

Nº 7–8
July-August 2025

enews

International Federation of Clinical Chemistry
and Laboratory Medicine



Communications and Publications Division (CPD) of the IFCC
IFCC Office, Via C. Farini, 81
20159 Milano, Italy
E-mail: enews@ifcc.org



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Dear colleagues

The current e-News issue is dedicated to the XXVI EuroMedLab 2025, held in Brussels in May 18-22, 2025.

In her message, our President, Prof. Tomris Ozben, highlights the congress success and outstanding results, which reflect the growing global interest in IFCC activities. Moreover, she is inviting us to participate to the upcoming WorldLab 2026: the 27th International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, which will be held in New Delhi in October 2026, as well as to the next EuroMedLab Congress, which will be held in London in 2027.

Moreover, Professor Damien Gruson, Chair of XXVI EuroMedLab 2025, in his message, underlines the scientific, human, and strategic success of the congress, which included sessions about cutting edge scientific achievements, emerging technologies, digital diagnostics, and healthcare innovations, along with a strong commitment to sustainability.

The European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM), shares with us highlights from the congress, reaffirming that EuroMedLab is a premier event in Laboratory Medicine in Europe.

In this issue, we also present many activities of the young scientists of our community, who are the future of our profession, such as the IFCC Forum for Young Scientists, their visit to the Laboratory of Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc, the Young Scientists Poster Tour, and their reflections about this first opportunity to present their work on an international stage. Information about the IFCC Satellite Symposium on Mass Spectrometry is also included in this issue

You can also read about the nine clinical care teams who have received recognition through the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence program for their measurable impact for patients, clinicians, health systems, administrations and payors.

The Pakistan Society of Chemical Pathology shares with us interesting information about the diagnosis, and management of Inherited Metabolic Diseases, while the Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine, presents interesting information about the fundamental aspects of requesting and determining Lipoprotein (a) in the clinical laboratory, as well as the clinical interpretation of autoimmunity laboratory tests.

Finally, I take the opportunity to wish to all of you a relaxing and enjoyable summer vacation, filled with beautiful moments and exciting new experiences.



Marilena Stamouli,
eNews Editor

The voice of IFCC

IFCC President's Message

July - August 2025

By Tomris Ozben

Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

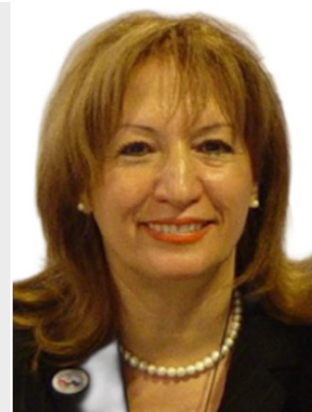
It was truly a pleasure to see so many of you at the XXVI EuroMedLab 2025 this May in the beautiful city of Brussels. Following the great success of the congress, I'm also delighted to share that we achieved a record-breaking of 9,004 participants and welcomed 115 exhibiting companies. A total of 114 countries were represented, with the highest number of registrations coming from Spain.

These outstanding results reflect the growing global interest in IFCC activities and the EuroMedLab Congress itself. During the congress in Brussels, a rich and diverse scientific programme brought together leading experts from around the world to explore the future of laboratory medicine. Through high-level plenary lectures, symposia, educational workshops, and round table sessions, participants engaged in in-depth discussions on the most pressing topics in the field, including innovations in clinical chemistry, advances in molecular diagnostics, digital pathology, the integration of artificial intelligence in laboratory workflows, and the role of laboratory medicine in personalized healthcare.

These sessions not only highlighted cutting-edge scientific developments and emerging trends but also provided valuable networking opportunities and a platform for open dialogue between participants, speakers, chairs, clinicians, researchers, and industry leaders. The success of the scientific programme highlights the strength of the collaboration between IFCC and its industry partners, a partnership that continues to play a crucial role in advancing innovation and progress in laboratory medicine.

This year's congress also introduced several new features. For the first time, simultaneous translation from English to Spanish was provided, enhancing accessibility for a broader audience. Additionally, all sessions were recorded, a step forward in making the congress more accessible, inclusive, and impactful than ever before.

This year also marked the 4th edition of the IFCC Young Scientists Forum, which welcomed early-career professionals from across Europe and around the world. IFCC provided 52 scholarship grants, enabling young scientists from diverse regions to attend and actively participate in the FORUM and EuroMedLab congress. This initiative demonstrates IFCC's strong commitment to supporting and nurturing the next generation of leaders in laboratory medicine.



