



Communications and Publications Division (CPD) of the IFCC

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International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine



N° 10 – October 2021



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EDITORIAL

Message from the eNews Editor

by *Katherina Psarra*
eNews Editor

Dear colleagues,

The weather has changed, and the fall is here to stay. Just remember to look at the sky when out. You will see beautiful cloud patterns at this time of the year, and they will make you happier.

I am sure you appreciated a lot the first Townhalls. They were clearly a successful, new, modern way of direct communication between the Board and all IFCC members. The IFCC president is presenting them in his message, while also inviting us to Euromedlab Munchen 2021 and to the General Assembly in 2022. So many exciting events to look forward to!

In this issue you will find reports of meetings that took place during the last months, virtually or in person. The POCT meeting in Rome, with great information about technological innovations, the 11th International Palestinian Conference of Laboratory Medicine with IFCC-ABBOTT Visiting Lecturer Program (VLP) participation are thoroughly presented, so that we ourselves can have a glimpse.

The issue also speaks about a Royal honour for our colleague Dr. Cas Weykamp. He was appointed Knight of the Order of the Dutch Lion because of his exceptional achievements in clinical chemistry and the worldwide standardisation of blood tests for diabetes in particular. Isn't this recognition wonderful for our profession?

A very interesting interview with Junior Member Rodrigo Pessoa Rejas as it answers in a very direct way how participation in the C-CMBC course influences/d his career and four teams awarded by Univants for their successful teamwork for the patients benefit complete this exciting fall issue.

Till the next issue don't forget to look at the sky! ... and to go through all our articles.

Katherina Psarra



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ΠΑΝΕΛΛΗΝΙΟ
ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΟ

ΕΕΚΧ-ΚΒ
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΕΤΑΙΡΙΑ ΚΛΙΝΙΚΗΣ ΧΗΜΕΙΑΣ
ΚΛΙΝΙΚΗΣ ΒΙΟΧΗΜΕΙΑΣ

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ΚΛΙΝΙΚΗΣ ΧΗΜΕΙΑΣ

4-6 Νοεμβρίου 2021
HYBRID CONGRESS **ΑΘΗΝΑ**



THE VOICE OF IFCC

IFCC President's message – October 2021

by Khosrow Adeli
IFCC President



Prof. Khosrow Adeli
PhD, FCACB, DABCC, FAACC

My cordial greetings and compliments of the fall season to you all in the IFCC family.

As you may be aware, the first-ever **IFCC Townhall** was held on September 15, virtually bringing the IFCC community together in the European (EFLM), African (AFCC), and Middle Eastern (AFCB) regions for the purpose of improving internal communication within IFCC. The Townhall was tremendously successful with over 1800 attendees and more than 40 Presidents and Board Members from IFCC, Regional Federations, and National Societies. Many topics of common interest were discussed and numerous questions from the membership were answered by the panelists from IFCC and Regional Federations. Overall, an extremely successful first townhall for the IFCC community! The IFCC Townhall for Corporate Members, which took place on September 21, was also very successful. Over 80 corporate member representatives and colleagues were in attendance. Following presentations from the IFCC Executive and the Corporate Representative to the IFCC Board, many important topics relevant to our corporate membership were discussed and

questions/concerns addressed as much as possible. Full recordings of the IFCC Townhalls are available for on demand viewing (<https://www.ifcc.org/executive-board-and-council/ifcc-townhall-2021>).

The next IFCC Townhall for the Asia-Pacific (APFCB) region is scheduled for October 20. The IFCC Executive Board invites the Board Members and National Society Presidents of APFCB to join in. IFCC and APFCB members in this region are also encouraged to attend this event and participate in the discussion forum. A Townhall will be held for North, South, and Central America (NAFCC & COLABIOCLI) on November 8, and planning for this meeting is already underway.

In addition to the upcoming Townhalls, I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the upcoming XXIV IFCC-EFLM European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (**EuroMedLab Congress 2021**), which is taking place in Munich from November 28 to December 2, 2021. An outstanding scientific program has been organized for attendees, featuring innovative and diverse education opportunities that incorporate the best of clinical laboratory medicine and *in vitro* diagnostics, along with excellent social opportunities for attendees to network while enjoying many attractions around the city. As the ease of travel continues to increase with improved safety measures and reduced restrictions, **I encourage everyone to attend this leading forum in person**. Plans are also underway to make some key parts of the scientific program available virtually for those unable to attend in person.

Article continued on next page

Looking further ahead, we are currently finalizing the planning of the IFCC General Conference. Following an extensive review of various venues, the IFCC Executive Board has selected to host this meeting in Brussels. A true global city, often referred to as the “capital of Europe”, Brussels will set the perfect backdrop for this meeting in October 2022. Planning also continues for the **WorldLab 2022**, which is being held in Seoul from June 22-26, 2021, in collaboration with the APFCB as well as the Korean Society. Finally, the WorldLab Conference Guidelines have recently been updated and a new call for proposals will be released shortly for the WorldLab 2024. More information to follow.

With many exciting events in the near future, I hope we can look forward to a productive fall season and beyond. Should you have any feedback, questions, or concerns, please feel free to email me at president@ifcc.org.

Till next time ☺

Khosrow

News from the IFCC Website

29th September 2021 IFCC Free Webinar

IFCC Webinars
Sponsored by
Siemens
Boston Children's Hospital

**Live Series
2021**

www.ifcc.org

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and Laboratory Medicine

**IFCC Live Webinar on
Quality management of medical test results during the pandemic**



Increasing the testing capacity for SARS-CoV-2 molecular detection by specimen pooling: a practical guide for diagnostic centers



Dr. Daniel Cruceriu
[Romania]
Researcher in the Department of Genetics, Genomics and Experimental Pathology of The Oncological Institute "Prof. Dr. I. Chiriacuta" -Cluj-Napoca

Specialist role in analytical phase of laboratory diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2



Dr. Mirela Ahmadi
[Romania]
Vice-president – Timis Branch of Romanian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology -Timisoara

Quality Management - EQC a useful tool for IQC



Dr. Georgeta Sorescu
[Romania]
Quality Manager and specialist at PT-Provider – CALILAB Association -Bucuresti

Chair/Moderator



Dr. Constanta Popa
[Romania]
President of Order of Biochemists, Biologists and Chemists in the Health System in Romania (OBBCSSR) -Bucuresti

Date: September 29, 2021
Time: 7 AM Eastern Standard; 1 PM Central European; 7 PM Beijing Time

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[Click here](#) for the on-demand content.



The IFCC announces its Annual Townhalls, starting this fall!

The IFCC Townhalls are a new initiative aimed to significantly enhance internal communications within the IFCC organization and between the IFCC Board and all IFCC member societies and Regional Federations.

The Townhalls aim to

- **Update the membership** on current and upcoming IFCC programs and new initiatives globally or in specific regions
- **Provide a platform for an open communication forum** between the IFCC board members and the board members of IFCC regional federations and national societies, as well as all laboratory professional and scientists in each region
- **Receive feedback from the membership on IFCC programs** particularly the new initiatives planned to directly contribute to advancing excellence in laboratory medicine towards a better healthcare worldwide

They will be a **three-hour Interactive Virtual LIVE event** that will be **held in different time zones** around the world.



October 20, 2021

09.00 am - 12.00 pm - Central Europe time zone (Rome)

12.30 - 03.30 pm: Delhi

02.00 - 05.00 pm: Jakarta

03.00 - 06.00 pm: Beijing / Hong Kong / Singapore / Kuala Lumpur / Manila

04.00 - 07.00 pm: Seoul / Tokyo

06.00 - 09.00 pm: Sydney /Melbourne

08.00 - 11.00 pm: Auckland

[Register here](#)

The IFCC Executive Board would like to invite the Executive Board members and National Society Presidents of APFCB to join in. It will be a unique opportunity to bring everyone together in these regions and allow for exchange of ideas and free communication between various organizations.

APFCB Regional Federations and National Societies in these Regions that are interested in participating in this open communication forum to significantly enhance communication within our laboratory medicine community will have the possibility to attend and ask question in the Discussion Forum via chat.

