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International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine





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A new IFCC Division: the Emerging Technologies Division (ETD)

by **Sergio Bernardini**

IFCC ETD Chair

University Tor Vergata, Rome, Italy



Prof. Sergio Bernardini

The IFCC is proud to announce the formation of a new Division, the Emerging Technologies Division (ETD).

The IFCC Executive Board has endorsed the creation of a new functional unit responsible for the translation of emerging and disruptive diagnostic and data analysis procedures from academic laboratories to clinical laboratories. The Emerging Technology Division (ETD) is fully functional from January 2018.

ETD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Sergio Bernardini (IT) – *Chair*

Paolo Fortina (US) – *Vice-Chair*

Ronda Greaves (AU) – *Secretary*

Damien Gruson (BE) – *Member*

Markus Roessler (Roche D. GmbH) – *Corporate Member*

Peng Yin (Abbott D) – *Corporate Member*

Maurizio Ferrari (IT) – *Consultant*

Larry Kricka (US) – *Consultant*

ETD RESPONSIBILITIES:

- The application of emerging technologies and methods including innovative mass spectrometry, high-throughput genotyping techniques and data analysis to clinical diagnostic protocols focused on Precision Medicine;
- Defining for each emerging technology the clinical needs and criteria of education of specialists in Laboratory Medicine;
- Defining for each emerging technology and method the appropriate infrastructure and laboratory organization;
- Defining for each emerging technology and method pre-analytical, analytical and post-analytical processes necessary for clinical laboratory applications;
- Defining for each emerging technology and method quality programs and certifications required to meet criteria for accreditation up to ISO15189 standard;
- Assess the clinical value of each test with regard to addressing unmet clinical need.

FOUR COMMITTEES HAVE BEEN FORMED WITHIN THE ETD:

- Committee-Advanced Paediatric Laboratory Medicine – *C-APLM Committee Oversight: Dr. Ronda Greaves (AU)*
- Committee-Healthy Longevity Laboratory Medicine- *C-HLLM - Committee Oversight: Prof. Sergio Bernardini (IT)*
- Committee-Omics Applications in Laboratory Medicine – *C-OPLM Committee Oversight: Prof. Paolo Fortina (US)*
- Committee on Mobile Health and Bioengineering in Laboratory Medicine – *C-MHBLM Committee Oversight: Dr. Damien Gruson (BE)*

For more details and information on the IFCC Committee on Emerging Technologies, visit the website at: <http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-emerging-technologies-division/>.

