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September 2023

enews

International Federation of Clinical Chemistry
and Laboratory Medicine



Communications and Publications Division (CPD) of the IFCC

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enews

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Editorial

Dear colleagues

I hope you have really enjoyed your holidays, and came back full of energy. This summer was difficult for a lot of people worldwide due to the high temperatures, the fires, the extreme climatic phenomena. Nevertheless, the beautiful holidays memories will keep us company during the months at work lying ahead.

In this relatively small eNews issue you will read about sensational events in the IFCC family, that took place during the summer, as they are described by our President, Prof Khosrow Adeli, who invites all of us to a productive IFCC fall.

Two descriptions of the experiences with the IFCC Scientific Exchange Program make us realize the importance of this program. It permits our colleagues to live in a foreign country, to participate in the life of an important lab, to acquire and share knowledge with other colleagues, to bring this knowledge to one's own lab, to make friends and be inspired. Read these reports and get prepared to apply for such a program. You will see that it may change your professional life and it will help your lab as well.

In this issue you can also read about the 8th annual meeting of our colleagues in Sri Lanka, made more interesting and more successful with the participation of Prof Ken Sikaris and Prof Tony Badrick, through the VLP program, another important IFCC program that all IFCC national societies can apply for.

Three scientific groups, winners of the UNIVANTS rewards, are presented in this issue, all of them very interesting. I am sure the NBA COVID-19 bubble will catch your attention. Are we talking about "The NBA"? Well yes go ahead, read and find out why an article about NBA finds its place in the IFCC eNews.

Don't forget, dear colleagues, that opinions from all over the world are heard in the eNews. We are looking forward to listening to your particular and beautiful voice.

Enjoy the last summer days and the beginning of autumn with the company of IFCC eNews.



Katherina Psarra, MSc,
PhD, eNews Editor

| Katherina

The voice of IFCC

IFCC President's Message

September 2023
By Khosrow Adeli

Greetings to everyone in the IFCC family! I hope you have all had a wonderful summer. The IFCC Executive Board is looking forward to a very productive Fall season in collaboration with all IFCC functional groups and affiliated organizations.

There were several important events held this summer by IFCC national societies. Among these events one holds special significance: the 60th anniversary celebrations held by the Vietnamese Society of Clinical Biochemistry (VACB)—a truly remarkable accomplishment. I had the privilege of representing IFCC during this exceptional event in Hanoi and offering support to VACB as they celebrated this significant milestone. VACB was formed in 1963 even amid the challenging backdrop of the Vietnam War!

Another major event held this summer was the AACC conference in Anaheim during which AACC formally changed its name to ADLM (Association for Diagnostics and Laboratory Medicine). The new name broadens the Association's scope to encompass several other domains within laboratory medicine and is hoped to expand membership and enhance visibility of the organization in the eye of the public and other stakeholders. During the conference in Anaheim, the IFCC Executive Board met with the AACC/ADLM Executive Board and exchanged ideas on ways to expand collaboration between our two organizations. Several areas were identified where we have common interests and activities and it was agreed to join forces so that we minimize duplication and enhance productivity on various international projects in areas such as newborn screening, global lab quality, as well as educational programs.

The IFCC Executive Board also met separately during the Anaheim conference and discussed many other IFCC priorities including IFCC clinical laboratory practice guidelines, conference organizational matters, and accreditation of future WorldLab Congresses. The Executive Board has formally approved the formation of a new Working Group on Continuing Education/Accreditation to begin planning accreditation of the Dubai WorldLab 2024 scientific program as well as other future IFCC events in collaboration with the CPECS program developed by EFLM.

Progress is also being made on development of the new IFCC Clinical Laboratory Practice Guidelines. The program is aimed at development and dissemination of best practice recommendations/guidelines in all areas of clinical laboratory medicine and facilitating implementation in clinical laboratories worldwide, particularly in developing countries. Under this program, IFCC functional units will be encouraged to employ their expertise to develop one or more of the following documents: best practice recommendations, clinical laboratory consensus statements



Prof. Khosrow Adeli
PhD, FCACB, DABCC,
FAACC

*IFCC President's
Message*

or position papers based on evidence from wide range of existing reputable guidelines, peer-reviewed publications, and expert consensus as well as clinical laboratory practice guidelines (CLPG) (evidence-based using a grade system using a standardized methodology for producing guidelines). Stay tuned! a formal announcement will be made over the coming weeks and all IFCC functional units will be invited to participate and submit proposals for development of such best practice recommendations and guideline documents.

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 with your feedback, questions, or concerns.

Cheers,
Khosrow ☺

My Professional Scientific Exchange Programme (PSEP) at Biochemical Genetics Laboratory, Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, Mayo Clinic (Rochester, Minnesota, United States of America).

By **Mariana Serres Gómez**, Resident of Laboratory Medicine in La Paz University Hospital, Madrid, Spain

Supervisor: Dr. Matern

Topic: Inborn errors of metabolism

My name is Mariana Serres Gómez. I studied a double bachelor's degree in Chemistry and Biochemistry and I am currently in my third year of residency program in Laboratory Medicine in La Paz University Hospital (Madrid, Spain). The residency program in Spain lasts 4 years, and during this period we have three months where we can do an external rotation in a hosting laboratory to expand our knowledge in a specific discipline of Laboratory Medicine. I have always had a special interest in metabolism since I studied my bachelor's degree and discovered this incredible subject. During my residency program, I had a short rotation in the Inborn Errors of Metabolism Laboratory of my hospital. It reconfirmed my passion in this topic and led me to apply for an external rotation to broaden my knowledge and specialize more in this field. I was very fortunate to be able to contact Dr. Dietrich Matern from the Biochemical Genetics Laboratory (BGL) at Mayo Clinic. BGL performs the evaluation and diagnosis of patients and families with inherited metabolic diseases. The laboratory staff routinely performs qualitative detection and quantitative determination of diagnostic markers based on a variety of manual, automated and chromatographic methods including high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC), gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) and tandem mass spectrometry (MS/MS).

The main summarized objectives from the PSEP program were:

- Gain expertise in laboratory techniques used in the diagnosis of inborn errors of metabolism.
- Expand and deepen the knowledge of inborn errors of intermediary metabolism, focusing on results interpretation for the correct diagnosis and follow-up of these patients during monitoring of treatment.
- Learn about lysosomal and peroxisomal storage disorders.
- Experience the process of development of new methods and research in new second-tier biomarkers.

During my stay, I participated in various tasks, and I was able to learn more about the operation of a reference laboratory such as BGL in the USA. Most of the mornings I did observation rotating in the laboratory stations to learn the different techniques, from sample preparation to the final obtaining of results and chromatograms for interpretation. I was able to see techniques such as FIA-MS/MS, LC-MS/MS, GC-MS, MALDI-TOF, QTOF and enzymatic assays. Also, I had the opportunity to learn the processing of blood spot samples as BGL participates in some newborn screening programs.

Every afternoon I participated in a meeting with the Consultant and Fellow "on call" for chromatogram and profile interpretation, assignment of comments and signing of results. This was an incredible experience for me, being able to be present in this process was an excellent way of learning. I was also able to attend seminars presented by the Fellows and Consultants on clinical cases, literature

reviews and sessions on specific topics with the latest updates.