The link for Registering is:

<https://www.ifcc-townhall.com/10-20-2021>



**Agenda: The Town Hall is scheduled for three (3) hours
(09.00 am - 12.00 pm Central Europe time zone)**

- The Town Hall will begin with introductions and presentations from a **briefing panel** comprised of the IFCC President, Secretary, Treasurer and Regional Federation and National Society Presidents.
- Following the briefing panel presentations, **the moderator** will begin the discussion period with a brief introduction of the topics to be discussed and corresponding time limits.
- The moderator will then invite participants to ask their questions and/or provide their comments.
- At the end of the discussion period, the IFCC President will conclude the Town Hall and provide a link to a feedback survey.

Event	Content	Length
Brief Introductions: IFCC Executive Board Members, Regional Federation Board Members, and National Society Presidents	Introduction to Town Hall, all IFCC EB Members, panel, and moderator	5 minutes
Presentations: IFCC President, Secretary, Treasurer, Corporate Representative	Introduction to IFCC and new IFCC initiatives	20 minutes
Presentations: Regional Federation President	Update on Federation activities	10 minutes
Discussion/Q&A: Coordinated by the Moderator	Q&A (organized by specific topics)	2 hours
Conclusion: IFCC President & Secretary	Conclusion to Town Hall, contact details, and feedback survey	5 minutes

Important Instructions for Townhall Participants



1. All participants will be able to view the panelists and ask questions via the Chat box.
2. Participants should reserve their questions and comments for the discussion period.
3. Participants should ensure their questions and comments adhere to the topic outlined by the moderator.
4. Participants should be respectful of the timeframe for each topic and save outstanding questions for later communication by email or feedback survey.

Instructions for participants:

Join: Click on the link for the relevant event and register.

On 20th October, you will only need to **sign in** and you will be prompted to the Townhall page where the meeting will start automatically at the right time.

You will see the speakers and see the presentations.

Chat: You will be able to ask questions to the presenters via the Q&A form that will be visible at the bottom of the same page.



Another Townhall is planned for the Americas (NAFCC and COLABIOCLI) in their own time zone.

POCT: Making the point in Roma!

by Sergio Bernardini

Chair IFCC-Emerging Technologies Division

Tommaso Trenti

President elect SiBioC

Bernard Gouget

*Chair Committee on Mobile Health and Bioengineering
in Laboratory Medicine (C-MHBLM)*

As the COVID-19 virus spread since the beginning of 2020, the consequences impacted how people gathered with one another. The scientific events that normally were gathering specialists in lab medicine, health professionals and industry representatives for professional development and camaraderie, were threatened by the worldwide adoption of sanitary measures. The impossibility to travel abroad, the social distancing and stay-at-home policies jeopardized last spring the organization of the congress “POCT: Making the point” organized by the IFCC Emerging Technologies Division, impacting all the involved professionals from IFCC/EFLM participants to organizers, and the IVD partners who had already responded.

The positive development of the health situation having allowed an easing of the restrictions, it was first decided to postpone the congress and then to organize it on September 6-7, 2021. The barrier measures were strictly respected in accordance with the latest government directives, in particular the compulsory wearing of a mask in the interior and exterior spaces of the establishment. The comfortable temperature along with the changing colors of the Roman countryside made September the best time and Roma an excellent place for a pleasant stay to interact face-to-face with the colleagues who were able to come and get the opportunity to discover the new Campus X at the University “Tor Vergata”, one of the most dynamic and important research institution in Italy with a University hospital of excellence, recognized as a regional, national and international reference point.

The practical organization was adapted to such critical times. The outstanding program allowed us to attend keynote sessions, available to **in-person** and

on-line participants for two days. This Campus X POCT Hybrid meeting required more preplanning on the part of the organizing committee, from drawing up an inclusive agenda to making sure the technology was functioning properly. With the sudden shift created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the President of the Congress had the opportunity to build something new for the lab medicine community to interact with one another and create a better meeting experience with the objectives to share the IFCC-ETD vision on the promise of POCT, smart technologies, digital health, data science, cybersecurity and their impact on the future of Lab medicine.

The conference brought together 200 participants, 80 followed the presentations on-line to learn about how lab medicine and healthcare will be redefined today through emerging technologies as well as allowing a better care of the patient. The conference provided an overview of the point-of-care (POC) testing landscape in the era of improved diagnostics. It served as a networking place to learn more on quality management, education and training, rising technological innovation, clinical applications and the way POCT can be used to optimize diagnostic and treatment. A key element of the conference focused on SARS-CoV-2 and provided the most up-to-date views from researchers and companies in this fast-moving space. Alongside the conference, there was an exhibition of IVD industry, an excellent opportunity to present their target market and to meet international customers. The size of the global point of care diagnostics market is projected to reach USD 50.6 billion by 2025. It offers significant growth potential for prominent as well as emerging product manufacturers. Technological advancements in POC

Article continued on next page

devices, rising incidence of infectious and chronic diseases, and increase in the investments by key players are crucial factors driving the growth of the point of care diagnostics market.

There were five sessions throughout the two days, covering a wide variety of aspects of the rapidly emerging sector. Prof. Khosrow Adeli, IFCC President, delivered the keynote lecture on POCT in Pediatrics. The clinical implementation of POCT platforms in pediatric institutions presents unique advantages as well, including smaller sample volume requirements. This is particularly true for emergency and critical care departments wherein rapid patient assessment and prognostication is essential to patient outcome. It is also very useful for home monitoring in the rural settings. The implementation of adult-based reference

intervals for pediatric test result interpretation may cause significant and adverse clinical outcomes. To address this evidence gap, several initiatives have been developed, including the Canadian Laboratory Initiative on Pediatric Reference Intervals (CALIPER). New studies are needed to develop evidence-based reference intervals and critical values for POCT platforms in children and POCT devices continue to grow in pediatric settings.

Tomris Ozben, EFLM President Elect, was chairing the session on quality assurance. S. Sandberg, A. Haliasos, P. Oliver and J Shaw clarified this complex issue and how to implement suitable QC programmes. They explained the relevance of IQC, gave recommendations on the frequency of the IQC measurement as well as the right way to perform EQA.



“Smart connected people”

*Front: Koshrow Adeli, IFCC President; Maurizio Ferrari, former IFCC President; Bernard Gouget, Chair IFCC C MHBLM
Back: Sergio Bernardini, Chair IFCC ETD and President WorldLab Rome 2023; Tommaso Trenti, President elect SIBioC*



“Connecting at the PoCT”

They provided guidance on quality initiatives that are needed to ensure robust and high-quality programs. A special focus was given to reagents and QC lot changes. The Noklus project illustrated the enrolment of the Norway Medical laboratories in external quality assessment schemes. Paloma Oliver described her experience at the La Paz University Hospital in Madrid on the implementation of ISO 15189 and ISO 22870. The accreditation has led to improvement of numerous areas regarding the total testing process. Due to the characteristics of POCT, the particularly crucial areas for ISO 22870 accreditation are method performance verification, internal and external quality assurance, staff training and competency, and continuous improvement, all of which have an effect on the quality assurance of patient results.

The second session, chaired by E. Homsak and S. Stan-kovic, focused on POCT training. The presentations by S. Yenice, M.C. Tollanes, E. Randell and T.S. Isbell outlined that a proper training and competency assessment are mandatory to ensure that tests results are accurate and reliable.

Moreover, following initial training and competency, the standard requires that staff must be reassessed for competency at regular intervals to assure quality and safety of the patient care. T. Scott Isbell highlighted the difference between the assessment-based certificate program and the AACC Point-of-Care Testing Professional Certification program. The AACC initiative could be useful for other National Societies even for Clinical Laboratory Federations.

M. Ferrari moderated the last session of the first day dedicated to technological innovations in smart wearable devices. B. Gouget highlighted the potential of wearable electronic devices in healthcare and the clinical applications. Wearables can provide a key early warning in the early detection of asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic cases of COVID 19 as well as infection surveillance. While smart technology has allowed efficient medical data management and closer monitoring of the health, preventing more serious diseases in the process, the healthcare sector adopting it in masse has raised serious privacy concerns. Medical devices are increasingly connected to the Internet, hospital networks, and other medical devices. D. Gruson underlined that the healthcare systems around the globe have become more susceptible to cyberattacks and the Laboratory is one of the key targets with a rapid increase in cyberattacks since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. AI and machine learning are playing a key role in cybersecurity to identify potential threats. Promoting a cybersecurity culture is essential. Medical biologists need to work closely with informatics professionals who can not only collect, manage, and leverage data, but protect it as well. R. Erasmus highlighted the relevance of intelligent connectivity strategies in managing POCT services. The intelligence connectivity is the combination of 5G, artificial intelligence and Internet of Things. It is expected that the intelligent connectivity further accelerates the technological improvement and the utilization of POCT networks. M. Orth showed Direct to Consumer Testing (DTCT) opportunities and even more concerns about DTCT if not adequately regulated. The wide application of DTCT during the Covid 19 pandemic demonstrated how patients could be in dangerous situation without medical prescription, correct interpretation, and appropriate evaluation of the quality of the devices.