The IFCC Curriculum, Phase 1 – now available for download



by Janet M. Smith

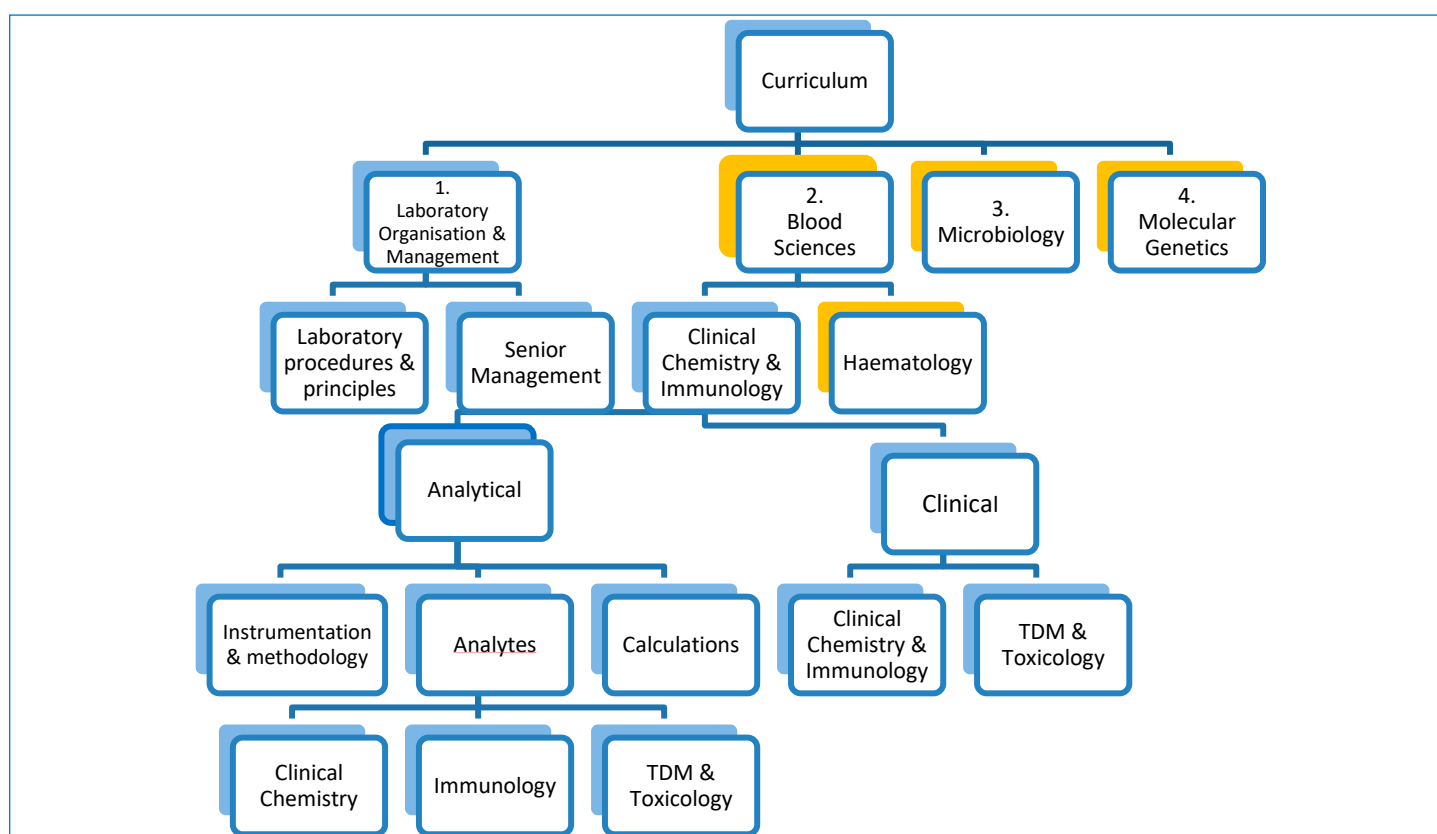
C-IDL Consultant, formerly C-DL Chair

Ronda Greaves

C-IDL Consultant, formerly C-DL Member

The IFCC Curriculum, phase 1, was developed as part of the IFCC eAcademy project by the Committee for Distance Learning. Authors are: R Greaves (AU, J. M. Smith (UK) and section authors are: R. Greaves, C Florkowski (NZ), L. Langman (US), J. Sheldon (UK).

The IFCC Curriculum is a guide for IFCC member societies in their development of syllabuses for postgraduate trainees in laboratory medicine, appropriate for use in their own countries. It is also intended to provide a resource for trainees in planning their private study in preparation for academic and professional qualifications which lead to formal recognition of expertise and status as experts and leaders in the field of laboratory medicine.



Summary of curriculum design. The sections covered in version 1 of the curriculum are shown in blue. The yellow cells indicate areas of the curriculum to be developed as part of future versions.

The IFCC Curriculum - phase 1, is intended to provide the laboratory medicine expert with comprehensive knowledge of the science and medicine on which the specialty is based, and with an aid to enable the provision of a safe, efficient and high quality service for laboratory users. The curriculum is designed to provide a framework for learning both practical and theoretical components through which this expertise can be achieved. Other disciplines within laboratory medicine will follow in due course.

[Click here to download the IFCC Curriculum](#)

Vaccination: a public health issue

by Bernard Gouget

Counselor for Public Health FHF

President-Human Health Care Committee on Accreditation -COFRAC

Chair-IFCC Nominations Committee

General Secretary of the International Francophone Federation of Clinical Biology and Laboratory Medicine (FIFBCML), SFBC International Committee



Bernard Gouget

For many of us, it will soon be 'flu season. 'Flu (influenza) vaccines are the first step to take before winter, without forgetting other procedures that can reduce propagation. 'Flu vaccination prevented 39% of hospitalizations for confirmed 'flu in the elderly for the winter of 2015-2016 in Europe. More particularly, vaccination reduced the 'flu hospitalization rate of diabetics by 62%, people with lung disease by 60% and those with heart disease by 36%. Nevertheless, the low efficacy of the 'flu vaccine, particularly in the elderly, seems to call into question the strategies deployed for several years. Two hypotheses could explain it: the appearance of mutations or a reduction of immune response brought about by vaccination. Analysis of data according to the date of vaccination shows that vaccine efficacy versus A(H3N2) was null four months after vaccination. Efficacy versus A(H1N1) remained stable throughout the entire season and there was only a slight decrease at the end of the season versus influenza B. In response to a request of the European Medicines Agency to provide efficacy data by type of vaccine and by brand, it was shown that adjuvant vaccines appeared to be more effective. Even though, with the current vaccines, the

real-life efficacy is rarely greater than 50%, we should continue to assess vaccine efficacy for the purpose of diversified prevention, based, in particular, on vaccination, hand hygiene, wearing masks, and in some situations, prophylactic antivirals.

A recent study showed that in France alone, a quarter of healthcare professionals are "covered" with very strong disparities between the medical and paramedical professions. There is an issue of the credibility of public action. The efficacy of vaccination in people responsible for the frail elderly in institutions remains controversial. But the benefit of this so-called altruistic vaccination of healthcare professionals to prevent the transmission of 'flu to residents shows, according to a Cochrane meta-analysis, that health professional vaccination reduces all-cause mortality in residents by 30%. As a health care professional, one must be extremely clear and as factual as possible, by saying that immunization primarily serves to protect oneself. It would be a shame not to set an example as a caregiver, given that several indicators raise concerns about a reduction in the number of children properly vaccinated.