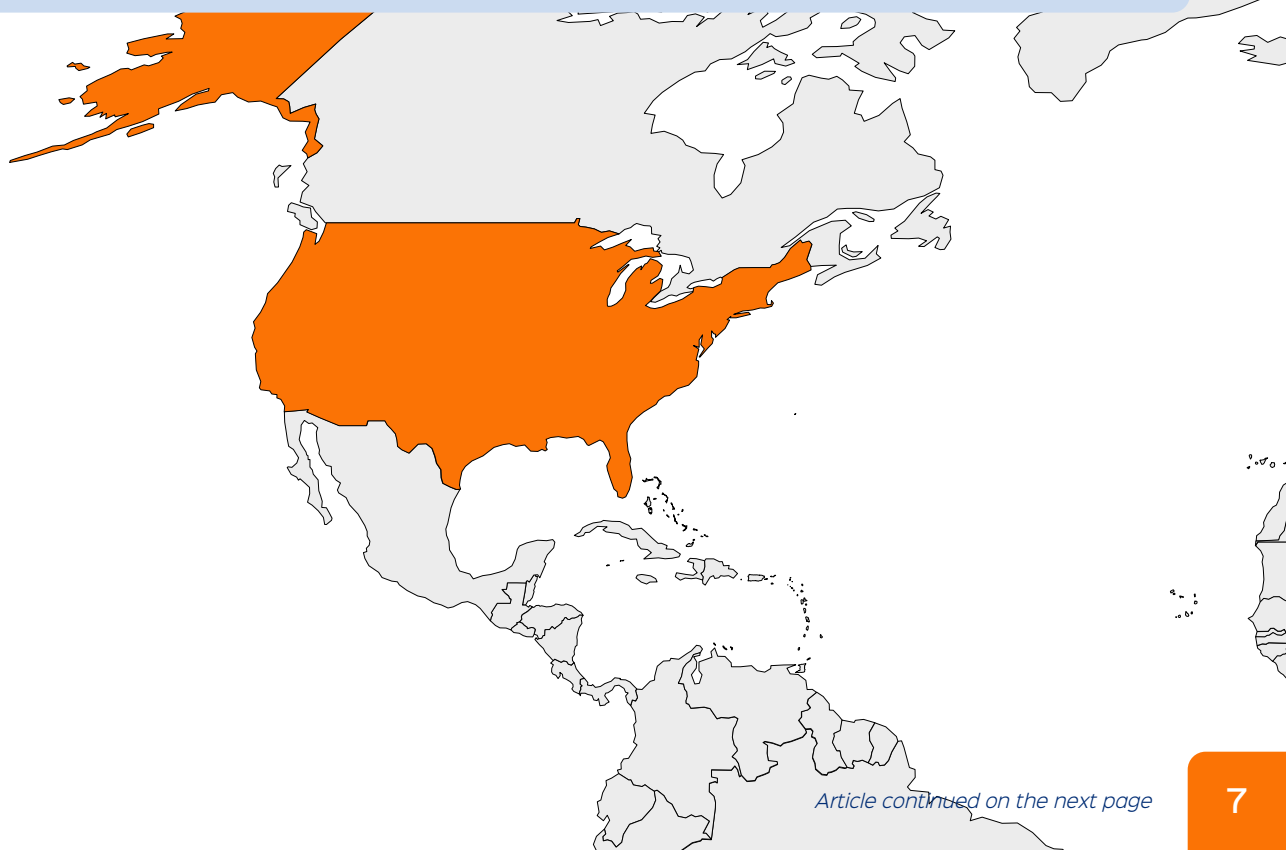
In addition, I learned how to use at a basic level CLIR (Collaborative Laboratory Integrated Reports) program, which is a post-analytical web tool with an interactive laboratory database contributed by multiple centers internationally, and it is primarily used for interpretation of newborn screening results.

At the research level, I feel very grateful to have had the chance to prepare a case report of Gaucher disease together with Dr. Matern that allowed us to submit an abstract to a congress. On the other hand, Dr. Patricia Hall and Dr. Silvia Tortorelli, proposed me to study different biomarkers from women with Fabry disease and I was able to prepare another communication. These two works allowed me to deepen my knowledge on the group of lysosomal disorders, which are not studied in the laboratory of my hospital.

This experience has undoubtedly been a valuable contribution to my professional future. I got to know closely the way of working, organization and structure of a world reference laboratory from which I have learned a lot. I have had the opportunity to spend 3 months in a foreign country, speaking another language and interacting with people from different countries and professional backgrounds. I have attended meetings with Consultants and Fellows that have helped me to gain more self-confidence, to discuss cases with them and to become more fluent in the interpretation of chromatograms and complex cases.

An external rotation abroad is a great learning opportunity both personally and professionally. I feel very fortunate to have been able to live this enriching experience. I would definitely recommend doing an external rotation to other residents.

I would like to thank the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry (IFCC) for giving me the opportunity to carry out this external rotation through the support of the Professional Scientific Exchange Programme (PSEP) scholarship. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the BGL team, the Consultants, Fellows and Amy Piazza (the Education Specialist), for always being willing to solve doubts, comment on cases and for their help and support during my stay, but specially to Dr. Matern who made this stay possible, who trusted me and encouraged me to work on a clinical case. Finally, I would like to thank Dr. Antonio Buño Soto, head of the Department of Laboratory Medicine from my hospital, for helping me in the application process and showing his support during the whole stay.





In this photo I am with the PhD student Rachel Wurth and the Fellow Dr. Zinandr  Stander from BGL.



In this photo we are outside the Mayo Building



In this photo I am sitting next to the statues of the Mayo brothers, founders of Mayo Clinic.



With Amy Piazza, the Education Specialist who supervised my rotation program during my stay at BGL.

My experience with the IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Program at Fares Taie Laboratory in Mar del Plata, Argentina

By **Fernanda Larrambeberé**

Clinical Biochemist

Paysandú, Uruguay

My name is Fernanda Larrambeberé, I am a Clinical Biochemist from Paysandú, Uruguay. At the beginning of 2023, I had the incredible opportunity to participate in the IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Programme (PSEP) at Fares Taie Laboratory in Mar del Plata, Argentina, under the supervision of Dr. Santiago Fares Taie.

In 2019 after five years working as a Clinical Biochemist in Uruguay, I realized Endocrinology Laboratory was still emerging in my country, with very few professionals specialized in this area. Being aware of the growing demand for endocrinology tests and the complexity involved in their interpretation, I decided to further my education in this field by starting my postgraduate studies at Universidad de Buenos Aires in Argentina. This year, the IFCC PSEP provided me with an opportunity to do a 3-month training at Fares Taie, which complemented and allowed me to complete my studies. Fares Taie Laboratory has a team of highly qualified and dedicated professionals and is equipped with the latest technology and work algorithms based on vast experience. The Endocrinology section is led by Dr. Santiago Fares Taie and receives high daily workloads. From the first day I was received with enthusiasm and willingness to share their expertise.

Working alongside Santiago allowed me to carry out intensive training and study diverse clinical cases that helped me strengthen the interpretation of laboratory results. He shared his knowledge making sure that I gained a comprehensive understanding of the intricacies of endocrinology. I was guided through each step of laboratory protocols, with special emphasis in the importance of precision and accuracy in hormone measurements, utilizing sophisticated methods such as immunoassays and mass spectrometry.

During my training period, I devoted a significant amount of time to scientific research based on up-to-date bibliography, followed by collaborative discussions with Santiago. This opportunity allowed me to thoroughly examine each of the topics related to endocrinology, expanding my knowledge in the field. In addition, daily validation of results with the specialist, contributed to strengthening my criteria for the interpretation of results.

Also, I had the opportunity to attend conferences on various relevant topics around endocrinology, which enriched my understanding and kept me updated on the most recent advances and challenges in the field. Many of the techniques and algorithms that I learned during my training are currently being implemented in the laboratory where I work. This reflects how my training experience not only benefited me on a personal level but has also had a direct impact on my professional performance and the quality of the studies carried out in my workplace.

An additional significant aspect of my training was the opportunity to develop my final thesis, based on an atypical case of Addison's Disease. Throughout this process, I had the privilege of interviewing the patient, seeking specialist opinions, and having access to all laboratory studies conducted for the diagnosis and follow-up.

*My experience with the IFCC
PSEP at Fares Taie Laboratory*

My main focus was on the endocrine section, but I also interacted with professionals working in other sections such as hematology, immunology, and molecular biology. I participated in seminars, familiarized myself with other laboratory equipment, and exchanged ideas for daily work. I gained a more comprehensive perspective on the diagnostic and research capabilities of the laboratory, realizing the importance of a multidisciplinary approach in unraveling the complexities of endocrine disorders. Additionally, I acquired knowledge in analyzing quality control data based on the Six Sigma methodology. This valuable tool is now being implemented in my current workplace as well.

Participating in the Professional Exchange Program was an extraordinary experience that broadened my perspective, enriched my skill set, and fostered lasting connections with other professionals. I am profoundly grateful to the IFCC and to Fares Taie Laboratory for the opportunity to be part of this program.

