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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,

We are already in the middle of April, leaving behind the Easter holidays. We will all meet in Rome very soon.

Go through President Prof. Khosrow Adeli's message and you will learn everything about the upcoming WorldLab/EuroMedLab. Lots of people (more than ever) from all over the world will attend the meeting and will stroll through the Eternal City's streets. The exhibition will be huge, and the Scientific program will certainly meet everyone's expectations.

In the last issue we listened to the sound of voices from so many places around the world, but in this issue we will listen to the music of planet Earth itself, as we will read about the need to transform our labs into green labs, trying not to contribute to the climate crisis. You will read a lot about this urgent matter in this issue. There is no time for postponement!

In the meantime, don't forget to visit the brand new IFCC website.

See you in Rome! Until then, go through this really interesting issue and find out what we can do to save our planet. It is singing into our ears and asking for our help.

Katherina



Katherina Psarra, MSc, PhD

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 **IFCC**
International Federation
of Clinical Chemistry
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Evidence-based laboratory medicine –systematic review and meta-analysis

April 19, 2023

[EDT: 10:00 AM, CET: 4:00 PM, CST 10:00 PM]

THE VOICE OF IFCC

IFCC President's message – April 2023



Prof. Khosrow Adeli
PhD, FCACB, DABCC, FAACC

by Khosrow Adeli
IFCC President

The upcoming **XXV IFCC-EFLM WORLDLAB-EUROMEDLAB CONGRESS** is set to be the largest and most well-attended event in IFCC's 70-plus year history, and it's just weeks away! I encourage everyone to join in the academic sessions, industry exhibits, and other activities at this esteemed scientific event, taking place from May 21-25, 2023, in the beautiful and historic city of Rome, Italy. Rome provides the perfect backdrop for this event, as a vibrant global city with a rich history, stunning architecture, and cosmopolitan vibe. The organizing and scientific conference committees have been hard at work planning exceptional scientific and social programs that will be enjoyed by all attendees. The program features an impressive international faculty, along with industry workshops and exhibits. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to participate in a top-notch scientific event!

A record number of scientific abstracts (over 2100), a record number of industry exhibits (over 100), and a record number of registrations (>3500 delegates, >1700 visitors, >3300 corporate representatives) all clearly indicate that the IFCC-EFLM WorldLab-EuroMedLab Congress will set the all-time record in attendance and will bring together the largest number of laboratory specialists and industry leaders from around the world. The WorldLab/EuroMedLab Congresses have become a leading platform for laboratory medicine and clinical chemistry, facilitating scientific exchange and advancement among scientists, laboratory specialists, clinicians, and industry colleagues. The 2023 EuroMedLab Congress promises to offer a diverse range of innovative education opportunities, including lectures, symposia, recent advancements in clinical practice and science, poster presentations, and industry exhibits, as well as a fantastic social program. Attendees will have the opportunity to interact with distinguished experts from around the world, while also earning Continuing Education (CE) credits through the EFLM CPECS accreditation program. As the IFCC continues to grow and expand its international reach, we remain committed to advancing better healthcare worldwide and keeping our field at the forefront of scientific advancement.

In addition to the main congress, four special satellite events have been organized that will provide additional educational opportunities including the 16th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF **PEDIATRIC LABORATORY MEDICINE**, the **IFCC FORUM for YOUNG SCIENTISTS**, The **CLINICAL MASS SPECTROMETRY: VALIDATION AND ACCREDITATION OF IVD AND LABORATORY DEVELOPED TEST (LDT) IN THE NEW "REGULATION EU 2017/746" ERA**, as well as **POINT-OF-CARE TESTING: HOME, HOSPITAL AND BEYOND**. For further information on "Satellite Meetings" please visit the conference website: <https://2023roma.org/>.

I am eagerly anticipating the opportunity to meet many of you in Rome at the end of May, and I sincerely hope that you will relish both the exceptional scientific program and the stunning beauty of Rome during the upcoming congress.

Cheers, Khosrow 😊

April 23-29

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IFCC C-MHBLM in the headlines!

by Bernard Gouget

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

The digital revolution in health care is speeding up. Given the reach of mobile networks and services that are becoming ever more intelligent, there is a unique opportunity to develop new and innovative models for collaborative and integrated care systems that provide a continuum of care and put the patient in the center. The growth in m-Health is catalyzed by the convergence of technological development in the telecommunications sector (Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, 5G), information technology and electronics (smartphone, electronic component miniaturization, data processing and storage). Digital media is the new buzzword of the post-modern world. The promise of digital medicine is to create a healthcare system that is more democratized, where access to information and expertise can be shared and applied from anywhere; more personalized, targeted with therapeutics; more prevention-oriented, with early intervention strategies that may be less invasive and have better outcomes and, more decentralized, with wearable technologies and other smart objects creating an abundant amount of data that can both add to the understanding of disease and flag issues for individuals. The large, complex data sets that artificial intelligence, machine learning, and computational biology likely will come from medical databases, smart devices and wearables, the Internet of Things, and even so, the official institutions.

In the post-COVID 19 context, when health situations are very heterogeneous from one IFCC region to another, the C-MHBLM endeavored to analyze some aspects of the potential challenges of digital health formulating recommendations to deal with it and break down digital barriers. To optimize these goals, the C-MHBLM members used new forms of interactive communication that are facilitating a greater connectedness between the IFCC community. The use of digital channels favored the omnichannel engagement strategy for the C-MHBLM to communicate effectively and sustainably. To be better interconnected and communicate with the target audiences, the C-MHBLM used visio-conferences, real-time messaging platforms, social media, blogs, personalized communications, and smartphones. The most suitable solution for communicating at the congresses was hybrid external communication, a concept synonymous with agility and adaptability by offering remote lectures as a complementary element to face-to-face presentations. Relying on the digital channels by organizing virtual, hybrid, or events in presence, it meant understanding everyone's preferences in depth, monitoring the information provided and obtaining valuable feedback to inform future strategic planning of our communication. The use of these channels brought advantages such as increased flexibility, options development, and the possibility of obtaining better interactivity to reinforce the IFCC network.

The year 2022 was very rich in scientific communications and networking using the modern communication tools to stay connected with the community. Particular attention was paid to the participation of C-MHBLM members in IFCC regional events and national congresses of member societies of regional federations. At the beginning of February 2022, we participated "on-line" in MedLab Middle East 2022, Dubai (UAE) organized in a hybrid format to discuss "e-health and its impact on lab medicine". Dubai is rightly considered one of the most innovative, investor-friendly and attractive destinations in the world. Dubai is evolving into a smart city and becoming the intelligent, responsive and personalized city of the future. The right place for IFCC WorldLab in 2024!

Thanks to the IFCC Abbott-VLP, I was allowed to participate at the XXV Congreso Latinoamericano de Bioquímica Clínica, in Leon (MX) (March 30-April) to deliver a plenary lecture on "AI, Big Data and wearable technologies"

Article continued on next page

and to exchange expertise with COLABIOCLI's friends. In addition, Pradeep Dabla had recorded his presentation on wearables technologies and mHealth in the developing world from New Delhi.

Impossible not to attend the EuroMedLab Munich 2022 (April 10-14) to meet European and international colleagues. Our committee, with James Nichols and our French Colleague M Vaubourdolle, IFCC TF-POCT. was able to assess "the opportunities for decentralized testing in modern healthcare, dangers vs benefits of DTCT" as well as to discuss on "the regulation of POCT vs DTCT". Damien Gruson investigated "the ability to use digital technology to improve sustainability and how to rethink the model of the medical labs".

The AACC annual meeting is a must to visit the expo and learn about the major trends in innovation in lab medicine. James Nichols had organized at AACC Chicago 2022 (July24-28), with Franck Desiere as C-MHBLM member, a session on "the transformation of Lab Medicine through smart health technologies".

Later on, in September 23rd, Bernard Gouget was invited to speak on "Smart Lab med in digital era" in the Estonian city of Tallinn, the European Green Capital for 2023. This city gained the title of sustainability and innovation champion due to their systemic approach to green governance and interlinked strategic goals, which reflect the ambitions of the European Green Deal.



MedLab 2023: Going Green!

(L to R): Khosrow Adeli (CA), IFCC President; Naser Ammash (UAE), Sheik Shakhbout Medical City (SSMC); Rana Nabusi (UAE) Dubai Health Authority, ASCP Dubai; Bernard Gouget (FR), IFCC C-MHBLM; Sergio Bernardini (IT), chair EC-ETD; Damien Gruson (BE), member EC-ETD, C MHBLM liaison

Few days later, the ETD and C-MHBLM members were invited at the LM4MS conference in Heraklion, Creta (Oct 2-5) to exchange information during a session on “how to make easier and wider the implementation of emerging technologies”

Early autumn was a good time to meet our Irish colleagues for their 44th Annual Association of Clinical Biochemists in Ireland Conference in Cork (October14-15) and to discuss “developments in the medical laboratory while imagining a revolution in a personalized health care and disease prevention” with a system based on the human avatar for the prevention, interception and cure of disease. As part of the Health EU project, to constitute its digital twin, genomic, biological, environmental and behavioral data (habits, lifestyles) must be collected. To do this, the specialists will use various instruments and techniques: sensors, implants, nanomedicine, medical imaging and “organ-on chip”, even tattoos!. This project is worthy of a science fiction scenario. The virtual modeling of the human body particularly targets cardiovascular, metabolic, neurodegenerative diseases and cancer. If successful, we can expect the first results in 2030.

