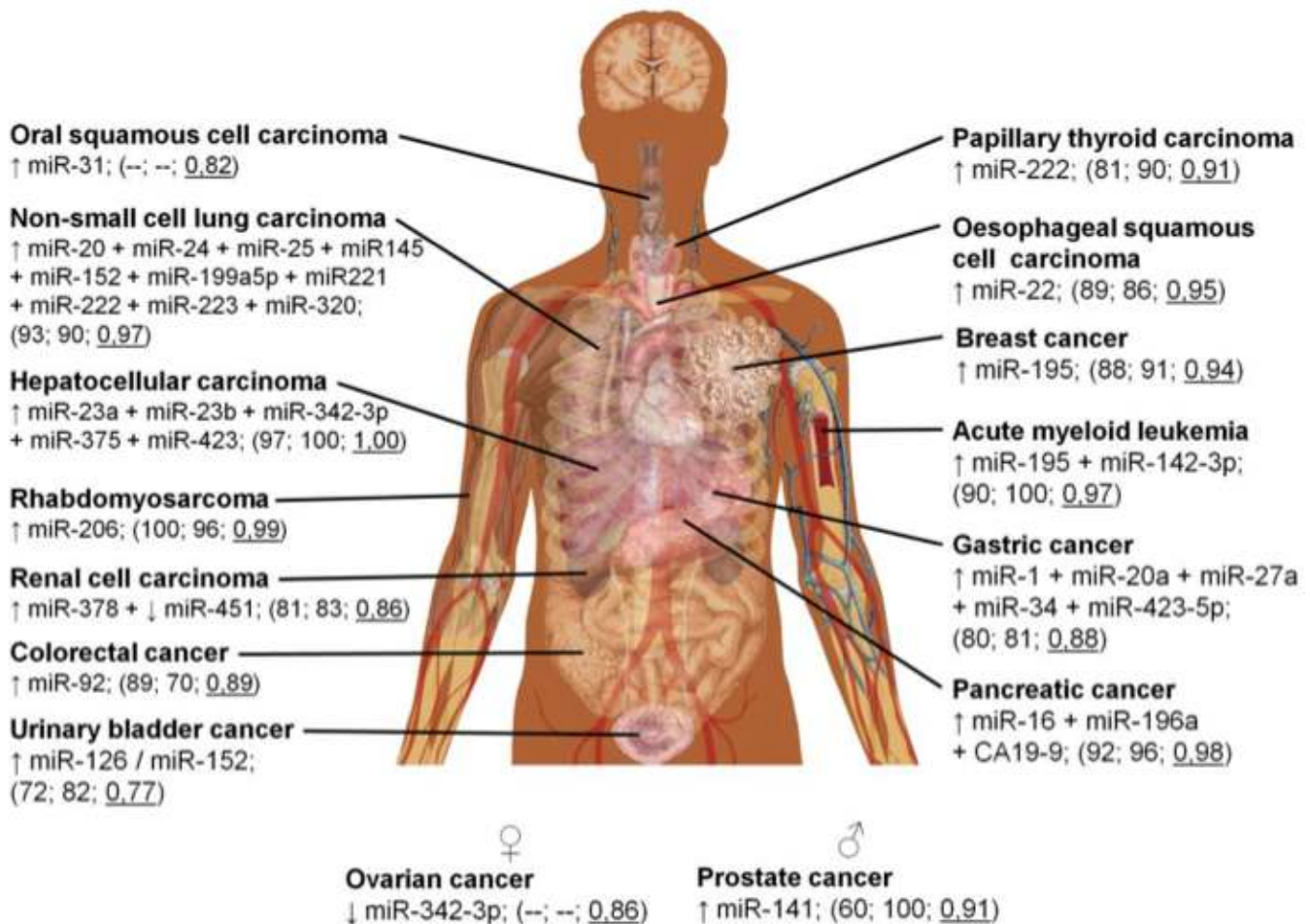


Drs. Gregory J. Tsongalis and Christina M. Lockwood have brilliantly orchestrated a special edition of Clinical Biochemistry on the clinical utility of miRNAs, bringing together internationally renowned experts in the field. The editorial was written by Dr. Carlo Croce, a leading eminence, who was the first to demonstrate the role of miRNA in cancer. Following the editorial are a series of review articles covering a multitude of clinical applications such as lung and pancreatic cancer, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, melanoma, diabetes, liver disease and pregnancy-related pathologies. Others discussed preanalytical and analytical aspects of miRNA testing as well as the bioinformatic tools available.