There is a non-negligible risk of seeing the return of serious diseases, such as diphtheria or tetanus. Lower vaccine coverage would also allow apparently milder pathogens to spread more widely during epidemics. Furthermore, Prof. Agnès Buzin, the new French Minister of Health, is going to extend mandatory vaccinations for young children. Today to be admitted into nursery school, kindergarten or elementary school, three vaccines are necessary (against diphtheria, tetanus and poliomyelitis). In 2018, eleven will be mandatory. Vaccines for pertussis, Haemophilus influenzae b, measles, mumps, rubella, meningococcus C, pneumococcus and hepatitis B will

Article continued on next page

be added to the three above. This is a shock measure, planned for a limited duration, which may be five to ten years.

The objective is to improve coverage, especially for measles; Europe has been observing a resurgence since 2008 (24,000 cases). Italy has gone further, making 12 vaccines mandatory in June and Germany, without establishing mandatory vaccination, now requires proof of a paediatric consultation on vaccination to enroll a child in school. Although complications remain rare, as soon as the first thousand people are infected, drama is inevitable, especially among the most frail in the population, such as those whose immune defences are reduced or infants who have not yet been vaccinated. This is true. But is mandatory vaccination really the solution?

In Europe, only twelve countries have mandatory requirements for at least one disease and fifteen confine themselves to recommended vaccines, for coverage that varies greatly depending on the country and the disease concerned. For 90 years that aluminium has been used as a vaccine additive, it has become the ideal scapegoat: autism, MS, it is suspected of being a neurotoxin and triggering autoimmune reactions in a small part of the population, although the causal relationship is not resolved. In the country of Pasteur, we talk about vaccines with devotion or hatred, but

factual discourse is non-existent. On both sides, we are asked to believe, while we want to understand.

It is time to abandon the myths and fears and abandon simplified and generalized discourse on vaccination. Each vaccine has different issues and distinct advantages and disadvantages.

Faced with uncertainty, we are more easily manipulated, especially via the Internet. The lack of information leads to over-interpreting the risks that exist, like for all medicines. But they remain very low: on the individual scale, there is little to fear from vaccines. Adverse reactions are much less frequent than those reported for conventional medicines.

Vaccination is still one of the pillars of our societies today: it allows us to benefit from this global microbial celebration that is life. In combination with hygiene and antibiotics, it has increased our life expectancy by thirty years and, in one century, reduced the risk of seeing children die before their first birthday by twenty-five fold. It deserves better than polarized and cartoonish debates. However, with regard to the benefit for the general population, it is necessary to continue to study each vaccine meticulously, one by one, without preconceived ideas, with only the tools of reading scientific articles and epidemiological, pharmacovigilance, sociological and economic data.

New IFCC Distinguished Award: "G rard SIEST-Biologie Prospective Award 2020"

Every three years, at the IFCC WorldLab Congress, eight IFCC Distinguished Awards are given to laboratory medicine professionals in recognition of their outstanding achievements, publicizing their exceptional research and contributions to medicine and healthcare, and encouraging the global advancement of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine.

During the 23rd IFCC WorldLab Durban 2017, and in honor of the memory of Professor G rard Siest, the ninth IFCC Award was created under the initiative of Jean-Pascal SIEST, Biologie Prospective President (<http://www.biology-prospective.org>) and Professor Howard Morris, ex-chair of the IFCC Awards Committee and current IFCC President (2018-2020).

This award will recognize a young medical biologist scientist, clinician or outstanding researcher under the age of 40, whose research has contributed to the advancement of pharmacogenomics and precision medicine. The work may include basic research or/and applications in clinical medicine or clinical biology, as well as standardization, quality management, regulatory evaluation or therapeutic use.

The agreement signed between IFCC and Biologie Prospective stated that the laureate will receive a prize of 5,000 euros endowed by Biology Prospective.

Biologie Prospective organization is an association 1901, founded in 1969 with the objective of promoting research and development in biological, pharmaceutical, clinical, pharmacological and toxicological sciences, the organization of quality control and professional training sessions for private and public medical laboratories.

The first IFCC Award “**Gérard SIEST-Biologie Prospective 2020**” will be presented at the 24th International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC WorldLab Seoul 2020) held at the Coex Congress Center, Seoul, Korea in May 24-28, 2020.

For more information:

- ➔ email the IFCC technical secretariat: ifcc@ifcc.org; or
- ➔ visit Biologie Prospective: www.biologie-prospective.org.



L-R: Prof. Howard Morris, *IFCC President, ex-Chair IFCC Award Committee*;
Jean Pascal Siest, *Biologie Prospective President*;
Carole Roediger, *Assistant*;
Dr. Bernard Gouget, *Chair IFCC Nominations Committee (2016-2017)*.

IFCC - Task Force Young Scientists (TFYS)

ACBICON – 4-6 Dec 2017, King George Medical College, Lucknow, India

by Pradeep K. Dabla
Chair, IFCC-TFYS

IFCC-TFYS organized an educational symposium and the 3rd ACBI-IFCC TF-YS Award, supported by the organising committee of the 44th National Conference of ACBICON-2017, at King George Medical College, Lucknow, India. The symposium carried the theme of “Leadership Skills: Essential for Career & Organisational Success”. The sessions were chaired by Prof. Maurizio Ferrari (President IFCC), Dr. Bernard Gouget (IFCC NC Chair) and Dr. Elizabeth Frank (APFCB-CC Chair).