The second day started with an IVD round table, coordinated by T Zima and Irena Korita, on the technological evolution of blood gases analysis, the POCT quality system in the connectivity era, the advantages of the Patient-Side Immunoassay Analyzer providing, high-sensitivity cardiac troponin I (hs-cTnI) using a patient's fingerstick blood sample and the new development of the fully integrated and automated on-demand

molecular diagnostic system, enabling access to molecular diagnostic testing everywhere.

Thanks to K. Makris from Athens for chairing the morning session. The positive health economic evidence of point-of-care testing was illustrated by M. Vaubour-dolle using a blood product management as point of care example. A. Khan recalled that the best laboratory practices are the cornerstone of diagnostic testing. They are essential for patient care and therefore important whether testing is performed inside or outside a hospital setting it is essential to educate healthcare professionals in the best laboratory practices to keep up pace with the extensive proliferation of POC testing and their increasing reliance as integral components of the patient's treatment. Pandemic highlights the need of a Public Health education about POCT for both health professionals and citizens as reported by G. Kost. During a pandemic, information transparency, communication, and trust more than in any other public health situation play a critical role. P. Sharma and M. Ciotti focused on the role of POCT in LMI Countries as well as in refugees and migrant camps. In these situations, it is reliable, easy to implement and cheap.

During the second part of the afternoon session, J. Nichols outlined that the Healthcare models are changing from hospital-centered to patient-centered and that the specialist in Lab Medicine should be intellectually open towards other stakeholders, like pharmacists. As telehealth continues to gain traction and people look for new ways to engage with physicians, medical specialists and their own healthcare. Social media seems an obvious channel to enhance these goals. The last speaker T. Trenti answered to the question on the synergy and the striking a balance between Point-of-Care versus Lab-Based Testing. Connectivity is a crucial issue to the successful implementation of a POCT service and a collaborative approach of clinical laboratory professionals is required. Fostering inter-professional collaboration is the key for success.

Today, the IVD industry is boosted by both the continued advancement of molecular diagnostics and the connection to smart devices at the intersection of AI and IoT. Nevertheless, there is a huge push towards POCT. The incorporation of smart devices into POC diagnostics has increased the safety, accuracy,

and user-friendliness of this technology. The second roundtable organized with representatives of the IVD Companies demonstrated the dynamic and innovative capacities of the IVD sector which is improving constantly testing techniques as well as anticipating additional opportunities to create more innovative products triggering the expansion of the IVD technologies. Close collaborations between the scientists working in the IVD R&D departments and specialists in lab medicine focusing on a Laboratory Medicine patient-centered and on the proof of concept are allowing to promote the highest quality of care.

The pandemic created a multitude of challenges for the organization of the conference at Tor Vergata University, while also expanding the opportunities for evolving and improving the structure of future congresses.

The hybrid congress required adjustments to the way participants connect with each other, the budget allocation and the way lab medicine science is shared in the scientific community. Running effective hybrid meetings is a new reality of the post-pandemic world and it will certainly be a key to IFCC performance in the foreseeable future.

News from the IFCC Website

The IFCC Townhall for Corporate Members is already available!



If you missed the IFCC Townhall for Corporate Members, you can access it as on demand content and you will hear all the presentations on current and upcoming IFCC programmes and new initiatives globally and the following debate during the Q&A session.

The IFCC Townhall took place on 21 September, from 09.00 am-12:00 pm (Eastern Standard Time (EST) zone – New York)

[Read more](#)

2021

28 NOVEMBER - 2 DECEMBER

ICM MUNICH
GERMANY



Dear All,

As IFCC President I am contacting you today as I would like to encourage your participation to the next EuroMedLab Congress <http://www.euromedlab2021munich.org/> planned in Munich, Germany from November 28th to December 2nd, 2021.

Munich, will set a perfect backdrop for the upcoming XXIV IFCC-EFLM European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (**EuroMedLab Congress 2021**), jointly hosted by IFCC, EFLM, and the German Society. This biannual congress has proven to be one of the leading forums to bring together scientists, laboratory specialists, clinicians, and industry colleagues in the field of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine.

Luckily, ease of travel continues to increase with improved safety measures and reduced restrictions. Thus, I *encourage everyone to attend this premier event in person* and take advantage of the outstanding [scientific program](#), which features innovative and diverse educational opportunities that incorporate the best of clinical laboratory medicine and *in vitro* diagnostics, along with excellent social opportunities to network while enjoying many attractions around the city. Importantly, in-person attendance will allow us to effectively enable scientific exchange and ensure that our organization and field remain at the cutting edge.

Visit the EuroMedLab 2021 [website](#) for more information, including how to [register](#). Early registration fees are available until October 15th, 2021. I hope to see you all there!

Thank you very much for your attention and continuous cooperation.

With kind regards,

Prof. Khosrow Adeli PhD, FCACB, DABCC, FAACC
IFCC President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Adeli', is positioned below the typed name and title.

11th International Palestinian Conference of Laboratory Medicine (IPCLM-11) Ramallah, Palestine

IFCC-ABBOTT Visiting Lecturer Program (VLP) participation

*by Tomris Ozben
EFLM President Elect*

Laboratory Medicine: Emerging Challenges during COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond



The 11th International Palestinian Conference of Laboratory Medicine (IPCLM-11) organized by the Palestinian Medical Technology Association (PMTA) was held in Ramallah, Palestine, in August 26-28, 2021.

The Conference was organized in a hybrid format. The conference program was well prepared. It included 5 Plenary Lectures, 5 Keynote Presentations and 39 Presentations. The official language of the Conference was English. The scientific level of the Conference was very high. The delegates were enthusiastic as it was clear from their active participation in the discussions.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 2021.

IPCLM-11 Conference started with the Opening Ceremony which was held between 17:00 and 18.00.

- The Opening Lecture entitled “Laboratory Medicine in Palestine Current Situation and Future Perspectives” was delivered by Dr. Osama Najjar, the President of the Congress and President of the Palestinian Medical Technology Association (PMTA).
- It was followed by the Opening of the Medical Exhibition.
- Snibe Webinar: “Gonad Tumor Marker Overview for both Male and Female” delivered by Prof. Mirna Germanos from Lebanon was the last talk of day.

Article continued on next page

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 2021

The program had 4 sessions which were held between 9:00 and 18:30.

Session 1

The program started with two Plenary Lectures (30 minutes each).

- **VLP Plenary Lecture 1:** “Molecular, Biochemical and Serological Testing of COVID-19” was delivered by Prof. Khosrow Adeli.
- **VLP Plenary Lecture 2:** “Biomarkers Associated with COVID 19 Disease Progression” was delivered by Prof. Tomris Ozben.
- **VLP Keynote Presentation 1:** “Pathophysiology of COVID-19 and Mechanisms Underlying Progression to Death” was presented by Prof. Khosrow Adeli.

Session 2

- **VLP Keynote Presentation 2:** “Liquid profiling: a new tool for cancer diagnosis” was presented by Prof. Maurizio Ferrari.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 2021

The program had 4 sessions which were held between 9:00 and 18:30.

Session 5

- **VLP Plenary Lecture 4:** “Clinical Applications of Proteomics” was delivered by Prof. Eleftherios Diamandis.
- **VLP Keynote Presentation 3:** “Technological Advances in Laboratory Medicine: Predicting the Lab of the Future” was presented by Prof. Khosrow Adeli.
- **VLP Keynote Presentation 4:** “Blood and non-blood sources of cell-free DNA (cfDNA) for non-invasive cancer” was delivered by Prof. Tomris Ozben.

