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ifcc
International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine

Communications and Publications Division (CPD) of the IFCC
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International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine

January - February
2017

In this issue

Candidates for IFCC Secretary and Treasurer – 2018-2020 positions

by Bernard Gouget
Chair, IFCC Nominations Committee

The IFCC Nominations Committee received four nominations for IFCC Secretary and four nominations for the IFCC Treasurer positions for the term 1, January 2018 until 31 December 2020.
The eight candidates have been nominated by their National Societies and they have given a written consent for their candidacy. All applications were declared valid. *The candidates are:*

FOR THE IFCC SECRETARY POSITION:

- David KINNIBURGH, Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists (CSCC)
- Joseph LOPEZ, Malaysian Association of Clinical Biochemists (MACB)
- Tahir PILLAY, South African Association of Clinical Biochemistry (SAACB)
- Rosa SIERRA-AMOR, Mexican Association of Clinical Laboratory Sciences (MACLS)


David KINNIBURG

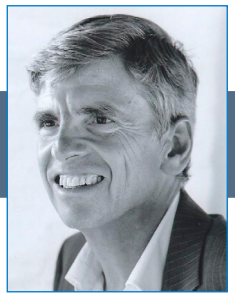

Joseph LOPEZ


Tahir PILLAY


Rosa SIERRA-AMOR

FOR THE TREASURER POSITION:

- Alexander HALIASSOS, Greek Society of Clinical Chemistry – Clinical Biochemistry (GSCC-CB)
- Klaus KHOSE, German Society of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (DGKL)
- Tomris OZBEN, Turkish Biochemical Society (TBS)
- Binod Kumar YADAV, Nepal Association for Medical Laboratory Science (NAMLS)


Alexander HALIASSOS


Klaus KOHSE


Tomris OZBEN


Binod KUMAR YADAV

The full details of each candidate's nomination including a personal statement are available on the *IFCC website*.

All IFCC Officers' elections take place electronically; according to this, the electronic ballot for the election of the Secretary and Treasurer positions , is held from 1-30 April 2017. IFCC full members, in good standing, constitute the voting members. Voting process' details will be provided next February by the IFCC office.

A new resource for the eJIFCC

Dr. Reinhard B. Raggam is the new case report editor

The Journal of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine

eJIFCC

The eJIFCC, that has now been officially indexed by MEDLINE/PUBMED, is happy to present Dr. Reinhard B. Raggam as a case-report editor. He will follow the editorial process for the section dedicated to case descriptions that will enrich each issue of the eJIFCC for the broad interest to the community of laboratorians.

eJIFCC is a platinum open-access journal, i.e. there is no charge to read, or to submit to this journal. Our numerous high-quality articles, debates, reviews, case studies and editorials are addressed to clinical laboratorians.

The journal also publishes general news articles, IFCC publicity/news, educational materials and has a letters section.

Besides offering original scientific thought in our featured columns, we provide pointers to quality resources on the world-wide web. We aim to assist the development of the field of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine worldwide. Manuscripts are fully peer reviewed and immediately free to access and download from *www.ifcc.org*.

The eJIFCC is a member of the Committee on Publications Ethics (*COPE*).

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS:

The eJIFCC welcomes case reports that illustrate new approaches to established clinical - diagnostic problems or describing a new clinically associated diagnostic problem. To be of value appropriate for publication, a case report must provide a significant learning point for other laboratory physicians and clinical chemists.

Case reports

- should be provided with a summary not longer than 150 words;
- followed by a structured main text (INTRODUCTION; CLINICAL-DIAGNOSTIC CASE; DISCUSSION; TAKE HOME MESSAGES/LEARNING POINTS);
- not exceeding 1500 words;
- will allow 2 tables and 2 figures;
- the maximum number of references is 15;
- 3-5 keywords are mandatory.

Please provide disclosures & contribution of authors at the end of manuscript text.

Silver Book Compendium

The IFCC is happy to inform that, thanks to the work of Dr. Fuentes-Arderiu, Dr. Dybkaer and Dr. Férard, the Compendium of Terminology and Nomenclature of Properties in Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Recommendations 2016 has now been published *in print* (and as *an eBook*).

Over the last 60 years, much effort has been expended to introduce and apply in the clinical laboratory sciences concepts, designations, rules, and conventions on properties, including quantities and units, recommended by international organizations such as CGPM, ISO, IUPAC, and IFCC.

Article continued on next page

From 1994, extensions and applications to several disciplines within the clinical laboratory sciences have been made by the IFCC/IUPAC Committee/ Subcommittee on Nomenclature for Properties and Units (C-SC-NPU).

In 1995, the first issue of the Silver Book was published to harmonize and facilitate access to relevant documents. Since then, many recommendations and technical reports have been prepared by the C-SC-NPU, but they are not readily available and some have been updated and aligned with other documents.

IUPAC and IFCC have now decided that it is time, after 20 years, to issue a second edition of the Silver Book with four objectives:

- update the recommendations and technical reports;
- enlarge the subject field by several disciplines applied in the clinical laboratory sciences;
- develop concepts used to include properties having no quantity dimensions that are frequently submitted to examination in clinical laboratories; and
- explain the recommendations when necessary and illustrate them with examples taken from laboratory practice.

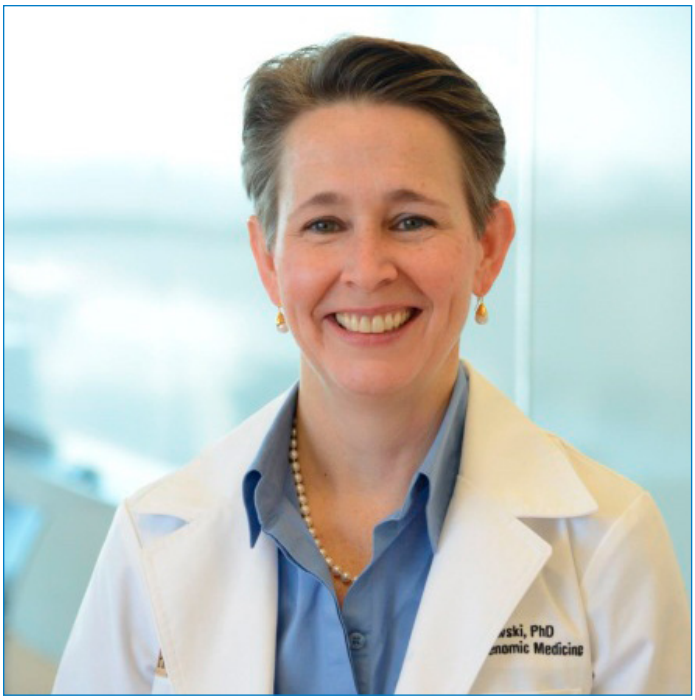
To cite the book please use the book DOI, which is **10.1039/9781782622451**. Each individual chapter also has a DOI which is on the book contents list in the *RSC eBook Collection.*

Thanks again to all our colleagues for their efforts in producing the book!

IFCC Task Force on Ethics

by Ann Gronowski
Chair, Task Force on Ethics (TF-E)

Ethical issues have been given limited attention by professionals in laboratory medicine.



Ann Gronowski

Specific issues that challenge laboratory professionals include: allocation of health-care resources, testing conducted nearer the patient, confidentiality, screening tests, direct-to-consumer testing, conflicts of interest, residual specimen use, add-on testing, whole genome sequencing, pre-implantation genetics and research/publication ethics.

