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International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine





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## EDITORIAL

### Message from the eNews Editor

*by Katherina Psarra*  
eNews Editor

Dear colleagues,

With the first raindrops the summer is gone... As the summer is still here in Greece and especially in the islands, it is a great idea to join us in Crete for the IFCC-GSCC Joint Symposium on October 2nd.

In the meantime, full of images of sunsets, seascapes or green mountains, we are back to work in our labs. It is a different time of the year!

IFCC, our international society that gives us visibility as lab people and shows our importance all over the world, is planning lots of events for this fall. The most important event is the IFCC General Conference in Brussels, where we will celebrate the 70-year anniversary of IFCC. Our President, Prof. Adeli invites us to this wonderful event in his message.

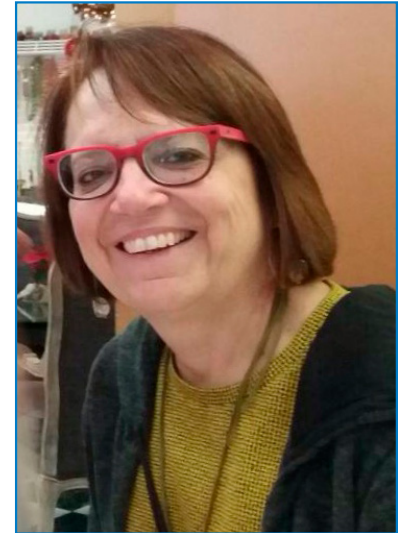
In this issue of the eNews you will find Ms. Helen Martin's very interesting description of the WorldLab in Seoul, with a lot of information about the city, the congress, the people, the atmosphere.

In this issue, an interview with Prof. Michael Neumaier on the 70 years' anniversary and his long experience in his positions in IFCC offers a great view of IFCC life over time.

News from the committees and working groups and corporate members are completing this issue.

With my best wishes for a wonderful fall!

*Katherina Psarra*



Katherina Psarra, MSc, PhD



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## THE VOICE OF IFCC

### IFCC President's Message – September 2022



Prof. Khosrow Adeli  
PhD, FCACB, DABCC, FAACC

*by Khosrow Adeli*  
*IFCC President*

Greetings to everyone in the IFCC family! I hope you have all had a wonderful summer. Here at IFCC, we are looking forward to a very productive Fall season. There are many upcoming events planned this quarter as we come out of the COVID-19 pandemic. These include the AFCB Congress in Broummana, Lebanon (September 8-10), IFCC-GSCC Joint Symposium in Crete, Greece (October 2), as well as several other meetings, workshops, and live webinars. For more information, visit the [IFCC website](#). I look forward to seeing our IFCC community at these important events!

This Fall, IFCC will also be hosting the General Conference for invited IFCC Officers in Brussels, Belgium from October 28-31, 2022. Members of Committees and Taskforces as well as Presidents of National Societies and Regional Federations have been invited and are encouraged to attend. This year's meeting will present a special opportunity to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of IFCC, recognizing 70 years of

global leadership in laboratory medicine and celebrating our contributions to advancing excellence in laboratory medicine for better healthcare worldwide.

his occasion will be commemorated throughout the meeting with special events, including a social dinner with live jazz music. Alongside updates from IFCC functional groups including new IFCC Task Forces, several special symposia are planned including: presentations from IFCC Past Presidents, presentations from all six Regional Federation Presidents, a Special Symposium on the Central Role of Lab Medicine in Patient Care & Public Health with expert presentations from AACC, WHO, and others, as well as an Industry Forum by diagnostic industry leaders on the Future of IVD over the Next Decade. Brussels will set the perfect backdrop for these activities as a truly global city, often referred to as the "capital of Europe".

In addition to upcoming events, the IFCC Task Force on Outcome Studies in Laboratory Medicine (TF-OSLM) is developing a funded research program for investigators in clinical labs, hospitals, and other institutions located around the world to conduct new retrospective and prospective research with outcomes that assess the value of laboratory medicine in healthcare overall. A [call for proposals](#) has been sent out, seeking research proposals for studies evaluating the impact of laboratory testing on health outcomes. These activities will fulfill the strategic objectives set out by TF-OSLM, which include promotion of directed research evaluating the role of laboratory medicine on clinical outcomes as well as building awareness and understanding with regard to the critical role laboratory medicine plays in healthcare outcomes.

Looking forward to a very productive fall season for IFCC member societies, national federations, and colleagues from around the world. As always, feel free to email me at [president@ifcc.org](mailto:president@ifcc.org) with your feedback, questions, or concerns.

Cheers, Khosrow 😊





## Call for nominations for IFCC Regional Federation Representatives 2024-2026

The IFCC Nominations Committee is announcing the call for nominations for Regional Federation representative members of the IFCC Executive Board for service from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2026. Each of the six IFCC Regional Federations (AFCC, AFCC, APFCB, EFLM, COLABIOCLI, and NAFCC), will be represented at the Executive Board by one representative of its Region.

This election is under the responsibility of the IFCC Nominations Committee according to the last version of the IFCC statutes and rules. Any full member society in good standing may nominate an individual to serve in the IFCC Executive Board representing his/her Regional Federation.

In order to be an effective representative for the Regional Federation each elected individual should be a member of the IFCC Executive Committee throughout the three-year period 2024-2026. It is for the Regional Executive Committee/Board to determine how this may be achieved, whilst respecting the right of any IFCC Full Member society to submit a nomination. The candidate should have a thorough knowledge of the functioning of his/her Region and must ensure that he/she is able to work in harmony with the Regional Executive Committee/Board and the IFCC Regional membership.

### TIMETABLE:

- **1st September – 30th November 2022**

The call for nominations for the Regional Representatives will be sent to IFCC Full Member Societies and to the Regional Federation Executive Committees/Boards. The closing date for nominations is 30th November 2022.

- **1st – 31st December 2022**

The Nominations Committee will consult with the respective Regional Executive Committee/Board to determine the eligibility of each Regional Candidate. The IFCC Office then sets the slate for the candidates for each Region.

- **1st – 31st January 2023**

Slate of candidates is distributed widely throughout IFCC.