Prof. Tomris Ozben
EuSpLM, Ph.D.

The following satellite meetings were held before and after the EuroMedLab Congress.

1. 17th International Congress in Pediatric Laboratory Medicine (ICPLM)
Emerging Technologies and Innovations in Pediatric Laboratory Medicine. 18th May 2025.
2. Joint Symposium between the RBLSM (Royal Belgian Society of Laboratory Medicine) and the SFBC (French Society of Clinical Chemistry). Preventive Diagnostics: the Power of Laboratory Medicine. 18th May 2025.
3. Indirect Reference Interval Methods: Educational Course & Hands-on Workshop. 18th May 2025.
4. IFCC Satellite Symposium on Mass Spectrometry. 22nd May 2025, following the closure ceremony. It brought together seven internationally renowned speakers to explore the role, methodologies, and applications of mass spectrometry in laboratory medicine

As we move into the summer months, I encourage all our members, partners, and colleagues to stay actively engaged and continue participating in the many exciting initiatives and opportunities that lie ahead.

I would like to remind you about the WorldLab 2026: the 27th International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine. This prestigious event — a joint initiative of the IFCC and the Asia and Pacific Federation of Clinical Chemistry (APFCB) — will be hosted by the Association of Clinical Biochemists of India (ACBI) in New Delhi, in conjunction with the 52nd Congress of the ACBI. We warmly encourage you to attend and participate in this global celebration of laboratory medicine. It is my pleasure to announce and warmly invite you to the upcoming EuroMedLab Congress, which will be held in London in 2027. We look forward to welcoming you to this major scientific event, which will build on the success and momentum of previous congresses.

Thank you once again for your dedication and valuable contributions to the IFCC community.
Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable summer holiday.
With my warmest regards,

Prof. Dr. Tomris Ozben
IFCC President

Euromedlab 2025: A Scientific, Human, and Strategic Success in the Heart of Europe

By **Damien Gruson** – Chair of EuroMedLab 2025 Brussels

From May 18 to 22, 2025, more than 9,000 professionals in laboratory medicine gathered in Brussels for what many are calling the most impactful edition of EuroMedLab to date. Hosted jointly by IFCC and EFLM, and the Royal Belgian Society of Laboratory Medicine (RBSLM), EuroMedLab 2025 was not just a congress—it was a celebration of science, innovation, and human connection.



BRUSSELS EXPO that hosted the IFCC-EFLM EuroMedLab Congress

A Congress Beyond Expectations

EuroMedLab Brussels 2025 was a tremendous success on every front: record attendance, outstanding scientific sessions, a vibrant industry exhibition, and a spirit of collaboration that resonated across every corner of Brussels Expo.

As I stated in my opening remarks, echoing the surrealist vision of Belgian artist René Magritte: “This is not a congress. This is a window.” A window into the future of laboratory medicine, where diagnostics meets data, where biomarkers empower clinicians, and where meaningful partnerships are forged to enhance patient care globally.

The congress also brought a unique Belgian touch—blending history, culture, and creativity with cutting-edge science. From the elegant opening ceremony to the innovative sessions and dynamic networking moments, EuroMedLab 2025 offered a rich experience that was both intellectually stimulating and emotionally engaging.



EuroMedLab 2025 Opening ceremony: a stunning view of the audience

Scientific Excellence at the Core

The Scientific Programme Committee, chaired with passion and vision, delivered an ambitious and forward-thinking agenda. More than 100 scientific sessions covered emerging technologies, digital diagnostics, sustainable practices, point-of-care innovations, and the latest advances in fields such as oncology, cardiovascular health, endocrinology, and microbiota.

Particular highlights included:

- Plenary lectures delivered by world-renowned experts.
- Themed symposia on artificial intelligence, decentralized testing, and next-generation biomarkers.
- Strong participation from young scientists, contributing to the vibrancy and diversity of the program.

The scientific content was not only a reflection of the state-of-the-art but also a catalyst for future directions in laboratory medicine.

A First-Class Exhibition and Industry Engagement

The industry exhibition was among the largest and most interactive in the congress's history. Leading diagnostic companies showcased their latest solutions—from advanced analyzers and AI platforms to decentralized care technologies and digital ecosystems. The exhibition hall was alive with demonstrations, discussions, and connections that will fuel collaborations for years to come. Corporate partners played an instrumental role in the success of the event, contributing not only resources but also thought leadership through dedicated sessions, panels, and roundtables.