I strongly encourage other professionals to seize a PEP experience, for their personal and professional development. The lessons and connections I gained will undoubtedly influence my career positively for years to come.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Santiago Fares Taie and Belén Uñates for their unwavering support, guidance, and dedication throughout my time in the laboratory. Their warm hospitality made my experience in Mar del Plata feel like home. I am truly grateful for their contributions to my training and for creating an enriching and welcoming environment.



Mar del Plata view



*(L-R) Santiago Fares Taie, Dr. Fernanda Larrambebere, and
Laboratory Technician Belén Uñates*



Fares Taie Laboratory staff in Mar del Plata

MAGLUMI® X Series

Fully-auto Chemiluminescence Immunoassay System



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- Reagent position: 20



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- Sample Positions: 112/412
- Reagent positions: 30



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- Sample Positions: up to 300
- Reagent positions: 42

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- T3
- FT4
- FT3
- Tg (Thyroglobulin)
- TGA (Anti-Tg)
- Anti-TPO
- TRAb
- TMA
- Rev T3
- T-Uptake

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

Fertility

- FSH
- LH
- HCG/β-HCG
- PRL (Prolactin)
- Estradiol
- Testosterone
- free Testosterone
- DHEA-S
- Progesterone
- free Estriol
- 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
- Anti-tTG IgA
- Anti-tTG IgG
- *DGP IgA
- *DGP IgG
- *Anti-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

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
- *Anti-ZnT8

Veterinary Testing

- *cTSH
- *cTT4
- *vFT4

Drug Monitoring

- Digoxin
- CSA (Cyclosporine A)
- FK 506 (Tacrolimus)

* Available soon

The IFCC – Abbott Visiting Lecturer Programme at 8th Annual Academic Sessions 14th and 15th July 2023 – Grand Kandyan Hotel, Kandy, Sri Lanka

By **Dr Dinesha Maduri Vidanapathirana**

Senior Lecturer/Consultant Chemical Pathologist/Joint Secretary of the College of Chemical Pathologist of Sri Lanka/Corresponding member of IFCC Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medical Sciences University of Sri Jayewardenepura - Sri Lanka

This report aims to provide a concise overview of the College of Chemical Pathologists of Sri Lanka's experience with the IFCC - Abbott Visiting Lecturer Programme (VLP). The report highlights the college gratitude for the program support in providing two eminent speakers for their 8th Annual Academic Sessions, held on 14th and 15th July 2023 at Grand Kandyan Hotel, Kandy, Sri Lanka. It acknowledges the successful conference, the positive reception of the lectures delivered by Prof Ken Sikaris and Prof Tony Badrick, the problem-solving achievements, networking opportunities, and the hope for continued support from the IFCC VLP in the future.

The College of Chemical Pathologists of Sri Lanka expresses deep gratitude to the IFCC Abbott Visiting Lecturer Program for their support in providing two eminent speakers for their Annual Academic Sessions. Despite the adverse economic situation Sri Lanka is currently facing, the college is extremely grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with such renowned experts.

The conference organized by the college was a resounding success, attracting a wide range of professionals in the field of Chemical Pathology. There were 75 participants in the main academic program and 233 participants in the Medical Laboratory Science program.

The lectures delivered by Prof Ken Sikaris and Prof Tony Badrick were exceptionally well received by the attendees. Their expertise, knowledge, and engaging presentation styles made a significant impact on the participants, providing them with valuable insights into the latest advancements in the field.

The VLP facilitated meaningful discussions and problem-solving sessions, allowing participants to address various challenges faced in the field of chemical pathology. Through interactive exchanges and collaborative efforts, participants were able to find practical solutions to the problems they encountered. The VLP played a vital role in fostering a collaborative environment that facilitated the sharing of experiences and expertise among professionals.

Also, the VLP provided an excellent platform for networking and establishing connections among the professionals in the field of chemical pathology. Participants had the opportunity to meet and engage with colleagues from different institutions and backgrounds. These networking interactions allowed for the exchange of ideas, best practices, and potential collaborations. The opportunity to build such connections was invaluable for enhancing professional growth and fostering future partnerships.

The College of Chemical Pathologists of Sri Lanka expresses its sincere hope for continued support from the IFCC Abbott Visiting Lecturer Programme in the future. The collaboration with IFCC VLP has been instrumental in the success of the annual sessions, and the college believes that further

support would strengthen its ability to provide high-quality education and professional development opportunities in the field of Chemical Pathology. The college is eager to continue working with the IFCC VLP to promote excellence and advancement in the field.



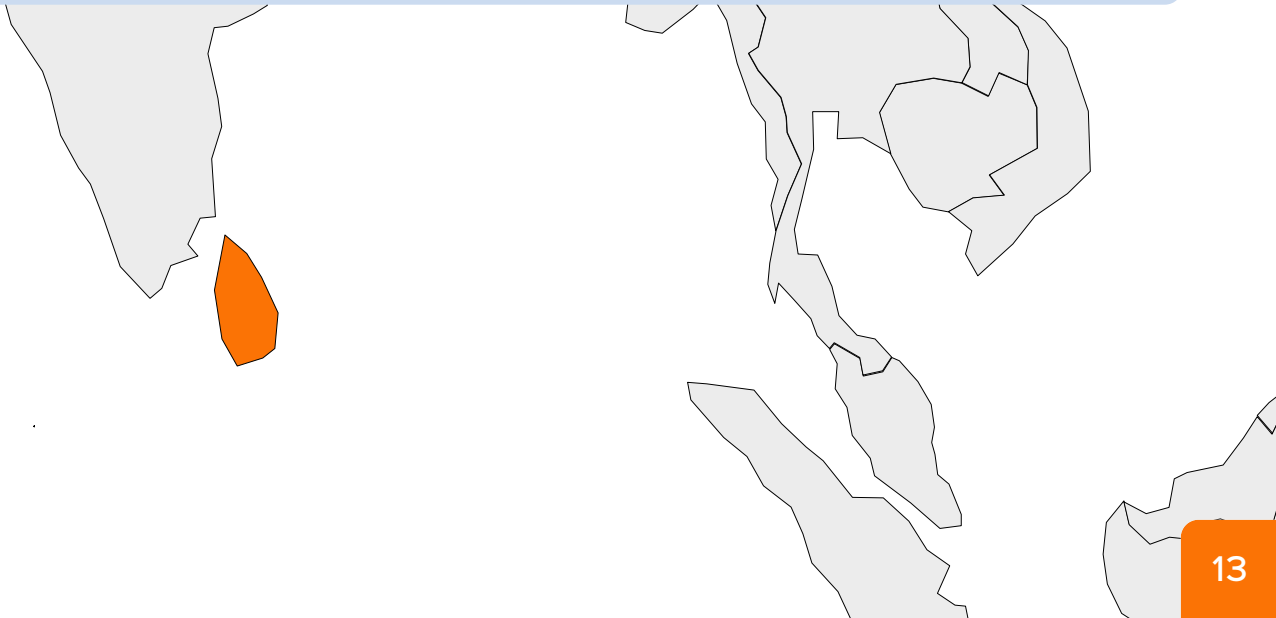
Speakers on stage: (L-R) Dr Ken Sikaris, Dr Tony Badrick, Dr Pradeep Datta, Prof. Praveen Sharma.



(L-R) L-R Dr Manjula Dissanayake, Consultant Chemical Pathologist/Past President of the College of Chemical Pathologists of Sri Lanka (CCPSL) 2020, Prof Tony Badrick, CEO of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia Quality Assurance Programs, Australia, Dr B.K.T.P Dayanath, Consultant Chemical Pathologist/Past President of CCPSL 2018, Colombo North Teaching Hospital, Ragama, Sri Lanka



Speaker, VLP Speakers and Organizing committee members of the 8th Annual Academic Sessions which was held on 14th and 15th July 2023 at Grand Kandyan Hotel, Kandy, Sri Lanka with IFCC President, prof Adeli.