At the IFCC general conference, everyone was able to appreciate Sergio Bernardini’s brilliant presentation for the ETD division that highlighted the dynamism of this division. Just before, a great meeting with young scientists from St Luc University Clinics was initiated by Damien Gruson to discuss “Evidence Based Lab Medicine and AI” and encourage the Belgium young people to join the functional units of the IFCC.

Participating in congresses is not always so easy with the economic crisis and inflation, hence the interest of operating in hybrid mode. Pradeep Dabla and the ACBICON organizers facilitated the organization of a pre-conference workshop on: “Applied Artificial Intelligence Research” with young Indian scientists from New Delhi one day before the 48th ACBICON edition, (November 23-26). Some speakers were supported by the Abbott VLP program, Damien Gruson and Pierre-Jean Lamy were on-line!

2023 started off with a bang, with the presence of several C-MHBLM members at Dubai for Medlab 2023 (February 6-9) to participate at several symposia as on “how to build a global culture of sustainability”, and on “Innovations on POCT and smart technologies in Lab Medicine”. It was not always easy to come across Sergio Bernardini, Damien Gruson, James Nichols, Sanja Stankovic or Ghassan Shannan in the crowd of participants. Koshrow Adeli took the opportunity to promote the next edition of the IFCC WorldLab Dubai 2024, to be held from May 26-30, 2024. It is a disruptive initiative of which the IFCC President had the secret. The next IFCC WorldLab edition

in the United Arab Emirates promises to be a captivating experience! On this occasion, we were able to discuss and get to know better Anwar Boral, XXVI WorldLab Congress committee, a brilliant scientist who brings a breath of youth in IFCC. Currently, Dr Boraï is the section head of clinical chemistry at King Abdulaziz Medical City-Jeddah. He has a joint appointee position as Associate Professor at King Saud Bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences. He is the Saudi Society for Clinical Chemistry (SSCC) representative to the IFCC.

On February 19th 2023, the 8th International Chemical Pathology Department conference, Lab medicine collaborating for better patient outcomes was held in Alexandria (EG) as a hybrid conference based partially online. The conference was a fruitful event with numerous opportunities to learn about precision medicine, EBLM in disease management and intelligent adaptive learning. Bernard Gouget discussed on “How AI is changing lab medicine”. Thank you to Ramy Assad, IFCC C-MHBLM member and to Pr Gihane Khalil, conference President, Head of Chemical Pathology department, Medical Research institute,



Dr. Anwar Borai (SA)
PhD, FAACC, FIBMS, MLS (ASCP)

Alexandria University and her ChemPath 2023 team for the kind invitation. It was a pleasure to share the “adaptive learning session” with Nader Rifai.

On March 16-18, 2023, some C-MHBLM members will be present at the 23rd Moroccan Days of Clinical Biology in Marrakech (MO) organized by Layachi Chabraoui to discuss among other topics, on “Ethical issues AI and digital health”.

- » Alongside these numerous participations in scientific congresses, the committee has published the following papers on:
- » AI and thyroid disease management - D. Gruson et al. *Biochem Med (Zagreb)*. 2022 Jun 15; 32(2): 020601. Published online 2022 Jun 15. doi: 10.11613/BM.2022.020601;
- » Target association rule mining to explore novel pediatric illness patterns in emergency settings by Pradeep Kumar Dabla et al. *Scandinavian Journal of Clinical and Laboratory Investigation*. Volume 82, 2022 - Issue 7-8 p 595-600.
- » A new door to a different world: Opportunities from the metaverse and the raise of Meta-Medical Laboratories by Damien Gruson et al. *Clin Chem Lab Med*. 2023 Mar 2. doi: 10.1515/cclm-2023-0108. Online ahead of print.
- » In parallel, many IFCC news were published on the activities of the group.



Tea-break at a Tunisian waterside terrace, the IFCC President enthusiastic about the idea of IFCC Worldlab AFCB Dubai 2024. (L to R): Ozama Najjar (PS); AFCB past president; Abderrazek Hedhili (TU) AFCB EB representative; Khoshrow Adeli (CA), IFCC President; Bernard Gouget (FR), chair C-MHBLM; Alexander Haliassos (GR), IFCC Treasurer; Anwar Borai (SA), XXVI WorldLab Congress Committee

C-MHBLM members are coming from APFCB, EFLM or NAFCC regional federations. This multicultural team provides a consolidated approach and strong scientific commitment to integrate m-health, e-health and AI in the lab medicine practices in different environments. The C-MHBLM is providing to the IFCC community and to other relevant stakeholders a platform and a think-tank for current and emerging challenges, enabling and facilitating the development, integration and wide deployment of knowledge-driven, semantic and technical interoperable eHealth services.

Big data, artificial intelligence, robotics, three digital printing, internet of things (IOT), social media, virtual reality, and simulation are the new tools shaping the 4.0 industry revolution. In this perspective, Metaverse is a relatively new and vast concept of technological advancement for the world still under research. It has entered people's horizons through virtual reality, digital twinning, the Internet of Things, blockchain technology, etc., that can provide a sustainable and dynamic tool for the overall development of the medical sector. Its arrival will bring infinite possibilities to healthcare and promote digital or precision medicine development. The Metaverse is the next evolution of the internet, unlocks new opportunities in healthcare and for sure, is offering new and arranged activities for the committee!

Visiting Lecturer Programme (VLP) Report: 23rd JMBC-SMCC Marrakech (MO) 2023, an exciting interlude between Green Lab Medicine and the enchanting Majorelle Garden

*by Bernard Gouget, Chair IFCC-CMHBLM
Alexander Haliassos, IFCC Treasurer*

Marrakech, one of the four imperial cities, surrounded by solid ramparts, is nestled like an enchanting pink jewel at the foot of the spectacular Atlas Mountains. When you think of this city, you imagine the ochre colors and fragrant flavors! If the first impressions paint the city in a pink haze, one quickly feels enchanted at the sight of the Koutoubia and its minaret. The color of the city comes from the simplest of architectural materials "the red earth". Snow, sand and greenery embody the past, present and environment of this mystical city.

Marrakech, the epicenter of culture for ages, was the ideal destination for the 23rd congress of the Moroccan Society of Clinical Chemistry (23rd JMBC- SMCC, March 16-18, 2023) organized under the chairmanship of Professor Layachi Chabraoui who was forced to stay in Rabat at the last minute. The hotel was directly connected to the Palais des Congrès located on Avenue Mohamed VI, no excuse not to attend the sessions, and discuss during tea breaks in the middle of the IVD exhibition. The 23rd JSMBC was an opportunity for laboratory medicine specialists to share

and discuss findings, exchange ideas and insights, networking for collaboration and career development with Generation Z or "Gen Z", that has never been in a world without smartphones and social media. They were born with digital and grew up with it. Global warming, growing inequality, terrorism and now a pandemic are part of Generation Z, true digital natives. Environmental protection and sustainable development are now a major cause for which young people want to get involved and exchange ideas.

One day prior to the conference, a SMCC-IFCC Young Scientist Workshop, coordinated by Dr Hichem Assami and Dr Otmane Touzani, was held with support of an Abbott VLP program. The objective was to highlight key issues in addressing climate change by decarbonizing laboratory medicine and healthcare. This type of workshop with the younger generation of laboratory medicine specialists plays an important role in networking by providing opportunities to collaborate with laboratory medicine projects identifying mentors. Alexander Haliassos began his presentation reminding IFCC's initiatives for the younger generation,

such as educational webinars, exchange programs, mentoring programs, and scholarships.

Health care institutions have a major responsibility in the society, not only to provide quality of care, but also develop a sustainable and socially responsible health care system that must respond to the three pillars constituting the following approach: economic, social and environmental sustainability. Innovation remains at the heart of the sustainable evolution of practices, the first results are visible today. Bernard Gouget pointed out that climate change is expected to profoundly disrupt our health care system. Understanding the awareness of the implications of climate change on public health requires the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, searching for substitutes for fossil resources as well as the need to manage the consequences of ecosystem degradation and climate crises. due to extreme weather events such as flooding and coastal storms. Strong climate change strategies and interventions are needed to protect the health of populations as health facilities are often caught between resource conservation, economic imperatives and maintaining quality of care. At the same time, it is important to ensure that health status is as good or better than it is today through a new balance between the preventive and curative systems.

Through compliance with standards, the search for health safety in all its components and risk management, sustainable development in health enables existing quality approaches to be reconciled by asking new questions and refining reasoning on: the values, missions, activities of a health structure or medical laboratory and their responsibilities in the process of continuous quality improvement in a perspective of sustainability and management of environmental, social and economic risks, while being attentive to a health system that is respectful of people and their environment. Many normative instruments are available to support certification. Two preferred ISO standards: ISO 26000-2010 for social responsibility guidelines and ISO 14001-2015 were widely discussed. ISO 14001 provides a systematic approach to planning, implementing and managing the environmental management system. Its implementation allows the medical laboratory to control its environmental impact and ensure that it meets legal requirements, both

national and international. Before starting the certification process, it is important to set clear objectives for the implementation and evaluation of the environmental management system. ISO 14001:2015 is still not widely used in the medical laboratory and hospital sector, which admittedly has a range of other compliance standards to meet. Nevertheless, with environmental considerations and legislation at the forefront of national and local government thinking, it is certainly only a matter of time before this standard is recognized as a benchmark for hospitals and medical laboratories in general. The EFLM guide for green and sustainable medical laboratories was also presented. A French translation is underway with the help of the LABAC association.