- **1st – 28th February 2023**

Electronic Ballot - The Electorate will be the IFCC Full Members in each Region. The ballot will take place even if there is only a single nomination. The election will be arranged by the IFCC Office using the independent electronic voting system employed by IFCC. The only exception is the “North American Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine-NAFCC”; for this specific case, being only two IFCC Full Members forming NAFCC, confirmation in writing, by both Full Member societies supporting the single valid nominee, will remove the need for electronic voting.

- **By 31st March 2023**

Announcement of elected Regional Representatives.

- **May 2023**

The elected EB Members for 2024 – 2026 will be presented at the IFCC Council in Rome.

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## Call for nominations for Corporate Representative position within the IFCC EB 2024-2026

The IFCC Nominations Committee is announcing the call for nominations of the Corporate Member Representative for service on the Executive Board (EB) from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2026.

Corporate Members are important partners for IFCC, making a valuable contribution to its scientific, educational and professional activities. The election of the Corporate Member Representative to the EB is an essential component of the operational and strategic management of the Federation, and its influence in the global field of laboratory medicine.

### TIMETABLE FOR THE ELECTION OF THE CORPORATE REPRESENTATIVE:

- **1st September - 30th November 2022:**  
Call for nominations
- **1st - 31st December 2022:**  
Nominations Committee determines the eligibility of each candidate and sets the slate for the candidates for time in office 2024-2026
- **1st - 31st January 2023:**  
Slate of candidates is distributed to Corporate Members
- **1st - 28th February 2023:** Electronic Ballot by Corporate Members
- **By 31st March 2023:**  
Result communicated to candidates
- **May 2023:**  
Successful candidate presented to the IFCC Council in Rome

### NOMINATION PROCEDURE:

- **Nominations** must be sent electronically to the IFCC office ([ifcc@ifcc.org](mailto:ifcc@ifcc.org)) **by 30th November**.
  - **Consent from the applicant's employer** (who must be an IFCC Corporate Member in good standing), must also be provided.
  - **Nominees are invited to include in the application form** a short position statement.
-



## Call for nominations for the election of the IFCC Secretary and Treasurer

The IFCC Nominations Committee is announcing the schedule for the election of the next IFCC Secretary and Treasurer who will serve on the Executive Board (EB) from January 1st, 2024 to December 31st, 2026.

IFCC Full Member Societies are invited to nominate appropriate candidates for these two positions on the EB.

The election to the IFCC EB is a major step for the operational and strategic management of the Federation based on global partnership to strengthen the IFCC community. The EB team should develop a common vision based on a federal approach, which respects the diversity of cultures.

We invite you to propose candidates with a strong work ethic and vision who will commit to the Federation to assure a sustainable IFCC future, in a changing health care environment.

- **1st July – 30th September 2022:**  
Call for nominations
- **1st - 31st October 2022:**  
Nominations Committee determines the eligibility of each candidate and sets the slate for the IFCC Secretary and Treasurer for time in office 2024-2026
- **1st November - 31st December 2022:**  
Slate of candidates is distributed widely throughout IFCC
- **1st - 31st January 2023:**  
Electronic ballot
- **By 28th February 2023:**  
Results announced





## The IFCC WorldLab Seoul 2022 report

*by Helen Martin*

*Chemical Pathology, SA Pathology, Adelaide, Australia*

*APFCB Secretary*

*IFCC Congresses and Conferences Committee Corresponding Member*



The 24th International WorldLab Congress of the IFCC and 16th Congress of the Asia-Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (APFCB) was hosted by the Korean Society for Clinical Chemistry (KSCC) in the vibrant and beautiful city of Seoul, at once a bustling mecca of technology and skyscrapers and an oasis of tranquil gardens and Buddhist Temples and Palaces. Postponed due to the Covid pandemic from its original dates in 2020, the 24th IFCC WorldLab was rescheduled to January 2021 and again, finally, to 26-30th June 2022; this later time opened the wonderful opportunity to combine WorldLab for the first time with the APFCB Congress.

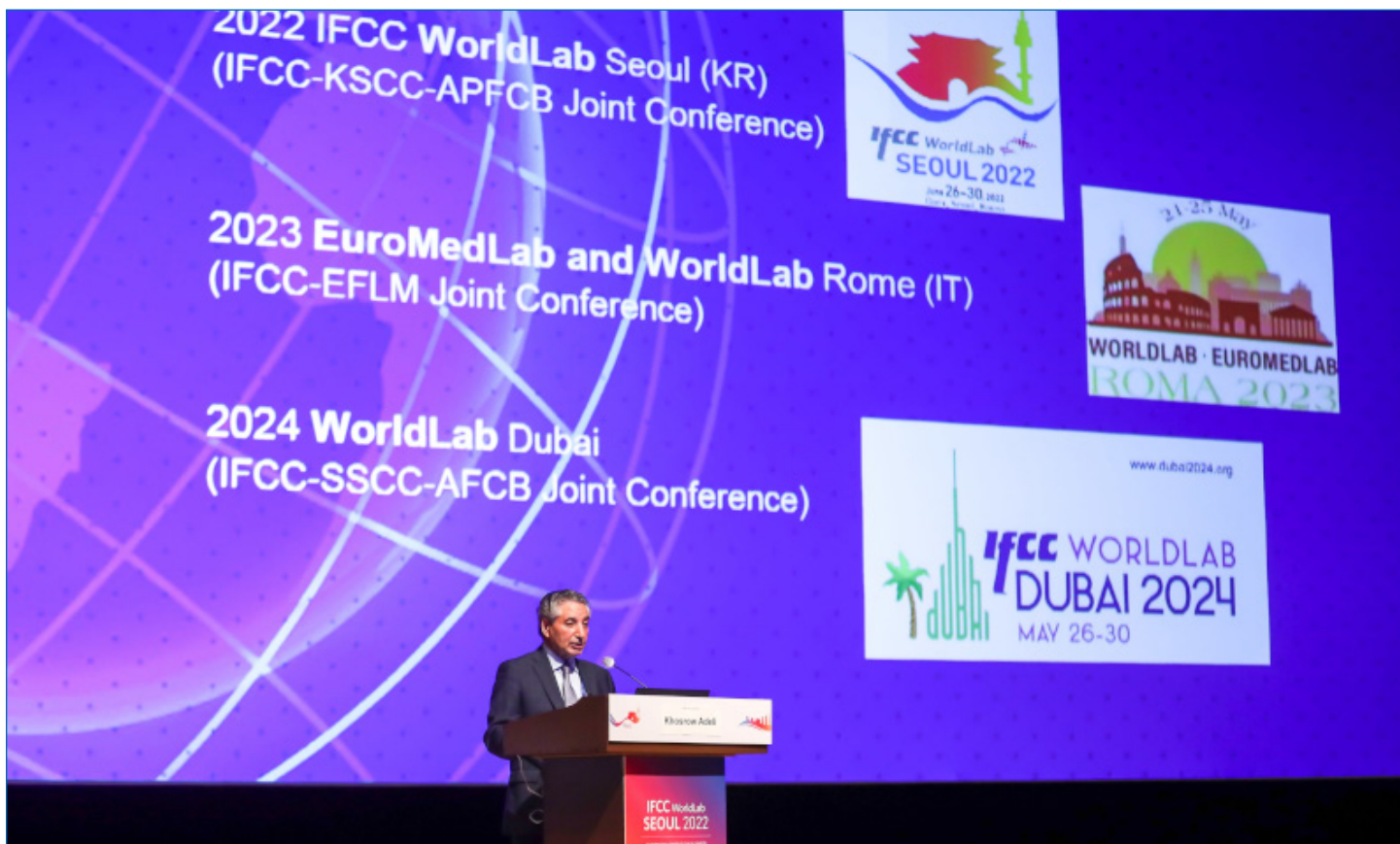
Laboratory Medicine is fundamental for optimal healthcare and laboratory professionals worldwide strive to provide high quality and cost-efficient service to their communities. Hence the Congress theme of Value-Based Laboratory Medicine was most appropriate and provided delegates with the opportunity to meet and be informed by experts in this area from around the world, enabling sharing of knowledge and facilitating improved health outcomes. Following the opening ceremony with its welcome addresses from IFCC President Khosrow Adeli, APFCB Vice-President Endang Hoyaranda and KSCC Congress President Won-Ki Min and entertaining and thought-provoking lecture entitled “Almighty Google knows everything about you” Congress delegates enjoyed a welcome cocktail banquet, for many the first opportunity in over two years to meet with international colleagues and friends, a truly welcome and joyous evening.