Dr. Gregory J. Tsongalis and Dr. Muller Fabbri also recently visited Quebec for a symposium on miRNA organized by the CSCC at the joint CAP/WASPALM last summer. Their visit began at Maisonneuve-Rosemont Hospital in Montreal with an event sponsored by the Quebec Society of Clinical Biology and the company Life Technologies entitled First Symposium on miRNAs as biomarkers: from research to the clinic. The two speakers then went on to Quebec City for the CAP/WASPALM meeting where they presented at a symposium on the clinical utility of miRNAs that was organized by Dr Raymond Lepage and me. I covered different clinical and analytical aspects of miRNA based on ongoing projects at Maisonneuve-Rosemont Hospital. Dr. Tsongalis elegantly described why miRNAs are biomarkers of choice by elaborating on his experiments on the implantation and use of miRNAs for pancreatic cancer diagnosis. Dr. Fabbri followed with the biological advances in the field in which he presented seminal work on the role of miRNAs in the development of a protumoral micro-environment.

With Dr. George A Calin as the CSCC Traveling Lecturer in 2012, the special edition of Clinical Biochemistry and the CAP/WASPALM Symposium in 2013, the CSCC has succeeded in promoting a new area of clinical biochemistry. While still in its infancy, we will see a rapid expansion of the miRNA field in the years to come.

Figures. From V. De Guire et al. 2013 published in Clinical Biochemistry miRNA: (For a specific pathology, a list of miRNA(s) is followed by sensitivity (%), specificity (%) and AUC)



Asociación de Químicos Biólogos de Guatemala

Seminar "In Search of Excellence and the Clinical Laboratory"

Guatemala, Tikal Futura Hotel April 18-20 2013



Dr. Ana Leticia Maselli
Guatemalan IFCC National Representative

This seminar was organized in recognition of all the laboratories and their professionals in Guatemala, who participated 15 years in Quality Assessment Program of Guatemalan Society of Clinical Chemists.



cal Chemists.

In this Seminar "In Search of excellence and the Clinical Laboratory", we wanted to improve the knowledge of the participant of newest developments in Quality Assurance System in the clinical laboratories.

In the program participant professors from different countries; with the important cooperation of Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry COLABIOCLI and International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine IFCC, through Visiting Lecture Program from Argentina came Dr. Daniel Mazziotta, participated as lecturers Dr. Carlos Navarro, Dr. Roberto García, Dr. Manuel Alberto Arca, Dr. Félix Acuña(Argentina) , Dr. Michael Umaña(CostaRica), Dr. Miosotys Echavarria and Dr. Miriam Pol (Dominican Republic), Dr. Ingrid Tabarini and Lic. Alex Pineda(Guatemala), Dra. Guadalupe Soriano (México), Dr. Nelson Celdeño (Panamá).

Program:

1. The clinical laboratory between technology and knowledge.
2. Cooperative Systems for the development of the professionals.
3. The importance of Quality Assurance in search of the excellence in Clinical Laboratory.
4. Quality Management System in Microbiology.
5. Quality Assurance in the Molecular Laboratory.
6. Standardization and validation of methods, creatinine as a model.
7. Risk Management of Clinical laboratory
8. Accreditation in Guatemalan Clinical Laboratory with ISO 15189 guide.



Seminary Inauguration Act:
Dr. Ana Leticia Maselli
IFCC National Representative

During the Seminar we had a meeting with Executive Board of Guatemalan Society of Clinical Chemists, National Representative of San Salvador, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Colombia and COLABIOCLI Executive Board, and Dr. Daniel Mazziotta, to establish future collaborative projects, activities and programs with COLABIOCLI and IFCC.

IFCC gratefully acknowledges financial support by Abbott Diagnostics Division



Meeting with Executive Board of Guatemalan Society of Clinical Chemists, National Representative of San Salvador, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Colombia and COLABIOCLI Executive Board, and coordinators of External Quality Assessment



Seminary Inauguration Act: Dr. Daniel Mazziotta (Argentina), IFCC Visiting Professor



Members of The Guatemalan Society of Clinical Chemists and the COLABIOCLI Executive Board.
Dr. Roberto García, Vice President, Dr. Félix Acuña Treasurer Argentina, Dra. Jenny Sabagh de Mory President(Guatemala), Regina Cabrera Secretary(Guatemala), Dr. Miriam Pol (President) Dominican Republic, Dr. Carlos Navarro President (Argentina), Dr. Miosotys Echavarria (COLABIOCLI member),

IFCC PROFESSIONAL SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE PROGRAM (PSEP)

My experience at Department of Pharmacology, University of Pretoria, Arcadia, South Africa

By **KHALED M MOHAMED**

ANALYTICAL TOXICOLOGIST, ASSIUT CHEMICAL LABORATORY, MEDIC-LEGAL DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, EGYPT.