Delegates at the exhibition

Human Connections and Global Impact

More than ever, EuroMedLab 2025 proved that science thrives when people connect. The congress served as a global hub for knowledge exchange, bringing together experts from over 100 countries. Multidisciplinary dialogue was at the heart of the event, fostering bridges between laboratory professionals, clinicians, researchers, industry leaders, and policymakers.

Brussels, as the capital of Europe, was the perfect host city—offering not only logistical excellence but also a sense of openness, elegance, and soul. The networking evenings, cultural visits, and culinary moments created lasting memories and strengthened professional ties.

A Commitment to Sustainability and Responsibility

This edition also marked a strong commitment to sustainability and responsible innovation. From greener congress materials and digital workflows to reduced food waste and inclusive session formats, we embraced a new model of congress design—one that respects the environment, values accessibility, and nurtures future generations.

A Collective Success, A Shared Pride

As Chair of the Congress, I would like to express my deepest gratitude:

- To the Congress Organizing Committee and Scientific Program Committee, for their dedication, creativity, and resilience.
- To the IFCC and EFLM leadership for their trust and vision.
- To the RBSLM, whose engagement and warmth were invaluable.
- To our corporate partners, for their vital support.
- And to every participant who made this congress truly alive.

Looking Ahead

EuroMedLab 2025 was more than an event—it was a landmark. It reminded us of the vital role of laboratory medicine in a fast-changing world. It challenged us to innovate responsibly, collaborate openly, and act boldly. As we close this chapter, we open new ones: new projects, new research, and new opportunities to serve patients better.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we have made history—in Brussels, at the heart of Europe.

IFCC Webinars

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IFCC Webinar

Control de calidad en los ensayos cualitativos de laboratorio



Moderador



Dr. Raúl Girardi
[Argentina]

Universidad Nacional de La Plata

Control de calidad en pruebas
cualitativas aplicadas a ensayos
serológicos



Dr. Jorgelina Aberer
[Argentina]

Hospital Interzonal General de
Agudos y Crónicos Dr A Korn

Aplicación del control de
calidad interno al análisis
de orina



Dr. Lorena Gatti
[Argentina]

Hospital General de agudos Prof. Dr. R
Rossi, La Plata

Control de calidad en
bacteriología



**Dr. Mariana Celeste
Suárez**
[Argentina]

Hospital General de Agudos San
Roque de Gonnet, La Plata

Fecha: 23 de julio

Horario: 9:30 AM (Eastern Daylight), 3:30 PM (Central European), 9:30 PM (China Standard)



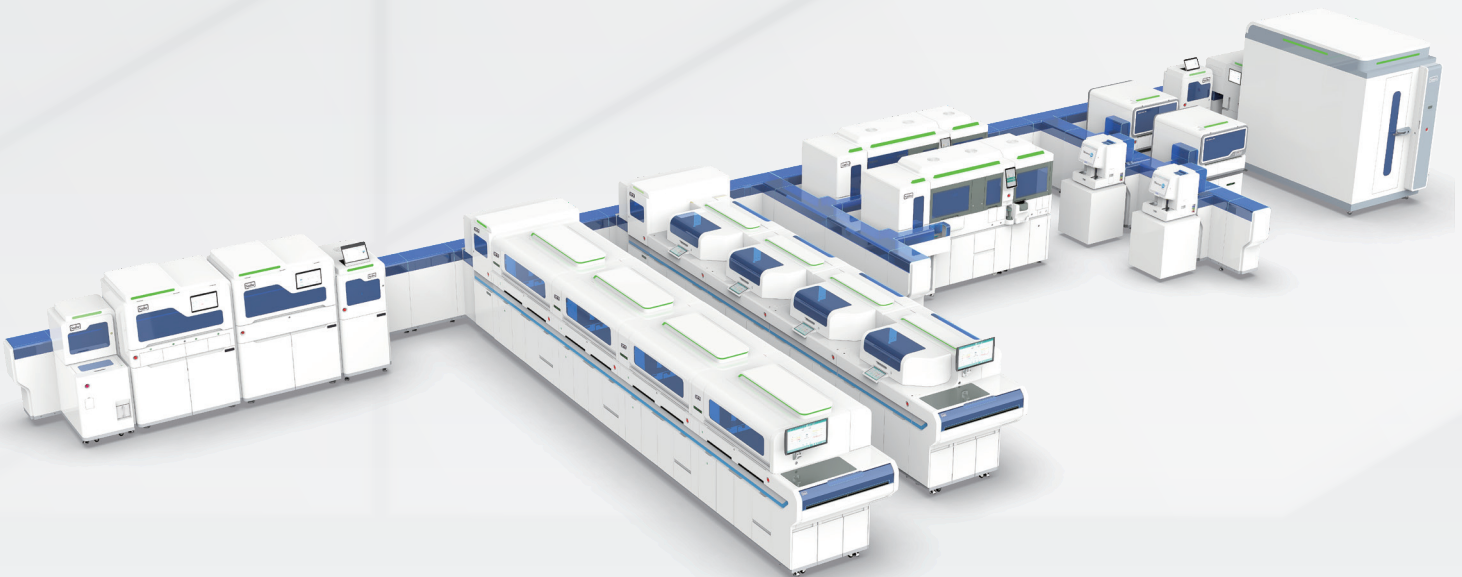
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XXVI EUROMEDLAB BRUSSELS 2025 IN NUMBERS