Session 6

- **VLP Plenary Lecture 5:** “Expanding space for Next Generation Sequencing diagnostic applications” was delivered by Prof. Maurizio Ferrari.
- **VLP Keynote Presentation 5:** “Circulating Tumor DNA: A Promising Biomarker in the Liquid Profiling of Cancer” was presented by Prof. Eleftherios Diamandis.

The meeting ended with Closing Ceremony & Awards.

ipclm.ps

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RAMALLAH, PALESTINE
IPCLM 11 2021
AUGUST 28-29

HOME ABOUT CONFERENCE INFO SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM ABSTRACT OFFERING CONTACT EN LOGIN

The 11th International Palestinian Conference For Laboratory Medicine (IPCLM-11)

Laboratory Medicine: Emerging Challenges during COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond

Under the Patronage of His Excellency Dr. Mahmoud Abbas, President of Palestine State, The Palestinian Medical Technology Association welcomes you in Laboratory Medicine: Emerging Challenges during COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond virtual Event AUGUST 28-29, 2021

READ MORE REGISTRATION → PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

SAVE THE DATE

**26-28
November
2021**

**MUNICH,
GERMANY**



XV ICPLM 
Emerging Technologies in
Pediatric Laboratory Medicine 



www.icplm2021.org

2021

28 NOVEMBER

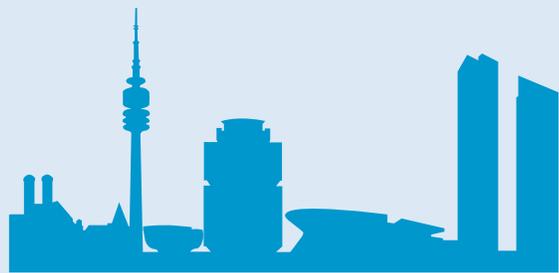
2 DECEMBER

ICM MUNICH

GERMANY



**WE ARE READY TO OPEN THE DOOR AGAIN
AND WELCOME YOU BACK IN PRESENCE!**



EUROMEDLAB

2021 MUNICH



**24TH IFCC-EFLM EUROPEAN CONGRESS OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY
AND LABORATORY MEDICINE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE GERMAN
SOCIETY OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE**

www.euromedlab2021munich.org

IFCC: THE PEOPLE

Royal honour for Dr. Cas Weykamp

Clinical chemist Dr. Cas Weykamp (67), who works at the Streekziekenhuis Koningin Beatrix in Winterswijk, was appointed Knight of the Order of the Dutch Lion on Tuesday 27 September.

He receives the decoration because of his exceptional achievements in clinical chemistry and the worldwide standardisation of blood tests for diabetes.

Mayor Joris Bengevoord presented the royal decoration on Tuesday afternoon during the farewell symposium held in Theatre De Storm to mark Dr Weykamp's retirement.

Merits

On 1 January 1977 Cas Weykamp started work as a chemical analyst in the former Elisabeth Hospital in Winterswijk. In 1995, he received his doctorate from the University of Groningen with a thesis on glycohemoglobin (HbA1c), an important parameter within blood tests of patients with diabetes.



Dr. Cas Weykamp, in the centre, along with his wife, Josè, and the Mayor Joris Bengevoord at the ceremony

After his PhD, Dr. Weykamp set up the MCA (Multi Component Analysis) laboratory in the Streekeziekenhuis Konigin Beatrix to improve the quality of laboratory research.

His greatest success was the worldwide standardisation of HbA1c, with the aim of making laboratory tests for diabetes more reliable and improving the treatment of diabetes patients. This brought him international fame. Over 5,000 laboratories from 25 countries are now taking part in this project, which has its home base in the SKB. In 2017, the International Federation for Clinical Chemistry (IFCC) awarded Dr Weykamp the IFCC Medal for Outstanding Service.

After his retirement on 28 January 2021, Dr. Weykamp is still employed by the MCA laboratory as a consultant for 8 hours a week. On 1 January 2022, he will retire permanently and end his professional career.

Order of the Dutch Lion

The Order of the Netherlands Lion is the oldest and highest civilian order of knighthood in the Netherlands. King William I instituted the Order on September 29, 1815. A person becomes eligible for a decoration in this order when he has made an achievement of a very exceptional value for society.



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Published ten times a year:

N ^o 1/2	January/February
N ^o 3	March
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N ^o 5	May
N ^o 6	June
N ^o 7/8	July/August
N ^o 9	September
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IFCC: THE YOUNG SCIENTISTS

Interview with junior member Rodrigo Pessoa Rejas

How participation in the C-CMBC course influences/d his career

by Verena Haselmann

*Chair, IFCC Committee on Clinical Molecular Biology Curriculum (C-CMBC)
Institute for Clinical Chemistry, University Medical Center Mannheim,
Medical Faculty Mannheim, University of Heidelberg,
Mannheim, Germany*

The diagnostic value of and general interest in Molecular Diagnostics is continuously increasing, especially since outbreak of the CoViD-19 pandemic. To meet this demand, the IFCC established the C-CMBC 10 years ago with the aim to train professionals all over the world to become the next teachers and distribute profound knowledge. **THE QUESTION THAT ARISES, HOWEVER, IS WHETHER THIS COURSE DELIVERS WHAT IT PROMISES.**

What are the benefits of participating in the IFCC Beginners Course in Molecular Diagnostics? Is it possible to gain insights into Molecular Genetics within an one-week intensive course? Is this sufficient to set up your own Genetic laboratory? Can such a course really help to lay the foundation for the establishment or expansion of new diagnostics in the long term? I have asked Dr. Rodrigo Pessoa Rejas, Junior Member of the C-CMBC, who participated in the last course in La Paz, Bolivia, in March 2020, and is currently completing his six-month internship in the Department of Molecular Genetics at the Institute for Clinical Chemistry in Mannheim, Germany, under my supervision, to answer these questions.



Dr. Verena Haselmann



Dr. Rodrigo Pessoa Rejas

Article continued on next page

Dr. Haselmann: What was your motivation to participate in the C-CMBC course?

Dr. Pessoa Rejas: Before the course, I decided to set up my own Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory in Bolivia. At that point, I did not have profound knowledge in Genetics. At University and during my specialization I have learned the basics of Genetics, the genotype-phenotype correlations, the most important genetic disorders and how to interpret test results in the clinical context. But we have never learned the different techniques in detail. Therefore, I wanted to participate in this course to deepen my knowledge, learn how to develop your own tests and most importantly to obtain practical skills in the lab and in-silico assay design.

Dr. Haselmann: Have you received training on the different techniques, how they work, how to design and validate your own genetics tests prior to the course?

Dr. Pessoa Rejas: No, I had not have a specific training on this, even not within my specialization.

Dr. Haselmann: Are there any other laboratories in your country providing genetic tests, where you may also get practical help with setting up your own laboratory?

Dr. Pessoa Rejas: There are one or two laboratories, but they are only offering a limited type of tests and none in Santa Cruz. However, with the CoViD-19 pandemic this changed. Now more laboratories are getting interested in Genetics. Although they are only doing PCR-tests for SARS-CoV-2, the general awareness of this diagnostics is currently rapidly increasing. Therefore, it is a really good moment to start with setting up such a laboratory.

Dr. Haselmann: After the course, did you feel confident enough to set-up your own laboratory? What were your first steps?

Dr. Pessoa Rejas: Yes, at first, I was 100% sure that I was able to do so. I have learned how to set-up a Genetic Laboratory, to design the different assays, to do proper quality control and finally to validate and interpret test results. Nevertheless, after a short period I realized that I was lacking practical experience, especially with all the technical work. I was not feeling confident enough to take that responsibility, but I did know that I wanted to learn it.

Dr. Haselmann: From your point of view, would it be possible to improve the course, so that you are able to obtain these skills within a week?

Dr. Pessoa Rejas: Maybe it would be helpful if we would have more time to practice, but on the other side that would mean to reduce the number of lectures, which were also important. To be honest, I don't think it is possible to obtain all required skills within one week. The course rather helps you to decide whether you want to get more specialized in Genetics and demonstrates you that laboratory developed tests represent the majority of tests in this field and you need profound skills to develop your own tests. I was able to learn the basics, to get to know what I need, and, most importantly, to get into contact with people dealing with Molecular Diagnostics within and outside Bolivia.

Dr. Haselmann: Did these contacts help you to achieve your aim?