The IFCC Task Force on Ethics is a long-standing task force that aims to: increase awareness among Laboratory Medicine Professionals of ethical issues; encourage the practice of Laboratory Medicine to the highest ethical standards; develop position papers on appropriate ethics policies issues; provide a voice for Laboratory Medicine on ethics policies; and, link Laboratory Medicine, ethics and the public interest.

In recent years, this task force has been very active. In 2015 the group published a Survey of teaching of ethics published an article entitled “Variability of ethics education in laboratory medicine training programs: results of an international survey”. (Clin Chim Acta 2015, 442:115-118. *http://www.ncbi.nlm.*

Article continued on next page

nih.gov/pubmed/25437910.) The study concluded that formal teaching of ethics is absent from many training programs in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine. There is a perceived need for online training tools in ethics, especially tools with self-assessment components.

As a result of these findings, the Task Force has been active in creating on-line training tools that teach ethics in laboratory medicine. In 2016, the group produced a chapter entitled *"Ethical Considerations in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine"* that is posted on the IFCC website at *http://www.ifcc.org/executive-board-and-council/eb-task-forces/taskforceethics/*.

The group also produced three teaching modules entitled: *"Ethics in Laboratory Medicine"*, *"Ethics Education"* and *"Publication Ethics"*. These modules are freely available at: *http://eacademy.ifcc.org/events/aacc-pearls-of-laboratory-medicine/*.

Plans for 2017 include the creation of an ethics "toolbox" for Member Societies which will include examples of conflict of interest statements and codes of ethics from member societies. The group is also working on additional teaching modules on ethical considerations of biobanking and ethical cases in laboratory medicine.

In June, at the IFCC-EFLM EuroMedLab, the Task Force is hosting a symposium entitled ***"Ethical Issues in Laboratory Medicine"*** which will be held on 15Thursday 15 June 2017 at 10h30-12h30.

The task force currently has two open positions and welcomes nominations of people who are interested in ethics in laboratory medicine. Nominations should be submitted by IFCC Members. They should comprise details of the individual being nominated and a supporting statement (~500 words) indicating why he/she is a suitable person to join TF-Ethics. Experience of working with ethics and Laboratory Medicine at local or national level is required.

Nominations should be sent directly to the IFCC Office to the attention of Silvia Colli Lanzi (*colli-lanzi@ifcc.org*) before 28 February 2017.

IFCC Working Group "Laboratory Errors and Patient Safety" (WG-LEPS)

Project on Quality Indicators – The finding of Consensus Conference "Harmonization of quality indicators in Laboratory Medicine: two years later"

by Laura Sciacovelli and Mario Plebani
IFCC, WG "Laboratory Errors and Patient Safety"

INTRODUCTION

An effective Quality Indicators (QIs) system should be part of a coherent and coordinated quality improvement strategy and should be constantly reviewed and updated in order to comply with accreditation requirements and scientific recommendations; support efforts to continuously improve laboratory performances; enhance the value of both Total Testing Process (TTP) and clinical practice, and, finally, be effective in evaluating patient outcomes.

The Working Group *"Laboratory Errors and Patient Safety"* (WG-LEPS) of the International Federation of

Laura Sciacovelli
IFCC WG - LEPS Chair

Mario Plebani
IFCC WG - LEPS Past Chair

Article continued on next page

Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) has since 2008, implemented a project aimed at defining a common Model of QIs (MQI) and a harmonized method of data collection and available to laboratories all over the world through an External Quality Assurance Program (EQAP) in which confidentiality is guaranteed and participation is free.

In recent years, the MQI, managed in the EQAP, is proving to be an important tool that not only provides the TTP error rates and divulges awareness of the value of QIs in enhancing patient safety, but also highlights the more critical aspects interfering with the widespread and appropriate use of QIs themselves.

MQI PROJECT OVER THE YEARS

In 2008, a preliminary MQI was developed and tested under real conditions by laboratories involved in order to check the suitability of each quality indicator and the feasibility of the reporting system and this has allowed improvements to be made for the definitions of each quality indicator, design of the Model, identification of the most appropriate possible data collection procedure and ways in which the reporting system could be of the greatest possible benefit.

All findings from the use of QIs during the experimental phase, and the list of QIs have been discussed in the Consensus Conference held in Padova in 2013 *("Harmonization of quality indicators: why, how and when?")* and a series of questions have been circulated among all invited delegates to achieve a preliminary consensus on terminology, rationale, purpose of each and all QIs and procedures of data collection.

A reviewed MQI has been issued, after the Consensus Conference, and has been used since 2014. Some quality indicator definitions have been modified to allow a better comprehension about the meaning of each indicator to interested laboratory professionals. Some QIs have been added and others deleted. A priority score (1 is the highest priority) was assigned to each indicator in order to assist laboratories to gradually introduce QIs into routine practice and the reporting system has been simplified to allow homogeneous data collection. A criterion to identify Quality Specifications (QSs) for the assessing of laboratory's performance has also been proposed.

The reviewed and improved MQI was tested until a further Consensus Conference was organized in Padova on 26th October , 2016 and titled *"Harmonization of quality indicators in Laboratory Medicine: two years later?"*. The aim of the Conference was to bring together all the experts and interested parties in order to discuss the results of the MQI testing and in order to better understand the data collection feasibility of all QIs by clinical laboratories operating at international level and in different countries; investigate if QIs are still valid or if they should be changed or improved; identify all possible improvement and achieve a consensus towards harmonization of QIs.

FINDINGS FROM THE CONSENSUS CONFERENCE

The list of QIs, included in the MQI, was presented to the meeting with an opportunity of discussion and feedback by conference participants. After discussing the MQI in use, and answering a series of related questions, all experts agreed to work on the revision of currently available QIs, starting from the already described IFCC MQI, taking into consideration the relevance of each QI, its generalizability and applicability by clinical laboratories from different countries. All speakers accepted to present their experience on QIs focusing on the main advantages and limitations of their experiences, as well as on eventual agreement and disagreement with the IFCC WG LEPS program.

In particular in the Consensus Conference the following items were discussed.

- The use of QIs in Laboratory Medicine is necessary to identify and monitor the critical activities acknowledged as error-prone and to comply with the requirements of International Standard ISO 15189. Moreover, it is an approved tool of Risk Management procedures. The use of an approved MQI and reporting system in clinical laboratories, through an External Quality Assurance Scheme, guarantees the identification of reliable State-of-the-Art concerning the error rate in the TTP.

Article continued on next page

- A criterion to define the Quality Specifications to evaluate the QIs data, has been defined on the basis of the State-of-the-Art, as suggested in the Strategic Conference *"Defining analytical performance goals 15 years after the Stockholm Conference on Quality Specifications in laboratory Medicine"* held in Milan in 2014. Exchanges of views on the appropriateness to identify three different limits (high, medium, low) for the definition of the laboratory performance, or one (acceptable), emerged and is still under discussion.
- Involvement of Scientific Societies, Accreditation bodies and the Providers of External Quality Assessment Schemes/proficiency testing of different countries as a tool to divulge the project and promote participation of laboratories in the MQI project.
- Selection and nomination of a National Leader, to coordinate and manage the MQI project in each Country.
- Definition of guidelines supporting the use of QIs and implementation of improvement actions in clinical laboratories.
- Information included in the report provided to laboratories participating in the project have been considered adequate and useful to identify the laboratory performance compared with that of other laboratories both in the same country and all over the world.

CONCLUSION

The last Consensus Conference represents another step towards the harmonization of the use of QIs in Laboratory Medicine.

In the quality journey, the continuous revision and updating of assurance tools is an important task of laboratory professionals. In fact, the analysis of criteria and quality specifications on the basis of the current State-of-the-Art is important to perform improvement activities.