Medical Labs are increasingly looking to support and incorporate sustainability and safety into building design or renovation. With advanced technologies and trends changing so rapidly, it is important to ensure that the creation of a laboratory is relevant for the needs of today and tomorrow. Emissions from building materials account for 28% of global emissions from buildings and the construction sector. Replacing them with renewable materials is better for the environment and will ensure the sustainability of the laboratory for years to come. The good news is that it is becoming easier to find materials using fewer chemicals and therefore leaving a much smaller footprint. Creating a more sustainable laboratory medicine platform not only benefits the environment, it also creates a more attractive workplace for employees. HQE (Haute Qualité Environnementale) is a standard green building in France. To meet the logic of NF HQE, all actions taken must be in the direction of reducing the environmental impact of buildings, reducing energy consumption and continuously improving the comfort and health of occupants.

Laïla CHABAA, former professor at the Mohammed VI University Hospital of Marrakech, recalled that the Mohammed VI University Hospital (UHC) of Marrakech has been committed since 2012 to a sustainable development approach that has become the cornerstone of its hospital project. Since then, the UHC has strengthened its sustainable management policy to meet the challenges of environmental protection, social progress and economic efficiency. The UHC has

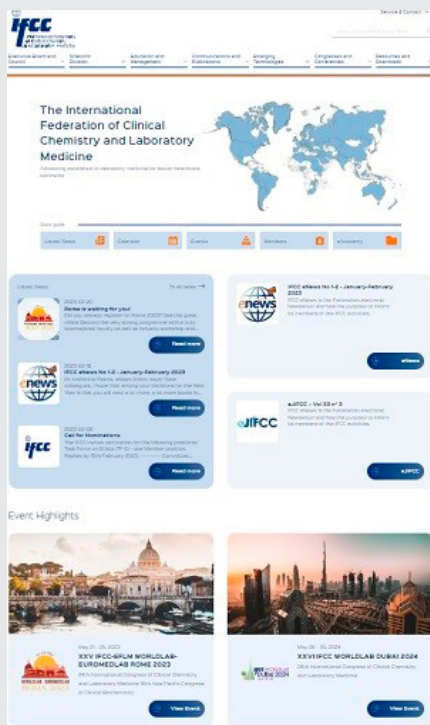
also integrated sustainable development in all its institutional projects and has expanded the scope of its actions by multiplying field initiatives. She recalled that in 2016, Marrakech hosted the Climate and Health Conference/COP22. Mohammed VI University Hospital was the first Moroccan member of the international Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network in 2017. Among the UHC's flagship projects are several audits, an awareness and communication policy, monitoring and auditing of energy, electricity and water consumption. The use of solar energy is being increased. In May 2022, King Mohammed VI launched the construction of the new Ibn Sina University Hospital in Rabat, a revolutionary 1000-bed project designed by the architect Abdelwahad Mountassir. The futuristic hospital complex will meet all international standards and environmental regulations.

Sustainability is quickly becoming a defining issue of the times. Its impact is increasingly being felt in health-care and laboratory medicine. In an ideal world, every laboratory medicine specialist would work in a green, zero-waste, and fully sustainable laboratory. But we

all know this is a huge long-term challenge. It is clear from the discussion with the young scientists in "Gen Z" that they are aware of the key role they must play in health care. The diversity of experience and career choices in laboratory medicine is great. While YS-Gen Z are convinced that the medical biologist has a bright future, they are also realistic about the difficulty of the job market and the real impact of human activity on the environment. In its latest report, the International Labor Organization estimates that those under 25 will be the main victims of the economic consequences of the coronavirus.

For digital natives, it is no longer enough to be the one who knows, or who has the authority, but the one who does the change. Members of Generation Z prefer actions to big ideas and pragmatism to idealism. Their guiding principle is less hierarchy and more collaboration. They operate in terms of projects rather than careers. There is every reason to believe that the society led by Generation Z will be more inclusive, collaborative, proactive, motivated, and not afraid to engage, innovate and succeed.

IFCC launches a new and modernized website



Great news! IFCC is happy to announce the launch of a new and modernized website, a positive step towards improving its online presence and making it more user-friendly for its members and visitors. This modernized website provides various benefits, such as improved navigation, faster load times, enhanced mobile responsiveness, better accessibility, and improved content organization. This new website assists IFCC in achieving its organizational goals by providing a platform for disseminating information, promoting its activities, connecting with members and stakeholders, and enhancing its brand reputation. Overall, the launch of a new and modernized website by IFCC is a positive step towards enhancing its digital presence and providing a better user experience for its members and visitors.

We thank Insoft for their partnership and their support for many years and we welcome Digiwedo as our new partner for the new website.

Take a look at the new IFCC website (www.ifcc.org) and email us for any suggestions!

The elections recently concluded for the IFCC Executive Board members whose terms begin in January 2024

As a result of elections concluded on Jan. 31, 2023, the IFCC extends its congratulations to the newly elected Secretary Prof. Sergio Bernardini (Italy) and Treasurer Dr. Alexander Haliassos (Greece), wishing them every success in the 2023-2026 term. They will join Prof Tomris Ozben, President-Elect 2024-2026 and prof Khosrow Adeli, current IFCC President, who will stay as IFCC Past President.

The IFCC also announces results of elections concluded on Feb. 28, 2023, determining the Regional Federation Representatives to the IFCC Executive Board. The elected representatives are as follows:

African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC): Prof. Rajiv Erasmus (South Africa); Arab Federation of Clinical Biology (AFCB): Dr. Osama Najjar (Palestine); Asia-Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (APFCB): Dr. Tony Badrick (Australia); European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM): Prof. Mario Plebani (Italy); Latin-American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIO-CLI): Dr. Eduardo Freggiaro (Argentina); North American Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (NAFCC): Dr. David Grenache (USA).

At the same elections concluded on Feb. 28, 2023, Tricia Ravalico (Abbott Diagnostics) was elected Corporate Representative to the IFCC Executive Board.

The IFCC thanks all candidates that participated and campaigned in the IFCC electoral process and extends its appreciation for their steadfast commitment to serving the IFCC.



Prof. Tomris Ozben
President

Prof. Khosrow Adeli
Past president

Prof. Sergio Bernardini
Secretary

Dr. Alexander Haliassos
Treasurer

Ms. Tricia Ravalico
Corporate Representative



Prof. Rajiv Erasmus
African Federation of
Clinical Chemistry (AFCC)

Dr. Osama Najjar
Arab Federation of
Clinical Biology (AFCB)

Dr. Tony Badrick
Asia-Pacific Federation for
Clinical Biochemistry and
Laboratory Medicine (APFCB)

Prof. Mario Plebani
European Federation of
Clinical Chemistry and
Laboratory Medicine (EFLM)

Dr. Eduardo Freggiaro
Latin-American Confederation
of Clinical Biochemistry
(COLABIOCLI)

Dr. David Grenache
North American Federation of
Clinical Chemistry and
Laboratory Medicine
(NAFCC)

Professional Exchange Programmes (PEP) - Spring 2023 call for applications

The IFCC EMD announces a Call for Applications for a limited number of IFCC Professional Exchange Programmes (PEP) grants to support training of young scientists and continuing education of other laboratory professionals at clinical laboratory centers and IVD facilities around the world.

As part of this new expanded programme, IFCC has developed a list of clinical laboratories willing to host visiting scientists for a period of 1-3 months

The purpose of PEP is to promote international co-operation between laboratories, facilitate the exchange of laboratory scientists between IFCC member societies, share high level scientific or management skills and introduce new or improved scientific or management skills to the applicant's laboratory.

Applicants will be nominated by their own national societies. The PEP consists of two distinct programs:

- Professional Scientific Exchange Programme (PSEP) to exchange or develop high-level scientific information or skills
- Professional Management Exchange Programme (PMEP) to develop appropriate quality management skills to improve the performance and quality of service offered to patients by the base laboratory.