Dr. Pessoa Rejas: Yes. Now I am in contact with a couple of people dealing with Genetics in Bolivia, we exchange our knowledge, and help each other. Moreover, I did get into contact with specialists from abroad. Therefore, I decided to do an internship in a Laboratory specialized in Genetics. As I had met you and the others from the course, it was quite easy for me to ask you for this opportunity. Otherwise, it might have not been possible or at least would have taken much more time to find someone offer me this possibility.

Dr. Haselmann: When you were doing your internship at my department, was there any benefit for you having participated in the course before?

Dr. Pessoa Rejas: Definitely, it helped me a lot. I had all the scripts, textbooks and lectures explaining the different techniques in detail, and also the practical guidance documents how to use the different in-silico tools. I looked at these documents quite often, and it helped me to consolidate my knowledge.

Dr. Haselmann: Finally, after the course and your internship, do you feel confident to set-up your own Laboratory in Molecular Diagnostics?

Dr. Pessoa Rejas: Yes, I am feeling prepared and trained, and I am highly motivated to do so. The course has given me the basics and helped me to get connected with others, and the internship has provided me the practical experience. I am now ready and have the confidence to use the skills I have gained to achieve my goals.

Dr. Haselmann: If you are successful in setting up your laboratory, what will be your next steps?

Dr. Pessoa Rejas: As soon as the laboratory will be set-up and the first diagnostic tests run, I will be looking for someone helping me to run this department, to establish more tests and to provide a better diagnostic for people in Bolivia. I really do like sharing my knowledge and train others.

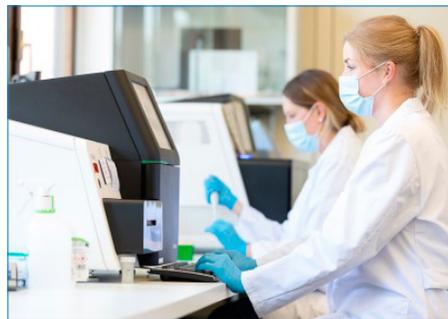
Dr. Haselmann: In the end, would you agree that this course represents a good example of the benefits of “train the trainer” to disseminate knowledge to more countries? Could you personally see yourself becoming part of the IFCC in the long-term and helping to improve the quality of diagnostics?

Dr. Pessoa Rejas: Yes, I definitely agree that this is a great concept. It might be hard to find someone being interested in teaching others within the future and disseminate knowledge, but if, this is probably the most effective way to establish new diagnostics on a quality level. Personally, I would love to be part of the IFCC in the future and help the C-CMBC/IFCC to achieve this aim. And if I have one final recommendation for the course, it would be that the future Junior Member is offered the same opportunity as me to do an internship abroad. For myself, I wish that C-CMBC teachers will further support me and help me with troubleshooting when I set-up my own Genetic laboratory. In this way finally I may become a senior member in the future.

Dr. Haselmann: Thanks a lot for your time, your motivation, your enthusiasm, your persistence, and your interest in Molecular Diagnostics! I am looking forward to continuing working with you on Molecular Diagnostics in the future.



Taking blood



Running experiments



Discussing results



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Reduction of inpatient daily blood draws with data science and clinical collaboration

In the setting of publicly funded healthcare, maximizing the delivery of care while minimizing waste is increasingly important. Finding areas to reduce waste requires critical thinking and often, innovative solutions. At St. Paul's Hospital in British Columbia, Canada, it was noted that some patients had daily bloodwork orders (i.e. complete blood count and electrolytes) for an extended amount of time, without a specified stop-date. In order to further evaluate this trend, two years of laboratory data was analyzed in an effort to better understand how long these runs of daily bloodwork were extending, and how clinically informative they were to clinical care. Of the 1575 patients with runs of bloodwork of 14 days or more, 30% had months of identical daily bloodwork that was not contributing to their care and only showing expected homeostatic fluctuations.



Thus, an opportunity presented itself to collaborate with clinical staff to develop a new hospital guideline dictating that any “daily” order would repeat for three days and would subsequently require the ordering physician to reassess and reorder the test, if needed. This system-wide policy change achieved significant results including a 28% reduction in repeated blood collections and testing for inpatients. The latter is an important safety metric

for patients, as it is known that repeated phlebotomy is associated with iatrogenic anemia, bleeding, and hematoma. This site also saw a demonstrable decrease in core lab workload, and the elimination of extended, unnecessary runs of daily bloodwork. Lastly, in a site wide physician survey 80% (39/49) of respondents “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that the new policy improved patient care, further linking their change to improved clinical satisfaction and improved clinical outcomes.

For their proactive policy change to improve resource utilization and improve patient outcomes, this integrated clinical care team was recognized by the 2020 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award program with recognition of Distinction. Congratulations to Janet Simons, MD, Medical Director of Pre and Post Analytics, Laboratory, Mirjana Besir, Clinical Nurse Leader, Medicine Program, PHC, Camille Ciarniello, Director of Risk Management and Patient Safety for Providence Health Care, Astrid Levelt, Director, Medical Affairs at Providence Health Care, Deborah Shaw, Unit Coordinator, Education Coordinator.

Article continued on next page

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. Cost and resource saving opportunities exist throughout the health system. Identification and mitigation of any waste can positively impact resource utilization and patient care.
2. The laboratory is uniquely positioned within the health system to provide insights and data to enable actionable change across the health system.
3. Collaboration with clinical staff is key to successfully implementing system change that positively affects patients and clinical staff alike.

To learn more about this best practice and/or the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award program, please visit: univantshce.com.



Early detection and management of gestational diabetes mellitus for improved outcomes of mothers and their babies

Protecting and optimizing the health of pregnant woman and their unborn babies is of the utmost importance. A substantial public health concern for pregnant women and their babies is the increasing prevalence of gestational diabetes (GDM) as it is associated with both short-term and long-term complications. Representative complications include pregnancy-induced hypertensive disorders, premature labor, shoulder dystocia, caesarean section and both, low or high birthweight for gestational age, risk of developing glucose disorders, cardiovascular diseases and increased likelihood of cancer. Thus, early identification and management of GDM is crucial for optimizing outcomes.



Diagnosis of GDM is based on fasting glucose and/or oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) under standardized conditions with a quality-controlled measurement of glucose. Currently, there is not an international consensus regarding screening methods and optimal cut-offs for diagnosis and/or intervention of GDM. Thus, optimizing interventions and outcomes can be difficult.

At the Hospital Clinico San Carlos in Madrid, Spain an integrated clinical care team has focused on improving the detection, management, and prevention of GDM in pregnant women. To do so, they have overhauled the coordination of fasting glucose and oral glucose tolerance testing to enable earlier detection of pregnant women with borderline high glucose or 'low hyperglycemia' (defined as baseline blood glucose levels between 92 and 95mg/dL, such that the Carpenter and Coustan criteria would not indicate gestational diabetes). This

Article continued on next page

was achieved through the implementation of the one-step International Association of Diabetes and Pregnancy Study Groups (IADPSG) recommendations for GDM screening.

The expedited testing procedures lost fewer patients to follow-up, while also identifying new patients at risk that were previously missed. Diagnosis of GDM increased from 10.6% to 35.5%, resulting in targeted treatment and reduction in GDM-related complications for mothers and their newborns, such as reduced premature birth, reduced rates of gestational hypertension and reduced cesarian sections. Overall direct cost savings of €15,000 per 100 women was achieved, corresponding to an annual savings of €250,000 in this focus area.

For their valued outcomes and patient-centric initiative, this integrated clinical care team was awarded a 2020 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Award with recognition of Distinction. Congratulations to María José Torrejón, *Head of Hormones and Metabolism Laboratory*, M. Cruz Cárdenas, *Head of Quality Unit of Medicine Laboratory Institute*, Alfonso L. Calle-Pascual, *Chief, Department of Endocrinology and Nutrition*, Nuria García de la Torre, *Endocrinologist*, Miguel Ángel Herráiz Martínez, *Chief, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. Gestational Diabetes is an important public concern for both pregnant mothers and their babies, both short and long-term side effects.
2. Early identification of gestational diabetes is crucial to enable mitigation of downstream complications and risks and to improve outcomes.
3. Collaboration across disciplines to enable process changes for the betterment of patient care is a key success factor for improving GDM outcomes.