Today it is not enough to be a great scientist. Conversely, science excellence combined with leadership is vitally needed. There is a gap of leadership skills among young scientists because science education focusses on individual achievement whereas innovation requires collaboration. Firsthand experience of leadership must come from place of education then secondly

at the workplace environment. So, this symposium was focused to share experience and education from IFCC, APFCB & ACBI leaders for young scientists.

Prof. Howard Morris initiated giving insight to challenges & responsibilities while explaining how to prepare for leadership. These challenges are an invitation to rise to another level, to test yourself and improve in the process.

Prof. Tomris Ozben continued, citing examples, while explaining contribution of women in development of Turkey. She emphasized the strong presence of women and their contribution in society.

Dr. Praveen Sharma described how critical thinking is important for building good judgment. Critical thinking is self-disciplined, self-monitored and problem-solving thinking.



IFCC-EB & ACBI Members at Party Lawn. IFCC President, Prof. Ferrari is the second from right.

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Dr. Pradeep K. Dabla said that effective team working and leadership is an essential ingredient for organisational success. Successful teams can help transform an organisation, increase outputs and deliver on organisational objectives.

At the end, the session was open for young scientists and participants to interact with world leaders to solve their queries. IFCC-TFYS is thankful to the organizing committee of ACBICON-2017, especially to Prof. Abbas Mehdi and the leaders of the IFCC, APFCB & ACBI for sharing their views and facilitating understanding of “Leadership Skills” for future leaders.

The “ACBI-IFCC TFYS” Young Scientist Awards- 2017 was conducted on 5th Dec 2017. The five young scientists from all over India, covering all zones of ACBI were selected from the number of nominations submitted on the basis of their research work.

The five selected young scientists presented their original research papers and were awarded with cash prize INR-5000 and certificate supported by organising committee ACBICON-2017.

The session was chaired by Prof. Rajiv Ranjan Sinha, Secretary ACBI and Dr. Pradeep K. Dabla, Chair, IFCC-TFYS. The five scientists were Dr. Neelam Lakha, Dr. Anchal Trivedi, Dr. Joseph Dian Bondu, Dr. Rakchna M. and Dr. Abhra Ghosh.

These awards created a good example of advocacy for young scientists, and an opportunity for standalone sessions.

IFCC-TFYS is thankful to all our senior members, IFCC, APFCB, ACBI and to the Chair of the Organising Committee ACBICON 2017 Prof. Abbas Maehdi for their immense support in conducting the TFYS sessions successfully.

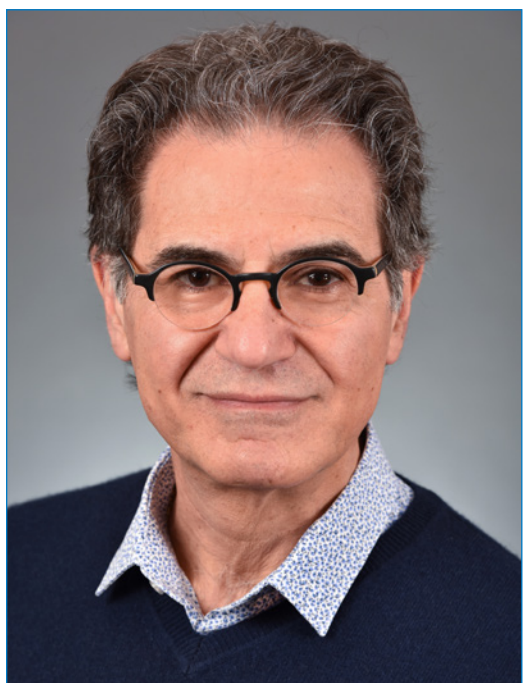
Clinical Chemistry Trainee Council

by Nader Rifai

Founder of CCTC programme

Ann Gronowski

Co-Chair, CCTC programme



Nader Rifai

Welcome to the **CCTC**
Clinical Chemistry Trainee Council

AACC

In 2011, the journal Clinical Chemistry launched a web-based, and free-of-charge, educational initiative for laboratory medicine trainees and their mentors entitled Clinical Chemistry Trainee Council (CCTC) (www.traineecouncil.org). Its mission is “to be the primary educational resource for laboratory medicine trainees world-wide”.

This program is currently available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese, Turkish, and French. The CCTC is an AACC program that is primarily funded by the organization and Boston Children’s Hospital; an effort toward the democratization of education. Nader Rifai is the founder of this programme and co-chairs it with Ann Gronowski.