Applicants for an IFCC Professional Exchange Programme will:

- Be a member of an IFCC Full Member or Affiliate Member national society
- Haven't received funding from IFCC for other PEPs
- Have a specific project to complete in a designated host laboratory
- Have the support of the head of department in which he/she is based, the head of the host laboratory to **be visited, the national society of which he/she is a member.**

Successful applicants will be entitled to receive:



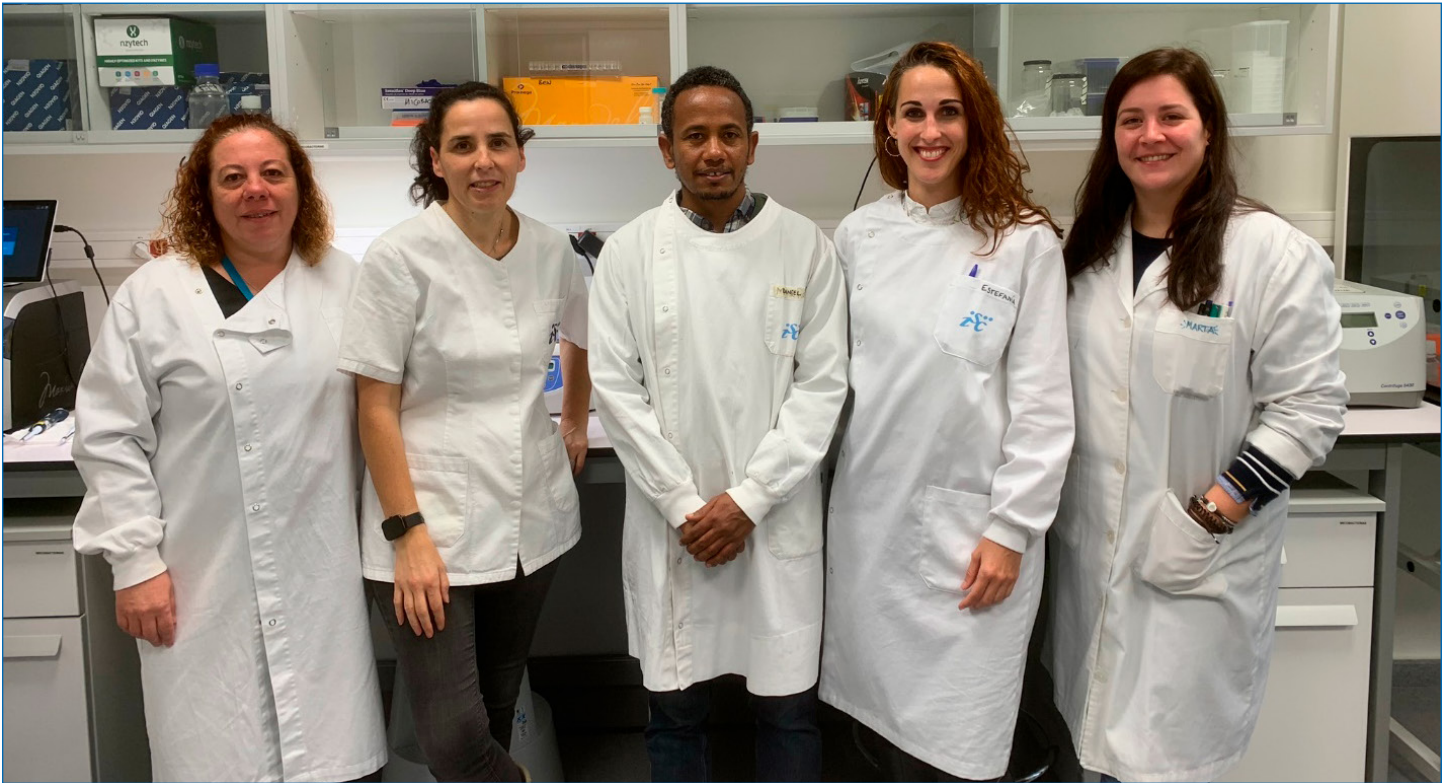
Blanca Fabre Estremera, PSEP from Spain, visiting Prof. Fred Apple in Minnesota, at the Cardiac Biomarkers Trials Laboratory

- Economy return travel expenses from his/her home base to the host laboratory.
- Subsistence at the rate of 1500 Swiss Francs per month for a minimum of 1 month and a maximum of three months.

**~ Deadline for applications is
May 5th 2023 ~**

You can find all information on PSEP and PMEP, and related application forms at:

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



Daniel Mekonnen Nigus, PSEP from the Ethiopian Medical Laboratory Association (EMLA) visiting the National Center of Microbiology, Madrid Spain, at ISCIII, National Center of Microbiology, with the Mycobacterium research team, lead by Dr. Laura Herrera León



Tiyeze Gondwe (3rd from left with a peace hand sign, front row), PMEP from the Department of Pathology and Microbiology, Kabwe Central Hospital (KCH) Laboratory, Central province of Zambia, with colleagues at TAH Chemical Pathology Laboratory. Prof Annelise Zemlin, her host is the 2nd from left

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Hepatic Fibrosis

HA
PIIIP N-P
C IV
Laminin
Cholyglycine
*GP73

TORCH

Toxo IgG
Toxo IgM
Rubella IgG
Rubella IgM
CMV IgG
CMV IgM
HSV-1/2 IgG
HSV-1/2 IgM
HSV-1 IgG
HSV-2 IgG
*HSV-2 IgM
*HSV-1 IgM
*Toxo IgG Avidity
*CMV IgG Avidity

Kidney Function

β₂-MG
Albumin
*NGAL

STAT-X™

*hs-cTnl
*NT-proBNP
*Myoglobin
*D-dimer
*PCT
*CRP

* Available soon

Fertility

FSH
LH
HCG/β-HCG
PRL (Prolactin)
Estradiol
Testosterone
free Testosterone
DHEA-S
Progesterone
free Estrilol
17-OH Progesterone
AMH
SHBG
Androstenedione
PIGF
sFlt-1

Autoimmune

Anti-CCP
Anti-dsDNA IgG
ANA Screen
ENA Screen
Anti-Sm IgG
Anti-Rib-P IgG
Anti-Scl-70 IgG
Anti-Centromeres IgG
Anti-Jo-1 IgG
Anti-M2-3E IgG
Anti-Histones IgG
Anti-nRNP/Sm IgG
Anti-SS-B IgG
Anti-SS-A IgG
TGA (Anti-Tg)
Anti-TPO
TRAb
TMA
ICA
IAA (Anti Insulin)
GAD 65
Anti-IA2
*ZnT8
Anti-MPO IgG
*Anti-PR3 IgG
*Anti-GBM IgG
*Anti-Cardiolipin IgG
*Anti-Cardiolipin IgM
*Anti-Cardiolipin IgA
*Anti-Cardiolipin screen
*β2-Glycoprotein I IgG
*β2-Glycoprotein I IgM
*β2-Glycoprotein I IgA
*β2-Glycoprotein I screen
*Anti-ITG IgA
*Anti-ITG IgG
*DGP IgA
*DGP IgG

Tumor Markers

AFP
CEA
Total PSA
f-PSA
CA 125
CA 15-3
CA 19-9
PAP
CA 50
CYFRA 21-1
CA 242
CA 72-4
NSE
S-100
SCCA
TPA-snibe
ProGRP
HE4
HER-2
PIVKA-II

Infectious Disease

HBsAg
Anti-HBs
HBeAg
Anti-HBe
Anti-HBc
Anti-HBc IgM
Anti-HCV
Syphilis
Anti-HAV
HAV IgM
*HEV IgG
*HEV IgM
HIV Ab/Ag Combi
Chagas
HTLV I+II
H.pylori IgG
H.pylori IgA
H.pylori IgM
2019-nCoV IgG
2019-nCoV IgM
SARS-CoV-2 S-RBD IgG
SARS-CoV-2 Neutralizing Antibody
SARS-CoV-2 Ag
Monkeypox Virus Ag
Dengue Virus IgG
Dengue Virus NS1
*Dengue Virus IgM
*Chlamydia Pneumoniae IgG
*Chlamydia Pneumoniae IgM
*Mycoplasma Pneumoniae IgG
*Mycoplasma Pneumoniae IgM

Cardiac

CK-MB
Troponin I
Myoglobin
hs-cTnl
hs-CRP
H-FABP
NT-proBNP
BNP
D-Dimer
Lp-PLA2
MPO
*HCY
*hs-cTnl (STAT)
*NT-proBNP (STAT)
*Myoglobin (STAT)
*D-dimer (STAT)

Hypertension

Direct Renin
Aldosterone
Angiotensin I
Angiotensin II
Cortisol
ACTH

Coagulation Markers

D-Dimer
*TAT
*TM
*PIC
*tPAIC

Metabolism

Pepsinogen I
Pepsinogen II
Gastrin-17
GH (hGH)
IGF-I
IGFBP-3

Prenatal Screening

AFP (Prenatal Screening)
free β-HCG
PAPP-A
free Estriol

Anemia

Vitamin B12
Ferritin
Folate (FA)
EPO
RBC Folate

Inflammation Monitoring

CRP
PCT (Procalcitonin)
IL-6 (Interleukin 6)
SAA (Serum Amyloid A)
*PCT (STAT)
*CRP (STAT)
*TNF-α

Bone Metabolism

Calcitonin
Osteocalcin
25-OH Vitamin D
Intact PTH
β-CTx
total P1NP

EBV

EBV EA IgG
EBV EA IgA
EBV VCA IgG
EBV VCA IgM
EBV VCA IgA
EBV NA IgG
EBV NA IgA

Immunoglobulins

IgM
IgA
IgE
IgG

Glyco Metabolism

C-Peptide
Insulin
GAD 65
Anti-IA2
ICA
IAA (Anti Insulin)
Proinsulin
*Glucagon
*ZnT8

Veterinary Testing

*cTSH
*cTT4
*vFT4

Drug Monitoring

Digoxin
CSA (Cyclosporine A)
FK 506 (Tacrolimus)



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IFCC Distinguished Awards 2023

The IFCC is pleased to announce the names of the winners of the IFCC Distinguished Awards.

The IFCC Distinguished Awards are bestowed to laboratory medicine professionals to recognize their outstanding achievements, publicize their exceptional research and contributions to medicine and healthcare, and encourage the overall advancement of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine.