Quality Indicators are a strategic tool to assess and monitor the critical steps of the TTP and their use is required for Accreditation according to ISO 15189. A harmonized MQI and reporting system used in clinical laboratories all over the world assures the identification of the actual State-of-the-Art and, consequently, reliable quality specifications. All laboratories are called on to participate in the project in order to promote the improvement process on behalf of patient safety.

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DEVELOPING QUALITY COMPETENCE IN MEDICAL LABORATORIES

Symposium: Quality Practice and Process in Developing Countries

by Michael Thomas
DQCML Past Chair

INTRODUCTION

The Association of Clinical Chemistry of Nigeria (ACCN) has been an active member of the IFCC community for some time. Their National Representative, Dr. Mabel Charles-Davies expressed a wish at the IFCC General Conference in Madrid that DQCML with its extended role in sub-Saharan Africa might wish to consider delivering a workshop at their 7th Biennial Scientific Conference on Quality issues and especially those relating to the implementation of Quality systems.

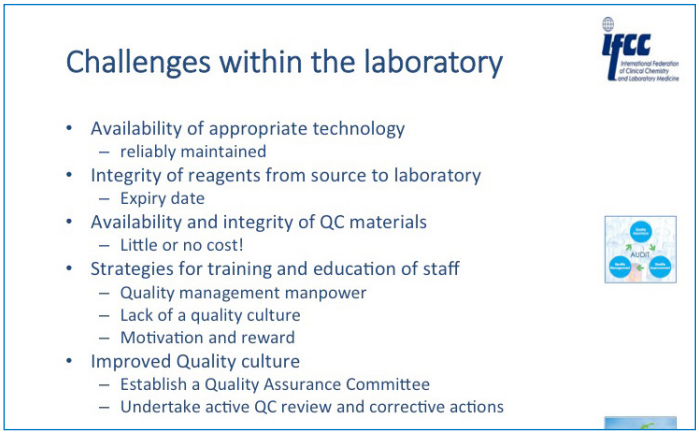
Dr. Charles-Davies was invited to submit a formal application to IFCC and this was duly received and approved with the expressed objective of the visit being to understand how to sustain quality practice and process in developing countries and a focus on the implementation of External Quality Assurance.

PROGRAMME FOR VISIT

A whole day programme was developed by DQCML that focussed especially on the initial components of the DQCML Quality Ladder particularly on IQC and EQA and the impact on patient safety.

The Local Organising Committee of the Conference under the chairmanship of Professor Oluwole Adedeji (NG) approved the programme and this was incorporated as a whole day symposium to be delivered on Thursday, 13th October 2016, integrated into a three-day programme with the overarching theme of *"Towards Sustainable Clinical Chemistry Practice for the Nation"* from 12th to 14th October 2016.

The conference programme additionally included keynote lectures by national and international experts, sessions delivered by young scientists, which focussed particularly on their research achievements, sessions



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on non-communicable disease, traceability and Point of Care Testing, and a two-day optional molecular biology workshop. The full programme is referenced for review at: *http://accnnigeria.org/conference/day%201.html*

The DQCML symposium was supported by well-known IFCC speakers from both the UK and Germany together with ACCN national speakers who were able to offer a local and, at times, frank and challenging perspective of the situation in Nigeria.

The symposium was split into two formal lecture sessions with two interactive workshops interleaved and the output from the first workshop informing the second.

Session 1: Assuring Quality in Clinical Chemistry

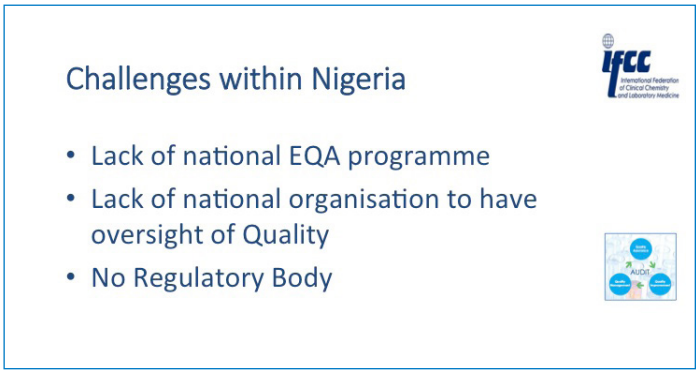
The opening session challenged delegates to consider where they found themselves on the Quality Ladder and was delivered by IFCC Past President, Graham Beastall (UK) who also chaired the whole symposium. Michael Thomas (UK), Chair of DQCML offered an overview of the building blocks of Quality Control and their impact on patient safety. The opening session ended with Cathie Sturgeon (UK) who gave a provider's perspective on the challenges of EQA schemes.

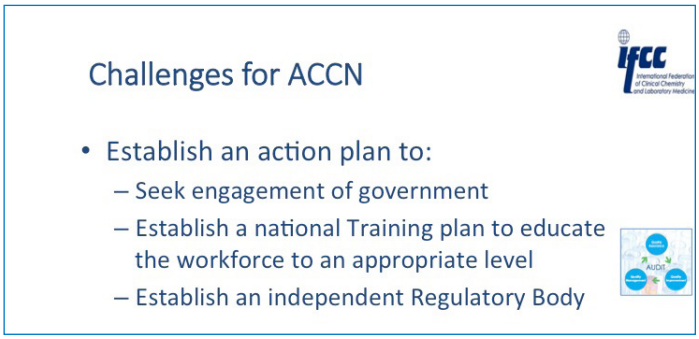
Workshop 1: Strategies to achieve compliance with QMS and QC-requirements

Following an impulse lecture from Egon Amann (DE), Chair of C-AQ, delegates were split into a number of groups and asked to identify the most significant issues challenging quality systems delivery in the country. This information was collated and summarised for use later in the symposium by the DQCML team.

Session 2: Quality challenges going forward: understanding the needs of Nigeria

The second formal session saw Catherine Sturgeon speak on the delivery of effective EQA which was followed by Graham Beastall (GB) who reviewed the further steps on the road to full laboratory accreditation and possible initiatives in Africa through SLIPTA. In a robust final lecture Emmanuel Agbedana (NG) identified the hurdles to be overcome and quality improvements needs of the country.





Workshop 2: Practical steps for improving quality in Nigeria

The second workshop led by Catherine Sturgeon (GB) and Graham Beastall (GB) encouraged delegates to consider the practical steps in implementing quality improvements. This began with a feedback session from Michael Thomas (GB) that brought together the perceived challenges delegates had previously identified in Workshop1 (*see the **five slides** above, on the right*).

Finally Graham Beastall (GB) and Catherine Sturgeon (GB) were joined by Mabel Charles-Davies (NG) to discuss and agree with delegates the outcome from the Symposium and what would be required to develop a national road map for the future and possible further interactions with the IFCC.

Concluding remarks:

Professor Maurizio Ferrari (IT), IFCC President, kindly brought the day to a close. Speakers were impressed by the enthusiasm, knowledge and full engagement of delegates in the symposium throughout the day.