EUROMEDLAB BRUSSELS 2025

May 18-22, 2025

26th IFCC-EFLM EUROMEDLAB CONGRESS OF
CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

49th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL BELGIAN SOCIETY
OF LABORATORY MEDICINE

VENUE
Brussels Expo

FROM 18 TO 22
MAY 2025

- 9,004 Participants
- 115 Exhibiting Companies
- 114 Represented Countries
- 4 Plenary Lectures
- 5 IFCC Symposia
- 3 EFLM Symposia
- 3 RBSLM Symposia
- 14 Symposia
- 3 Round Table Sessions
- 4 IFCC Awards
- 7 EFLM Awards
- 15 EFLM Bursaries
- 52 IFCC Travel Scholarships
- 36 Workshops
- 79 Closed Meetings
- 135 Speakers and Chairs
- 4 Satellite Meetings held before and after the EuroMedLab Congress
- 2842 Poster Abstracts

EUROMEDLAB BRUSSELS 2025

May 18-22, 2025



IFCC FORUM for Young Scientists 4^o Edition

Brussels 2025

Marie Lenski, France (Société Française de Biologie Clinique, SFBC), IFCC TF-YS member

Santiago Fares Taie, Argentina (Confederación Unificada Bioquímica de la República Argentina, CUBRA), IFCC TF-YS chair

Tamar Ramishvili, Georgia (Laboratory Medicine Association of Georgia, GLMA), IFCC TF-YS corresponding member

Ashlin Rampul, South Africa (South African Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine, SAACB), IFCC TF-YS member

Sean Campbell, USA (Association for Diagnostics & Laboratory Medicine, ADLM), IFCC TF-YS member

Kamil Taha Uçar, Türkiye (Turkish Biochemical Society, TBS), IFCC TF-YS corresponding member

The IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists (TF-YS) successfully hosted its annual Young Scientists Forum during the EuroMedLab Congress held in Brussels, Belgium, on May 18th, 2025. The event brought together promising early-career scientists from across the globe to present their research and exchange ideas on emerging trends in laboratory medicine. This year's forum featured three dynamic sessions covering diverse topics, including cancer diagnostics, chronic diseases, and laboratory innovations driven by artificial intelligence.

Session 1: Clinical Chemistry, hematology and Diagnostic insights

The first session was co-chaired by Dr Tamar Ramishvili (Georgia) and Dr Santiago Fares Taie (Argentina). The 2 hours session included presentations by four speakers from different countries: Alzogaray Victoria (Uruguay), Bree James (Australia), Charles Lefèvre (France) and Henry Velázquez Soto (Mexico). Abstract selection was based on the high scientific level and interest for Young Scientists.

Dr. Victoria Alzogaray presented “Prognostic significance of platelet-to-lymphocyte ratio in patients with triple-negative breast cancer: systematic review and meta-analysis”. This was the result of a multidisciplinary course where she learned how to prepare a meta-analysis. It was a triggering lecture where many YS got excited with the idea of preparing a meta-analysis, even a multicentric one.

Dr. Bree James presented “Marked method related differences in FT4 immunoassays support the need for standardization”. It was a very interesting lecture, especially for initiating discussion, which is the core of a forum. Many YS from around the world explained that they face similar problems with FT4 and opened a rich discussion with take-home messages.

Dr. Charles Lefèvre presented “Immunoturbidimetric measurement of albumin exacerbates discrepancies between corrected and ionized calcium levels depending on albumin levels”. This was a very interesting lecture addressing a global problem of laboratory practice. Dr Lefèvre brought to the audience a clear evaluation of the calcium levels measurement triggering discussion and exchange of experiences.