The scientific program flowed over the next three and a half days with four plenary lectures addressing the challenges of “Maximizing the value of laboratory medicine in Korea”, “Adding clinical utility to laboratory reports” as well as state of the art developments “Pharmacogenomics from discovery to clinic” and “Next Generation Sequencing analysis of genetic diseases”. Twenty-eight symposia, including five provided by IFCC and three by APFCB, provided expert insights into current challenges and opportunities such as utilization management of laboratory tests, using big data to improve healthcare, applications of advanced mobile web technology and laboratory information system technology. Advances in laboratory aspects of major disease burdens worldwide such as kidney disease, diabetes and sepsis were shared as well as educational sessions covering essential fundamentals such as standardization, harmonization, traceability, method assessment and quality control. In addition, many diagnostic companies provided workshops.

The exhibition space housed thirty-eight diagnostic company booths each eager to share information regarding their latest tests and equipment. An interesting initiative by the organisers was that, for the first time at an IFCC meeting, posters were presented electronically within the exhibition space.

While the congress offered the opportunity of virtual participation, a positive and valuable development arising from the pandemic and one which I believe is likely to persist into the future, for those who could participate face-to-face the 24th IFCC and 16th APFCB Congress in Seoul was a worthwhile and memorable experience.

*Article continued on next page*



Prof. Khosrow Adeli, IFCC President, at the Congress Opening



The great group of Young Scientists attending the Congress and the IFCC FORUM for Young Scientists





The exhibition area of the Congress



Break and networking during the Congress





Dr. Helen Martin, APFCB Secretary, with one of the delegates



Korean delegation with Presidents and authorities

## IFCC Professional Exchange Programme: call for hosting labs



The IFCC is happy to announce a major expansion of the Professional Exchange Programme (PEP) and an increase the number of awards to support training of young scientists and continuing education of other laboratory professionals at clinical laboratory centres and IVD facilities around the world.

To facilitate this endeavour and to help applicants find the most suitable hosting laboratory, we wish to develop a list of potential Hosting Laboratories.

Hosting Laboratories should ensure:

- Availability of ample scientific expertise to train a visiting scientist
- Availability of space and time to provide training
- Access to laboratory facilities and resources
- Access to lab scientists and lab managers/supervisors

If you are available to host a visiting Young Scientist, please fill in the form (*Excel file format*).

**DEADLINE: September 30, 2022**

For additional information on PSEP and PMEP, please visit:

<https://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-education-division/pep-professional-exchange-programme/>.



## News from the IFCC Committee on Point-Of-Care Testing

*by Adil I. Khan  
Chair, IFCC C-POCT*

The IFCC Committee on Point-of-Care Testing held their meeting in Seoul.

Located on the Han river that bisects the city, Seoul has a fascinating history and is home to King Sejong the Great (May 7, 1397–April 8, 1450) who ruled during the Joseon Kingdom (1392–1910), and is best known for promoting literacy. He invented hangul, the Korean alphabet and made it simpler than Chinese so that everyone had the ability to learn it easily.

His promotion of science and scholarly activities made it a fitting city to host the IFCC 24th WorldLab Conference.

Among the items discussed by the POCT Committee was establishing a “POCT Tool Kit” on the IFCC website to help individuals setting up POC testing services.

Furthermore, the committee will be presenting a webinar in January 2023, titled, “POCT: Developing Community Resilience”, with the following speakers and titles: Julie Shaw, “Real-life performance of rapid antigen tests for COVID-19”, Rajiv Erasmus, “How Point of Care Testing has leveraged Infectious Disease Management and Outcomes in Africa,” and Gerald Kost on, “The COVID-19 Spatial Care Path: Home, Community, and Emergency Diagnostic Portals.”

Finally an IFCC POCT Symposium is also planned in Pakistan in 2023.