Satellite Meeting



IFCC WORLDLAB
DUBAI 2024
MAY 26-30



XVII ICPLM 
Emerging Technologies in 
Pediatric Laboratory Medicine

SATURDAY
25TH
MAY
2024

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PEDIATRIC LABORATORY MEDICINE

Topics

Immunodeficiencies

Immuno-flow cytometry in pediatric
laboratory medicine

Genomics vs Mass spectrometry
in pediatric laboratory medicine

Newborn Screening for SCIDs

NGS in diagnosing
undiagnosed diseases



Organizing Secretariat
Phone: +39 02 66802323
info@dubai2024.org

Task Force on Outcome Studies in Laboratory Medicine (TF-OSLM) Call For Outcome Study Proposals 2023

Research Funding Available



Call For Outcome Study Proposals 2023 Extended Deadline

IFCC's Task Force on Outcome Studies in Laboratory Medicine (TF-OSLM) is seeking research proposals for studies evaluating the impact of laboratory testing on healthcare outcomes.

Study proposals should seek to evaluate the clinical effectiveness and impact of new and/or commonly available medical laboratory tests and/or laboratory information on patient care outcomes in clinical practice. It is crucial for the proposed study to link the laboratory testing insights to patient management, and improvements/changes in clinical outcomes. If you, in collaboration with your clinical colleagues, are interested in applying please [click here](#) for full eligibility criteria and details on how to apply.

All applications are due by: October 1, 2023

Don't Miss Your Chance to Demonstrate the Value of Laboratory Medicine!!

IFCC Annual Report 2022

The IFCC Annual Report 2022, compiled by Dr. David Kinniburgh, IFCC Secretary, is now available. Read the Message from the President and discover the many IFCC activities towards its mission: "Advancing excellence in laboratory medicine for better healthcare worldwide".

In the IFCC Annual report 2022, you will find reports from IFCC Officers on key projects covering a wide range of clinical, scientific, educational, and communication-related topics. National or Area Societies and Regional Federation reports are also included, allowing the opportunity to communicate their activities to other members.

Click on the image to download your copy!

News from the website





**CLINICAL
DIAGNOSTICS**

Free Educational Webinar

Topic

Troubleshooting with Quality Control Data

**in Medical Laboratories
for Beginners**

26th September

2pm BST, 3pm CEST and 9am EST

Delivered by:

Oswald Sonntag

Independent Consultant



During this webinar, Oswald will explain how to identify problems and errors that occur during the analytical phase in the medical laboratory.

REGISTER NOW

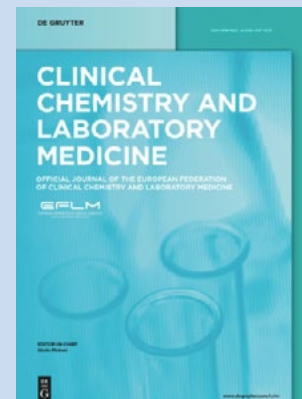


ETD Toolkit for emerging technologies in laboratory medicine

CCLM article by the IFCC Emerging Technologies Division (ETD)

An emerging technology (ET) for laboratory medicine can be defined as an analytical method (including biomarkers) or device (software, applications, and algorithms) that by its stage of development, translation into broad routine clinical practice, or geographical adoption and implementation has the potential to add value to clinical diagnostics. Considering the laboratory medicine-specific definition, this document examines eight key tools, encompassing clinical, analytical, operational, and financial aspects, used throughout the life cycle of ET implementation. **Whilst there are differences in clinical priorities between different settings, the use of this set of tools will help support the overall quality and sustainability of the emerging technology implementation.**

[Click here](#) to read the article





www.dubai2024.org



IFCC WORLD LAB DUBAI 2024

MAY 26-30



26th International Congress of
Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine

17th Congress of Arab Federation
of Clinical Biology

10th Saudi Society for Clinical
Chemistry Annual Meeting

8th International and UAE Genetic
Disorders Conference

Dubai World
Trade Centre (DWTC)

DEADLINES

15 January 2024

Deadline for poster abstract submission

15 March 2024

Deadline for reduced registration fees

IFCC: the people

IFCC Calls for Nominations



Communications and Publications Division (CPD) Call for nominations

- [Committee on Public Relations \(C-PR\)](#) - 2 members positions
- [Working Group eJIFCC – eJIFCC Editor-in-Chief](#) position
- [CPD-Executive Committee \(CPD-EC\)](#) Corporate Representative position

Nominations should be sent to the IFCC office (colli-lanzi@ifcc.org) by 31st October 2023

[Task Force Corporate Members \(TF-CM\)](#) Call for nominations 3 Member positions

Nominations should be sent to the IFCC office (paola.bramati@ifcc.org) by 31st October 2023

For any further information on nominations, please refer to your National or Corporate Representative - contacts are available [here](#).

“Challenges of digital technologies and artificial intelligence in laboratory medicine”

On-demand content now available! [Click here to access the recorded webinar](#)



The IFCC webinar: “Challenges of digital technologies and artificial intelligence in laboratory medicine” was held on July 27, 2023.

The digital revolution does not stop at any area of life and also plays a major role in healthcare. The young professional and researcher in laboratory medicine, or Young Scientist, has a key role in this changing lab environment and tries to seize new opportunities given by technological evolutions. This webinar covered challenges of digital technologies in laboratory medicine from several facets, including digital competences, artificial intelligence, and applications of bioinformatics in clinical routine.

This webinar comprises of three following presentations of 20 min each followed by 20 min of panel discussion at the end.

Moderators: Dr. Marie Lenski and Dr. Ashlin Rampul

Talk 1 - “Skills of the Future - What kind of digital competence is needed?” Dr. Jakob Adler

Talk 2 - “Augmenting Intelligence: Basics of Artificial Intelligence in the lab” Dr. Reinhardt Hesse

Talk 3 - “Bioinformatic infrastructure, pipelines, and impact in clinics” Dr. Augustin Boudry

Certificate of participation: *available for all registrants*

News from the website

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Improving the Peri-Operative Pathway of People with Diabetes Undergoing Elective Surgery: The IP3D Project

In a world where patient empowerment can improve outcomes, enhance experiences and save costs, integrated clinical care strategies that focus on patient engagement are an impactful first step. That said, it is never as easy as it sounds, particularly for patients with complex diseases. Perioperative pathways, in particular, can be challenging for patients with diabetes, as many patients experience anxiety and dissatisfaction with their care. Beyond the patient experience, patients with diabetes are more likely to experience post-operative complications, have higher rates of mortality and tend to have longer lengths of stay with more frequent readmissions.

Despite numerous guidelines in this space, little improvements have been seen for patients with diabetes who are undergoing surgery. Recognizing that more had to be done, Professor Gerry Rayman, Consultant Diabetologist, Ipswich Hospital, East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust and Emma Page, Transformation Manager and Project Lead developed and implemented the IP3D program: Improving the peri-operative pathway of people with diabetes undergoing elective surgery. IP3D involves several critical success factors, including a 'diabetes perioperative passport' to help empower patients throughout their surgical processes, formation of a diabetes-surgery working group, recruitment of surgical diabetes champions and recruitment of a Perioperative Diabetes Specialist Nurse (DSN). The DSN is responsible for engaging and educating others involved in the pathway and supporting patients with their diabetes care pre-surgery and on admission, including optimization of HbA1c.

The results of the IP3D initiative have been astounding. There was a 12% (from 28% to 16%; $P=0.008$) reduction in in-hospital complication, including a decrease in those who experienced a composite of dysglycaemic complications, poor wound healing, wound infection, and other infections (12.4% vs 5.4%; $P=0.023$), as well as reductions in dysglycaemic events such as recurrent hypo and hyperglycemia. A corresponding 1.5 day (from 4.8 to 3.3 days $p=0.001$) reduction in patient length of stay was also achieved for patients with diabetes, without a significant increase in 30-day readmission. Collectively, these impressive achievements mitigate £157,000 per year (525 hospital bed-days).

Due to the meaningful improvements in outcomes and patient care, the IP3D program has since been implemented into >10 different NHS Trusts, all with similar, outstanding results.

The outcomes achieved and improvements seen would not be possible without the passionate team behind IP3D. For their efforts, this integrated clinical care team was awarded the Top Global Honor of 2022 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Award Winner.