The full programme format can be seen on the next page and via the following link:
http://accnnigeria.org/conference/day%201.html

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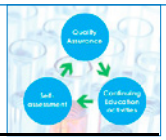
Thursday, 13th October
Sustaining Quality Practice and Process in Developing Countries
A Symposium delivered on behalf of the DQCML initiative of IFCC



SESSION 1: Assuring Quality in the Clinical Laboratory

10:00-10:30am	Developing a Quality System: Finding your place on the Quality Ladder	Graham Beastall (Chair)
10:30-11:00am	IQC: Building Blocks of Quality Local Systems of Quality Control (Good laboratory practice and patient safety)	Michael Thomas
11:00-11:30am	EQA: A Provider's Perspective	Cathie Sturgeon
11:30-12:00 noon	COFFEE BREAK	

Workshop:
"What is the best strategy to achieve compliance with QMS- and QC-requirements in the clinical laboratory?"
Total workshop time: 60 mins

12.00-12.10pm	Impulse lecture "Compliance with Quality Systems". Present the agenda, aims and instructions for activity	Moderator: Egon Amann
12.10-12.20pm	Group forming with 5 - 8 participants per group (Number of the groups depends on the availability of participants). Then, a questionnaire is handed out to the groups.	
12.20-12.40pm	Group discussion: Finding most burning top three issues and listing those issues on flip charts.	
12.40-1.00pm	Concluding activity: Evaluating, deciding, and listing actions. *Output of this workshop is input for the interactive workshop below.*	
1.00-2.00pm	LUNCH	

SESSION 2: Quality challenges going forward: understanding the needs of Nigeria

2.00-2.30pm	Delivering effective EQA	Cathie Sturgeon
2.30-3.00pm	Moving along the road to accreditation	Graham Beastall
3.00-3.30pm	Identified quality improvement needs. What are major hurdles?	Emmanuel O. Agbedana

Interactive Workshop:
"Identify practical steps for improving quality in Clinical Laboratories in Nigeria"
Moderators: Cathie Sturgeon, Graham Beastall
Total workshop time: 60 mins

3.30-4:30 pm	Workshop summary: Developing the road map	Graham Beastall, Cathie Sturgeon and Mabel A. Charles-Davies
4:30-4:45 pm	Concluding remarks	Maurizio Ferrari

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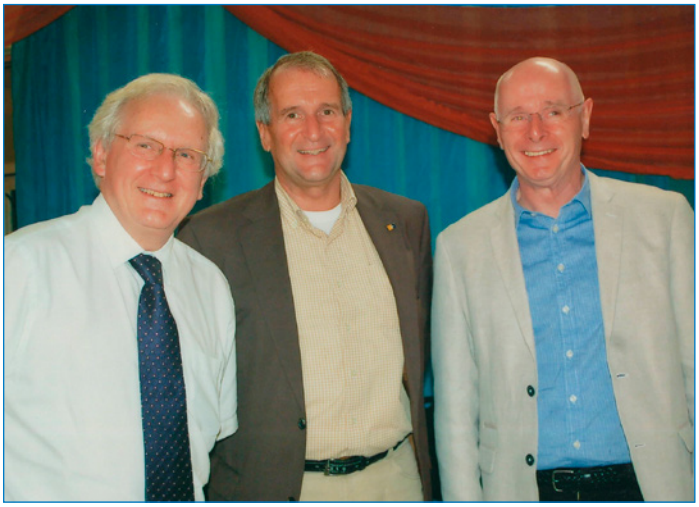


L-R: Dr. Graham Beastall, Prof. Egon Amann and Dr. Michael Thomas

L-R: Dr. Michael Thomas, Dr. Graham Beastall, Dr. Mabel Charles-Davies, Professor Maurizio Ferrari and Professor Egon Amann

It is anticipated that the speaker abstracts will be published on the ACCN website in the near future.

FUTURE IMPLICATIONS OF THE SYMPOSIUM

A report from the National Member on the usefulness of the Symposium has not as yet been received. However it is anticipated that the outcome from the Symposium will see a request for further DQCML support as the National Member moves forward with its plans to improve the quality of laboratory services in Nigeria.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As Chair of DQCML I would wish to express my sincere and grateful thanks to all those who helped in the development and presentation of this DQCML Symposium: Graham Beastall, Egon Amann, Cathie Sturgeon and Maurizio Ferrari.

We are grateful to our hosts, the Association of Clinical Chemists of Nigeria, and acknowledge the support of their President, Professor Adekunle Okesina and the Local Organising Committee led by Professor Oluwole Adedeji and his enthusiastic team in realising this very successful event.

In particular we would also acknowledge and are especially grateful to Dr. Mabel Charles-Davies for her passion and enthusiasm in securing the DQCML visit to Nigeria and her care and attention during our stay in Lagos, Nigeria.

News from the IFCC Website

eJIFCC Vol 27 n°4

A new issue of the eJIFCC is now available. eJIFCC Vol 27, n°4 focuses on **Recent Advances in the Clinical Application of Mass Spectrometry (MS)**. Guest-editor is Dr. Ronda Greaves, Senior Lecturer in Clinical Biochemistry at RMIT University, and Honorary Research Fellow at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute in Melbourne (AU). The MS dedicated articles highlight the changing landscape of MS based applications, and explore changes and advances to instrumentation which paves the way for new approaches. Two articles on successful projects in Pakistan and in Ethiopia, and two book reviews complete the issue.

Read more

Survey of the IFCC WG Harmonisation of Interpretive Commenting EQA (WG-ICQA)

Survey on harmonisation of reporting of protein electrophoresis and serum free light chains, and quantification of small monoclonal proteins

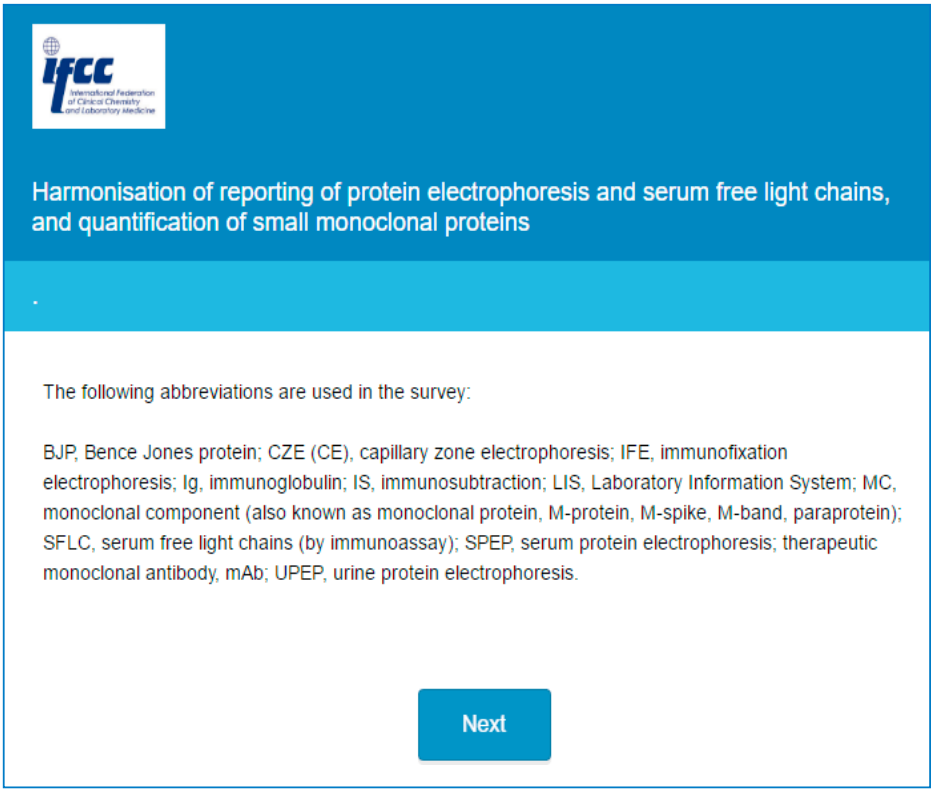
by Jill Tate (Chair), Maria Stella Graziani, Maria Alice Willrich & Michael Moss

Members of the Sub-group for Harmonisation of Reporting of Protein Electrophoresis and Serum free light Chains, and Quantification of Small Monoclonal Proteins

Dear Colleagues

We write on behalf of a subgroup of the IFCC Working Group for Harmonisation of Interpretative Commenting EQA. In the overall interest of improved patient safety and to promote alignment with clinical guideline practices, our subgroup was formed to focus in particular on harmonising the laboratory investigation and reporting of protein electrophoresis and serum free light chains, as well as the quantitation of small monoclonal proteins. Previous surveys in several countries have variously indicated a lack of harmonisation in all related testing phases.