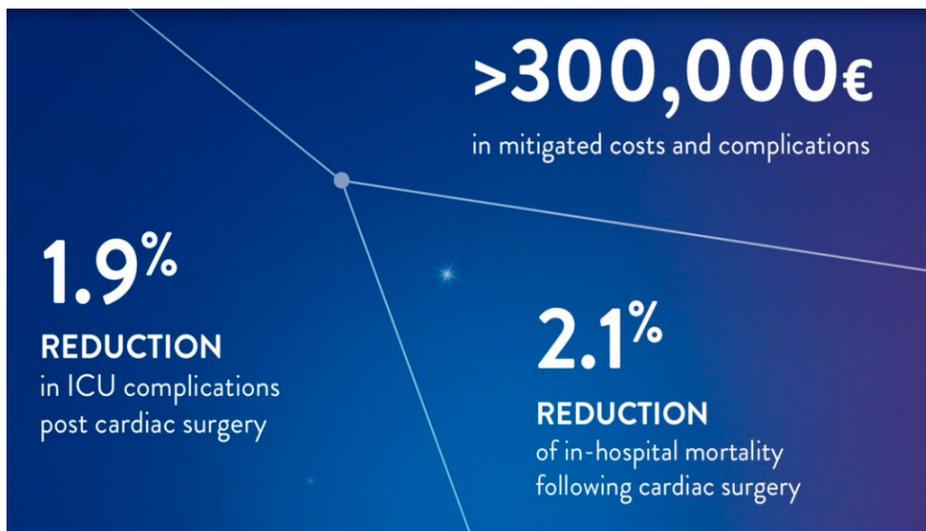


Reducing post-operative complications in cardiac surgery patients

Undergoing cardiovascular surgery is not without risk; therefore, any opportunity to minimize risk to improve outcomes is extremely important. Post-operative complications such as coagulopathy and post-operative bleeding are the most common complications for patients undergoing cardiac surgery, with approximately 20% of patients presenting with significant bleeding. Often, the treatment for post-operative bleeding can result in excessive use of allogeneic blood products and hemostatic pharmacological agents, which can add a layer of complexity to patient outcomes. Blood transfusions for example are associated with increased morbidity (cardiac and non-cardiac adverse events), hospitalization cost, and mortality.

A key goal of post-operative management is early identification and treatment of coagulopathy to reduce the need for re-exploration, reduce blood product use and reduce the need for pharmacological intervention. An integrated clinical care team at Hospital Virgen Macarena in Sevilla, Spain sought to improve early diagnosis, and targeted and effective therapy of perioperative and postoperative coagulopathy. This was achieved through implementation of viscoelastic point-of-care tests (POCT), such as rotational thromboelastometry, in conjunction with a specific algorithm for coagulation management in cardiac surgery, allow for better control of hemostatic pathology.

When compared to pre-implementation, the strategic coagulation management algorithm using viscoelastic POCT reduced the incidence of post-op bleeding by 4.2%, decreasing the incidence of allogeneic blood transfusion by 9.5%, as well as decreasing the need for re-exploration by 3.1%. There was also a reduction in ICU complications



with a corresponding reduction in patient length of stay in the ICU. Reduction in hematologic complications resulted in mitigated costs exceeding €300,000 (Costs: €622,008 pre-viscoelastic POCT, €312,750 post-viscoelastic POCT), in addition to also reducing healthcare costs related to blood products and laboratory testing by €10,256 (from €31,059.00 to €20,803.00).

The integrated clinical from Seville, Spain was recently awarded an 2020 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence

award with recognition of Distinction for their impressive teamwork and patient outcomes. Congratulations to Isabel Rodriguez Martin, MD, PhD, Physician Clinical Biochemistry, Jesús Villanueva Mena-Bernal, MD, PhD, Anesthesiologist, Francisco Javier González Fernández, MD, PhD, Cardiac Surgeon, José Garnacho Montero, MD, PhD, Intensive and Critical Care Physician, Juan Galán Paez, Data Analytics/Information Management.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. Cardiovascular surgery is associated with significant complications, of which bleeding and coagulopathy are significant contributors.
2. Early identification to enable early treatment is crucial for improving outcomes, minimizing allogenic blood product use, and reducing resource utilization
3. Collaboration with laboratory and clinical colleagues can enable implementation of new processes to enable optimal utilization of novel laboratory tests.



Maximizing resources for strategic and timely patient communications of COVID-19 status

Providing high quality, efficient and patient-centric healthcare services in the setting of a pandemic can be challenging. Shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic began to impact the province of Nova Scotia, leaders at Nova Scotia Health recognized that contacting patients with their test results would be a challenge, and could soon overwhelm their health system. In the early stages, communication of test results was done manually by telephone, ideally within a 48-72-hour timeframe – however, this pace was unlikely to be possible as testing frequency and protocols increased.

Accordingly, leaders within Nova Scotia Health began exploring alternate ways to notify patients of their negative COVID-19 status. This system-wide effort across leading stakeholders aimed to create an improved notification system to communicate COVID-19 testing results in order to optimize resource utilization. Through collaboration with the Nova Scotia Health Information Management and Technology and Public Health teams, in partnership with the provincial Department of Health and Wellness and the Department of Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services, they developed an in-house email notification application.

By combining data from the registration system and Lab Information System, the application identifies which patients should receive email notification of their results. The email notification includes a link to a webpage, managed by Nova Scotia Health, where patients can view their results.



Within the first two months of implementation, Nova Scotia Health sent out over 10,000 emails. If each phone call or voicemail to deliver a negative test takes approximately two to three minutes to complete, the new solution has saved staff between 18,000 and 27,000 minutes over two months, or an estimated \$8,100.00 CDN, based on 225 saved resource hours/month. Further, this integrated effort across the Nova Scotia Health system has reduced

wait-times for negative COVID-19 results by approximately 80%, as results were made available within 1 day, reducing patient and family fears associated with the unknown as they awaited results.

For their strategic, quick and innovative thinking during a time of need, this integrated clinical care team was recognized by the 2020 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award program with recognition of Achievement. Congratulations to all team members involved in this effort, with a special congratulations to the leaders of this initiative: Pam Butler, *Executive Director, Health Projects, Department of Health and Wellness, Province of Nova Scotia*, Don Dorion, *Manager, Pathology Informatics, Nova Scotia Health, Information, Management & Technology*, Amy MacDonald, *Manager of Healthy Communities, Public Health, Nova Scotia Health*, Jamey Martell, *Director, Clinical Applications, Nova Scotia Health Information Management & Technology*, Linda Plummer, *Director, Health Information Systems, Nova Scotia Health Information Management & Technology*.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. The COVID-19 Pandemic has challenged all health systems to continue to deliver high quality care, while also improving and/or creating new services.
2. Optimizing healthcare delivering and resource utilization can substantially improve patient experience, while also saving money.
3. Collaboration across and between unique stakeholder groups such as information technology and public health can lead to innovative solutions that drive measurably better change within a health system.

NEWS FROM REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND MEMBER SOCIETIES



News from the Saudi Society of Clinical Chemistry (SSCC)

The International Laboratory Week / Quality Seminar

by Dr. Anwar Borai

SSCC representative to the IFCC

<https://sscc.med.sa/>

boraiaa@nghi.med.sa

From May to September 2021, the Saudi Society for Clinical Chemistry held various virtual activities including 1 Awareness, 2 Workshops, 1 webinar 1 Journal club and 1 Lab exhibition.

World Hepatitis Day (WHD) takes place every year bringing the world together under a single theme to raise awareness of the global burden of viral hepatitis. Therefore, on May 26th the SSCC held a virtual awareness day of Hepatitis. Two virtual lectures were presented by Dr. Hadi Kariri, Consultant liver disease; Prince Sultan Military Medical City, Riyadh, KSA and Dr. Ali Mahrezi, Assistant Prof. at AL Baha University, Al Baha, KSA.

On May 31st, a webinar of Series Laboratory Biomarkers of Diseases: Thyroid Diseases was held virtually. The introduction was presented by Dr. Duaa Alahdal from Taibah University, KSA, Dr. Mohammed Al Dawish from Prince Sultan Military Medical City, KSA presented his topic with the title of "Common Thyroid Diseases". Professor Gruson Damien from Cliniques Universitaires Saint Luc, Brussels, Belgium talked about "Thyroid Function Tests".