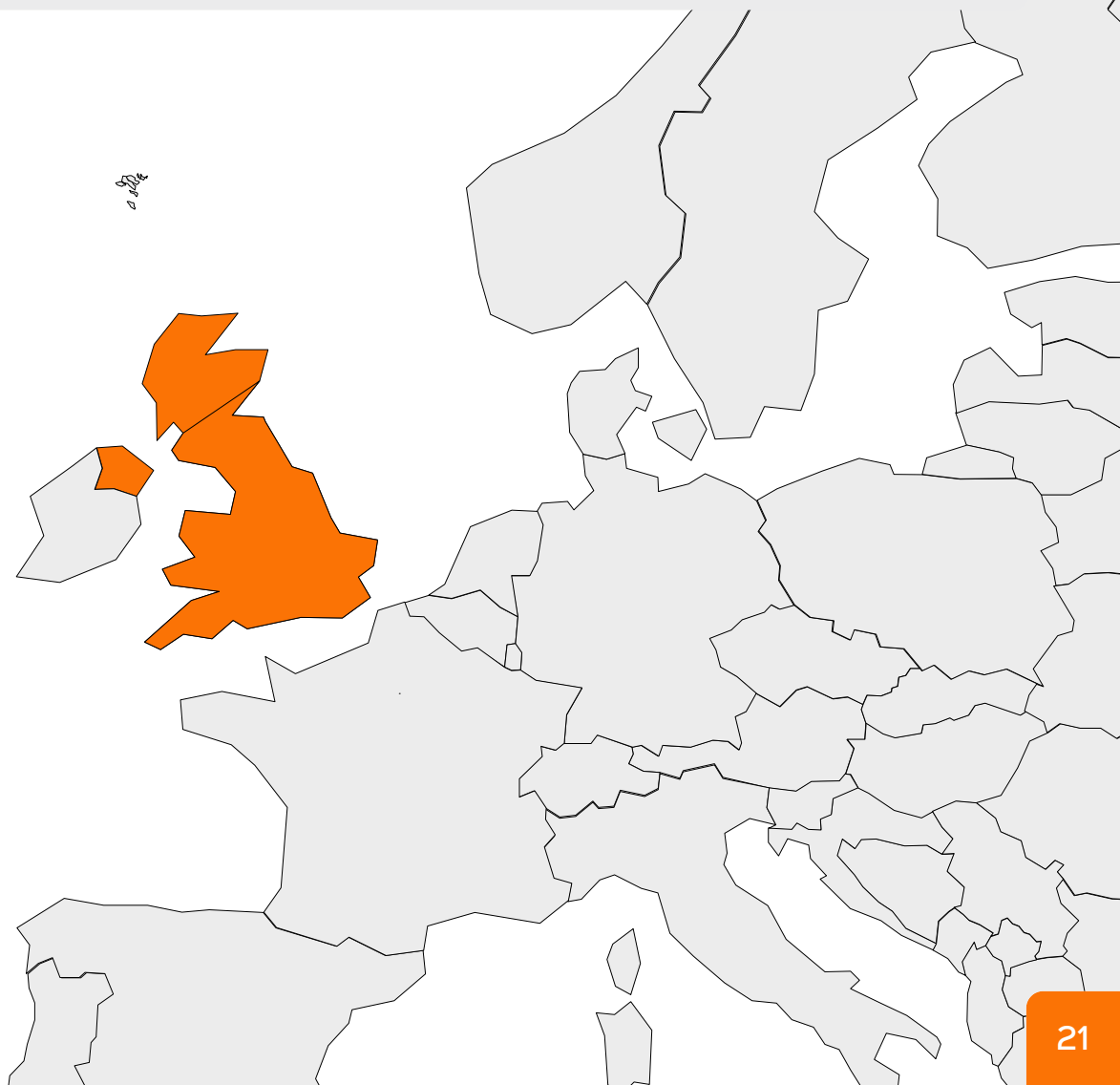


(L-R) Rachel Allen, Ruth Deroy, Gerry Rayman, Emma Page, Alison Czarnota

Congratulations to Professor Gerry Rayman, Consultant Diabetologist, Ipswich Hospital, East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust, Emma Page, Transformation Manager and Project Lead, Rachel Allen, Lead Perioperative Diabetes Specialist Nurse, Ruth Deroy, Lead Consultant for Perioperative Care and Alison Czarnota, Point of Care Lead Ipswich Hospital.

To learn more about IP3D and other winners please visit www.UnivantsHCE.com

For educational opportunities, including an inspiring lecture on the IP3D program, please visit <https://healthcareelx.com/>



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“If we as organizations want to call ourselves healthcare organizations, we have to be involved in more than just the delivery of medical care after someone gets sick.”

MICHAEL DOWLING
President and CEO,
Northwell Health, USA



“Sometimes things are not in the budget but sometimes we have to figure out how to do it, particularly if it is going to make a huge difference for patients.”

QUINT STUDER
Co-Founder, Healthcare Plus
Solutions Group, USA



“We have opportunities to develop appropriate clinical algorithms that can help ensure that patients get the care that they need”

OCTAVIA PECK-PALMER
Division Director, Clinical Chemistry,
Associate Professor of Pathology,
University of Pittsburgh
School of Medicine, USA



“Many of us have the ideas, the plans and the scientific knowledge, but we need to be able to ensure that it aligns with what people are able to do.”

YIN LING WOO
Professor of Obstetrics
and Gynaecology, Consultant
Gynaecological Oncologist,
University of Malaya,
University Malaya
Medical Centre, Malaysia



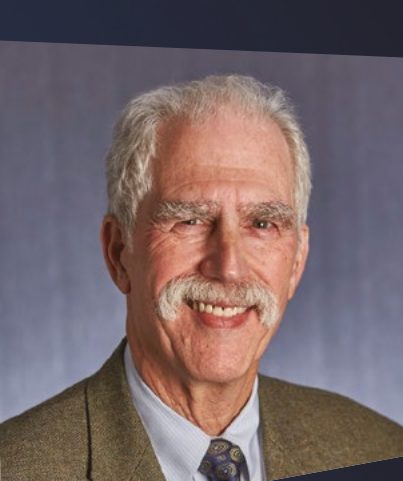
“Every voice matters as we collaborate to improve the health of individuals and populations around the world.”

CHRISTINA CARABALLO
Vice President, Informatics,
HIMSS, USA



“We have to completely reimagine what is the role of the clinical lab, not at a test level, but in the longitudinal way of data that gives us a meaningful way to predict risk.”

KHOSROW SHOTORBANI
President, Executive Director,
Project Santa Fe Foundation, USA
Founder and CEO,
Lab 2.0 Strategic Services, USA



“Together, we can address diagnostic error which the NASEM reports to not only be possible, but a moral, professional, and public health imperative.”

PAUL EPNER
Vice-Chair,
Sepsis Alliance, USA



“Through the use of a new biomarker, multiple health systems were able to save and mitigate downstream costs while improving health for the entire ecosystem.”

TRICIA RAVALICO
Director, Scientific Leadership
and Education, Core Diagnostics,
Abbott, USA

Executive Leadership Exchange October 3 – 4, 2023

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Program ROSE (Removing Obstacles to cervical ScrEening)

- empowering women to eliminate cervical cancer

Mother. Sister. Wife. Friend. Colleague. Daughter. We can all appreciate the importance of the women in our lives. We can further appreciate the importance of doing everything we can to protect their health and wellness. One such area that requires direct attention is screening and prevention of cervical cancer.

Screening for cervical cancer is typically done through Pap Smear, with subsequent analysis of collected cells for cellular changes indicative of cancer. Pap smears can be often uncomfortable, painful and/or inconvenient, such that many women do not receive the optimal cadence for screening. In Malaysia, this is no different, where only 1 in 4 women receive regular Pap Smears. Compounding this issue is that results are often delayed for more than 3 months and many not linked to care.

Program ROSE (Removing Obstacles to cervical ScrEening) sought to shift the standard of care for cervical cancer screening to a self-swab method for Human Papillomavirus (HPV) screening, as 99% of cervical cancers are caused by high-risk HPV. This swab methodology not only identifies high-risk HPV strains but empowers women in a culturally sensitive way and requires less frequent follow-up, with improved diagnostic accuracy.

By combining self-swab collection with digital follow-up technology, Program ROSE has been able to provide improved access to high quality, while preserving the privacy and dignity of these women. To date, >22,000 women have been screening through Program ROSE (from 2018-Feb 2023). Of them 5.6% have screened positive for HPV, with 91% of those women being linked to care. Importantly, 4 cases of previously unidentified, early-stage cancers and 194 women with precancers were identified and linked to the appropriate care.