The website contains a wealth of information, some of which are from the journal *Clinical Chemistry* and others are developed specifically for this program. The materials include:

Article continued on next page



Ann Gronowski

1. Clinical Case Studies: educational in nature and in addition to the actual case, it includes commentary from two experts in the field (n=120, downloaded 1.3 million times)

2. Q&A articles: virtual roundtable discussions among a group of experts about a hot topic (n=105, downloaded over 550,000 times)

3. Guide to Scientific Writing: a series of 14 articles (downloaded over 600,000 times)

4. Inspiring Minds: twenty interviews with world famous scientific leaders in laboratory medicine

5. Podcasts: 10-minute interviews with leaders in the field about an important article or issue in laboratory medicine. (n=400, downloaded over 1.7 million times)

6. Journal Club: a set of slides that accompanies an article from *Clinical Chemistry* to be used in journal club discussions (n=84, downloaded over 1.1 million times)

7. Pearls of Laboratory Medicine: a curriculum-based and peer-reviewed series of 10-15 min lectures about a particular analyte

or a diagnosis spanning all disciplines of laboratory medicine including clinical chemistry, hematology, coagulation, microbiology, immunology, transfusion medicine, biochemical genetics and molecular diagnostics. A team of junior specialists faculty members are responsible for determining the curriculum for each discipline and soliciting, handling the review process and editing each Pearl. Currently, 152 Pearls have been posted with a goal of completing 300 by 2019; they have been downloaded over 75,000 times

8. Webcasts: lectures by leading international scientists. Moving toward providing courses such as that prepared by Dr. Julie Buring of Harvard Medical School; 7-hour course on study design

9. Question Bank: our most ambitious undertaking that was launched in late 2013; over 3000 peer-reviewed questions in all aspects of laboratory medicine can be accessed via the web or mobile devices using the RoundPoint software. The program keeps track of the progress of the trainees and issues certificate when completing a course successfully. Questions are ranked in the level of difficulty and grouped by topics. Two question formats are provided, multiple-choice format for those seeking examination in the US and Royal College of Pathologists format for those seeking examination in the UK, Australia and New Zealand. A team of junior faculty members from the different disciplines in laboratory medicine is responsible for soliciting, reviewing, editing and ranking each question.

Although the CCTC is still a relatively young programme, it has >11,000 registrants from 153 countries; ~25% of registrants are from the US and ~40% are from emerging and developing countries. The CCTC has established partnerships with almost 30 international federations and associations in laboratory medicine, including IFCC, that believe in its value to their trainees. According to Dr. Graham Beastall, the former President of the IFCC, "*It is essential that laboratory medicine specialists are trained to be able to convert laboratory data into knowledge that will benefit patients. The CCTC is a unique international programme that delivers this outcome*". These Partners are promoting the CCTC among their trainees and providing input toward the type of programmes and educational materials their trainees need so the CCTC can help them to achieve their goals.

We encourage all trainees in laboratory medicine and their mentors to take advantage of this free of charge resource and register to gain access to these materials by going to www.traineecouncil.org. It takes less than one minute!!

NEWS FROM REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND MEMBER SOCIETIES

In memory of Prof. Giovanni Ceriotti (SIBioC)

by Francesco Salvatore
Honorary Member of SIBioC



Prof. Giovanni Ceriotti

Giovanni Ceriotti was one of the fathers of Laboratory Medicine, both as a science and in terms of practice in Italy. Thanks to Professor Ceriotti, Laboratory Medicine passed from the cellars of hospitals and university clinics to take its rightful place as a true discipline. Indeed, he promoted the essence of Laboratory Medicine as a Science and Practice, autonomously distinct in its intrinsic rationale and in daily practice.

According to this approach, Ceriotti always ensured that the medical demands be the driver of the discipline. Since then, the increasingly more relevant contribution to diagnostics that Laboratory Medicine has acquired among the signs of medical semeiotics has proved to be the best way to provide added value to clinical medicine.

Giovanni Ceriotti was also an excellent teacher, thanks to the precision of his language and use of catchphrases, and also through his books on Clinical Chemistry and Clinical Biochemistry. Notably, he advocated scientific and methodological rigour through the *Giornale di Chimica Clinica* that soon became an example of an important contribution to the international agora in this field even though it was first

published in Italian. He was also among the founders of the Society, which in my opinion is the most important Society devoted to Laboratory Medicine in Italy, namely the *Società Italiana di Biochimica Clinica e Biologia Molecolare Clinica* (SIBioC) which, with his example and contributions, paved the way to the many achievements that have been reached and are gratifying the same Society.

At the international level he helped, together with a few others, to bring Italy to the frontiers of knowledge and to increase its international presence and interactions. This long-standing approach recently led to the contemporary election of Italian scholars as President and Secretary General of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC), the most important international organization in this field.

Following in Giovanni Ceriotti's footsteps will help younger scholars to ensure the success of a discipline that is increasingly more relevant for science and for daily clinical practice.



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

The XI National Clinical Laboratory Congress (Labclin 2017)

SEQC^{ML}

Sociedad Española de Medicina de Laboratorio

The XI National Clinical Laboratory Congress (Labclin 2017) was organized by the Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQC^{ML}), the Spanish Association of Medical Biopathology-Laboratory Medicine (AEBM) and the Spanish Clinical Laboratory Association (AEFA) in Malaga from 15-17 November 2017. The aim was to exchange experiences and promote professional and human relationships, and update knowledge. This is one of the most important congresses in the national health scene based on number of attendees.