We have decided to commence our project with an international baseline survey to inform our Working Group of current clinical laboratory practices on a global basis, including reporting and interpretative commenting. Our survey contains a total of 30 questions, addressing specific aspects of the Pre-Analytical, Analytical and Post-Analytical phases, as well as demographics (relevant annual test volumes) of each responding laboratory.



We anticipate the survey will require no more than about 20 minutes for a respondent to complete and our goal is to have completed surveys submitted by 30 April 2017.

All responses will remain anonymous and confidential. Following receipt and analysis of the completed surveys, we will produce a position paper with recommended harmonised practices. We will then invite stakeholder input and comment on those proposals, using a consensus-driven approach to refine the final recommendations.

We invite you to participate in this survey that is available through the link below: *https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IFCC-WG-ICQA*.

Thank you for your support and cooperation in this endeavour.

NEWS FROM REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND MEMBER SOCIETIES

News from the Spanish Society of Clinical Biochemistry and Molecular Pathology (SEQC)

International grants from the JL Castaño Foundation – SEQC and IFCC

With the aim of fostering international research among laboratory medicine specialists, each year the Spanish Society of Clinical Biochemistry and Molecular Pathology (SEQC) awards international grants for young members of the SEQC, mainly residents and post-residents under the age of 40. The grants seek to promote international cooperation among laboratories and enable applicants to share high-level science and thus acquire experience in new technologies which they can then apply to their own laboratories.

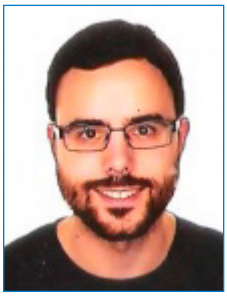
This year the **José Luis Castaño Foundation** awarded three grants through the Professional Scientific Exchange Programme with the support of **SEQC**:

Silvia Bérgamo

Silvia Bérgamo: spent three months at the University Hospital of South Manchester laboratory. During this time, she was assigned to a project to develop a new LC-MS/MS method for analysing three cortisol-derived compounds, 18-hydroxycortisol, 18-oxocortisol and tetrahydroaldosterone, in urine and then assess samples of the fluid of patients genetically diagnosed for primary hyperaldosteronism.

Raquel Behar

Raquel Behar: went on placement at the Pathology Department of Christchurch Hospital, University of Otago, together with the McKenzie Cancer Research Group in New Zealand. Raquel joined a research team where she learned about various methodologies and different approaches to cancer research to improve the diagnosis, prognosis and treatment follow-up of cancer patients. Specifically, her main objective was to learn to use bioinformatics tools applied to analysing mass RNA sequencing (RNA-seq) data, as the main topic of her doctoral thesis is the characterisation of breast and ovarian cancer-related gene splicing.



Francisco Cano

Francisco Cano: spent three months at John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford. During this time, he was assigned the task of researching with the Transplantation Research Immunology Group (TRIG). While there he worked on the mechanism of action of total lymphoid irradiation in lung transplantation rejection. He also had the opportunity to finalise the labelling of seven cell populations and then measure them in frozen samples from 27 lung transplants patients who had undergone total irradiation to avoid rejection, at different times before and after irradiation and in samples of 15 healthy individuals as a control group.

Jorge Díaz-Garzón

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The International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) PEP programme grant was awarded this year to ***Jorge Díaz-Garzón***, who went on placement to the Hennepin County Medical Center in Minnesota. His training was based on forensic toxicology and cardiac markers. He also took part in various research projects, such as the UTropIA project and a further two which are still running: the study of troponin I in the serum of high-performance athletes and the study of concentration increase patterns (p. 99 in the original).

News from the Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQC^{ML})

Report on EQALM Symposium: Barcelona 2016

The Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQC^{ML}) and Spanish Society of Haematology and Haemotherapy (SEHH) participated in the organization of the International Symposium 2016 that annually hosts the European Organization for External Quality Assurance Providers in Laboratory Medicine (EQALM).

The symposium took place on 13-14 October 2017 in the city of Barcelona and brought together more than 105 participants from 26 different countries.

This year's main theme has been ***"The Road to Perfect EQA"***. The symposium lasted 2 days where different speakers dealt with Traceability and Commutability issues in reference to the control material of EQA's.

In general the organization and the development of the symposium has been a success, leaving the board of EQALM very satisfied with the final result.

News from Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia

The 19th Annual Professor Ivan Berkeš Scientific Conference

by Snežana Jovičić
Liaison Member, IFCC eNewsletter Working Group

As a professor of University of Belgrade Faculty of Pharmacy, Professor Ivan Berkeš was one of the founders of the medical biochemistry profession in former Yugoslavia. His immense contribution was in designing the postgraduate specialization studies program and in the foundation of clinical enzymology as an independent discipline. Under his mentorship, over 150 medical biochemists became specialists.

Professor Berkeš was also a world-renowned scientist, with the authorship of over 200 papers in international and national journals, as well as of several books.

The community of medical biochemists and the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia honour his life and deeds, since his death in 1997, through the work of the Scientific Foundation "Professor Ivan Berkeš".

The Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia and the Foundation traditionally award the best students of the Faculty of Pharmacy University of Belgrade and organize the Annual Scientific Conference.

The 19th Annual Scientific Conference "Professor Ivan Berkeš" was held on 1st of December 2016, under the patronage of the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia, Scientific Foundation "Professor Ivan Berkeš", and the Institute of Medical Biochemistry of the Military Medical Academy.

The participants of the Conference were welcomed by the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the Military Medical Academy, colonel Professor Dr. Nebojša Jović who expressed his great admiration for medical biochemistry profession and honour for being the host of this important event for the nineteenth time, and the Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Belgrade, Professor Dr. Zorica Vujić, who emphasized

1 Colonel Prof. Dr. Nebojša Jović, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the Military Medical Academy, welcoming the audience with the Chairs of the Conference - L-R: Prof. Dr. Nada Majkić-Singh (Executive Director of SMBS), Prof. Dr. Svetlana Ignjatović, Prof. Dr. Janko Pejović, and Dr. Zorica Šumarac (President of SMBS)

2 Aleksandra Tijanić, Master of Pharmacy-Medical Biochemist, the laureate of the Foundation, with Prof. Dr. Nada Majkić-Singh and Dr. Zorica Šumarac

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the significance of Professor Berkeš's work and of this conference.

This year's laureates of the annual award of the Foundation were the valedictorians of the two graduate programs of the Faculty of Pharmacy University of Belgrade – Aleksandra Tijanić, Master of Pharmacy-Medical Biochemist, and Marija Banićević, Master of Pharmacy.

The scientific programme of the Conference included presentations of doctoral theses defended in the field of medical biochemistry at Faculty of Pharmacy University of Belgrade, Faculty of Biology University of Belgrade, and Faculty of Medicine University of Niš during the past year.

Dr. Neda Milinković presented the results of her thesis on the significance of the determination of biomarkers of bone resorption and formation in patients with end stage renal disease.

Association between COMT, TNF-α, TNFR1, IL-1, and IL-10 genetic polymorphisms with a risk of early preeclampsia and its complications was the topic of research presented by Dr. Tijana Krnjeta, who was herself the laureate of the Foundation in the past.