Saudi point of care testing Association (SPOTCA) is part of the SSCC. SPOTCA held POCT Series III: Coagulation as a virtual webinar on June 8th as part of the SPOTCA series webinars. Prof. Tarek Owaidah, consultant hematology at King Faisal Specialist Hospital presentation was about "Coagulation and POC Testing Overview and Update". Dr. Malak Almashali, Consultant Clinical Chemistry at Prince Sultan Military Medical City talked about "The Role of PT/INR point of care Testing in The Time of COVID-19." Introduction to PT and its Various Applications From Diagnostic Point of View was the title of the presentation by Mr. Rani Besisou, Medical Affairs Manager, Roche Diagnostics, KSA. The webinar was moderated by Dr. Waleed Al Omair, Consultant Chemical Pathology, King Faisal Specialist Hospital, Riyadh, KSA.

From 24-24 June, 2021, the SSCC participated in the exhibition of the MEDLAB Middle East held in Dubai, UAE. The Booth of the SSCC was attended by many guests and visitors throughout the event.

On June 15th, 2021 the 3rd SSCC Journal Club Meeting for the year 2021 was held virtually and it was presented by King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah and LOW CARB SOCIETY. The presentation of Dr. Abdulhadi Bima, Assistant Professor, Clinical Biochemistry at King Abdulaziz University, was about LDL Cholesterol versus other Biochemical Markers in Assessing CHD. Dr. Ammar Tonkal from King Fahad Armed Forces, Jeddah presented 'LDL & HDL particle size and its clinical relevance'. Mr. Rayyan Al-Sulaimani from King Abdullah Medical City, Makkah talked about "the new Approach in LDL measurement".

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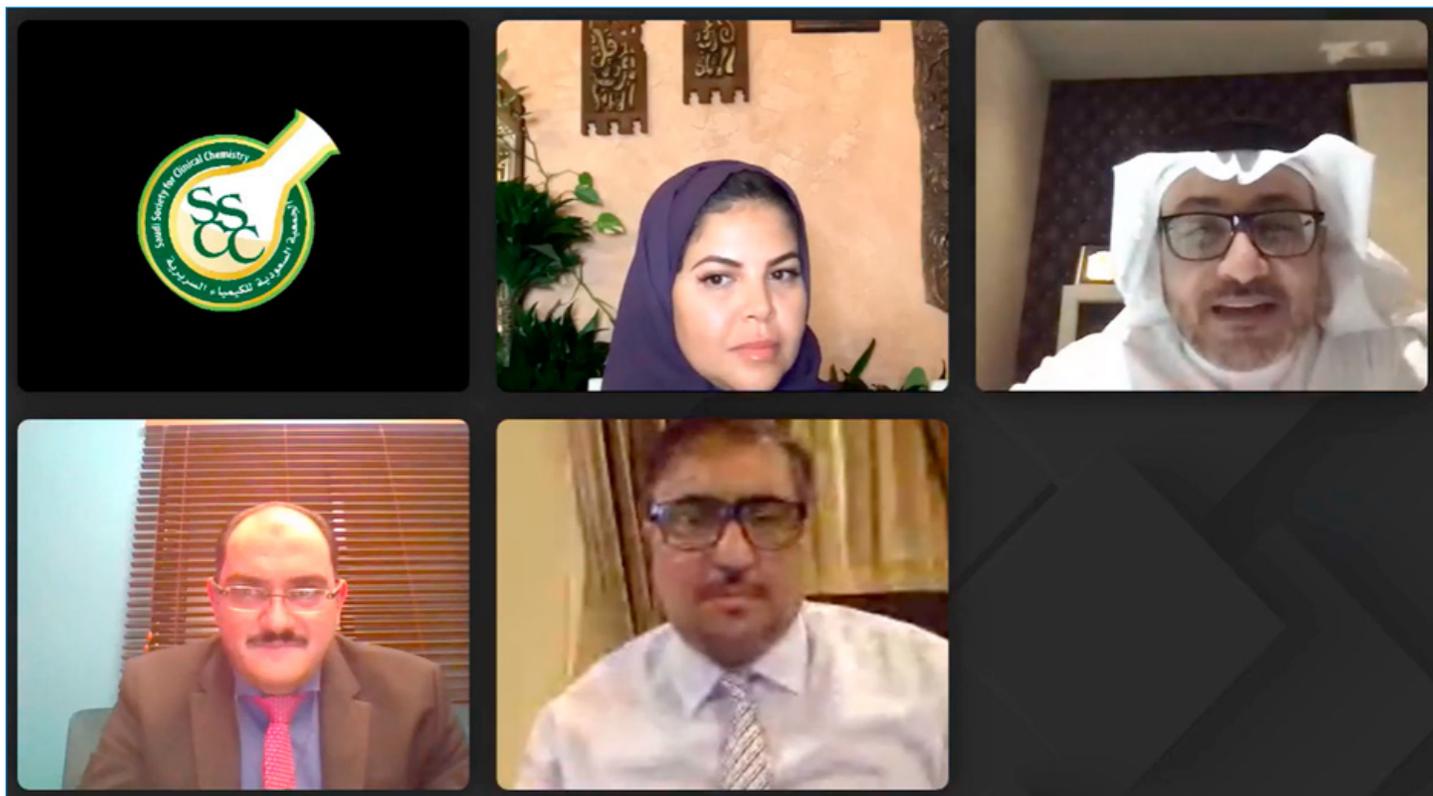
Saudi Point of Care Testing Association (SPOTCA) held the POCT Series IV: Improving Pre-Analytical Practice for Blood Gases and Related Analytes. The presentation of John Ancy, Senior Clinical Consultant, Werfen Company was titled "pre-analytical errors in blood gas testing".

In August 2021, the SSCC released the third edition of the SSCC journal. The journal is free of charge and it can be uploaded using the following link:

<https://sscc.med.sa/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/SSCC-Journal-3rd-Issue-August-2021-1.pdf>.

On Sep 14th, a virtual webinar activity was held about Laboratory Biomarkers of Diseases: COVID-19 Disease: Vaccination & Serology Markers. The introductory session was presented by Dr. Souad Akateah, Consultant Clinical Scientist, Prince Sultan Military Medical City. The second talk title "COVID-19 Disease: Update in SARS-Cov-2 variants" was presented by Dr. Ammar Abbas, Consultant of Preventive Medicine, Prince Sultan Military Medical City. "COVID-19 Vaccine and Effect on Emerging Variants" was presented by Dr. Maram Al Banyan, Allergy Specialist, King Faisal Specialist Hospital. The presentation title of Dr. Sana Al Shaikh, Consultant Molecular Microbiology from Maternity Children Hospital, Dammam, KSA was "Laboratory Testing: The role of PCR & Serology testing".

Another webinar about "Patient Safety in Acute Care setting: The Role of Point of Care testing in patient safety, implications on clinical practice" was held on Sep 17th in collaboration with Werfen and sponsored by Abdullah Fouad company. The webinar was enriched with different national and international speakers. From Norway "Dr. Guttorm Brattebe", Switzerland "Dr. Donat R Spahn", India "Dr. Dinesh Yadav", and Saudi Arabia "Dr. Malak Al Mashali".



SPOCTA: Saudi Point of Care Testing Association POCT Series III: Coagulation 8th June 2021

Top (L-R): Dr. Malak Al Mashali, Dr. Tarek Owaidah

Bottom (L-R): Mr. Rani Besisou, Dr. Waleed Al Omaim

On Sep 20th, 2021 the 4th SSCC Journal Club Meeting was held virtually and it was presented by Al Borg Diagnostic. Prof. Zuahair Awan, Secretary General of the SSCC was the moderator. Dr. Ola Elgadder (Group CMO, Al Borg Diagnostic and Mr. Zulfiqar Shaikh (Chief Operating Officer, Al Borg Diagnostic) talk was about "Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Laboratory Medicine".