The theme was *“The patient as the center of actions and technology, protagonists of Labclin 2017”* and was focused on:

- Greater participation with physicians is necessary for the development of adequate protocols and clinical pathways, and in the approach to complex cases

- Working with information generated by laboratories using artificial intelligence tools is considered a great future opportunity for the sector

- In this year’s edition, special attention was paid to communication.

The clinical laboratory evolves at the speed of technological development, which implies that it is in continuous advancement. This leads to many challenges - such as advances in technology, the study of circulating tumor DNA, the automation of processes such as microbiology and the management of analytical systems at Point of Care - and, therefore, a process of constant updating is needed.

“In scientific matters we have a leading-edge program -- we will discuss the new advances in cardiovascular biomarkers, updates in diabetes, and the use of circulating tumor DNA, among many other issues of interest. It should be noted that very important figures in the scientific field will be involved, so our expectations for learning are very high,” explained Dr. Maria Luisa Hortas, member of the SEQC^{ML} and the Scientific Committee of the Congress, in an announcement prior to the event.



A view of the Trade Fairs and Congress Center of Málaga (FYCMA)

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According to the expert, *“our scientific program gathers together the latest news, trends, and leading research, and as a result the Congress has become a national benchmark for the sector.”*

She continued: *“In addition, within the training programme, we look for activities that contribute to practical excellence on a day-to-day basis. For example, we address training related to ISO 15189 accreditation, or the seminar “What is a clinical case: guidelines for its development”, which will be given by Dr. María Dolores Martín Escalante, director of the Internal Medicine Unit of Costa del Sol Hospital and vice president of the Andalusian Society of Internal Medicine (SEMI), who is also editor of the international journal “Revista Española de Casos Clínicos de Medicina Interna (Reccmi) [Spanish Journal of Clinical Cases in Internal Medicine]”.*

For her part, Dr. Pastora Rodríguez Vázquez, member of the SEQC^{ML} and the Organizing Committee of the Congress, declared prior to the event that this year’s programme would emphasize key topics of laboratory

medicine such as the evolution of day-to-day practices, accreditation, perspectives in organic pathologies, new technologies or applications, new medical strategies, and translational research, always taking into account that the patient is at the center of these activities, efforts, and discussions.

“So,” she added, “we will discuss the most current issues in the field of laboratory medicine, which is always in expansion, and we will have extraordinary speakers, both national and international, towards that end.” It should be highlighted that the scientific programme was carried out with the participation of more than seventy moderators and speakers, who presented new aspects of basic science and clinical practice, and explored new challenges for laboratory diagnosis.

“As an important new item, in this edition we have tried to give greater visibility to communications. Therefore, the Scientific Committee will select -- according to the strict established criteria of quality, theme and form -- up to eighteen of the projects received for



I. Caballé (SEQC^{ML} President), R. Calafell (AEFA President), S. Prieto (AEBM President), M.L. Hortas (Scientific Committee President) and F.J. Mérida (Local Committee President)

oral presentation during the symposiums”, noted Dr. Rodríguez prior to the Congress.

“In fact, one of the main conclusions we obtained in the satisfaction survey from the last edition was the need to strengthen the presence of oral presentations. That is why we have worked on this with special attention for this edition of the Congress. This year, 2017, we have selected 30 oral communications, of the 1,059 papers presented, to be presented during the corresponding sessions, either within the symposia or within the award space”, explained Dr. Hortas prior to the event.

“We know the important contribution that these papers represent for the positioning of our collective” - explained the expert – “for the strengthening of the pillars of our congress and for the enrichment of the scientific community. For this reason, we will continue working to increase the visibility of all those projects that, under the strict quality standards that correspond to our discipline, result in the enrichment of our scientific resources.”

“In addition to the projects and oral presentations, this year we are looking forward with special interest to some topics such as the challenges of personalized medicine, new developments in cardiovascular disease, Point of Care management, and new diagnostic opportunities originating in the laboratories, such as circulating tumor DNA”, noted Dr. Rodríguez.

Dr. Hortas explained that “this year, technology will be a great protagonist, because it is what is making

the clinical laboratory advance so quickly.” She noted that “working with information generated by laboratories using artificial intelligence tools is a great opportunity.”

THE PATIENT AS THE FOCUS OF ALL PRIORITIES

“All our services have to be patient-centered. Hence the need to improve and augment the relationship between the laboratory and doctors,” emphasized Dr. Hortas.

In this line, Dr. Rodríguez stated that “although the relationship between the two groups is getting better, what is necessary is greater participation with doctors in the development of appropriate protocols and clinical pathways, and in the approach to complex cases. We have to make ourselves more visible, more present and accessible to doctors.”

About the SEQC^{ML}

The Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQC^{ML}) -founded in 1976-now includes more than 2,000 professionals and its main objective is to bring together all scientists interested in the field of Clinical Laboratory practice, promote the dissemination of scientific and technical publications, organize meetings, courses, and congresses of national and international character and cooperate with other scientific societies. Likewise, the Society wants to contribute to studying and recommending standardized methods and establish guidelines and recommendations for training in the field of Laboratory Medicine. For more information: www.seqc.es.