I am extremely happy to write about my experience at Department of Pharmacology, University of Pretoria, South Africa. I was given the opportunity to work under the supervision of Prof Vanessa Steenkamp from 22 April to 22 July 2013.

My objective was to develop and validate new analytical toxicological method for the detection and quantification of the hair dye Para-phenylenediamine (PPD) and its metabolites (mono- and diacetyl-derivatives) in blood and urine samples by liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) to use in clinical and forensic toxicology laboratories. My attention to establish an analytical method for PPD in biological samples is due to the large number of suicides, homicides and accidental cases by PPD in selected African countries and as there is currently no comprehensive and sensitive analytical technique for analysis of PPD.

During my work in the host laboratory, I received practical training in handling of samples, safety, various extraction methods such as liquid liquid extraction (LLE) and solid phase extraction (SPE), LC-MS/MS method development and validation, interpretation of results. Also analysis of real cases, where human blood and urine specimens were analyzed.

Due to my exposure to high-level process improvement, equipment and instrumentation the following was accomplished:

- My knowledge, skills and experience in analytical methods and techniques were broadend,
- Comprehensive and less expensive methods for the analysis of para-phenylenediamine and its main metabolites in blood and urine samples for use in clinical and forensic toxicology laboratories was developed and validated,
- Two peer reviewed articles were drafted and these are to be submitted shortly.

Acknowledgments

I wish to thank you for the grant given to me within the framework of IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Programme, which supported financially my short-term scientific visit. For the period

of three months. I am very grateful to my host Prof Vanessa Steenkamp for her generosity in giving me useful advice during my stay and work in Pretoria. This enabled me to come back home rich with knowledge necessary for my future professional activity. I would also like to express my gratitude to Professor Opiel Greeff, Head of Department, Dr Duncan Cromarty and all the staff in the pharmacological laboratory for giving me practical help and precise direction to broaden my personal knowledge.

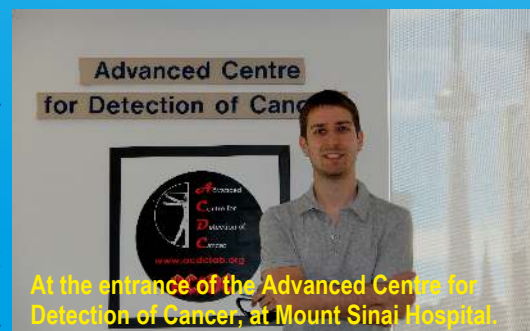
MY EXPERIENCE AT THE ADVANCED CENTRE FOR THE DETECTION OF CANCER MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL, TORONTO

By **JOSEP MIQUEL BAUÇA ROSSELLO**

HOSPITAL UNIVERSITARI SON ESPASES - PALMA DE MALLORCA, ILLES BALEARS, SPAIN

September, 2013

Cancer is a major clinical problem worldwide. It is largely accepted that detection at early stages is a key factor for



At the entrance of the Advanced Centre for Detection of Cancer, at Mount Sinai Hospital.

successful treatment outcomes. Unfortunately, only few cancer biomarkers have entered routine use, and even fewer have been approved for population screening or diagnosis, to date.

The Advanced Center for the Detection of Cancer Laboratory (ACDC Lab) is a top reference for any scientist or healthcare professional interested in oncology and cancer biomarker discovery. This is the reason why I decided to apply for an IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Program scholarship, and learn from the best.

Eleftherios P. Diamandis' research laboratory is located at Mount Sinai Hospital, and is affiliated with the University of Toronto, Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology.

One of their aims is to discover novel biomarkers for early diagnosis, prognosis and monitoring of various types of cancers. The validation of these newly-discovered biomarkers remains the most difficult step, resulting in the bottleneck for many molecules to reach the clinical setting. Subsequently, these serve as basic tools for the assessment of neoplastic processes.