King Sejong The Great (May 7, 1397–April 8, 1450)



L-R: Anne Skurup, Adil Khan (Committee chair),  
Lena Jafri and Marianne Mulder





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## IFCC CELEBRATES 70 YEARS

### Interview

with Prof. Michael Neumaier



Prof. Michael Neumaier

*Interviewer: Dr. BQF Maria del Carmen Pasquel  
Member, CPR and WG-IANT/RIA/CPD-IFCC*

With following interview, we present the fourth interview delineating the many outstanding achievements of the IFCC over the past decades, the enormous achievements, the many important milestones that have been accomplished contributing to the IFCC's mission of "Advancing excellence in laboratory medicine for better healthcare worldwide"

IFCC is celebrating 70 years of its foundation and we are conducting interviews with prominent professionals and authorities, for this reason we want to know your valuable opinion on following topics.

Prof. Michael Neumaier is a German Clinical Chemist, Laboratory Physician and immunologist by training and a European Specialist in Laboratory Medicine (EU-SpLM). He has been appointed professor at the Universities of Hamburg and Heidelberg. Since 2002, he is the chair of Clinical Chemistry and director of the Institute for Clinical Chemistry and the central laboratories at the Medical Faculty Mannheim of Heidelberg University. He has served his university many years in various capacities including Dean of Studies and vice Dean, a position he will hold until 2023. Prof. Neumaier has been the Founding Director of the Mannheim Institute for Innate Immunosciences (MI3) and of the Mannheim Institute for intelligent Systems in Medicine (MIiSM).

Prof. Neumaier has served the German Society for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (DGKL) in the Executive Board and as DGKL President. By appointment of the German Medical Council (BÄK), he is a director of the national



Dr. Maria del Carmen Pasquel

*Article continued on next page*

**“External Quality Assessment in Laboratory Medicine” programs and a founding member of the German Gene Diagnostics Commission. From 2016 to 2021, he has been Executive Board member of the EFLM and served as EFLM President between 2018 and 2019. Over the years until today, Prof. Neumaier has contributed to several working groups, task forces and committees in IFCC.**

**His research interests are in molecular diagnostics of malignant disease for early detection of cancer and therapy resistance, the molecular immunology of the innate immune system and preanalytical stability and quality of biomolecular markers. He is engaged in establishing and validating digitalization strategies for improved laboratory diagnostics and preventive medicine. His scientific oeuvre features approximately 240 mostly original research papers, a large body of scientific abstracts, book chapter contributions and numerous conference appearances.**

**1. How has IFCC helped scientific organizations in these 70 years of its foundation, especially those in which you have been president, director or member, such as: EFLM, DGKL, BAK, EQA, etc.**

There are many answers to this important question, and all of them show that IFCC has provided great value to the field of laboratory diagnostics since her inception. IFCC has managed to bring together national member societies with very different backgrounds of various health care ecosystems. By doing so, the IFCC has continuously generated enthusiasm among like-minded laboratory specialists of different professional backgrounds to contribute their skills in the various causes. Everyone who has been serving in IFCC’s active groups and committees has – in my opinion - experienced that IFCC stands for progress in laboratory diagnostic affairs, and the lively structure of the different IFCC divisions bears witness to this. In essence, this concept carries well for 70 years and has grown the organization since the beginnings. I personally go back only 35 years as clinical chemist and laboratory physician in different capacities, and from my experience, IFCC always has been a beacon of orientation, guidance and professional and scientific exchange. For example, the German DGKL and her EQA organization has been proud to contribute to the standardization of methods and quality management activities within IFCC and has benefitted from the international collaborations in important groups like the JCTLM, Molecular Diagnostics and others. During my time in the EFLM, we have seen IFCC governing structures opening to the 6 Regional Federations allowing them to directly participate in the internal discussions and decision-making of the EB. To me, that demonstrates a healthy concept. Furthermore, I really appreciate IFCC’s sustained activities to support emerging countries in their efforts to advance their diagnostic capabilities, make their clinical laboratories more attractive for young scientists and form networks of mutual support, something that we were able to forward very successfully in EFLM starting under Sverre Sandberg’s Presidency and coming to full fruition under my successor Ana-Maria Simundic, who has been very successful in this.

**2. In these 70 years, what do you consider has been the highlight of IFCC in laboratory medicine?**

To single out one achievement is difficult. IFCC has been extremely successful in her efforts to harmonize laboratory diagnostics, standardize procedures and methods and provide frameworks for sophisticated and comprehensive quality management systems and procedures. While high-quality laboratory results are often being taken for granted in the every-day medical routines, we should appreciate that the underlying ground-breaking achievements and concepts continue to carry and be relevant in today's increasingly rapid analytical developments.

While I was in the EB of EFLM, IFCC launched, under President Maurizio Ferrari, the Emerging Technology Division (ETD), a move much discussed at the time. Looking at the increasingly rapid developments in technology – not only in analytical sectors, but particular in data science, data integration, connectivity and patient orientation – I believe that Laboratory Medicine can have a great future, if we manage timely responses to new scientific and diagnostic challenges in the health care sector. In my opinion, a dedicated division to identify new disruptive areas that are relevant for us, is a highlight and should be helpful for the development of our field.

**3. How do you see the future of IFCC in the global context of our profession, for example in the EMB Committee, Clinical Molecular Biology Curriculum, of which you were Chair?**

Two answers: The pandemic has shown how very efficient laboratory diagnostics can be, and how international collaborations are efficiently channeled through an organization like IFCC. Nobody should forget the contributions that countless laboratories all over the world have provided to identify and contain SARS-CoV2 infections. Personally, I think we should take this opportunity to discuss how to further increase the visibility of the laboratory and future diagnostic strategies particularly in scenarios of disease distribution through mobile societies. Close collaborations between national societies and Regional Federations may effectively tackle regional health challenges from the perspective of the medical laboratory. For example, EFLM and our friends in the AFCB have initiated the task force "Laboratory for Mobile societies" (LM4MS), and we were very happy about the endorsement of IFCC by President Adeli on our first regional EFLM/ AFCB conference in 2021.