Program ROSE has also helped to tackle the stigma associated with HPV testing, which in turn has further helped to increase screening efforts. Iffah Amin, Staff Nurse at University Malaya Medical Centre, shares that “many patients think that HPV is STD. They feel shameful about it, and some will even blame their partners for having extramarital affairs. Proper messaging and education is foundational for Program ROSE to help everyone understand that HPV is common and that testing positive does not mean they have done anything wrong. It’s a great start to normalizing HPV testing.”

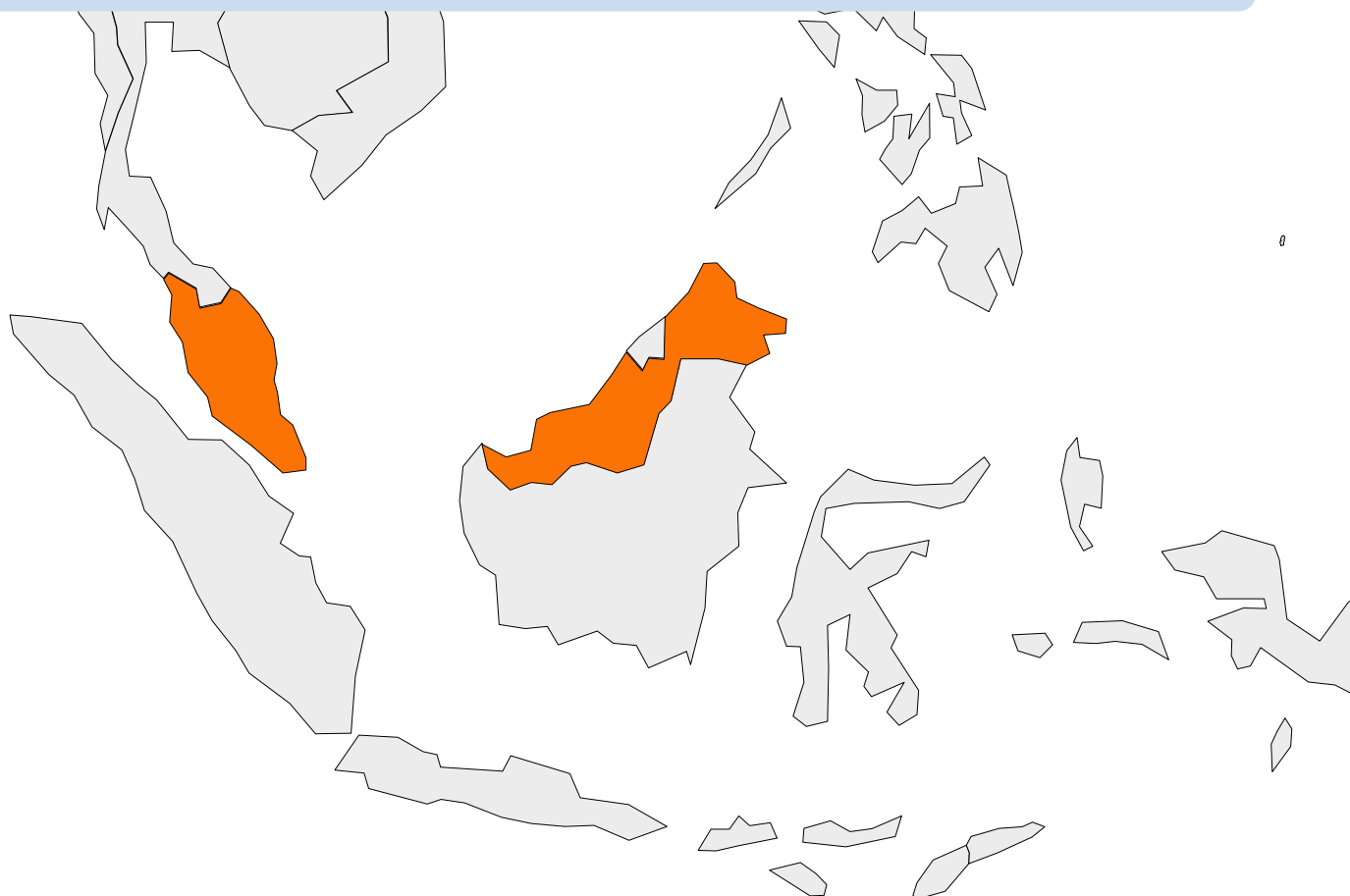


(L-R) Yit Lee Choo, Mun Li Yam, Marion Saville, Yin Ling Woo, Adeeba Kamarulzaman

The positive impact that Program has had and will continue to have on the health and wellness of Malaysian women will be felt for generations to come. For their efforts and outcomes, Program ROSE has been awarded the Top Global Honor of 2022 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Awards Winning Team. Congratulations to Yin Ling Woo, Founding Trustee and Medical Technical Advisor, ROSE Foundation Marion Saville, Professor of Laboratory Medicine and Trustee for the ROSE Foundation, Yit Lee Choo, CEO, ROSE Foundation, Adeeba Kamarulzaman, Chair, ROSE Foundation, Mun Li Yam, Operations Director, ROSE Foundation.

To learn more about program ROSE and other winners please visit www.UnivantsHCE.com

For educational opportunities, please visit <https://healthcareelx.com/>



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“Equitable access to care across populations and geographies is a global health imperative.”

KETUL J. PATEL

Chief Executive Officer Virginia Mason Franciscan Health & Division President, Pacific Northwest, CommonSpirit Health, USA



“It is important to remember that we aren’t treating diseases. We are treating patients, and that is precision medicine.”

KUN RU

Chair of Department of Pathology and Lab Medicine, Shandong Cancer Hospital, China



“Innovation thrives when you celebrate the power of cross organizational teamwork.”

AMY PERRY

President and Chief Operating Officer, Banner Health, USA



“Look at your environment, get your culture right, get your purpose right, and eventually success happens.”

RORY MCCRIMMON

Dean of Medicine, University of Dundee, Scotland



“Laboratory data can be harnessed to demonstrate the laboratory’s true value.”

DAVID GRENACHE

Chief Scientific Officer, TriCore Reference Laboratories, USA



“In healthcare, we talk so much about the voice of the patient. In the case of the NBA Bubble, it was more voice of the population.”

CHRISTINA MACK

Chief Scientific Officer, IQVIA Real World Solutions, USA



“With the tools we have today and if we can deliver them fairly and equitably, we can eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem.”

MARION SAVILLE

Executive Director, Australian Centre for the Prevention of Cervical Cancer, Australia



“Our goal is to improve quality and safety through the single biggest lever available to healthcare leaders.”

TED DONNELLY

Vice President, Client Success, National Association for Healthcare Quality, USA

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Learn more at www.healthcareELX.com



Safe and Informed Population Health Management: The National Basketball Associations COVID-19 Bubble

“Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence win championships” – words spoken by Michael Jordan himself. These words take on new meaning in context of the 2020 National Basketball Association’s (NBA) finals.

Three components of Michael Jordan’s quote resonate when thinking about the 2020 NBA finals and more specifically, the NBA Bubble; Teamwork. Intelligence. Champions.

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted all non-essential industries including the shutdown of the 2020 NBA season. Soon after, the NBA and its partners sought to find a way to not only restart the basketball season, but to do so safely and as informed as they could. Thus, the NBA Bubble was conceived. The teamwork required from inception to implementation of the NBA Bubble is unparalleled. This closed campus, occupational health program that operated between July 2020 to October 2020 required collaborations in ways not seen before. NBA players worked with epidemiologists, working with Laboratorians, working with virologists and immunologists and more. Teamwork enabled the NBA to safely conclude its season and help bring a sense of normalcy to the public during difficult times.

Another critical success factor of the Bubble involved meticulous and fastidious use of data and data insights. Daily SARS-CoV-2 testing, symptom monitoring and input from the evolving medical field enabled not only buy in for the Bubble but enable constant updating and morphing of safety policies and procedures. Further, the evolving insights developed from the NBA Bubble were published in more than 8 peer-reviewed journals, with these contributions to the medical and scientific literature helping to guide public health measures in the US and around the globe.