During my stay, I directed my investigation towards urine peptidomics. The peptidome encompasses the low-molecular-weight proteome, and represents a potential source of novel

cancer biomarkers. Due to its non-invasive collection and stability, urine is considered an attractive body fluid for disease exploration using proteomics approaches. Based on this rationale, my main project at the ACDC Lab was to develop a mass spectrometry-based assay for the quantification of peptides derived from the leucin-rich alpha-2-glycoprotein 1 (LRG1). This glycoprotein has been suggested as promising candidate for the diagnosis of ovarian cancer. With the outstanding help and supervision of Dr. Eduardo Martinez-Morillo, Dr. Vathany Kulasingam and Dr. Diamandis itself, my research yielded encouraging results, which will inform future research and contribute to a scientific publication.



Some workmates and me at Dr. Diamandis' place, celebrating Greek Easter

Proteomics, along with peptidomics, is a field with a totally direct application to the clinical laboratories, not only for research. I learned how to use a liquid chromatography followed by tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) system. LC-MS/MS has been introduced in many areas of clinical laboratories in the last ten years (such as newborn screening, toxicology, TDM and endocrinology) to overcome some of the limitations of current immunoassays. A considerable improvement in diagnostic testing in the near future is expected.

Besides the laboratory work, this enriching 4-month experience gave me the opportunity to meet fascinating people, as well as to discover a splendid city –Toronto– and an extraordinary country –Canada.

Finally, I wish to express my gratitude to Dr. Francisco Álvarez (President of the Spanish Society for Clinical Biochemistry) for his immense help in the arrangement of the stay from the very beginning, Dr. Bartomeu Castanyer (Head of Department of Clinical Chemistry at Hospital Son Espases) for all his support and motivation, Dr. Eleftherios Diamandis and all his research group for



A few colleagues and me on the Toronto Island; Toronto's Skyline.

such a warm welcome and letting me feel like home, and also the PSEP-Committee for making possible this fruitful and once-in-a-lifetime experience.

MY EXPERIENCE AT TYGERBERG HOSPITAL -3 MONTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM IN LABORATORY QUALITY MANAGEMENT

By BRAMWEL B.N WAFULA

Acknowledgement

I wish to sincerely thank the International Federation of Clinical chemistry for the Scholarship that enabled me to attend laboratory quality management training. The executive head of pathology department, Prof. RT Erasmus for accepting my application to train and learn from the Tygerberg Academic Laboratory and the University of Stellenbosch, the staff at the Tygerberg Hospital for their support and willingness to share in quest of learning from each other and Gertrude's Children Hospital for granting me the opportunity to be away from duty to study.



Dr. Zemlin presenting a gift to Mr. Wafula

Introduction

The Laboratory quality management is an exchange program by IFCC- International Federation of Clinical Chemistry that assists participants from developing countries to visit and learn from already accredited laboratories. It is one of the ways to getting many laboratories to raise its standard and improve quality as well as achieve ISO 15189:2012 accreditation.

It is one of the ways to getting many laboratories to raise its standard and improve quality as well as achieve ISO 15189:2012 accreditation.

Training Experience

The hands - on laboratory experience exposed me to the real issues of quality in the laboratory and how to address them. The theory session, multiple choice questions and short answer question at the end of the program ensured that I was taught in a formal structured way and submitted one audit report at the end of the training period. The interaction with the Quality manager, quality Coordinator at Tygerberg hospital and the entire staff was a great learning process in various aspects of laboratory procedures, Sops and how to carry out the vertical audit, audit using SLMTA checklist and the entire quality systems.



Farewell party for the international students

Conclusion

The invaluable experience received at Tygerberg hospital laboratory will not only benefit me as an individual but I have a duty to disseminate the information to my laboratory, my association

(Clinical Chemists Association of Kenya) and other members of the laboratory in improving the quality of our laboratory services and accreditation journey. More so as Gertrude's children hospital pursues the joint accreditation the skills gained will assist me in carrying out my duties as the laboratory quality manager. Once more I am thankful to IFCC for the support they gave me.

God bless.
Bramwel B.N Wafula

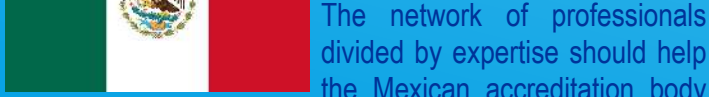


Farewell party for the international students

Rosario VAZQUEZ-LARIOS, M.S. First Secretary Deputy;
Isela PARRA-ROJAS, PhD, Second Secretary;
Sagrario ROMERO-ESTRELLA, M.S. Second Secretary Deputy;
Alejandro MORALES DE LA VEGA, PhD, Trascurre; and
Ines BALLESTEROS BARREDA, Biochemist, Treasurer Deputy.