Dr. Gordana Dmitrašinović presented her thesis on the effect of magnesium on parameters of hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal and hypothalamic-pituitary-gonadal axis activity in rugby players.

The first section was closed with the presentation of Dr. Vesna Subota on immunomodulatory effects of anticoagulant warfarin in rats.

The second section was opened with research results of Dr. Milica Despotović on polymorphisms in genes involved in inflammatory, antioxidative and immunoregulatory processes in patients with bronchial asthma.

Another past laureate of the Foundation, Dr. Miron Sopić, presented his thesis on gene expression of adiponectin receptors AdipoR1 and AdipoR2 and adiponectin levels in blood of coronary disease patients and chronic kidney disease patients.

The scientific conference was closed with the talk of Dr. Jasmina Ivanišević on the examination of inflammatory, oxidative stress and lipid status parameters in sarcoidosis patients.

All lectures initiated vivid discussion among the most recent PhDs and interested audience, which was essential for another successful conference worthy of the memory of a respected Professor Ivan Berkeš.

3 Marija Banićević, Master of Pharmacy, the laureate of the Foundation, with Prof. Dr. Nada Majkić-Singh and Dr. Zorica Šumarac

4 The Chairs of the Conference with laureates and lecturers, Dr. Vesna Subota and Dr. Miron Sopić

Latin America and Caribbean Regional Workshop

"Interpretation of critical requirements of ISO 15189-2012" Santiago de Chile, South America, 2016

by Rosa Sierra-Amor, *WG eNews IFCC*
Carlos Rozas, *University of Santiago de Chile*

On 14 October 2016, the Workshop "INTERPRETATION OF CRITICAL REQUIREMENTS OF ISO 15189-2012" was held at the University of Santiago de Chile (USACH) and as a Video Conference sponsored by Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) and organized by USACH, Chilean Society of Clinical Chemistry (SCHQC) and the Accreditation Division of the Chilean National Institute of Standardization (INN). The purpose was to harmonize the interpretation of the technical requirements of ISO 15189-2012.

The participants in this workshop were the Scientific Societies of Clinical Laboratories, the Accreditation Bodies and Metrological entities in each country in Latin America and the Caribbean region.

The speakers and moderators of the event from Chile, were Manfred Kindler, representing the PTB; Rosa Sierra Amor, IFCC EB Member; Stella Raymondo, Vice President, COLABIOCLI; Carlos Rozas, USACH faculty; Maria Elena Arredondo, Vice president, SCHQC; Roberto Carboni, member of SCHQC and Cristina Herrera, National Institute of Standars (Insituto Nacional de Normalización), and coordinator of the working group of clinical laboratories of the Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC).

Coordination of the topics were performed on a web platform based on Moodle software (*www.iso15189foro.org*) with the Latin American videoconference rooms connected to the Chilean

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Universities Network (REUNA), which simultaneosly transmitted via Live Stream to everyone.

The workshop program focused on clauses reviewing the technical requirements of ISO 15189-2012: 5.4 pre examination processes; 5.5 Review processes; 5.6 Quality assurance of results; 5.7 post examination processes. A survey was sent to each country, and during the video conference they were addressed and discussed in more detailed by each country invited to suggest how to move forward. The workshop was held in four sessions during the day from 09h00-16h00.

The participant countries (15) in the live workshop were: Argentina, Barbados, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

In each video conferencing venue, in addition to the participants of the discussion, professionals were also invited as observers. A total of 246 professionals attended. All of them received a certificate of remote attendance.

The enthusiastic participation, seriousness and commitment of each participant country in the region was noteworthy. The event was much more successful than expected, although in the opinion of the participants a future event of this type will require at least 2 days. Interestingly, there was consensus in most of the topics, however, specific topics such as reference materials, traceability, amongst others will require further discussion.

This activity certainly complies with the essential objective, which was to generate positions and reach consensus on these complex issues, leading to the best interpretation and approach for three entities: clinical laboratories, accreditation bodies and metrology institutes.

Representatives of the Chilean Society of Clinical Chemistry, PTB Germany, IFCC EB, COLABIOCLI Board, and University of Santiago during the Latin American and Caribbean Workshop "Interpretation of critical requirements of ISO 15189:2012"

News from the Mexican College of Clinical Laboratory Sciences

New Executive Board for CLCMC

The Mexican College of Clinical Laboratory Sciences (CLCMC), as of 20th of January 2017, has elected the new Executive Board for the period 2017-2018.

The National Representative of the Mexican College of Clinical Laboratory Sciences is Dr. José Francisco Muñoz Valle.

ME. QFB. María Jezabel Vite Casanova	Presidente
Dr. en C. QFB. Julio César Lara Riegos	Vicepresidente
M. en C. QFB. Patricia Hernández Rubio	Primer Secretario Propietario
QBP. Víctor Baltazar Escobar	Suplente Primer Secretario Propietario
MAE QFB. Ignacio Reyes Ramírez	Segundo Secretario Propietario
M en C Juan Manuel Vargas Morales	Suplente Segundo Secretario Propietario
QFB. María Teresa de Lourdes Flores Camacho	Tesorero
QFB. Isabel González Trujillo	Subtesorero

ASIA-PACIFIC FEDERATION FOR CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

The new APFCB Executive Board from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2019

L-R: Endang Hoyaranda, Elizabeth Frank, Leslie Lai, Sunil Sethi, Tony Badrick, Helen Martin, Leila Florento, Praveen Sharma

by Sunil Sethi
APFCB President

The 14th General Council meeting of the APFCB was held on Saturday, 26th November 2016, at the Taipei International Convention Centre, Taipei. APFCB Council comprising Society Presidents and representatives of the 18 Ordinary Members, voted and elected the following members into the APFCB Executive Board (EB) for the three year period from 1 January 2017 until 31 December 2019.

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APFCB Executive Board	
President	Sunil Sethi (Singapore)
Immediate Past President	Leslie Lai (Malaysia)
Vice President	Endang Hoyaranda (Indonesia)
Secretary	Helen Martin (Australia)
Treasurer	Leila Florento (Philippines)
Corporate Representative	Alexander Wong (Siemens)

Chairs of Standing Committees	
Communications	Praveen Sharma (India)
Congress & Conferences	Elizabeth Frank (India)
Education & Lab Management	Tony Badrick (Australia)
Scientific	Sam Vasikaran (Australia)

In addition, Chairpersons for the four Standing Committtees listed below, were appointed by the EB, following a call for nominations in early January 2017.

On behalf of the newly elected APFCB Executive Board, I take the opportunity to wish all IFCC members a productive and rewarding year ahead and we look forward to further developing and strengthening our partnership for the laboratory, clinical and patient communities around the world.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Kagawaran ng Kalusugan
ISO 9001:2008 CERTIFIED

The 13th PCQACL Annual Convention (the Philippines)

IFCC speakers invited at the 2016 Convention of Philippine Council for Quality Assurance in Clinical Laboratories

by Gamaliel A. Fulgueras, *RMT*
Philippines

Two prominent speakers from International Federation for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) graced the 13th Annual Convention of the Philippine Council on Quality Assurance in Clinical Laboratories (PCQACL) on 28-30 September 2016 at Crowne Plaza Galleria in Quezon City, Philippines with a total of 1,206 delegates. The speakers, **Dr. Trefor Higgins** of Canada and **Dr. Catherine Sturgeon** of United Kingdom were invited by **Dr. Elizabeth Arcellana-Nuqui**, an IFCC member of the Task Force on Ethics and former PCQACL President.