All activities from May to Sep 2021 are summarized in the following table:

	Activity	Place	Type	Date	CME
1	Hepatitis: Common Facts	Online	Awareness	May 26, 2021	----
2	Series Laboratory Biomarkers of Diseases: Thyroid Diseases	Online	workshop	May 31, 2021	2 Hrs.
3	SPOCTA: Saudi Point of Care Testing Association POCT Series III - Coagulation	Online	workshop	June 08, 2021	3 Hrs.
4	3rd SSCC Journal Club Meeting 2021	Online	Journal Club	June 15, 2021	3 Hrs.
5	Med Lab 2021	Dubai	Booth	June 24-21, 2021	----
6	POCT Series IV: Improving Pre-Analytical Practice for Blood Gases and Related Analytes	Online	webinar	July 14, 2021	2 Hrs.
7	Laboratory Biomarkers of Diseases: COVID-19 Disease - Vaccination & Serology Markers	Online	webinar	September 14, 2021	3 Hrs.
8	Patient Safety in Acute Care setting - The role of Point of Care testing in patient safety, implications on clinical practice	Online	webinar	September 17, 2021	3 Hrs.
9	4th SSCC Journal Club Meeting 2021	Online	Journal Club	September 20, 2021	2 Hrs.



IFCC'S CALENDAR OF CONGRESSES, CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Calendar of IFCC Congresses/Conferences and Regional Federations' Congresses

Oct 18 - 22, 2021		<i>IFCC WG-FC Autumn School of Cell Analysis in Immunology</i>	Geneva, CH
Oct 20, 2021		<i>IFCC Townhall APFCB 2021</i>	Online event
Oct 20, 2021		<i>IFCC Live webinar on: Ethical dilemmas in laboratory medicine during pandemic</i>	Live webinar
Nov 2 - 4, 2021		<i>IFCC WG-Flow Cytometry Course - in collaboration with Fraunhofer and Beckman-Coulter</i>	Leipzig, DE
Nov 8, 2021		<i>IFCC Townhall COLABIOCLI NAFCC</i>	Online event
Nov 11 - 13, 2021		<i>AFCC Congress 2021</i>	Lusaka, ZM Online event

Calendar continued on next page

Nov 26 - 28, 2021		<i>International Congress of Pediatric Laboratory Medicine</i>	Munich, DE
Nov 28 - Dec 2, 2021		<i>XXIV IFCC - EFLM EuroMedLab Munich 2021</i>	Munich, DE
Dec 6 - 10, 2021		<i>IFCC-ICHCLR Workshop on overcoming challenges to global standardization of clinical laboratory testing: reference materials and regulations</i>	Paris, FR Online event
Mar 30 - Apr 2, 2022		<i>XXV COLABIOCLI Congress</i>	Leon, MX
June 26 - 30, 2022		<i>XXIV IFCC WORLDLAB Seoul 2022 XVI APFCB Congress Seoul 2022</i>	Seoul, KR
May 21 - 25, 2023		<i>XXV IFCC - EFLM WorldLab EuroMedLab - Rome 2023</i>	Rome, IT
<i>New date TBA</i>		<i>IFCC Forum for Young Scientists</i>	<i>TBA</i>

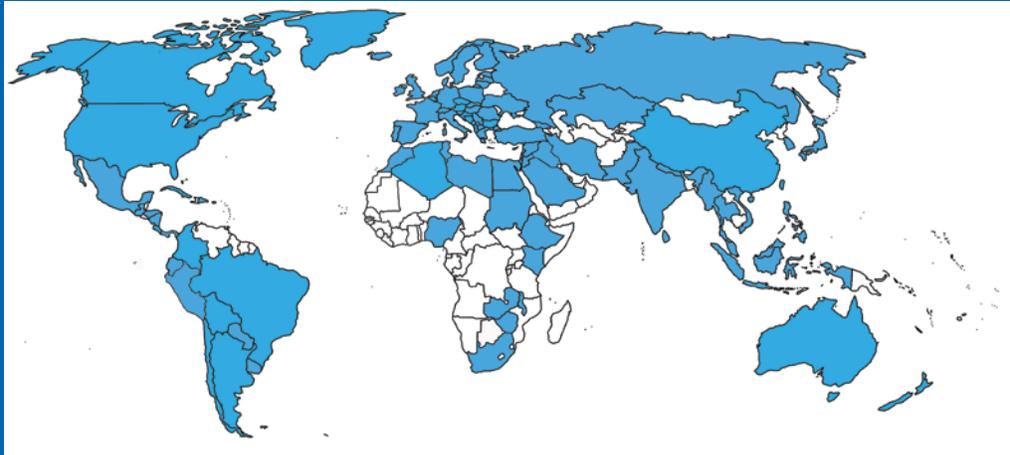
Other events with IFCC auspices

Mar 3 - Dec 3, 2021	<i>Virtual Diploma in Clinical Biochemistry program</i>	Mexico Online course
Jul 15 - Oct 15, 2021	<i>Course on Analytical Quality Control from ABC to SIGMA</i>	Mexico Online course
Aug 2, 2021 - Apr 3, 2022	<i>Virtual Diplomat in Selected Topics of Diagnostic Hematology for the Laboratory (Advanced Level) Second Generation</i>	Mexico Online course
Sep 1 - Nov 3, 2021	<i>1st EFLM online Postgraduate course: Biostatistics in Laboratory Medicine</i>	Online course
Oct 5 - Nov 4, 2021	<i>Internal Audits in the Clinical Laboratory</i>	Uruguay Online event
Oct 10 - 12, 2021	<i>XV Congress of Czech Society of Clinical Biochemistry</i>	Zlin, CZ
Oct 11 - 13, 2021	<i>53 National Congress of SIBioC Laboratory Medicine Laboratory Medicine in Proximity Medicine: telemedicine, roles and competences</i>	Italy Online event
Oct 18 - 19, 2021	Corporate Member Event: <i>International Symposium on Advances in Clinical Laboratory Diagnostics</i>	Snibe Online event
Oct 20, 2021	<i>Academia SEQC-ML: First Edition –External Quality Assurance Programs</i>	Spain Online event
Oct 27 - 30, 2021	<i>International Biochemistry Congress: 32nd National Biochemistry Congress of TBS</i>	Gaziantep, TR
Oct 28 - 30, 2021	<i>II National Meeting Conquilab and Technological</i>	Mazatlan, MX
Nov 4 - 6, 2021	<i>19th National Congress of Clinical Chemistry</i>	Athens, GR Hybrid event
Nov 17, 2021	<i>Advances in neonatal screening for congenital hypothyroidism: Current situation and future prospects in the new detection strategies</i>	Spain Online event

Nov 19 - 20, 2021	54 èmes Journées de Biologie Praticienne - JBP	Paris, FR
Nov 19, 2021	<i>Annual Meeting of the Royal Belgian Society of Laboratory Medicine</i>	Brussels, BE Hybrid event
Nov 30 - Dec 3, 2021	<i>3rd International Meeting in Clinical Chemistry & Laboratory Medicine & SSCC 7th Annual Meeting</i>	Saudi Arabia Online event
Dec 1 -2, 2021	<i>Journées de l'innovation en biologie JIB 2021</i>	Paris, FR Hybrid event
Dec 3, 2021 - Jul 3, 2022	<i>Virtual Diplomate in Clinical Biochemistry</i>	Mexico Online course
Dec 6 - 7, 2021	<i>X Molecular Cytopathology</i>	Naples, IT Hybrid event
Dec 12 - 15, 2021	<i>47th Annual conference of Association of Clinical Biochemists of India (ACBICON 2021): "Towards a Better Tomorrow"</i>	India Online event
Feb 10 - 11, 2022	<i>International Congress on Quality in Laboratory Medicine</i>	Helsinki, FI
May 23 - 26, 2022	<i>10th Santorini Conference "Systems medicine and personalized health and therapy" – "The odyssey from hope to practice: Patient first – Keeps Ithaca always in your mind"</i>	Santorini, GR
Oct 4 - 9, 2022	<i>FEBS Advanced Course: 360-degree Lysosome; from structure to genomics, from function to disease-update</i>	Izmir, TR
Oct 14 - 17, 2022	<i>46th ISOBM Congress</i>	Bled, SI
New date TBA	<i>XXII Serbian Congress of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine & 16th Symposium for Balkan Region</i>	Belgrade, SRB

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Publisher

**Communications and Publications
Division (CPD) of the IFCC**

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

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Design & Production:



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° 1/2 – January/February: *by mid January*

N° 3 – March: *by mid February*

N° 4 – April: *by mid March*

N° 5 – May: *by mid April*

N° 6 – June: *by mid May*

N° 7/8 – July/August: *by mid June*

N° 9 – September: *by mid August*

N° 10 – October: *by mid September*

N° 11 – November: *by mid October*

N° 12 – December: *by mid November*

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