Finally, Dr. Henry Velázquez Soto attracted the interest of the audience with his lecture “Evaluation of Specific IgE in Tear, Nasal Fluid and serum in Allergic patients”. Even though few YS had experience with Specific IgE for allergy, Dr Velazquez Soto captured the attention of the audience explaining his research and motivated exchange of many ideas for his future plans.

Session 2: Advancing biomarker-based risk stratification in chronic diseases

Co-chaired by Dr. Ashlin Rampul (South Africa) and Dr. Marie Lenski (France), the second session focused on novel biomarkers and analytical approaches for improving risk prediction and management of chronic diseases. Four presentations offered valuable insights into the integration of precision medicine and population health strategies through biomarker-based diagnostics.

Dr. JJ Jordaan (South Africa) explored the value of calculated small dense LDL cholesterol (sdLDL-C) and LDL triglycerides (LDL-TG) as predictors of cardiovascular risk in patients with diabetes. Drawing from a large dataset of over 37,000 patients, his findings demonstrated a strong association between these calculated lipid markers and HbA1c levels, supporting their use in clinical settings—particularly in resource-limited environments—as cost-effective tools for atherosclerotic risk assessment.

Dr. Ceren Gümedağ (Türkiye) presented a study on molecular signatures for detecting kidney allograft rejection. By analyzing transcriptomic data from four GEO datasets, she identified three genes—GBP1, IDO1, and FAM26F—that were consistently upregulated across rejection types. The resulting molecular risk score showed high diagnostic accuracy, emphasizing the potential of transcriptomics to personalize and accelerate transplant monitoring.

Dr. Blanca Beumer Prieto (Spain) focused on establishing local reference limits for emerging cardiovascular biomarkers HFABP and Lp-PLA in healthy adults. Her rigorous, guideline-compliant methodology underscored the importance of context-specific validation for improving the reliability and relevance of biomarker-based diagnostics in clinical practice.

Dr. Hamide Shllaku-Sefa (Albania) examined correlations between parathormone, calcium, phosphorus, and magnesium across different stages of chronic kidney disease (CKD). Her study highlighted significant, yet modest, correlations—particularly between PTH and glomerular filtration rate (eGFR)—reinforcing the need for individualized assessment of mineral metabolism markers in CKD management.

This second session in particular highlighted the innovative use of biomarkers for risk stratification in chronic disease care—demonstrating both scientific excellence and practical applicability.

Session 3 : Artificial Intelligence and Innovation for Advancing Diagnostic Accuracy and Laboratory Efficiency

Co-chaired by Dr. Sean Campbell (United States) and Dr. Kamil Taha Uçar (Türkiye), Session 3 highlighted the transformative potential of artificial intelligence (AI), integrated systems, and innovation-driven methodologies in enhancing diagnostic workflows and laboratory quality management. The four presentations showcased diverse approaches spanning microbiology, quality control, staff engagement on artificial intelligence, and standardization, that collectively emphasized how technology can bridge gaps in efficiency, accuracy, and harmonization across laboratory disciplines.

Pavithra Samarakoon (Sri Lanka) conducted a national audit assessing laboratory staff's knowledge and attitudes toward AI adoption. The findings revealed a generally positive outlook while also identifying educational and infrastructural challenges that must be addressed. Her work underscored the need for targeted training and proactive stakeholder engagement to foster AI readiness within laboratory environments.

Zidonia Carmen Delgado Barrera (Bolivia) presented a comprehensive approach to microbiological diagnostics using Real-Time PCR methodology for the detection of microorganisms and interpretation of antibiograms. By optimizing specimen workflows and decision-making across clinical units, her study demonstrated significant improvements in turnaround time and diagnostic accuracy, highlighting the value of integrated systems for infectious disease management.

Luke Xincen Duan (China) introduced an innovative Patient-Based Real-Time Quality Control (PBRTQC) system designed to improve analytical performance monitoring. Leveraging patient data for early error detection, this model showed superior sensitivity and efficiency compared to traditional quality control protocols, supporting its application in high-throughput laboratory settings.

Michelle van der Helm (Netherlands) addressed international harmonization efforts by establishing a reference measurement system for PT-INR testing based on the Manual Tilt Tube (MTT) technique. Her work, aligned with WHO, IFCC, and ISLH standards, contributed to enhanced traceability and global comparability of anticoagulation monitoring, a vital step toward standardized patient care.