The NBA Bubble was a novel and bold approach to utilize laboratory medicine to facilitate operation of a global sports league, and their innovation paid off. Through strong collaborations, unwavering use of data, the NBA finals concluded with no COVID-19 cases among players and team staff. The program created more than 6,500 jobs and bolstered the Orlando economy by more than \$200M. The data collected in the Bubble and shared through scientific publications served to advance the medical field in a time when uncertainty was the only certainty and gave a sense of hope in a time when things may have felt hopeless. An integrated clinical care team associated with the NBA Bubble was recently awarded the Top Global Honor of 2022 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Awards Winning Team.

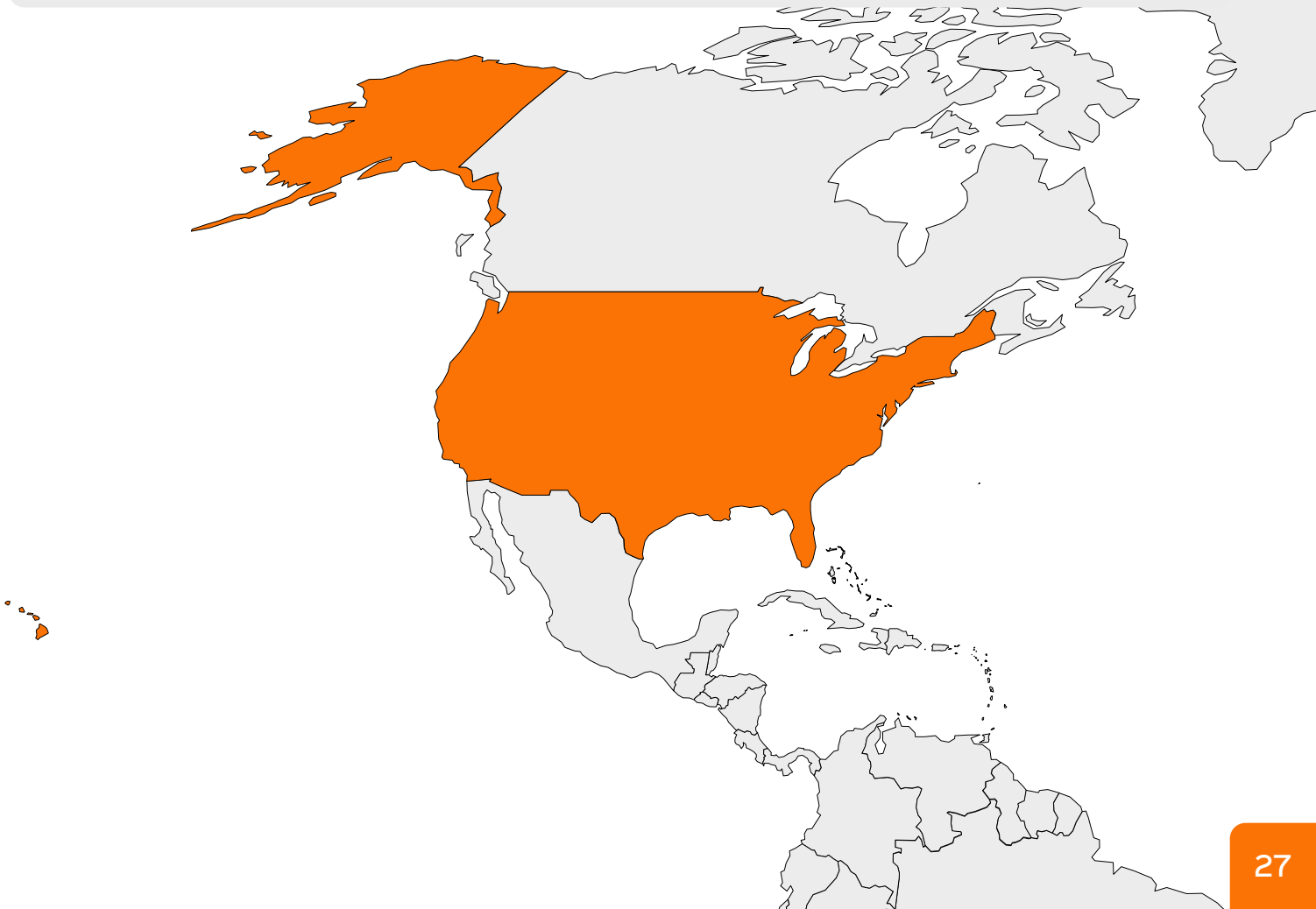


(L-R) Dave Weiss, Jim Weisberger, Christina Mack, Yonatan Grad, David Ho

Congratulations to Christina Mack, Chief Scientific Officer, IQVIA, Real World Solutions, Dave Weiss, Vice President, Player matters, NBA, Jim Weisberger, Chief Medical Officer, BioReference Labs, Yonatan Grad, Associate Professor of Immunology and Infectious Disease, Yale University, David Ho, Professor Medicine and Microbiology & Immunology, Columbia University.

To learn more about the NBA Bubble and other winners please visit www.UnivantsHCE.com

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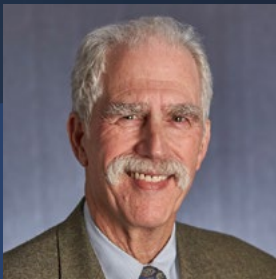


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News from Regional Federations and Member Societies



Updates in Thyroid Hormone Testing

By **Dr. Fatima Kanani**

Indus Hospital and Health Network, Karachi, Pakistan

A Continuous Medical Education (CME) activity was held in Indus Hospital and Health Network (IHHN), Karachi Campus on Updates in Thyroid Hormone Testing under the auspices of IFCC and in collaboration with Pakistan Society of Chemical Pathology (PSCP). The activity was accredited for two CME hours by PSCP. The session was hybrid, and was well attended by over 70 participants virtually and physically. The session started with a brief introduction to the topic and a pre-test conducted by Dr. Fatima Kanani. This was then followed by talks from the esteemed speakers. Dr. Adnan Mustafa Zubairi presented a comprehensive talk on “Using Diagnostic Tools Effectively in Thyroid Disease”, covering biochemical as well as imaging techniques. He discussed testing algorithms and ways to cost-effective test utilization. This was followed by a presentation from Dr. Mohammad Zubair, Consultant Chemical Pathologist from Multan Institute of Kidney Diseases (MIKD) Campus of IHHN. He spoke on “Diagnostic Methods of TSH in Thyroid Screening Tests”. Dr. Zubair explained the evolution of TSH assay generations and discussed their functional and analytical sensitivities. Dr. Mahmooda from Sabsazar (Lahore) Campus, IHHN spoke on “Issues in Thyroid Hormone Testing”, including effect of various interferences in immunoassays. This was followed by some interesting case discussions by Chemical Pathology trainees on Grave’s Disease, Hashimoto’s Thyroiditis, Non-Thyroidal Illness and T3 thyrotoxicosis. The session was concluded after a post-test and response to queries from the participants.



Dr. Adnan Mustafa Zubairi delivering his talk on “Using Diagnostic Tools Effectively in Thyroid Disease”

AACC Has Become ADLM

At their annual meeting in July, AACC announced a name change to the Association for Diagnostics & Laboratory Medicine (ADLM). The move to rename the association was the result of a thoughtful, deliberate process led by the organization's board of directors. Although the new name makes a bold statement, it does not represent a change of direction. Instead, it more accurately reflects the association's diverse membership, which includes all professionals working within or adjacent to the clinical lab. Clinical chemistry is still vital to their offerings, and ADLM will remain the proud professional home for clinical chemists.

Over its 75-year history, AACC embraced every evolution in the field, and that continues as the association grows to meet the future. ADLM will continue to advance lab professionals whose expertise leads to better health for all.

In short, the association is deepening its commitment to better health through laboratory medicine by broadening its invitation to collaborate.