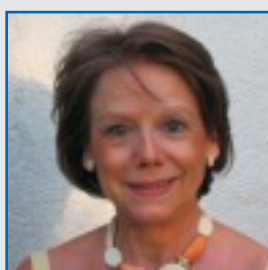
Dr. Robert H. Christenson (United States) is the winner of the 2023 IFCC Henry Wishinsky Award for Distinguished International Services, sponsored by [Siemens](#).

This award recognizes specifically an individual who has made unique contributions to the promotion and understanding of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine throughout the world.



Dr. David S. Hage (United States) is the winner of the 2023 IFCC Award for Distinguished Contributions in Education, sponsored by [Abbott Laboratories](#).

This award recognizes specifically an individual who has made unique contributions to the promotion and understanding of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine throughout the world.



Dr. Anne J. VASSAULT (France) is the winner of the 2023 IFCC-Robert Schaffer Award for Outstanding Achievements in the Development of Standards for Use in Laboratory Medicine, co-sponsored by [NIST](#) and [CLSI](#).

This award recognizes specifically an individual who has made outstanding and unique contributions to the advancement of reference methods and/or reference materials for laboratory medicine to facilitate improved quality of clinical diagnostics and therapies, which would in turn lead to reduced costs and improved patient care.



Dr. Joe M. El-Khoury (United States) is the winner of the 2023 IFCC Young Investigator Award, sponsored by [Snibe](#).

This award recognizes and encourages the academic and professional development of a young investigator (under 40 years of age) who has demonstrated exceptional scientific achievements in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine in his/her career.

IFCC: THE YOUNG SCIENTISTS

Mentorship Interview

Presented by the IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists

*An interview with Dr. Shannon Haymond (the Mentor)
and Dr. Brenda Suh-Lailam (the Mentee)*



Dr. Brenda Suh-Lailam (the Mentee) and Dr. Shannon Haymond (the Mentor) portrayed at the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago (US)

Last year I had the distinct pleasure of talking with AACC president Dr. Shannon Haymond and her mentee, Dr. Brenda Suh-Lailam, about their long-running Mentor-Mentee relationship. Dr. Haymond is the Vice Chair for Computational Pathology and the Director of Clinical Mass Spectrometry at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. She works on computational pathology, focusing on data analytics and applying these tools and methods to enhance decision making and augment human workflows to improve quality and effectiveness in our laboratory services. Dr. Suh-Lailam is Director of Clinical Chemistry and Point-of-Care Testing at the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. She is the CLIA director for 4 point-of-care sites for their institution and the quality director for the department of Pathology. She is also an associate professor of

Article continued on next page

pathology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, where she co-leads the Diagnostic Testing Thread in the medical school curriculum and teaches medical students, residents, and fellows. With further ado, I'll let them take the spotlight!

Sean: Could you tell us how you met and started your mentorship?

Dr. Suh-Lailam: We officially met when I interviewed for my position at Lurie Children's hospital. I had met her before at AACC events but did not know her personally. When I started working at my current position, I requested for a mentor and I am so happy that she became my mentor. We've been working together for 8 years now!

Sean: That's great! Can you share what you find value about your mentor-mentee relationship?

Dr. Haymond: It has been great to have a colleague and to see how Brenda's career has progressed in time. She's really advanced in those eight years, and it's been great to be a part of that.

Dr. Suh-Lailam: Working with a mentor helps you avoid making the same mistakes they made in their careers. You learn from their mistakes and are able to accomplish much in a such period of time. You have someone who understands what you are dealing with and is able to help you navigate challenges much quicker than if you were doing it on your own.

Sean: Interesting, could you expand on that, Dr. Suh-Lailam?

Dr. Suh-Lailam: Sure! I have the tendency to spread myself thin, my mentor helps me focus on projects that are impactful and contribute to my career success. She encourages me to seek out opportunities that will advance my career, sometimes creating them. For example, she pointed me to the importance of teaching in the medical school, she stepped aside from teaching a course, giving me my first opportunity to teach, this has led to so many more teaching opportunities as well as course leadership. This has taught me to do the same for other junior faculty who need opportunities to advance their careers, being able to create opportunities for them by letting them take over certain functions makes a big difference.

Sean: Dr. Haymond, have you mentored others before Dr. Suh-Lailam? How has it been different if so?

Dr. Haymond: Of course, I have mentored others in our field throughout my career. Each has been a little different of an experience, as the mentees had different needs or priorities. I participated in the AACC SYCL mentoring program and was glad to have those chances to meet early career individuals and learn more about them.

Sean: I'm so glad you found that program valuable! Could you expand on how you see that program helping?

Dr. Haymond: Mentorship programs can help early career folks in a number of ways, including connecting mentees to others in the field, providing guidance and acting

as a sounding board to build their professional communication and decision-making skills, or help them further develop a specific technical skill.

Sean: Dr. Suh-Lailam, how would you describe your relationship with Dr. Haymond?

Dr. Suh-Lailam: Professional and friendly. She is frank with me when I need to improve as well as a support and listening ear. She is one of my loudest cheerleaders, encouraging me to keep going.

Sean: Great! Speaking of cheerleaders, can you share some projects she's helped guide you for?

Dr. Suh-Lailam: When I was working on standardizing blood gas testing for my institution, my mentor encouraged me to write out a project plan, to think about the different steps that will be needed in order to accomplish each step. She went through my plan with me and offered advice on how to improve my plan. When I needed to get in touch with key stakeholders of the affected areas, she facilitated the process by introducing me to them. This made my project go so much faster as I didn't have to seek out the key individuals needed and initiate a connection. I was able to discuss challenges encountered along the way with her and the suggested solutions from her made a huge difference in how quickly issues were resolved.

Sean: That's really fantastic, it's great to hear about success like that. It sounds like you've been a really successful mentor, Dr. Haymond, could you give us some advice for how to be a good mentor?

Dr. Haymond: I found it helps to have a clear understanding what the mentee needs and how I can help or support them to achieve their goals. To maintain a good relationship, I suggest mentor-mentee pairs set up a plan for the mentoring relationship, clarify expectations of what each person hopes to get out of it, and establish a mutually agreeable schedule to connect on a regular basis.

Sean: As a last question, could you give our readers some advice on finding a mentor?

Dr. Suh-Lailam: Do it quickly, but not just anyone. Find someone you look up to, who teaches by example, and who has your best interest at heart. Be coachable, open to following directions and advice.

Dr. Haymond: I advise young laboratorians to become involved in their relevant professional societies. These organizations are often a great way to meet mentors and peers in the field and stay abreast of challenges and opportunities. Be curious and open to chances to volunteer or contribute to a variety of initiatives at work or in your field. Once you've committed to something, make sure to follow through and deliver as expected.

Sean: Amazing, thank you both for your time, and for sharing all your advice!

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A maximum of 19,5 CPECS® credits can be awarded for the scientific sessions of the 25th IFCC-EFLM EuroMedLab Congress. Each participant should receive credit only for the hours corresponding to the extent of his/her participation in the scientific part. Information on CPECS® credits per session can be found in the scientific program and the mobile app, which will be available for download during the congress.

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IFCC FORUM for Young Scientists - 2nd Edition

Complimentary event
Italy, Rome – May 21st, 2023

[Register here for the on site event](#)



Don't miss the IFCC FORUM for Young Scientists!

Join us in Rome on 21st May 2023

Book your place at the FORUM

The IFCC YS FORUM will be held on Sunday 21st May 2023

at LA NUVOLA - ROMA CONVENTION GROUP (Viale Asia, 40 /44 - 00144 Roma RM).

Young Scientists (YS) are the future of laboratory medicine and comprise the major workforce of laboratory professionals. Future leaders need to be trained and encouraged to succeed in their role, ideally with the support of experienced leaders. To make this feasible, the IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists (TF-YS) invites you to register to the "IFCC Young Scientists FORUM", where YS will have opportunities of training and improve communication and networking. The scientific program at the FORUM will provide the young scientists an excellent opportunity for an open discussion platform about scientific and personal experiences, exchange of ideas among colleagues and best practices. Young Scientists will present and discuss their activities in laboratory medicine and benefit from career skills development

[Click here](#) to register and participate in person to the on site event.

The Forum Program is in preparation

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Join the inaugural UNI5K walk/run in celebration of laboratory medicine

Are you passionate about laboratory medicine?

Do you enjoy spending time with colleagues and friends?

Do you like starting your day with some fresh air and exercise?

If you answered yes to one, or all the above, then the AACC's first ever 5k walk/run is calling to you! AACC, in partnership with the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Program, are excited to offer this fun walk/run being held to honor the power of laboratory medicine.

Join this exciting and fun opportunity to walk and/or run with friends and colleagues who share the same passion for Laboratory medicine as you do! The walk/run starts outside the Anaheim Convention Center, Grand Plaza on Monday, July 24, 2023, from 6-7 a.m. U.S. Pacific Time outside. Online registration for the UNI5K opens April 10, with more details available here: [UNI5K | AACC.org](#). Space is limited for this fun opportunity, so register early!

Every participant will receive a commemorative UNI5K T-shirt, which is highly recommended to be worn during the run. Chip times will also be provided for registrants, as well as discounted registration to the inaugural Executive Leadership Exchange (ELX) forum. ELX is an insightful and thought-provoking virtual educational forum being held this October with opportunities to earn up to 13 ACCENT credits. More details on ELX can be found here [healthcareELX.com](#).