Our objectives are to disseminate scientific knowledge, promoting teaching and research in the field of laboratory medicine, as well as promoting the implementation of quality standards, accreditation of clinical laboratories and blood banks, establishing multidisciplinary collaboration with other organizations and associations of professionals in the country and abroad.

Due to our membership expertise that includes all disciplines of laboratory medicine and blood bank, we are able to reach a wider group of professionals, where being a clinical chemist involved in laboratory medicine or blood banks is a requirement for full membership. Our membership is registered as full, affiliated, foreign, and students. The CMCLC, A.C. and the Spanish Society of Clinical Chemistry and Molecular Pathology are coordinating efforts for a wider collaboration in the near future.



The network of professionals divided by expertise should help the Mexican accreditation body improving the implementation of laboratory and blood bank accreditation standards based on ISO 15189. On September 27th, a formal agreement of collaboration between both organizations is signed by Rosa I. Sierra-Amor, President CMCLC, A.C. and Maribel Lopez-Martinez, Executive director of the Mexican Entity of Accreditation, A.C.

At the university arena, the CLMCL, C.C is formally promoting to include in the curricula of the profession topics on quality standards and accreditation on a mandatory basis. Due to the large size of the country, the membership from each estate is encourage also to develop in parallel with the national board a series of scientific sessions to improve the skills and knowledge of the professionals that have less resources to update their knowledge in laboratory medicine. Simultaneously, we are creating a young scientists section at each state university, giving them the opportunity to grow in knowledge in laboratory medicine, as well as guiding them into the organization of scientific activities. This action has grown very satisfactory, considering that students require that a professional organization facilitates the practice of the profession and technical training to improve their expertise. Therefore, collaboration with National Institutes of Health, and other health care providers along the country are under way.

Up to now CMCLC, A.C., organized a course for the student section of the Faculty of Chemistry of Veracruz State where the topic hematology/cytology was a so well received. For the private sector, a course on microbiology was organized in Puebla State. During the following months, a basic course on Molecular biology is organized by the members from Jalisco

IFCC WELCOMES A NEW FULL MEMBER SOCIETY THE MEXICAN ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES



CONTRIBUTED BY DR. ROSA ISABEL SIERRA-AMOR, CORRESPONDING MEMBER IFCC WG NEWS.

The Mexican Association of Clinical Laboratory Sciences (Colegio Mexicano de Ciencias de Laboratorio Clínico, A.C.) Full Member society of IFCC, it is a non-profit organization recognized by the Minister of Education DGP/SEP F-412, which group together professionals involved in clinical

chemistry and laboratory medicine along the country, working for the government, for the private health care systems, researchers and professors from universities and colleagues from industry.

Our logo represents the country of Mexico that symbolizes the harmonization of knowledge in clinical laboratory sciences, where all fields of laboratory medicine are connected to improve patient care.

The CMCLC, A.C. was formed on the 28th of September 2012, since then, the active members of the board started organizing meetings and reunions with several organizations, in order to develop a program that encourage young clinical scientists, chemists and researchers to participate actively in the CMCLC, A.C.

The actual board is formed by Rosa Isabel SIERRA-AMOR, PhD, President;
Jose Francisco MUÑOZ-VALLE, PhD, Vice-president;
Jezabel VITE CASANOVA, M.S., First Secretary;

at the University of Guadalajara. To promote the implementation of the new Mexican blood bank standard, a course will take place in Xalapa, capital city of Veracruz State. In conjunction with this university, the CMCLC, A.C. developed a postgraduate program on hematology/blood bank training. The CMCLC, A.C. is about to sign an agreement with the Health Department of Yucatan State to facilitate the implementation of national standards, as well as organize scientific activities in conjunction with the State university. Industry is invited to collaborate with the CMCLC, A.C. on these efforts. In fact, they are a key factor in disseminating our scientific activities along the country. The 7th International Conference on Quality under the auspices of IFCC will provide continuing education on different topics such as microbiology, hematology, quality control, blood bank and serology. The CMCLC, A.C. is having a distinguished lecture program on the memory of Antonieta Garza-Galindo, a clinical chemist that devoted her career to promote the profession in and out of México. The CMCLC, A.C. board members are looking forward to interact closely with IFCC, representing Mexico at all levels, and helping each other to develop strong ties among professionals worldwide.