The 2025 Young Scientists Forum showcased the vibrant contributions of early-career researchers working at the forefront of laboratory medicine. The forum not only provided a platform for sharing cutting-edge research but also fostered international collaboration and inspiration among young professionals dedicated to advancing diagnostic science. Thanks to the remarkable support of the IFCC and notable figures such as Prof Tomris Ozben (IFCC President), Prof Mario Plebani (EFLM President), Prof Damien Gruson (Congress President), Dr Eduardo Freggiaro (TF-YS Liaison), and Prof Rajiv Erasmus, the forum provided a fruitful scientific, professional, and personal networking experience.



Participants to the IFCC Forum for Young scientists.



Prof. Tomris Ozben, supporting the IFCC Forum for Young Scientists.



Dr Santiago Fares Taie, chair of the IFCC TF-YS, introducing the IFCC Forum for Young Scientists

Young Scientists' Visit to the Laboratory of Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc during EuroMedLab 2025

Brussels, Belgium, 17 May 2025

Judit Gonda, Hungarian YS (Hungarian Society of Laboratory Medicine, MLDT)

Meryem Benamour, Belgian YS (Royal Belgian Society of Laboratory Medicine, RBSML and Association des Assistants en Biologie Clinique, AABC)

During the EuroMedLab 2025 Brussels congress, alongside the excellent and exciting YS Forum held on Sunday, Young Scientists had the opportunity to visit the Laboratory of Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc, UCLouvain (www.saintluc.be), as part of a joint EFLM-IFCC YS Day that took place during the opening weekend of the congress. The laboratory visit was organized by Professor Damien Gruson, the Head of Biochemistry Laboratory and EuroMedLab Brussels Congress President, and was kindly coordinated by the Young Scientists from AABC (Association des Assistants en Biologie Clinique): Meryem Benamour, Antoine Laffalze, Yasmine Boufelliga, and Thibault Lavalleye. The organizers and our hosts' warm hospitality and preparedness were remarkable and provided an excellent start to the visit.

The Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc Laboratory is one of the largest and most advanced medical laboratories in Belgium, located within the Rosalind Franklin building on the UCLouvain Brussels Woluwe campus. The lab processes over 6,500 samples daily from approximately 3,000 requests, covering more than 1,700 patients. It serves not only the hospital but also external institutions across Belgium. The core of this activity is managed within the ISO 15189-accredited Central Automated Laboratory (LCA), which operates 24/7 with a highly automated and digital infrastructure.

Firstly, we visited the Central Automated Laboratory, where around 4,000 samples (70% of daily laboratory tests) pass through the automated central flow each day. Automated systems are used in the lab from the preanalytical to the postanalytical phases, including four COBAS lines, SYSMEX lines for haematology and urinalysis, and ACLTOP systems for hemostasis. The Biochemistry Department is subdivided into 16 specialized sectors: general biochemistry, protein and electrophoresis, point of care testing (POCT), tumor markers, endocrinology, neonatal screening and hereditary metabolic diseases, pharmacogenetics, haemoglobinopathies, neurochemistry, clinical toxicology, allergology, therapeutic drug monitoring, industrial and environmental toxicology, essential trace elements and metals, vitamins and andrology.

Moreover, we visited the Haematology Department, where their regular activities include monitoring of onco-haematological diseases, flow cytometry, cytology and special hemostasis tests.

The Toxicology Department, provides 24/7 support to clinical teams, especially those in emergency and intensive care units. It offers qualitative and quantitative analyses of more than 500 different molecules, including drugs, solvents, psychotropics, and narcotics, using advanced techniques such as UHPLC, GC-FID, and LC-MS/MS.

Following this, our coordinators guided us to the Microbiology Department, where diagnostics in bacteriology, virology, parasitology and mycology are performed. Microscopic, immune-enzymatic, PCR and MALDI-TOF techniques are primarily used in this department.

The Laboratory of Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc not only conducts a vast range of high-quality tests with precision and responsibility, but it also provides a safe and rapid-acting background for patient care, assisting clinicians in making the best therapeutic decisions for patients in need. Research activities and the training of medical laboratory residents are also part of the laboratory's responsibilities.

Young Scientists' Visit to the Laboratory of Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc during EuroMedLab 2025

The Lab Visit was followed by a Leadership Workshop, which was organized by the EFLM Task Group Young Scientists and the IFCC Task Force Young Scientists.