Furthermore, while Laboratory Medicine will continue to provide important local medical services, the mobility of societies will grow. New strategies to provide laboratory diagnostics will emerge through new technologies together with increasing access to health services. In IFCC, we need to develop concepts to respond to the future challenge of changing occupational profiles that will be more driven by data processing and management for improved clinical decision support. Our programs for education and continuous professional development need to reflect these developments, bringing me to the last point of

this argument: A big catalyzer for a successful future Laboratory Medicine will be engaged generations of young laboratory specialists. With specific reference to your question: I have gained the experience over the years in C-CMBC and other IFCC working groups, but also in discussions with young colleagues during my travels for EFLM that there is a great interest and appreciation of young scientists for mentoring. There is a great openness and curiosity of young individuals to learn and improve their knowledge, for which they were willing to travel quite some distances in order to participate in classes e.g. in C-CMBC.

#### 4. A short message for all the great community that we are part of IFCC, in these 70 years of foundation

The 70 years of IFCC have been an exceptional success story for our profession and have laid a strong foundation both in analytics and with respect to our togetherness. Considering the increased potentials at hand, Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine will have a bright future in line with an old, but unabatedly important quote from Franz Volhard, a famous German physician in the early 20th century: “Before the therapy, the gods have put diagnosis”.

### News from the IFCC Website

#### eJIFCC Vol 33 n°2 - 2022



eJIFCC Vol 33 n°2 is now available!

In this issue: Current laboratory aspects of COVID-19. Dr Béla Nagy, Guest Editor of this issue writes: “At the time of writing this foreword for the “COVID-19” thematic issue of the eJIFCC, over half a billion Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) positive cases and more than 6.3 million COVID-19 related deaths have been recorded worldwide emphasizing the global impact of this pandemic.

We have already witnessed initial waves of the infection, and the vaccination campaigns in most countries have topped the near maximum number of immunized individuals, who opted to receive at least one dose of vaccine. On the other hand, we cannot predict recurrence of dramatic increases in the number of new (severe) cases in the future.

This current thematic issue of the eJIFCC is constituted by a series of manuscripts submitted from various parts of the world and provides an overview on various laboratory aspects of COVID-19.

[Read more](#)





21-25 May



# WORLDLAB · EUROMEDLAB ROMA 2023



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Moderator



**Dr. Snežana Jovičić**  
[Serbia]

Assistant Professor, Department  
for Medical Biochemistry, Faculty  
of Pharmacy, University of  
Belgrade

New biomarkers for diagnosis  
and treatment of PCOS



**Dr. Iva Perović Blagojević**  
[Serbia]

Head of the Biochemistry Department  
Service for Laboratory Diagnostics, Clinical  
Hospital Center, Dr Dragiša Mišović-  
Dedinje<sup>a</sup>, Belgrade

Methodology and clinical utility  
of thyrotropin antibodies  
determination



**Mrs. Marija Sarić Matutinović**  
[Serbia]

Teaching Assistant and a Research  
Assistant at the Faculty of Pharmacy  
University of Belgrade

Interferences in hormone  
immunoassays



**Prof. Neda Milinković**  
[Serbia]

Assistant Professor  
Faculty of Pharmacy – University of  
Belgrade

Date: September 21, 2022

Time: 8 AM (Eastern Standard), 2 PM (Central European), 8 PM (Beijing)



## CONTRIBUTE TO IFCC eNews

### The relevance of measuring in clinical laboratory processes: experience of a clinical pathology service in a middle-income country



**Author: Angel Ampuero Romero**

*Resident in Clinical Pathology, Hospital III Suarez Angamos, Social Security, Peru*

**Editor: Luis Figueroa Montes**

*President of the Peruvian Medical Association of Clinical Pathology, Peru*

The World Health Organization defines quality as “Ensuring that each patient receives the most appropriate set of diagnostic and therapeutic services to achieve optimal health care, taking into account all the factors and knowledge of the patient and the service” (1). This definition gives a patient-oriented external user satisfaction approach, since a good result indirectly measures the process.

The word quality comes from the Latin “*Qualitas*” which is in turn derived from the Greek “*Kalos*” which has several meanings that revolve in relation to a quality of an aspect such as: the good, the honest, the beautiful, the noble, pleasure and happiness (2).

It could be inferred that the described qualities of the Greek «*Kalos*» are reflected in the patients who received quality care. However, it is necessary that these benefits of quality are also reflected in Laboratory Medicine professionals, who are the most important component of the process «Quality must be reflected in the internal and external user».

From this concept of quality derive its components, characteristics and other definitions such as «*Quality Indicators*», which are a measurement tool. In the last century William Thomson Kelvin mentioned «What is not defined cannot be measured. What is not measured *cannot be improved. What is not improved, is always degraded*». This sentence summarizes the impact of the importance and implementation of quality indicators in clinical laboratory processes (3).

In addition, do not forget that quality encompassing several fields, was landed in the health area by the hand of Avedis Donabedian, a pioneer in implementing the concept of quality in health systems who defines it as a “Property of medical care which can be obtained in various degrees» (4).

In Peru, there is a segmented and divided health system, where more than five health subsystems coexist in parallel. The majority being public health establishments, such as those of the Ministry of Health (MINSA), social security (EsSalud) and the armed and police forces (5).

Due to the high demand for health, public establishments manage the crisis «*Putting out fires*» where the unplanned and urgent are prioritized, perhaps displacing quality in clinical laboratories, added to the absence of a national program that promotes the accreditation of themselves (6.7).

It is at this point that laboratory medicine professionals must take the leading role, taking charge of quality in all phases of the total test process. To be certain that «*The processes work well, it is not enough to have the perception of it; it is necessary to be able to measure them with indicators*». By measuring them they can be improved and even compared with other laboratories and perhaps even with companies from other sectors of the industry, as is the case with *Generic Benchmarking*.

We describe an experience carried out in a social security hospital (200 beds on average), in a clinical laboratory, implementing a quality indicator and carrying out a productive analysis of the underlying causes of the problem.

*Article continued on next page*

This indicator was designed to measure the number of laboratory tests processed, the results of which are not displayed in the virtual medical record within the first 24 hours. At the same time, we sought to identify the causes that caused this delay. It was identified that in the pre-pre-analytical phase with the generation of laboratory requests by the treating physicians, they presented coding errors for the tests. This hindered a correct link from the hospital information system (HIS) with our laboratory information system (LIS), they had patient errors with double and even triple codes, having the same sample generated by different labels or having to extravasate other tubes. Bugs were fixed (8).