Postal address:

Matías Romero 404-3
Colonia Del Valle
C.P. 03100, Mexico City, MEXICO
TEL/FAX: +52-55-5559-1401
Twitter@cmclc12 cmclc12.bligoo.com.mx
Email:
colegio_mexicano_ciencias_laboratorio_clinico@telmexmail.com

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO ISO 15189 IN LABORATORY MEDICINE'

THE NEW 'A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO ISO 15189 IN LABORATORY MEDICINE' BOOK IS NOW AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE FROM THE ACB ONLINE STORE.

Written by Dr David Burnett OBE, former Consultant Clinical Biochemist at the St Albans & Hemel Hempstead NHS Trust, this book is primarily intended as a practical guide for laboratory professionals wishing to implement the International Standard, ISO 15189:2012 Medical laboratories – Requirements for quality and competence in their laboratories, but will also be useful to peer review assessors or full time assessors working for accreditation bodies. It may seem presumptuous to have created for the purpose of this book an outline structure of an 'Ideal Standard' for use in the accreditation of medical laboratories, but it is essential to the structure and interactivity of the contents of this book.

The book can be purchased from the **ACB Online Store**.

The book is priced at £35(+P&P.) ACB Members receive a 10% discount (or 33% if you have been a member for less than 1 year.) Please note that you need to log into the online store in order to access the discounted price.

Discounts are available for those purchasing 10+ copies. For information please contact the ACB Office at : enquiries@acb.org.uk

Website. www.acb.org.uk

FRANÇOISE PONTET - IN MEMORIAM

PROF GEORGES FÉRARD

Françoise Pontet tragically left us on the 21 August 2013. Born in the Paris region, at Alfortville in 1947, she obtained first a diploma of pharmacist, then of clinical chemist at the Paris University. Subsequently, she worked at the 'Service de Biochimie et de Biologie moléculaire' at the Hospital Lariboisière in Paris. Françoise Pontet became an expert in monoclonal dysglobulinemia, both in the analytical field and the clinical interpretation of laboratory results. Her Ph D was devoted to "The study of monoclonal immunoglobulins M and their clinical significance". She supervised about ten theses, produced about fifty papers and sixty posters as well as several conferences.

Very early on, Dr F. Pontet was strongly motivated by the terminology and nomenclature in clinical laboratory sciences. In 1977 she published with Pr François Rousselet the classic booklet "Les unités SI en biologie". In addition Françoise Pontet was Chairholder of the Committee "Protéines" of the Société Française de Biologie Clinique.

On the international level, she was Member, then Convener of the Committee "Standardization of the plasma proteins" of IFCC. Dr F. Pontet then returned to the terminology domain as Member then Convener of the Committee and Subcommittee on "Nomenclature for Properties and Units" (the so-called C-SC-NPU) of IFCC and IUPAC. She did much for the spread and implementation of the NPU format in laboratory reports.

Françoise Pontet was also representative of IFCC to the "International Bureau of Weights and Measures" and to the joint Committee on "Guides in Metrology – Working Group 2", charged of the updating of the 'International Vocabulary of Metrology'. On the IUPAC side, she was titular Member, then vice-President of IUPAC Division VII "Chemistry and Human Health" and chaired several projects in the domain of terminology in clinical laboratory sciences.

IUPAC, IFCC, and the NPU Committee have all lost a knowledgeable, hard working, and much loved colleague. Françoise Pontet will be remembered as a fine scientist, a good friend, and a courageous lady.

Our deepest sympathy and condolences go to her husband, Michel, her two children and to the Family.

Prof. Georges Férard
Strasbourg – France

Calendar of IFCC Congresses/Conferences and Regional Federations

2013	Oct 27-30	<u>APCCB 2013 - 13th 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 - 22nd International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine</u>	Istanbul, TR
2015	Jun 21-25	<u>EuroMedLab 2015 - 21th IFCC-EFLM European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine</u>	Paris, FR
	Oct 29-31	<u>COLABIOCLI 2015 - XXII Congreso Latinoamericano de Bioquímica Clínica</u>	Quito, EC
	Nov	<u>ArabMedLab 2015 - 14th Arab Congress of Clinical Biology (AFCB)</u>	Khartoum, SD
2017	Oct	<u>WorldLab 2017 - 23rd International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine</u>	Durban, ZA

Calendar of events with IFCC auspices

2013	Oct 19-20	<u>13th 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
	Oct 23-26	<u>10th Annual Congress of the German Joint Society for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine</u>	Dresden, DE
	Nov 1-4	<u>13th 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>7th Santorini Conference "Systems Medicine Personalized Health and Therapy"</u>	Santorini, GR
2015	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