Dr. Trefor Norman Higgins discussed interesting scenarios in laboratory testing and laboratory errors in the topic *"What To Do When the Quality Control is*

Article continued on next page

Good but the Results are Wrong". He presented studies which highlight the impact of laboratory errors on patient management and differentiated analytically correct versus clinically correct test results. Several cases highlighting problems of laboratory results not correlating with the clinical picture of the patients were further discussed along with the resolutions of such scenario.

Another lecture conducted by Dr. Higgins was about the *"Ethics in the Laboratory Medicine"*. He started the discussion by presenting the history of ethics in medicine which began after the Second World War. He deliberately shifted the content of medical ethics In response to ISO Certification requirements as it pertains to the clinical laboratory.

On the second day of the convention, Dr. Catherine Margaret Sturgeon spoke on *"Standardization of Immunoassay and Proficiency Testing*". She emphasized the difficulties encountered by the laboratorians which reflect the characteristics of particular analytes including errors in calibration, antibody selection, assay design and properties of the assay matrix.

Also on the same day, Dr. Sturgeon talked about *"Issues in Quality Assurance of Diagnostic Tests".* She said "as 70-90% of clinical decisions depend on diagnostic test results, it is essential that the laboratory encourages appropriate test ordering and ensures that results reported are accurate, reproducible and comparable with those obtained in other laboratories".

"Quality Assurance of Tumor Markers" was the topic delivered by Dr. Sturgeon on the third and last day of the convention. She stated that tumour marker measurements are now integral to the management of many cancers. She stressed that considerable progress has already been made through development of detailed tumour marker guidelines by the National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry (NACB) in the United States and the European Group for Tumor Markers (EGTM) in Europe. Implementing these recommendations which promote best practice in the three phases of analysis (pre, analysis, post-) is a challenge which is being actively addressed. Carefully designed regional and national audit projects will be required to determine their impact on clinical practice.

Clockwise from top: Dr. Trefor Higgins; Dr. Catherine Sturgeon;
The PCQAL Board of Trustees with Phillipine Senator Risa Hontiveros,
Dr. Sturgeon and Dr. Higgins

The Philippine Council for Quality Assurance in Clinical Laboratories is driven by its mission to be a *"dynamic, highly professional organization continually committed to the promotion of Quality Services by Clinical Laboratories through Training and Education, Publication and Research in collaboration with government agencies and other health professional organizations, national and international"*. Also known as PCQACL, the council promotes quality assurance in all laboratory and administrative procedures through the training of Clinical Laboratory staff in the implementation of the standards for Quality Management System for Clinical Laboratories in the Philippines.

News from South Africa – SAACB

by Tahir Pillay
IFCC eNews Editor

Following a decision by the Council, the SAACB has been renamed the ***South African Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine***.

South African Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine – New Council

President	Prof. Tahir S. Pillay
Treasurer	Dr. Fierdoz Omar (Cape Town)
Past-President	Prof. Rajiv Erasmus
Secretary	Dr. Magdalena Turzyniecka
Members	Prof. George van der Watt (Cape Town)
	Prof. Nigel Crowther (Johannesburg)

Elections will be held shortly to elect additional members of the council to replace vacated positions.

The SAACB will also be participating in Worldlab 2017 Durban in October 2017.

The Association of Clinical Pathologists

The association will be holding a **joint breakfast symposium with the UK Association of Clinical Pathologists (ACP)** on Wednesday, October 25, 2017. The breakfast symposium programme will be as follows:

The breakfast symposium programme

Speakers: W. G. Simpson; T.S. Pillay; P. Twomey; A. Don-Wauchope

Chair: T.S. Pillay

07h30:	W.G. Simpson, President-Elect, ACP	Introduction: The ACP at 90
07h40:	T.S. Pillay, Editor-in-Chief	70 years of the Journal of Clinical Pathology: The role in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine
07h55:	A. Don-Wauchope	Best Practice in Pathology
08h20:	P. Twomey	Quality matters
08h40:	W.G. Simpson	Thanks and Closing remarks

A new era dawns for achieving recognition of Specialists in Laboratory Medicine

by Gilbert Wieringa
Chair, EFLM Profession Committee

Late in 2016 the European Community Confederation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EC4)'s Foundation Board dissolved the foundation with the support of its board of governors, the EU-based national societies affiliated to EFLM. The decision was widely welcomed as a way of strengthening the project to achieve recognition of Specialists in Laboratory Medicine (EUSpLM) under the EU Commission's Directive 2013/55/EU (The recognition of professional qualifications). The leadership for achieving recognition of specialist practice now transfers to EFLM, its key opportunity being the presentation of a Common Training Framework with 10 EU member states to the EU Commission. Achieving a Common Training Framework that reflects specialist practice not only opens the door to unhindered professional migration across European Community borders for specialists but also helps raise awareness of the contribution of laboratory medicine to better health and best care

For the immediate future, the incentive turns to adding weight to the case for recognition by increasing the numbers of specialists on the EC4 Register. This can happen in 2 ways:

1. By contributing to the work of EFLM's new Working Group "Register" which has been established under the Profession Committee. The new working group invites up to 3 holders of EUSpLM to join them as Full Member of the Working Group. Applications from individuals able to support auto-registration (which has already been established in UK and the Netherlands) will be particularly welcomed. There is also an opportunity to continue to contribute to the work previously carried out by EC4's Register Commission by joining as a corresponding member. The application form can be obtained by contacting the office in Milan (silvia.cattaneo@eflm.eu). Applications must be received as national society nominations and should be submitted by **28th February 2017**
2. By individual application from EU member states who are holders of 'Equivalence of Standards' that have previously been recognised by EC4. For further information on the process please contact the Registrar, Jean Philippe Brochet (jp.brochet@exalab.fr), Inez Anne Haagen (i.a.haagen@olvg.nl) or Gilbert Wieringa (gilbert.wieringa@boltonft.nhs.uk)

Building on legacy achievements such as a common syllabus for laboratory medicine, the Register of specialists, codes of conduct for registrants, a pro-active strategy to forge communication lines to the EU Commission requires the participation from individuals for whom raising awareness of laboratory medicines' contribution and creating opportunities for the current and the next generation of specialist practitioners is an imperative and an incentive. We look forward to hearing from as many individuals as possible.

News from the IFCC Website

New website on traceability in laboratory medicine

The Joint Committee for Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (JCTLM) is pleased to announce the launch of a new website. This can be accessed at *www.jctlm.org*

Read more

Call for nominations
EFLM Executive Board for 2018-2019

The EFLM President is delighted to advise that the recent proposed amendments to the EFLM Articles of Association have been agreed by EFLM Member Societies, hence the next election of the Executive Board Members will follow the new EFLM Articles of Association and the transitional provision will be applied, therefore Officers of the EFLM Executive Board 2018-2019 will be elected at the next EFLM General Assembly to be held in Athens (GR) on Sunday 11 June 2017 (14.00 to 18.15h CET) on the occasion of the 22nd IFCC-EFLM EuroMedLab Congress.

Nominations from National Societies are invited for the following positions to serve for the term of office 2018-2019:

- **President-Elect (then to automatically serve as President for 2020-2021)**
- **Secretary**
- **Treasurer**
- **Two Members-at-Large**

Nominations have to be submitted electronically to the EFLM Office (*silvia.cattaneo@eflm.eu*) using the form circulated to the National Society's representatives and accompanied by:

- Letter from the candidate explaining why she/he wants to take the position;
- Letter from the National Society listing the reason/s of the nomination;
- Curriculum vitae of the candidate (including relevant publications).

The deadline to submit nominations is 31 March 2017 (23.59 h CET).