Don't miss out on this opportunity to bond with colleagues, get some exercise and celebrate health, healthcare excellence and the value and future of laboratory medicine.

See you there!



Early champions of the UNI5K event include (L-R): Colleen Strain, Paul Epner, David Grenache, Khosrow Shotorbani, Rob Christenson, Fawn Lopez, Melissa Ryan, Lauren Kuetemeyer, Federico Lega, Marie Braunschneider, Tricia Ravalico and John Sproule



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JIB Paris 2022: Paving the way for sustainable strategies for medical labs

by Bernard Gouget

Chair IFCC C-MHBLM, IFCC/EFLM LABAC Representative

Jean-Marc Giannoli

LABAC President, IFCC/EFLM affiliate member

François Blanchecotte

JIB Paris 2022 President

Global health care is a complex and diverse sector that never has been mapped to climate emissions. One of the greatest threats to human health today is climate change, many people die each year from environmental risks globally, and at the same time, we are still trying to emerge from COVID-19, which has presented an unprecedented challenge to public health. In order to protect the health and well-being of our societies and future generations, the need to rapidly rebuild a sustainable and resilient healthcare system has never been greater.

Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, sustainable production, green finance, smart green technologies, environmental quality management of ecosystems, control of waste discharges, safety of installations are strong axes of global policies to deal with climate change. The ecological transition is at the heart of health. Health care's climate footprint is equivalent to 4.4% of global net emissions (2 gigatons of carbon dioxide equivalent). The health sector, whose mission is protecting and promoting health, makes a major contribution to the climate crisis, the greatest health threat of the 21st century, and therefore has an important role to play in resolving it. Health is crucial for sustainable human development, both as an inalienable human right and an essential contributor to the economic growth of society. Until now, the course of health care emissions is not so well understood. Hopefully, several health systems in multiple countries are already leading the way toward decarbonization.

Sustainable development is a concept that is not so new and is gradually maturing. The Gro Harlem Brundtland (NO) report articulated a commonly accepted definition: "Sustainable development is development that meets | the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (United Nations, 1987). Social and environmental movements highlight the social justice dimensions of sustainability and the economic, social, and environmental dimensions considering current inequalities and processes of exclusion. The concept was refined at the Rio Summit (1992) with the Sustainable Development Goals: 17 Goals to transform our World based on the triple bottom line which includes the 3Ps – People, Planet, and Profit that was coined by John Elkington in 1994 in the California Management Review.

During the JIB Paris 2022 international congress (December 1-2), Dominique Gombert, CEO COFRAC (Comité Français d'accréditation) was interested in the different means of implementing sustainable development, which can be by simple conviction, also admitting that our contribution is not anecdotal; or in the interest of reducing costs, reducing risks, standing out, anticipating regulations, protecting against shortages; or finally, by obligation due to multiple thematic regulations (energy, air, water, waste, etc.). The growing social pressure is also forcing the actors to position themselves, even to differentiate themselves with better consideration of these issues.

Article continued on next page



Dominique Gombert
CEO COFRAC, Paris France



Prof. Tomris OZBEN
EFLM President, IFCC President-elect

Professor Tomris Ozben, EFLM President, underlined that health sector facilities are the operational heart of service delivery, protecting health, treating patients, and saving lives. Health, as with every sector of society, has the responsibility to align its actions and development trajectory with the Paris Agreement to stave off the worst impacts of climate change. Health care contributes to greenhouse gas emissions through energy consumption, transport, and product manufacture, use, and disposal. The health sector must take responsibility for its climate footprint. If health sector growth and investment is coupled with a new trajectory to zero emissions, health care's climate footprint can decrease significantly even as health spending grows.

The progress in laboratory medicine and its growing development requires an increasing amount of ever more varied resources in medical lab platforms. The opportunity for lab optimization improvement is important, medical laboratories consume more energy per square meter than many hospitals or other commercial buildings! It is becoming very urgent for specialists in Lab medicine to integrate eco-responsible practices into their daily operations. A more efficient lab is a more sustainable one. Prof. Tomris Ozben presented the EFLM Guidelines for green and sustainable medical laboratories booklet (<https://www.eflm.eu/upload/docs/EFLM-GREEN-LAB-BOOKLET.pdf>). Different power point presentations and videos are available for the modules on Energy, Water, Chemical, Waste. Digitizing lab processes is also an opportunity to achieve sustainability.

In addition to the decarbonization of the sector itself, a big part of the solution will need to be in prevention, the health sector must support a social transition for clean and renewable energy. Beyond these energy issues, hospitals and medical biology platforms mobilize many products or resources during their life cycle to have multiple effects in the environment and health. These unavoidable issues, which are also economic factors, will force health and laboratory medicine players to commit sooner or later to a culture of "sustainability". International standards exist today and can be used by the sector as a mean of progress, of demonstrating regulatory compliance but also of responding to societal expectations, which no sector can now escape. Dominique Gombert recalled



Prof. Khosrow Adeli, IFCC President, Prof. Aldo Tomasi, Professor Emeritus Modena University, Prof. Tomris Ozben, EFLM President, IFCC President-elect

procurement; ISO 50001-2018 which specifies the requirements for establishing, implementing, maintaining and improving an energy management system (EnMS) and ISO 45001 which focuses on the internal environment of an organization. Finally, ISO 45001 is the global international standard for occupational health and safety, published to protect employees and visitors from work-related accidents and illnesses. HQE (High Environmental Quality) is a standard for green construction in France.

Concerns about sustainability are at the forefront of societal awareness today. A well-preserved and ecologically sound environment is essential for good health. Innovative solutions can help to speed and scale up the response to climate change. It is time to promote a safe and environmentally responsible work environment and rethink the way medical laboratories operate by implementing sustainability measures that will provide competitive advantages to clinical diagnostic laboratories in the long term.

that there are a variety of normative tools as well as guidelines for creating a sustainable lab. As privileged tools according to ISO standards, we can refer to: ISO 26000-2010 which addresses seven fundamental subjects of social responsibility and ISO 14001-2015 which covers the implementation of an Environmental Management System (EMS), emphasizing an organization's impact on the external environment.

This standard aims to reduce an organization's waste, pollution and energy. There are other relevant tools like: ISO 20400-2017 for sustainable



The Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQC^{ML}): Analysis of cortisol in saliva, a non-invasive tool for measuring endogenous cortisol production

by Mercè Ibarz Escuer

SEQC^{ML} - IFCC National Representative

*Hospital Universitari Arnau de Vilanova
Lleida, Spain*

The Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQC^{ML}) holds a course on the measurement of cortisol in saliva, as part of its virtual training project SEQC^{ML} ACADEMY:

Analysis of cortisol in saliva, a non-invasive tool for measuring endogenous cortisol production

- **Experts in Biochemistry and Endocrinology presented saliva analysis as a diagnostic test that the patient can easily repeat at home, free of the stress resulting from collecting other fluids.**
- **Cortisol measurement is performed for the treatment and monitoring of diseases or disorders related to dysfunction of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis; a key axis in the control of hemodynamic cardiovascular function and the general response to stress, both physiological and pathological**

Madrid, February 14, 2023 – The analysis of blood components has been one of the key pillars in the diagnostic procedures carried out by laboratories. However, other biological fluids have also, been used frequently in laboratory diagnosis, such as urine and saliva. In particular, saliva is a fluid that offers a series of advantages over others in measuring cortisol (a hormone produced by the adrenal glands that helps the body cope with stress), as it is a non-invasive method for diagnosing alterations in the secretion and circadian rhythm of cortisol. This was one of the key issues addressed by experts participating in the course “New aspects to take into account in the measurement of cortisol in saliva”, organized by the Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQC^{ML}) within the framework of its virtual training project SEQC^{ML} ACADEMY.

During the event, the head of the Endocrinology service at the Hospital Clínic de Barcelona, Dr. Felicia Hanzu, explained, in her presentation “What does cortisol in saliva contribute to clinical practice?”, the importance of having a non-invasive test that the patient can easily repeat at home, “while also being an economical and reproducible test, which is key to establishing a diagnosis in endocrine diseases related to hypersecretion or hyposecretion of cortisol”.

In addition, Dr. Hanzu highlighted the virtues of measuring cortisol in saliva compared to the use of other biological fluids. This tool, she argued, does not cause any type of stress for the patient due to the collection method, as opposed to “venipuncture when an analytical test has to be done, or when urine has to be collected over 24 hours”.

The collection of saliva samples for cortisol determination is usually carried out by the patient at home. In this way, as explained by Dr. Gregori Casals, member of the SEQC^{ML} Hormones Commission, “it is very important to transmit adequate information on the method and conditions of collection, including the schedule and preservation of the sample. Saliva is usually collected with the help of a device that includes a cotton swab that is “soaked” in saliva. According to Dr. Casals, in the laboratory this device is centrifuged to obtain the saliva sample to be analyzed. “The determination can be carried out in laboratories in an automated way by means of chemiluminescent immunoassays, usually the same ones used for serum samples, among other methods”, Dr. Casals noted.