As a conclusion to a professionally exciting day, we were given a glimpse of the Belgian capital. The evening social activity featured a guided city tour of Brussels, organized in collaboration with AABC. Together, we explored some of the city's most iconic landmarks, starting with the majestic Grand-Place and the famous Manneken Pis. As we strolled through the elegant Sablon district, we enjoyed some traditional Belgian fries while immersing ourselves in the lively and historic atmosphere. The tour continued to Place Poelaert, a panoramic viewpoint offering a breathtaking sunset over the city. We wrapped up the evening on a festive note at the legendary Delirium Café, where participants could taste one of the 2,000+ Belgian beers on offer.

We hope that such a Lab Visit program may be available at future congresses as well. It is enriching to see how other lab professionals work in the world. Many thanks to the EFLM Task Group Young Scientists and the IFCC Task Force Young Scientists for their preparations and coordination of activities throughout the weekend, and to Professor Damien Gruson for making this visit happen!



Group photo of the Young Scientists visiting the Laboratory of Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc, UCLouvain Photo credit: Tara Rolčić (EFLM TG-YS)



Following the explanation of the different steps



The Laboratory of Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc, UCLouvain at a glance



Young Scientists Poster Tour at EuroMedLab 2025 – A Resounding Success in Brussels!

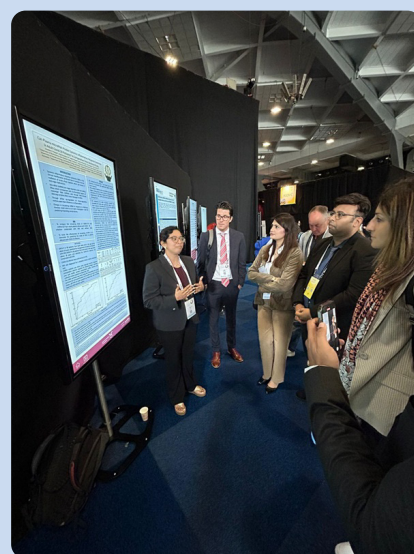
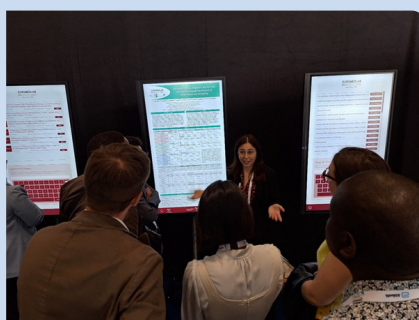
Marie Lenski, France (Société Française de Biologie Clinique, SFBC), IFCC TF-YS member
Aleksei Tikhonov, France (Société Française de Biologie Clinique, SFBC), EFLM C-YS member

The IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists (TF-YS), in collaboration with the EFLM Committee for Young Scientists (C-YS), proudly hosted the «Young Scientists Poster Tour» during the EuroMedLab Congress in Brussels, Belgium. This vibrant three-day initiative was designed to provide young researchers with a welcoming platform to present their scientific work, hone their presentation skills, and build lasting international connections.

Over the course of Monday to Wednesday, 40 young scientists representing 26 countries participated in daily one-hour sessions. Each session was structured around small group interactions, guided by coordinators from IFCC TF-YS and EFLM C-YS. Presenters were given 5 minutes to introduce their research, followed by 5 minutes of lively and supportive peer discussion. This informal format fostered focused scientific exchange and encouraged open dialogue in a collegial atmosphere.

For many participants, the Poster Tour marked their first opportunity to present at an international congress—a milestone that made the experience especially meaningful. The event not only amplified the voices of emerging scientists but also attracted attention from the broader congress audience, further highlighting the innovative work of young professionals in laboratory medicine. Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive. Participants valued the friendly environment, the chance to connect with peers from around the world, and the opportunity to receive constructive feedback. Many noted that the experience boosted their confidence and inspired them to pursue future publication opportunities, particularly in the eJIFCC. Several participants have since subscribed to ongoing IFCC and EFLM activities, eager to remain engaged with this supportive community.

The Young Scientists Poster Tour truly exemplifies the mission of IFCC and EFLM: empowering and connecting the next generation of leaders in laboratory medicine. We are excited to continue this tradition at future congresses and to further expand opportunities for young professionals in our field.