After several findings and in a quality meeting with all staff, it became clear that there is a need to implement more indicators and robust quality assurance. It should be noted that there are not enough human and financial resources in the public sector to be able to strengthen the entire test process with external quality assessment programs in the pre- and post-analytical components. Currently, most clinical laboratories focus on participating in external evaluation programs only in the analytical component. At present, we do not have laboratories in Peru accredited by the accrediting entity, with the ISO 15189 standard in the public sector (9).

My name is Angel Ampuero, I am a resident doctor in clinical pathology or also known as Laboratory Medicine, as a pathologist in training, I have been embracing this specialty for about two years and I realize how important it is to be able to measure what we do to improve processes and contribute to one of the pillars that sustains quality, which is «*User satisfaction, both external and internal, and at the same time strengthening continuous improvement*». I work at Hospital III Suárez Angamos and I hope to continue sharing my experience on this journey of the use of quality indicators in clinical laboratories.

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## NEWS FROM REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND MEMBER SOCIETIES

### Dr. Luis García de Guadiana awarded for best clinical research article published in 2021 in the European Journal of Clinical Investigation

# SEQC<sup>ML</sup>

Sociedad Española de Medicina de Laboratorio

by *Mercè Ibarz Escuer, PhD*  
*SEQC<sup>ML</sup> - IFCC National Representative*  
*Laboratori Clínic ICS Lleida*  
*Hospital Universitari Arnau de Vilanova*  
*Lleida, Spain*

Within the context of the Congress of the European Society for Clinical Investigation **Dr. Luis García de Guadiana receives award for best clinical research article published in 2021 in the European Journal of Clinical Investigation.**

- Dr. Luis García de Guadiana Romualdo is a specialist in the Clinical Analysis Service of the Santa Lucía University Hospital (Cartagena) and a member of the Commission of Biological Magnitudes related to Medical Emergencies of the SEQC<sup>ML</sup>.
- The award-winning article confirmed the high incidence of myocardial damage in COVID-19 patients.
- Troponin, measured in the first 24 hours of admission, was a useful tool for risk stratification, being the variable that contributed the most information to the final predictive model.

**Madrid, June 17, 2022.** During the recent Congress of the European Society for Clinical Investigation (ESCI), held in Bari from June 8 to 10, the article “Cardiac troponin and COVID-19 severity: Results from BIOCOVID study”, whose lead author is Dr. Luis García de Guadiana Romualdo, a specialist in the Clinical Analysis Service of the Santa Lucía University Hospital (Cartagena) and a member of the SEQC<sup>ML</sup> Commission on Biological Magnitudes related to Medical Emergencies, received the award for best clinical research article published during the year 2021 in the *European Journal of Clinical Investigation*.

This article is one of three manuscripts published in international journals based on the data obtained in the BIOCOVID Multicenter Registry, an initiative of Laboratory Medicine professionals in Spain in which 32 hospitals from 9 autonomous communities participated and which received the patronage of the Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQC<sup>ML</sup>), among other societies. The main objective of this study was to evaluate the usefulness of a series of biochemical, hematometric, and coagulation markers, readily available in an emergency room laboratory, for risk stratification in COVID-19 patients who required hospital admission during the first wave of the pandemic in our country.

At the award ceremony, Dr. García de Guadiana Romualdo, in addition to thanking all the professionals involved in the study for their collaboration, explained that the objectives of this study were to assess the incidence of myocardial damage, defined by the concentration of troponin, in the study population, and to analyze the association of the damage with hospital mortality, as well as the possible influence of the use of cut-off points stratified by sex, as recommended by the IFCC (International Federation of Clinical Chemistry).

The study, which included 1,280 patients, confirmed the high incidence of myocardial damage in COVID-19 patients, which was higher in the subgroup of patients in which troponin T was used as an indicator. The use of cut-off points stratified by sex slightly increased the percentage of patients with myocardial damage. In addition, troponin, measured in the first 24 hours of admission, was a useful tool for risk stratification, being the variable that provided the most information to the final predictive model.

## The EFLM Task Group on Chronic Kidney Diseases

*Reported by Etienne Cavalier*

*Chair, EFLM Task Group on Chronic Kidney Diseases*



Etienne Cavalier

A very important and strong connexion exists between Nephrology and Laboratory Medicine. Indeed, renal diseases are not frequently symptomatic and Nephrologists rely most of the time on laboratory results to diagnose or monitor patients suffering from kidney diseases. Chronic Kidney Diseases (CKD) represent a significant burden for the society since it is estimated that around 10% of the adult population is affected. Hence, early diagnostic is of paramount importance and the detection (and quantification) of proteinuria and the estimation of the glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) are two strategic pillars of the KDIGO Guidelines. Yet, such Guidelines are often based on the assumption that results provided by clinical laboratories in the world are comparable. Important efforts of standardization have been made these last years, especially for serum creatinine and cystatin C. The field is however rapidly evolving and since the last inquiry in 2019 on the state of the art of



laboratory clinical practice for the measurement of creatinine, cystatin C, the use of formulas and the measurement of GFR, new equations have been published and the interest in iohexol clearance for the measurement of GFR is increasing. Among the “new” equations, the CKD-EPI has proposed a “race-free” equation which is giving questionable result, especially from an European perspective. The European Kidney Function Consortium

(EKFC) has also proposed new equations, based on European cohorts and on the usage of the “Q value”, defined as the median serum creatinine concentration in the population for which it is used. This equation is also valid from infants (>2 years) to the older old. Other European equations, like the Revised Lund-Malmö equation, are also available. Determination of iohexol clearance by HPLC-UV or LCMS-MS to measure the glomerular filtration rate is now recommended in various clinical settings, like in kidney donors, children undergoing chemotherapy, extreme body mass (low and high) and in any situation where creatinine or cystatin C are simply inaccurate to reflect kidney function.



For all these reasons, the EFLM Executive Board has decided to create the **EFLM Task Group on Chronic Kidney Diseases** which will aim at promoting the GFR measurement and the use of the European population-based equations in Europe. To know more: [click here](#) for the dedicated page in the EFLM website.