News from the IFCC Website



Diagnóstico in Vitro - Febrero 2018

Enjoy the contents of the new DIAGNÓSTICO IN VITRO February issue. Empezamos con nuestro primer número de la revista electrónica DIV para el año 2018 y nuestra meta es hacerla cada vez mejor para ustedes. Deseamos presentar en la revista Diagnóstico In Vitro las buenas noticias para los profesionales y amigos de nuestra región de Iberoamericano, junto con los artículos de investigación en las Ciencias del Laboratorio. In this issue the IFCC WG-IANT confirms its commitment to advance excellence in laboratory medicine for better healthcare worldwide in Latin America.

[Read more](#)



News from Pakistan: Meeting report (PAP)

40th Annual Conference of Pakistan Association of Pathologists

by Hafsa Majid

Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine
Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan

The 40th Annual Conference of Pakistan Association of Pathologists (PAP) was held at the Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation (SIUT), Karachi from 14-18 December 2017.

Prior to conference, twelve preconference workshops related to various fields in Pathology were conducted. Two workshops were conducted for Chemical Pathologists: 'Quality Control Procedures' and 'Interpretation of Biochemical Genetics Results' attended by trainees and consultant chemical pathologists from around the country (picture).

For the conference high quality scientific programme pertaining to haematology, histopathology, microbiology, immunology, molecular and chemical pathology were arranged. Conference included 5 plenary sessions, 14 symposia and 10 free paper presentation

sessions, covering a wide range of topics ranging from innovations in techniques, developments in field of pathology in Pakistan, transplantation, challenges in infectious diseases and updates in anatomic pathology.

In the chemical pathology sessions, 12 free papers and 33 posters were presented by trainees and consultants including Pakistan Society of Chemical Pathologists (PSCP) members from all over Pakistan. Young researchers were encouraged for their active participation and best oral and poster awards were presented to 12 young researchers from different areas in the closing ceremony. The conference was attended by more than 1000 participants from around the country. The conference provided a concise and practical overview of latest advances in the field of laboratory medicine.



Participants at Chemical Pathology Symposia 'Metabolic Medicine' at PAP 2017



EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY
AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Chair:

Michael Neumaier, Germany

Eric Kilpatrick, UK-Qatar

Wytze Oosterhuis, The Netherlands

Klaus Pantel, Germany

Sverre Sandberg, Norway

Ana-Maria Simundic, Croatia

Ian Watson, UK

2nd EFLM Strategic Conference

THE END OF LABORATORY MEDICINE AS WE KNOW IT?

Handling disruption of Laboratory Medicine in digital health



**18-19 June 2018
Mannheim (DE)**

With the auspices of



EFLM thanks the following companies for the kind and unconditional support



The conference will consider the impact that the on-going digitalization of technologies and a digitalized society will have on the medical laboratory in future health care. We contend that such changes enable Digital Health that will be disruptive for Laboratory Medicine as we know it, because they will change our capabilities to compile, integrate and visualize complex diagnostic data as well as providing the opportunity for radical changes to diagnostic health strategies.

With the digital revolution spreading into every realm of modern medicine, we will experience a democratisation

of health care, i.e. a comprehensive data usage not just being in the hands of health care professionals, but also in the patients'. Indeed, a central concept of digital health medicine is patient empowerment as demonstrated by key words like "electronic health record", "patient access", "health apps", "wearable health tech" etc. In this rapidly changing health care environment, Laboratory Medicine must redefine its positions, not only acting in its classical role as provider of laboratory results, but also adopting new roles and responsibilities in the clinical dialogue.

**Download the full leaflet with the detailed scientific programme
and general information at www.eflm.eu**

by the EFLM Executive Board



Professor Dr. Ad P. Jansen

On 24 January 2018 Prof. Dr. Ad Jansen passed away at the blessed age of 94.

Prof. Jansen was one of the icons of clinical chemistry in its very early days. His work is invaluable for our profession in the Netherlands and also in Europe.

Ad Jansen was closely linked to the founding of NVKC, one of the oldest societies for clinical chemistry in the world. He also founded in 1974 SKML, one of the first NEQAS organizations.

He realized that international co-operation is paramount to harmonize across borders and in particular in the six countries of the European Communities at that time.

He started co-operation in quality control with colleagues in UK, France, West-Germany, Belgium and Ireland.

Prof. Jansen was also founder of EC4. The founding meeting took place in The Netherlands on May 6, 1977. The aim was to reach a sectorial directive for clinical chemists for mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications in clinical chemistry in

order to overcome possible discrimination of clinical chemists of non-medical origin. It still forms the basis of the work of EFLM Profession Committee.

Prof. Jansen was admired for his vision. Much of his work has still great impact on the practice of laboratory medicine and the organization of it at national and European scale but we are remembered for who we are as much as for what we do, and in addition to his many achievements, Ad Jansen was one of the nicest people you could ever wish to meet.

His friendliness, amiability and open mind next to his boundless energy made him a very beloved person. The memory of him is kept with respect and love.