ADLM

Association for
Diagnostics & Laboratory Medicine™



Formerly AACC

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IFCC complimentary Live Webinar 13th September 2023

Laboratory medicine – a critical role for patients in disease diagnosis and monitoring

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IFCC Live Webinar on
Laboratory medicine – a critical role for patients in disease diagnosis and monitoring



Moderator /
The importance of molecular diagnosis in tuberculosis



Mirela AHMADI, PhD.
[Romania]
Biochemist & Biologist,
Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry, University of Life Sciences "King Mihai the 1st", from Timisoara

Inflammatory markers in lung cancer patients



Andreea CRINTEA, PhD.
[Romania]
Assistant Professor, Department of Medical Biochemistry, University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Iuliu Hatieganu" Cluj-Napoca, Synlab Laboratory

Association between the PLIN1 rs2304795 gene and Metabolic Syndrome in obese patients



Alexandra Alina STANISLAV, PhD.
[Romania]
Biologist
Department of Biochemistry, Laboratory Medical Analyzes, County Emergency Hospital Giurgiu

Date: September 13th, 2023
Time: 9 AM (Eastern Daylight), 3 PM (Central European), 9 PM (China Standard)



Dear Colleagues,

The next IFCC webinar: "Laboratory medicine - a critical role for patients in disease diagnosis and monitoring" will be held on September 13, 2023.

The laboratory tests evaluate the clinical status, confirm the diagnosis, and allow medical doctors to assess whether or not the treatment is efficient. Also, laboratory medicine gives the possibility to evaluate the patient and choose which is the best method or methods of personalized diagnosis for the patient, being integral to prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, and monitoring.

This webinar comprises of three following presentations of 20 min each followed by 20 min of panel discussion at the end.

Chair: Dr. Mirela Ahmadi

Talk 1 - "Assessing the specific tumoral markers, inflammatory status, and vitamin D metabolism before and after the first chemotherapy cycle for lung cancer patients" - Ms. Andreea Crintea

Talk 2 - "The importance of molecular diagnosis of tuberculosis" - Dr. Mirela Ahmadi

Talk 3 - "The association between the PLIN1 rs2304795 gene and Metabolic Syndrome in obese patients" Ms. Stanislav Alexandra Alina

- **Time Zones:** Live presentations starting at: 9:00AM EDT-New York ; 3:00PM CET-Rome; 9:00PM CST-Beijing;
Important: Please ensure that you carefully determine the time that the presentation will start in your global time zone. [Click here to convert to your time-zone.](#)
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IFCC's Calendar of Congresses, Conferences & Events

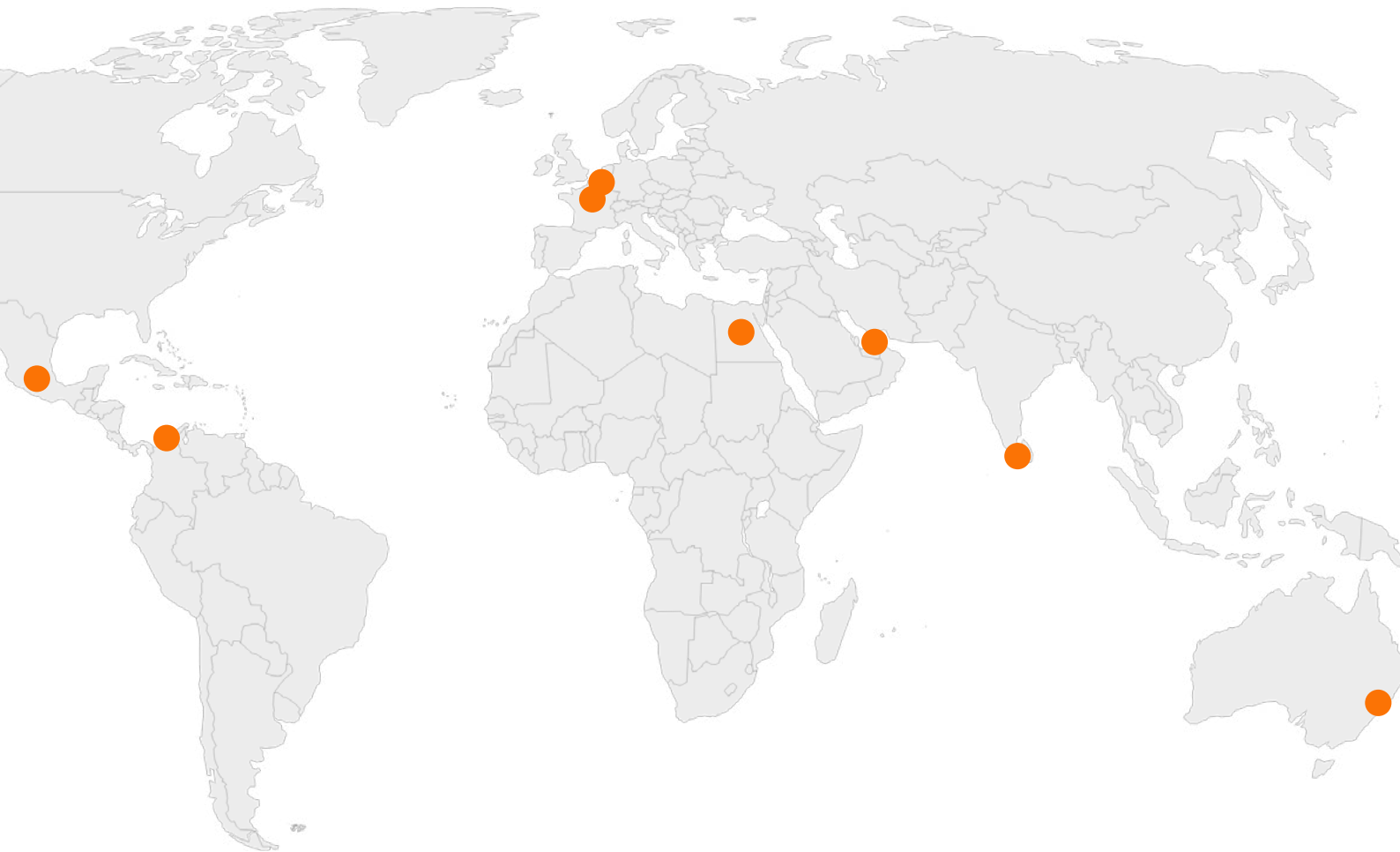
IFCC and Regional Federation Events			
Date		Title	Place
Sep 13, 2023		Laboratory medicine – a critical role for patients in disease diagnosis and monitoring	Live webinar
Dec 4,- Dec 5 2023		2023 JCTLM Workshop on: 'EQA schemes elucidating the clinical suitability of laboratory results'	Sèvres, FR
Jan 25, - Jan 26 2024		AFCC CONGRESS 2024	Cairo, EG
May 25, 2024		XVII ICPLM - INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PEDIATRIC LABORATORY MEDICINE	Dubai, UAE
May 26 - Jun 30, 2024		XXVI IFCC WORLDLAB - Dubai 2024	Dubai, UAE
May 26, - Jun 30 2024		AFCB Congress in conjunction with the XXVI IFCC WorldLab Dubai 2024 Congress	Dubai, UAE
Oct 3 - 6, 2024		XXVI COLABIOCLI 2024	Cartagena, CO
October 31 - Nov 3, 2024		APFCB 2024 Sydney	Sidney, AU
May 18 - 22, 2025		XXVI IFCC-EFLM EUROMEDLAB 2025	Brussels, BE

Corporate Member Events with IFCC Auspices

Date	Title	Place
Sep 16, 2023	Inter-QC Topics	Quality Academics, Ciudad de México, MX
Sep 16, 2023	International Symposium on Laboratory Medicine	Snibe, Negombo, LK
Nov 18, 2023	Inter-QC Topics	Quality Academics, online, MX

Other events with IFCC auspices

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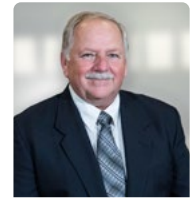
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 A.C.)
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 Spain: Andalusian Society for Clinical Analysis and Laboratory
 Medicine (SANAC)
 Spain: Asociación Española de Biopatología Médica - Medicina
 de Laboratorio (AEBM-ML)
 Spain: Asociación Española de Farmacéuticos Analistas (AEFA)
 Sri Lanka: College of Chemical Pathologists of Sri Lanka (CCPSL)
 Türkiye: Society of Clinical Biochemistry Specialists (KBUD)
 Ukraine: Association for Quality Assurance of Laboratory
 Medicine (AQALM)
 United Arab Emirates: Genetic Diseases Association (UAEGDA)

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N° 11 – November: by mid October

N° 12 – December: by mid November

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