## The EFLM Working Group on Artificial Intelligence

*Reported by Michel Langlois*

*Chair of the EFLM Science Committee*

**Andrea Padoan**

*Chair of the EFLM Working Group on Artificial Intelligence*

The EFLM has initiated the creation of new Working Group on Artificial Intelligence (AI) under the Science Committee. This decision was made after the 3rd EFLM Strategic Conference on May 25-27, 2022, which dealt with this topic. AI is an important emerging technology, and in the future, it is likely that it will become integrated in many applications of laboratory medicine. Machine learning (ML), a methodological approach developed within the field of AI aimed at developing algorithms and models by which to make classifications and predictions based on large amounts of data, has gained a place in medicine and increasingly also in laboratory medicine for evaluating and interpreting biochemical data, although the application of ML in clinical laboratories still appears to be an unexpectedly slow process. Indeed, it has been proven that laboratory results were often used in AI application, but medical specialties like intensive care, infectiology and others have used these data more efficiently than laboratory medicine in 2020.



The difficulty is due to several factors, including the features of laboratory results such as the characterization of the laboratory data (unit of measurement/analytical principle/population description), cannot be reproducible in others setting, and, therefore the effort to develop tools based by ML appears as aesthetic operation of little significance.

Hence the necessity of creating a WG on this important topic. The EFLM has appointed Dr. Andrea Padoan from the University of Padova, Italy, as Chair of the WG.

The aims of the WG are:

1. to establish the guideline for the use of laboratory data in ML;
2. to evaluate the suitable application of the ML approach in laboratory medicine;
3. to publish studies where ML algorithms are applied to well characterized laboratory data collected from different European laboratories for meaningful and appropriate tasks;
4. to define interdisciplinary lectures and courses on AI topics.

*Article continued on next page*

The EFLM has therefore recently launched a call for nominations to the National Societies, specifically indicating the requirements for the available positions as Full Member and Young Scientist-Full Member in this WG. The EFLM Science Committee will select among the nominated persons, authorities in the field of ML and AI in laboratory medicine, and not in general, and preferably experts who have personally built ML models or contributed to them. In addition, EFLM will also appoint some Experts/Consultants in this WG directly by invitation. The relevant IVD industry representatives will be invited also, as well as representatives from associations dealing with AI/ML such as European Association for Artificial Intelligence (EURAI). Moreover, to find additional authorities, in the call for nominations letter the National Societies are invited to indicate if there are local specialised Universities or Research Centers.

To know more: [click here](#) for the dedicated page in the EFLM website.

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**2022**  
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On demand content available for the IFCC Live Webinar on  
“Importance of the Preanalytical Phase in different areas of the Laboratory”  
held on 7 September 2022


## IFCC Live Webinar on Importance of the Preanalytical Phase in different areas of the Laboratory



Moderator	Importance of the Preanalytical Phase	Importance of the Preanalytical Phase in Hematology and Haemostasis	Importance of the Preanalytical Phase in Microbiology
			
<b>Dr. Ana Lena</b> [Uruguay] IFCC EB Regional Representative COLABIOCLI, Uruguay	<b>Bioq. Beatriz Varela</b> [Uruguay] LAC, Uruguay	<b>Bioq. Eduardo Aranda</b> [Chile] Catholic University of Chile	<b>Bacteriologist Bertha Lacouture</b> [Colombia] Magdalena University, Colombia

**Date: September 7, 2022**

**Time: 11 AM (Eastern Standard), 5 PM (Central European), 11 PM (Beijing)**



Para ver el evento en español haga [Click aquí](#).

To access the recording in English [Click here](#).

## News from the IFCC Website

### IFCC Calls for Nominations



Prof. Khosrow Adeli, President of IFCC, and of Prof. Päivi Laitinen, Chair of IFCC Congresses and Conferences Committee, are announcing a call for nominations for **one Full Member position within the IFCC Congresses and Conferences Committee**.

Replies should be sent to the IFCC Office ([cardinale@ifcc.org](mailto:cardinale@ifcc.org)) by **21 October 2022**.

Prof. Philippe Gillery, Chair of IFCC Scientific Division, is announcing a call for nominations for **two Full Member positions within the SD Executive Committee**.

Replies should be sent to the IFCC Office ([paola.bramati@ifcc.org](mailto:paola.bramati@ifcc.org)) by **15 October 2022**.

For any further information on nominations, please refer to your National or Corporate Representative.

Information and contacts are available [here](#).

## News from the IFCC Website

### Candidates for IFCC President-Elect position



The IFCC Nominations Committee has approved three valid nominations for the position of IFCC President-Elect.

The nominees may now be regarded as candidates for the role.

The candidates (in alphabetical surname order) are:

**Professor Michael Neumaier** - German Society for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (DGKL);

**Professor Tomris Ozben** - Turkish Biochemical Society (TBS);

**Professor Tahir Pillay** - South African Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (SAACB).

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## IFCC WELCOMES THREE NEW CORPORATE MEMBERS

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Website: [www.arkray.co.jp/english/](http://www.arkray.co.jp/english/).

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Our global presence enables us to build close relationships with our clients and leverage our expertise to support them worldwide.

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# IFCC'S CALENDAR OF CONGRESSES, CONFERENCES & EVENTS

## Calendar of IFCC Congresses/Conferences and Regional Federations' Congresses

Sep 21, 2022	 <p>International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine</p>	<i>Challenges in laboratory diagnosis of endocrine diseases</i>	Live Webinar
Oct 2, 2022	 <p>International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine</p>	<i>IFCC-GSCC Joint Symposium: "Medical Test Performance should keep pace with Evolution in Science and Clinical Guidelines: state of play and challenges for CardioVascular Disease tests in this era of Precision Medicine"</i>	Hybrid event, Crete, GR
Oct 5, 2022	 <p>International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine</p>	<i>Aspects of Newborn Screening</i>	Live Webinar
Oct 19, 2022	 <p>International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine</p>	<i>From Data to Decisions: Data and Analytics Leadership in Clinical Laboratory Management</i>	Live Webinar
Nov 9, 2022	 <p>International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine</p>	<i>Single Cell and Spatial Transcriptomics: clinical application</i>	Live Webinar
Nov 23, 2022	 <p>International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine</p>	<i>The role of key laboratory tests in the investigation and management of metabolic bone disease</i>	Live Webinar