The current EB officers (term ending on 31 December 2017)	
President	Prof. Sverre Sandberg (NO) to become Past-President on 1 Jan 2018
President-Elect	Prof. Michael Neumaier (DE) - to become President on 1 Jan 2018
Past-President	Prof. Mauro Panteghini (IT) - to retire on 31 Dec 2017
Secretary	Prof. Ana-Maria Simundic (HR) - 2nd term
Treasurer	Dr. Huibert Storm (NL) - 2nd term
Member-at-Large	Prof. Grazyna Sypniewska (PL) - 2nd term
Member-at-Large	Prof. Tomáš Zima (CZ) - 2nd term

According to the EFLM bylaws, any outgoing EB Members (except for the President positions) can be re-elected for the same position two further times (so 3 terms in total), provided they wish to continue along with the official nomination from their National Society.

For any further information, contact Ms. Silvia Cattaneo at the EFLM Office.

EFLM publication: an update

Could accreditation bodies facilitate the implementation of medical guidelines in laboratories?

by Maria Stella Graziani
Chair, EFLM Communications Committee

An interesting opinion paper has been published in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine recently.

"Could accreditation bodies facilitate the implementation of medical guidelines in laboratories?"

Aakre KM, Oosterhuis WP, Misra S, Langlois MR, Watine J, Twomey PJ et al. from the EFLM WG on Guidelines. Clin Chem Lab 2016 DOI 10.1515/cclm-2016-0577.

The paper, after examining the results of a survey conducted amongst the national societies for clinical chemistry in Europe regarding the development of laboratory-related guidelines, concludes that implementation of the recommendations that are available needs improvement for a number of reasons that are reported. The recommendation of the EFLM WG is that *".. the clinical relevance of the ISO standards would be strengthened by the inclusion of sections describing the different aspects of GL implementation by laboratories with respect to (national and international) medical guidelines providing recommendations on laboratory testing"*.

IFCC's Calendar of Congresses, Conferences & Events

Calendar of IFCC Congresses/Conferences and Regional Federations' Congresses

Jun 11 - 15, 2017	*IFCC-EFLM EuroMedLab 2017*	Athens, GR
Sep 17 - 20, 2017	*XXIII COLABLIOCLI Congress 2017 and XI Uruguayan Congress of Clinical Biochemistry*	Punta del Este, UY
Oct 20 - 22, 2017	*XIV International Congress of Pediatric Laboratory Medicine*	Durban, ZA

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Oct 22 - 25, 2017		*XXIII IFCC WorldLab 2017*	Durban, ZA
May 19 - 23, 2019		*IFCC-EFLM EuroMedLab 2019*	Barcelona, ES
May 24 - 28, 2020		*XXIV IFCC WorldLab 2020 Seoul*	Seoul, KR

Calendar of events with IFCC auspices

Mar 6 - 10, 2017	*2nd Winter school of Cell analysis in Immunology*	St. Etienne, FR
Mar 24 - 25, 2017	*4th EFLM-BD European Conference on Preanalytical Phase "Improving quality in the preanalytical phase through innovation"*	Amsterdam, NL
Mar 30 - 31, 2017	*XV Meeting of the SEQC Scientific Committee*	Madrid, ES
Apr 20 - 23, 2017	*10th International & 15th National Congress on Quality Improvement in Clinical Laboratories*	Tehran, IR
May 10 - 13, 2017	*2nd Conference of Romanian Association of Laboratory Medicine*	Timisoara, RO
May 11 - 13, 2017	*The VIII Baltic Transfusion Medicine Congress and the I Latvian Congress in Laboratory Medicine*	Riga, LV
May 30 - 31, 2017	*VI International Symposium Clinical Laboratory and Quality*	Barcelona, ES
Jun 10 - 11, 2017	*EuroMedLab Athens 2017 Satellite Meeting "Management of Inborn Errors of Metabolism: from Diagnosis to Treatment"*	Athens, GR
Jun 10, 2017	*EuroMedLab Athens 2017 Satellite Meeting "Metabolic Bone Disease: The Role of the Clinical Laboratory"*	Athens, GR
Jun 15 - 16, 2017	*EuroMedLab Athens 2017 Satellite Meeting "Diabetes"*	Athens, GR
Sep 19 - 21, 2017	*18th International Metrologie Congress*	Paris, FR
Sep 21 - 22, 2017	*13th EFLM Symposium for Balkan Region*	Belgrade, SRB
Oct 16 - 17, 2017	*Journées Nationales 2017 de la Société Française de Biologie Clinique*	Paris, FR

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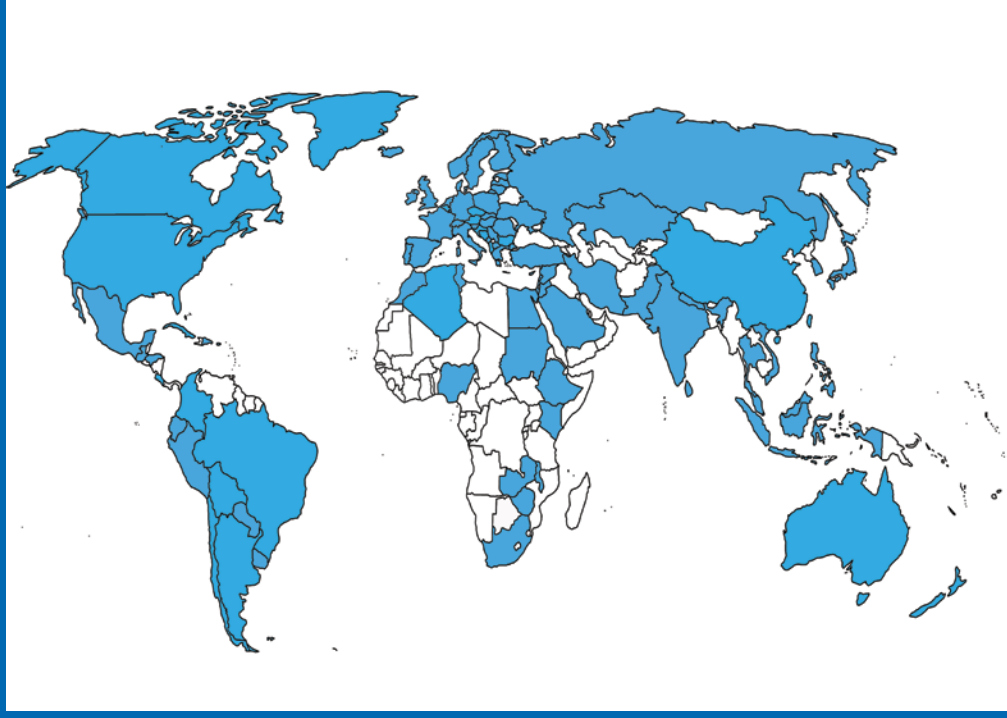
Turkey (TR)
Ukraine (UA)
United Kingdom (UK)
United States (US)
Uruguay (UY)
Vietnam (VN)
Zambia (ZM)
Zimbabwe (ZW)

Regional Federations

Arab Federation of Clinical Biology (AFCB)
African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC)
Asia-Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (APFCB)
European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM)
Latin America Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI)
North American Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (NAFCC)



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Iran: Iranian Association of Clinical Laboratory Doctors (IACLD)
Jordan: Society for Medical Technology & Laboratories (SMTL)
Mexico: Federación Nacional de Químicos Clínicos (CONAQUIC A.C.)
Nepal: Nepalese Association for Clinical Chemistry (NACC)
Palestine: Palestinian Medical Technology Association (PALMTA)
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Spain: Asociación Española de Farmacéuticos Analistas (AEFA)
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