Article continued on next page

In his presentation, "Analytical considerations for the adoption of salivary cortisol", Dr. Casals highlighted the importance of verifying that the method presents adequate quantification limits for clinical applications, due to the low concentrations of cortisol in saliva, especially in samples collected at night. Dr. Casals also stressed the importance of "checking that the method is prepared or shows good behavior in the saliva matrix, which is unusual in routine hormonal determinations. The effect that contamination of saliva with blood may have should also be taken into account and those results with macroscopically visible blood should be ruled out".

Currently, the measurement of cortisol in saliva is a test incorporated into various clinical guidelines. In the words of Dr. Casals, the forecast is for it to be consolidated as a "common test in hormone laboratories for exploration of the adrenal axis as a complement to those tests that already exist." According to the expert, the convenience of the collection can facilitate more frequent monitoring, especially after the introduction of or changes in treatment. "In addition to the field of endocrinology, its possible usefulness in monitoring the degree of stress in children and adults is a matter of interest", he added.

SEQC^{ML}

Sociedad Española de Medicina de Laboratorio

For more information: www.seqc.es.



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Three new EFLM Functional Units have been established

by Snezana Jovicic
EFLM Executive Board Secretary

On behalf of the EFLM Executive Board, I am delighted to announce three new EFLM Functional Units which have been established upon proposal of the EFLM President Prof. Tomris Ozben as an outcome of the recent EFLM Strategic Plan 2022-2023 prepared and developed by the EFLM President in consultation with EFLM National Societies and EFLM Functional Units Chairs and approved by the EFLM Executive Board.

- 1. Task Force: Direct-to-Consumer Testing (TF-DTCT)** – Chair: Matthias Orth
- 2. Task Force: Preparation of Labs for Emergencies (TF-PLE)** – Chair: Giuseppe Lippi
- 3. Task Group: Integrated Diagnostics - a New Interdisciplinary Frontier (TG-ID)** – Chair: Jochen Lennerz



Task Force: Direct-to-Consumer Testing (TF-DTCT)

Test results of biomarkers can be obtained in different settings (such as in conventional lab tests, as POCT, as self-testing, or with implanted sensors such as CGM). The public and the attending physicians rely on the numeric results of IVD testing performed and are often not aware how these results were generated and whether the results can be used interchangeably. There is a risk to patient safety when inappropriate test results are used for medical decisions or when resources are wasted due to insufficient quality of IVD tests. The aim of the Task Force is to inform the laboratory community about this problem and propose ways forward on how to handle it.



Task Force: Preparation of Labs for Emergencies (TF-PLE)

This functional unit is aimed to open a large debate and prepare a set of documents that may facilitate clinical laboratories and healthcare systems as a whole in Europe to be prepared for the most devastating scenarios originating from various types of emergencies.



Task Group: Integrated Diagnostics - a New Interdisciplinary Frontier (TG-ID)

The lack of a cohesive and efficient approach from presentation to final diagnosis results in fragmentation of informational units relevant to patient care. The fragmentation can result in delay of diagnosis and treatment or even lead to potential misdiagnosis. This task and finish group has the dedicated aim to develop a comprehensive and efficient definition and framework for integrated diagnostics. The aim is to create a diagnostic approach for identifying, addressing, and overcoming diagnostic integration challenges across subspecialties and disciplines. The goal of integrating multiple diagnostic techniques aims to improve efficiency and meaningful use in the diagnostic process.

Since the 3rd EFLM Strategic Conference, in total six new Functional Units have been established under the presidency of Prof. Tomris Ozben, proving the full commitment of the EFLM Executive Board, EFLM Functional Units and EFLM National Society Members to achieving a better healthcare through Laboratory Medicine.



News from the Japan Society of Clinical Chemistry (JSCC): The 2022 JSCC Young Investigator Award

*by Hideo Sakamoto, PhD
International Exchange Committee of JSCC*

The Japan Society of Clinical Chemistry (JSCC) Outstanding Young Investigator Award is given to persons who have made outstanding academic research in clinical chemistry. In 2022, Yuna Horiuchi, PhD and Mayumi Idei, MD, PhD. were winners of the Outstanding Young Investigator Award. At the 62nd Annual Meeting of JSCC in Toyama, Japan from September 30 to October 2, 2022 award winners Dr. Horiuchi and Dr. Idei were congratulated by Dr. Takashi Miida, President of JSCC for their outstanding work in clinical chemistry.



Yuna Horiuchi, Ph.D

In this issue, we would like to introduce Dr. Horiuchi one of the winners of the Outstanding Young Investigator Award to distribute her outstanding work.

Yuna Horiuchi, Ph.D. (Department of Medical Technology, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Juntendo University) is the winner of 2022 JSCC Outstanding Young Investigator Award, entitled “Investigation of conditions for polyethylene glycol treatment of serum in cell-free cholesterol efflux capacity assay”.

This study was conducted as part of a series of studies aimed at clinical measurement of cholesterol efflux capacity (CEC), a potential biomarker for cardiovascular disease (CVD).

CVD is well-known as one of the major causes of death in developed countries. Since it often does not show subjective symptoms before life-threatening events such as myocardial infarction or stroke, blood testing has played an important role in prevention of it. High-density lipoprotein (HDL) is known as anti-atherogenic lipoprotein and its cholesterol concentration (HDL-C), which represents the quantity of HDL, has widely been measured as a biomarker for CVD for a long time. Recently, the quality of HDL has tried to be evaluated along with its quantity for prediction of earlier and more personalized CVD risk. CEC is

one of the anti-atherogenic functions of HDL. CEC represents the amount of cholesterol which HDL can pull out from foam cell in atherosclerotic lesion, that is the ability to diminish the atherosclerotic lesion, and some reports showed its usefulness for prediction of CVD risk. However, complex manipulations such as cell culture, radioisotope-labelled cholesterol, and ultracentrifugation in conventional CEC assays prevented CEC from clinical use as a new biomarker. Yuna Horiuchi and her colleagues have developed a simple assay using gel beads, fluorescent-labelled cholesterol, and polyethylene glycol pretreatment of specimen instead of complicated processes (Horiuchi et al. Biosci Rep 2018). They have investigated various conditions and validation of the new assay for clinical use, and this study examines conditions for polyethylene glycol pretreatment of specimen serum.

Their final goal is using their new CEC method in clinical laboratory, to detect CVD risk earlier, and contribute to prevent crucial events caused by CVD. To reach the goal, they will work on various investigations such as shortening the required time for measurement and the consideration of clinical significance of CEC measured with their new method.



Report of the XX National Congress of Professionals of the Clinical Laboratory of the Dominican College of Bioanalysts (CODOBIO)

by Prof. Zoila Rita Garcia

President of the Scientific Committee

Member WG-IANT, CPD, IFCC

Prof. Rita Solis Y. Vuida Febrillet

President CODOBIO

Mtra. Leonarda B. Reyes

President XX Congress

With great expectation, the XX National Congress of Clinical Laboratory Professionals of the Dominican College of Bioanalysts, CODOBIO, was held on December 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 2022, at the Convention Center of the Dominican Fiesta Hotel in the City of Santo Domingo, National District, giving continuity and development to the traditional disposition of the school to carry this festival of knowledge every two years.

The XX National Congress of Clinical Laboratory Professionals, was conceived as a space to promote ethical training and integrate training them as responsible, critical, creative, supportive and respectful subjects of cultural and environmental heritage; so that they can contribute to scientific updates with knowledge that involves social diseases and the consequences that have generated demands in the change of humanity's behavior, management of values that imply continuous education needs of new professionals and updates to previous generations.

The thematic content was elaborated based on the central motto of the Congress "The Clinical Laboratory Facing the Global Pandemic; Taking care of your health. It contains relevant topics, among which we can point out: Knowledge Management, focused on new adaptation strategies that affected education during the COVID-19 pandemic, using virtual platforms that facilitated the training of the Bioanalyst in an integral way. Epidemiological Surveillance as a fundamental element to facilitate the response capacity of the Health System according to the experiences during the different processes. Another topic that we consider to be of vital interest is the role of research as a tool in the face of the specific challenges that COVID-19 has generated.



Members of the table of honor, Mtra. Rita Y. Solis Vuida Febrillet, President of CODOBIO. Prof. Leonarda B. Reyes, President of the Congress, Licda. Yvonne del Carmen Imbert, Director of the National Public Health Reference Laboratory Dr. De Filló, on behalf of the Minister of Health, Dr. Daniel Rivera, Dr. Alvaro Justiniano, President of COLABIOCLI, Licda. Olivia Y. Brathwaite on behalf of the Pan American Health Organization, PAHO, Licda. Yoany M. Arias, Director of the Clinical and Imaging Laboratories of the National Health Service, Mtra. Mirna M. Novas, Director of the School of Bioanalysis, UASD, Dr. Rosalia Sosa, Vice Chancellor of Extension on behalf of Chancellor Editrudis Beltrán and Reverend Tomás Cueto for the blessing of the congress.

Article continued on next page



Welcome words by the President of the Dominican College of Bioanalysts, CODOBIO, Mtra. Rita, Y. Solis Vuida Febrillet and opening remarks by Mtra. Leonarda B. Reyes, president of the Congress Organizing Committee



Greetings from Dr. Alvaro Justiniano Grosz, President, COLABIOCLI.

Topics related to other Vaccine-Preventable Diseases, Chronic, Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases, as well as the need for Innovation in the development of Technologies that allow effective and timely diagnosis of patients were included.