Calendar continued on next page



Dec 1, 2022		<i>Developments in reference measurement systems for C-reactive protein and the importance of maintaining currently used clinical decision-making criteria - JCTLM in cooperation with CIRME</i>	Sesto San Giovanni, Milano, Italy
May 21 - 25, 2023		<i>XXV IFCC - EFLM WorldLab EuroMedLab - Rome 2023</i>	Rome, IT
May 26 -30, 2024		<i>XXVI IFCC WORLDLAB - Dubai 2024</i>	Dubai, UAE
April 2024		<i>XXVI COLABIOCLI 2024</i>	Cartagena, CO
October 31 - Nov 3, 2024		<i>APFCB 2024 Sydney</i>	Sidney, AU
2025 Date TBA		<i>XXVI IFCC-EFLM EUROMEDLAB 2025</i>	<i>Venue to be selected</i>
2026 Date TBA		<i>XXVII IFCC WORLDLAB 2026</i>	<i>Venue to be selected</i>

2027 Date TBA	 International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine	XXVII IFCC-EFLM EUROMEDLAB 2027	Venue to be selected
2028 Date TBA	 International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine	XXVIII IFCC WORLDLAB 2028	Venue to be selected
2029 Date TBA	 International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine	XXVIII IFCC-EFLM EUROMEDLAB 2029	Venue to be selected
2030 Date TBA	 International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine	XXIX IFCC WORLDLAB 2030	Venue to be selected

### Other events with IFCC auspices

Sept 21 - 23, 2022	<i>28th AACC International CPOCT Symposium – Meeting Evolving Patient Needs Using Point-of-Care Testing</i>	Montreal, CA
Sept 21 - 23, 2022	<i>2nd Edition of the OncoHub Conference</i>	Hybrid event Poiana Braşov, RO
Sept 21 - 29, 2022	<i>Training in biosafety aimed at the management of fungal strains</i>	Quality Academics, online event
Sept 22 - 24, 2022	<i>XVI Baltic Congress in Laboratory Medicine</i>	Tallin, EE

Sept 22 - 24, 2022	<i>22èmes Journées Marocaines de Biologie Clinique</i>	Casablanca, MA
Sept 28, 2022	<i>International Conference on Laboratory Medicine "Moving laboratory medicine beyond the pandemic: from disruptive technologies to innovation"</i>	Padua, IT
Sept 28 - Oct 1, 2022	<i>10th Congress of the Croatian Society of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine</i>	Zagreb, HR
Sept 29 - Oct 2, 2022	<i>XXXI World Congress of the World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (WASPaLM)</i>	Punta del Este, UY
Sept 30, 2022	<i>Cardiac Marker Dialogues</i>	Glasgow, UK
Oct 2, 2022	<i>International Conference on Immunoassay</i>	Snibe Dubai, UAE
Oct 2 - 5, 2022	<i>2nd AFCB-EFLM Conference Laboratory Medicine for Mobile Societies in the Mediterranean Area</i>	Heraclion - Crete, 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 5 - 7, 2022	<i>5emes Journées Francophones de Biologie Médicale (5e JFBM)</i>	Hybrid event Saint Etienne, FR
Oct 12 - 14, 2022	<i>XV Congreso Nacional de Laboratoristas Clínicos de Panamá</i>	Panamá
Oct 13 - 14, 2022	<i>Deutscher Kongress für Laboratoriumsmedizin 2022</i>	Mannheim, DE
Oct 14 - 17, 2022	<i>46th ISOBM Congress</i>	Bled, SI
Oct 17 - 19, 2022	<i>7th SIPMeL National Congress Laboratory Medicine: New Complexities and Future Strategies</i>	Hybrid event Riva del Garda, IT
Oct 18 - 20, 2022	<i>AACB 59th Annual Scientific Conference</i>	Hybrid event, Perth, AU
Oct 26 - Nov 15, 2022	<i>How to write and publish: a good scientific &amp; professional article</i>	Online event

Oct 26 - 30, 2022	<i>TBS International Biochemistry Congress 2022 &amp; 33rd National Biochemistry Congress organized by the Turkish Biochemical Society</i>	Izmir, TR
Oct 28, 2022	<i>International Conference on Immunoassay</i>	Snibe Brussels, BE
Nov 7 - 9, 2022	<i>XI Argentine Congress of Quality in the Clinical Laboratory (CALILAB2022)</i>	Mar del Plata City, AR
Nov 11 - 14, 2022	<i>20th International Congress National College of Bacteriology</i>	Bucaramanga, CO
Nov 18, 2022	<i>Annual Meeting of the RBSLM</i>	Brussels, BE
Nov 19, 2022	<i>Inter-QC Topics: Measurement uncertainty and its usefulness in the laboratory</i>	Quality Academics, online event
Nov 25 -26, 2022	<i>Chem Con 2022 - 'Metabolomics: Revolutionizing Clinical Chemistry'- PSCP Annual Congress</i>	Karachi, PK
Nov 30, 2022	<i>14th International Scientific Meeting: Implementation of metrological traceability in laboratory medicine: where we are and what is missing</i>	Sesto San Giovanni Milan, IT
Dec 1 - 2, 2022	<i>Journées de l'innovation en biologie (JIB 2022)</i>	Hybrid event, Paris, FR
Dec 6 - 8, 2022	<i>4th International Meeting in Clinical Chemistry &amp; Laboratory Medicine &amp; SSCC 8th Annual Meeting</i>	Hybrid Event, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Jan 1 - Jul 31, 2023	<i>Inter-QC Topics</i>	Quality Academics, online event
Feb 9 - 10, 2023	<i>Labquality Days 2023</i>	Helsinki, FI



# IFCC Executive Board 2021-2023



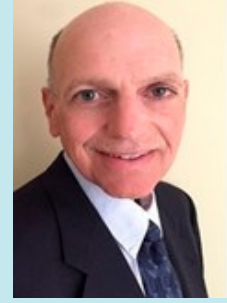
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(L-R) Silvia Cardinale, Paola Bramati, Silvia Colli Lanzi, Sofia Giardina, Smeralda Skenderaj



# IFCC MEMBERSHIP

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## Regional Federations

Arab Federation of Clinical Biology (AFCB)  
 African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC)  
 Asia-Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry  
 and Laboratory Medicine (APFCB)  
 European Federation of Clinical Chemistry  
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