IFCC's Calendar of Congresses, Conferences & Events

Calendar of IFCC Congresses/Conferences and Regional Federations' Congresses

Apr 18 - 21, 2018	 ARAB FEDERATION OF CLINICAL BIOLOGY AFCB	<i>15th Arab Conference of Clinical Biology and Laboratory Medicine</i>	Ramallah, PS
Jul 2 - 4, 2018		<i>1st IFCC, EFLM, AFCB Conference "Laboratory Medicine: Meeting the needs of Mediterranean Nations"</i>	Rome, IT
May 19 - 23, 2019	 May 19-23 BARCELONA EUROMEDLAB 2019	<i>IFCC - EFLM EuroMedLab 2019</i>	Barcelona, ES
Sep 11 - 13, 2019	 COLABIOCLI	<i>COLABIOCLI Regional Congress 2019</i>	Panama, PA
Nov 17 - 20, 2019	 15 th APFCB CONGRES 2019	<i>APFCB Regional Congress 2019</i>	Jaipur, IN
May 24 - 28, 2020	 IFCC WorldLab SEOUL 2020 25 th International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine	<i>XXIV IFCC WorldLab - Seoul 2020</i>	Seoul, KR
May 16 - 20, 2021		<i>XXIV IFCC - EFLM EuroMedLab - Munich 2021</i>	Munich, DE
May 21 - 25, 2023		<i>XXV IFCC - EFLM WorldLab - EuroMedLab - ROME 2023</i>	Rome, IT

Calendar continued on next page

Calendar of events with IFCC auspices

Mar 15 - 17, 2018	<i>College of Chemical Pathologists of Sri Lanka Annual Academic Sessions 2018</i>	Colombo, LK
Mar 16 - 17, 2018	<i>23rd Annual Conference and Continuing Professional Development (ACCPD)</i>	Bahir Dar, ET
Apr 18 - 21, 2018	<i>The 10th International Palestinian Conference of Laboratory Medicine and the 15th Arab Conference of Clinical Biology</i>	Ramallah, PS
May 9 - 12, 2018	<i>2nd Congress of Romanian Association of Laboratory Medicine</i>	Bucharest, RO
May 9 - 12, 2018	<i>9th Congress of the Croatian Society of Medical Biochemistry & Laboratory Medicine</i>	Zagreb, HR
May 23 - 25, 2018	<i>14th EFLM Symposium for Balkan Region</i>	Belgrade, SRB
May 23 - 25, 2018	<i>21st Serbian Congress of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine with international participations</i>	Belgrade, SRB
May 24 - 25, 2018	<i>XVI Meeting of the SEQCML Scientific Committee</i>	Madrid, ES
Jun 3 - 6, 2018	<i>CSCC 2018 Annual Conference</i>	Ottawa, CA
Jun 6 - 8, 2018	<i>Focus 2018 - Annual Meeting of ACB</i>	Manchester, UK
Jun 12 - 15, 2018	<i>XXXVI Nordic Congress of Clinical Chemistry</i>	Helsinki, FI
Jun 18 - 19, 2018	<i>2nd EFLM Strategic Conference "The end of Laboratory Medicine as we know it? Handling disruption of Laboratory Medicine in digital health"</i>	Mannheim, DE
Jun 21 - 22, 2018	<i>7th International Symposium on Critical Care Testing and Blood Gases</i>	Antibes, FR
Jun 30 - Jul 3, 2018	<i>International Society for Enzymology Conference</i>	Naxos, GR
Jul 13 - 14, 2018	<i>Turning Science Into Caring (TSIC)</i>	Shanghai, CN
Sep 26 - 29, 2018	<i>15th Annual Meeting of the German Society for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine - The foundation for diagnosis and therapy</i>	Mannheim, DE
Sep 30 - Oct 3, 2018	<i>Santorini Conference "Systems medicine and personalised health & therapy" - "The odyssey from hope to practice".</i>	Santorini, GR
Oct 3 - 5, 2018	<i>26th BCLF Meeting and 6th National Congress of MSMBLM</i>	Skopje, MK
Oct 30, 2018	<i>International Conference on Laboratory Medicine "LABORATORY MEDICINE: 25 YEARS ON"</i>	Padova, IT

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Nepal: Nepalese Association for Clinical Chemistry (NACC)
Philippines: Philippine Council for Quality Assurance in Clinical Laboratories (PCQACL)
Russia: Regional Association for Clinical Laboratory Diagnosis, St. Petersburg
Spain: Asociación Española de Farmacéuticos Analistas (AEFA)
Turkey: Society of Clinical Biochemistry Specialists (KBUD)
Ukraine: Association for Quality Assurance of Laboratory Medicine (AQALM)

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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)

Publisher

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Division (CPD) of the IFCC**

Starting in 2018, the Communications and Publications Division publishes ten editions of the e-News per year, including two double issues.

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Design & Production:



www.insoftdigital.com

Circulation

The eNews is distributed to all IFCC members registered on-line to receive it and to all IFCC sponsors.

Deadlines for submissions to the eNews

N° 1 – February: by mid January

N° 2 – March: by mid February

N° 3 – April: by mid March

N° 4 – May: by mid April

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N° 6/7 – July: by mid June

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