Health Management in components of Rectory and Health Services, Environment, Mental Health and Nutrition. Topics that highlight the fundamental role of clinical laboratory human resources in decision-making. Quality as a transversal element of all Bioanalysis processes. Ethics and Humanization.

Union Management, a function that CODOBIO must exercise in compliance with the duties and rights of its members, as well as emphasizing the defense that may be necessary in the event that some rights of its members are violated. And one last issue that is related to the guarantee of the quality of the service we provide and the importance of labor relations in Bioanalysis professionals.

Union Management, a function that CODOBIO must exercise in compliance with the duties and rights of its

On this occasion we have more than 1,200 participants including exhibitors, administrative support personnel and commercial contributors, in addition to the active support of important public and private institutions such as; Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Public Administration, MAP, Pan American Health Organization, National Health Service, SNS, International Federation of Clinical Chemistry, IFCC, Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry, COLABIOCLI, Autonomous University of Santo Domingo, UASD, with the participation of the Vice-Rector for Research, the School of Bioanalysis of the UASD, School of Public Health, UASD, Technological Institute of Santo Domingo, INTEC, Andalusian Society of Clinical Analysis and Laboratory Medicine, SANAC, the National College of Clinical Laboratorians, CONALAC of Panama, among others.

For the development of the Scientific Program we had the presence of exhibitors with a great trajectory and prestige, of which twenty-nine (29) were international and thirty-nine (39) national with whom it has been possible to interact through various modalities of transmission of knowledge: Forty-one (41) Conferences, four (4) Panels, three (3) Symposiums, two (2) Conversations, one (1) Round Table, one (1) Intra-congress Workshop,

and eight (8) presentations of works in the Poster modality. This Agenda contained a total of eighty-two (82) exhibitors. For reasons of space, we cannot include a detailed list of those who have intervened in the Congress.

The central events took place on Thursday, December 1, 2022 with the simultaneous opening in three rooms, a Bioanalyst Training Symposium within the Framework of the New Virtual Platforms by the School of Bioanalysis of the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo, UASD.

Regarding the celebration of the international HIV/AIDS day, on December 1 we presented the topics: Advanced HIV/AIDS Disease, Coinfection and Opportunistic Diseases by the Pan American Health Organization in the Dominican Republic. Also conferences on the Advances and Impact for the Decentralization for the Realization of Viral Tests of CD4, Viral Load and PCR of HIV in the Dominican Republic by the National Health Service and Current Approach in the HIV Infection of the Centralized Laboratories at the Point of Infection. We also had the presence of the visiting professors of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry with an intra-congress course by Dr. María Montserrat Blanes from the Visiting Professors, VLP, selected with the topics Updating of the Oncology Laboratory and Management of Clinical Guidelines and the Pandemic Plenary Conference in the World Epidemiological Context of Cancer

The second speaker during the Program was Dr. María Del Carmen Pasquel from the Visiting Professors, VLP, with the Conferences Certification 150 9001 vs Accreditation 15189, Similarities and differences and Documentary Management Fundamental Pillar of Quality in the Clinical Laboratory.



Dr. María Montserrat Blanes from the Visiting Professors, VLP in two moments during her speech



Dr. María Del Carmen Pasquel from the Visiting Professors, VLP

Also, the important Panel of the Pan American Health Organization, PAHO, on The Leadership of the Clinical Laboratory during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Conversations on Ethics and Humanization, Research Symposium, Importance of the Clinical Laboratory in Emergencies, Environment, among others.

On December 1st, the opening of the commercial exhibition took place with the ribbon cutting by our presidents, Mtra. Rita Y. Solis Vuida Febrillet and Mtra. Leonarda B. Reyes. Present María Esther Santos, Events and Exhibitions Coordinator, Mtra Zoila Rita Garcia, President of the Scientific Committee, Dr. Alvaro Justiniano Grosz, President of COLABIOCLI, guests and representatives of Commercial Houses.



Opening of the commercial exhibition took place with the ribbon cutting



On the opening night we dressed up to receive all our guests and participants to formally open and learn a little about our culture



At the closing of the Congress on Saturday, December 3, 2022 the prize was awarded to the participants for the Best Selected Poster Research Paper



Part of the Organizing and Scientific Committees of the Congress



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IFCC'S CALENDAR OF CONGRESSES, CONFERENCES & EVENTS

IFCC and Regional Federation events

2023-04-19	IFCC	<i>Evidence-based laboratory medicine – systematic review and meta-analysis</i>	Live webinar
2023-05-20 2023-05-21	IFCC	<i>Point-of-Care Testing: Home, Hospital and Beyond - Satellite Meeting</i>	Rome, IT
2023-05-20		<i>XVI ICPLM - International Congress of Pediatric Laboratory Medicine - Satellite Meeting</i>	Rome, IT
2023-05-20 2023-05-21	IFCC	<i>Clinical Mass Spectrometry: Validation and Accreditation of IVD and Laboratory Developed Test (LDT) in the new "Regulation EU 2017/746" ERA - Point-of-Care Testing: Home, Hospital and Beyond - Satellite Meeting</i>	Rome, IT
2023-05-21		<i>IFCC FORUM for Young Scientists</i>	Rome, IT
2023-05-21 2023-05-25		<i>XXV IFCC - EFLM WorldLab EuroMedLab - Rome 2023</i>	Rome, IT

2024-05-26 2024-05-30		<i>XXVI IFCC WORLDLAB - Dubai 2024</i>	Dubai, UAE
2024-08-28 2024-08-31		<i>XXVI COLABIOCLI 2024</i>	Cartagena, CO
2024-10-31 2024-11-03		<i>APFCB 2024 Sydney</i>	Sidney, AU
2025-05-18 2025-05-22	IFCC - EFLM	<i>XXVI IFCC-EFLM EUROMEDLAB 2025</i>	Brussels, BE

Corporate Member events with IFCC auspices

2022-08-01 2023-04-30	<i>5th International program in control of analytical quality in the Clinical laboratory</i>	Quality Academics, online event
2023-01-01 2023-07-31	<i>Inter-QC Topics</i>	Quality Academics, online, MX
2023-05-01	<i>Fundamentals and basic tools in quality control: How to start analytical quality in 5 steps?</i>	Quality Academics, online, MX
2023-06-01	<i>The 4 secrets of analytical quality</i>	Quality Academics, online, MX
2023-07-01	<i>Verification of analytical methods</i>	Quality Academics, online, MX

2023-08-01	<i>Measurement uncertainty</i>	Quality Academics, online, MX
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Other events with IFCC auspices

2023-04-22	<i>New Progress in Research and Application of International Laboratory Medicine</i>	Hybrid event, Shenzhen, China
2023-04-26 2023-04-28	<i>II Peruvian International Congress of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and the IX Peruvian Congress of Clinical Pathology "Dr. Oswaldo Herculles"</i>	La Libertad, Trujillo, Peru
2023-04-28 2023-04-30	<i>XXIII National Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine Expolab Veracruz 2023</i>	Veracruz, MX
2023-05-04	<i>11th European Symposium of Clinical Laboratory and In Vitro Diagnostic Industry: "THE LABORATORY OF HAEMATOLOGY: A 360° VISION"</i>	Barcelona, ES
2023-05-11 2023-05-13	<i>XIV Congreso Uruguayo de Bioquímica Clínica</i>	Montevideo, UY
2023-05-16 2023-05-19	<i>The 14th International & 20th National Congress on Quality Improvement in Clinical Laboratories</i>	Tehran, IR
2023-06-12 2023-06-14	<i>UKLabMed23</i>	Leeds, GB
2023-08-24 2023-08-26	<i>The 12th International Palestinian Conference of Laboratory Medicine (IPCLM12)</i>	Ramallah, PS
2023-09-20 2023-09-23	<i>6th ACTC (Advances in Circulating Tumor Cells) meeting "Liquid Biopsy and Precision Oncology: where do we stand now"</i>	Skiathos, GR

2023-09-27 2023-09-30	<i>XXX Meeting of the Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation and II Montenegrin Conference of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine</i>	Herceg Novi, Boka Bay, ME
2023-10-12 2023-10-13	<i>5th Symposium – Cutting Edge of Laboratory Medicine in Europe – CELME 2023</i>	Prague, CZ
2023-11-01 2023-11-04	<i>LIII Mexican National Congress of Clinical Pathology</i>	Agascalientes, MX
2024-05-21 2024-05-24	<i>The 10+1 Santorini Conference “Systems medicine and personalised health & therapy”-“The odyssey from hope to practice: Patient first -Keeps Ithaca always in your mind”</i>	Santorini, GR
2024-06-13 2024-06-14	<i>9th International Symposium on Critical Care Testing and Blood Gases</i>	Saint-Malo, FR

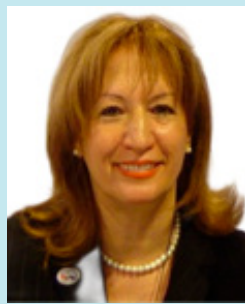




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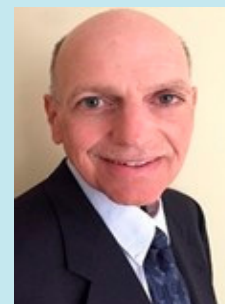
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Publisher

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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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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*

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N° 11 – November: *by mid October*

N° 12 – December: *by mid November*

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