Some moments of the IFCC Young Scientists Poster Tour: nice memories in front of the posters

Some moments of the IFCC Young Scientists Poster Tour: the explanation of the research

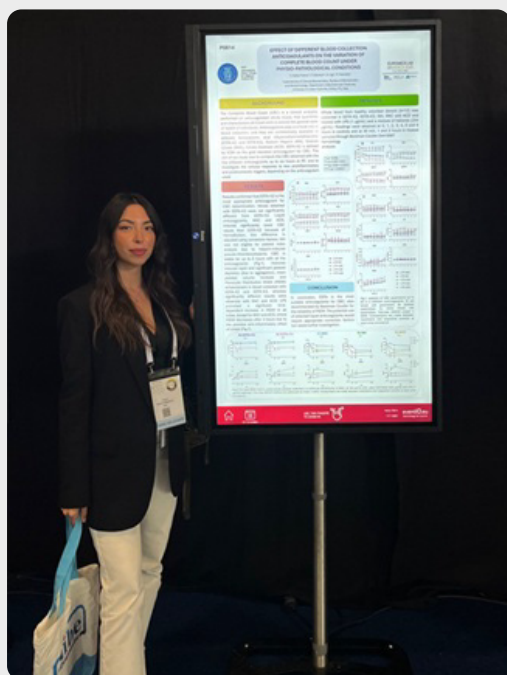
From Poster to Purpose: Young Scientists' Reflections from the TF-YS Poster Tour at EuroMedLab 2025

Compiled by **Udara Senarathne** – IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists

At the heart of the EuroMedLab 2025 Congress in Brussels, the Task Force for Young Scientists (TF-YS) Poster Tour offered more than just a platform for scientific exchange—it created a vibrant space for reflection, connection, and inspiration among the next generation of laboratory medicine professionals. Young scientists from around the world recount their transformative experiences, contributing to a compelling tapestry of voices, perspectives, and shared purpose. This enriching initiative was led by Marie Lennski (YS Member – France), with the support of Santiago Fares Taie, Sean Campbell, Ashlin Rampul, Charlotte Gran, Giulia Sancesario, Kamil Taha Uçar, Tara Rolić, Aleš Kvasnička, Lefevre Charles, Tamar Ramishvili, Aleksei Tikhonov, and Udara Senarathne, whose efforts significantly enhanced the overall YS experience.

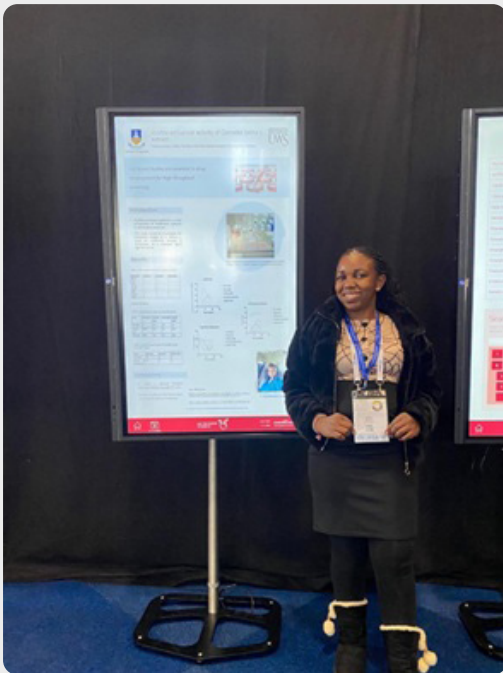
A Global Stage for Scientific Dialogue

The TF-YS Poster Tour at EuroMedLab 2025 marked a significant milestone for many participants, offering them their first opportunity to present research on an international stage. The experience fostered a strong sense of support and inclusion within the global scientific community, boosted confidence, and highlighted the power of science to transcend borders. Presentations were not just about data, but also about personal journeys rooted in dedication, hope, and passion.



Chiara Della Franca - Italy

Participating in the “Young Scientific Poster Tour” during EuroMedLab 2025 in Brussels was an incredibly valuable experience for me. It was the first occasion on which I had the opportunity to present my research results in an international context, and doing so alongside young scientists from all over the world was even more meaningful. Taking part in this project made me feel welcomed, included, and supported by the scientific community. Exchanging ideas, questions, and constructive feedback not only broadened my perspective on my work but also deepened my critical thinking. This experience strengthened my academic confidence, and the connection with such enthusiastic colleagues was inspiring. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the IFCC TF-YS and the EFLM C-YS for offering such a well-structured, comprehensive, and stimulating experience. I will carry these memories with me for years to come.



Nesisa Moyo - Zimbabwe

The Task Force for Young Scientists (TF-YS) poster tour allowed me to share my research. I had ten minutes to present my work in front of fellow Young Scientists (YS), the YS Task Force Chair, and Task Force board members. The questions asked after the presentation allowed me to note a few points to expand my research. I really am grateful for the opportunity, which also boosted my confidence as a scientist in the field.

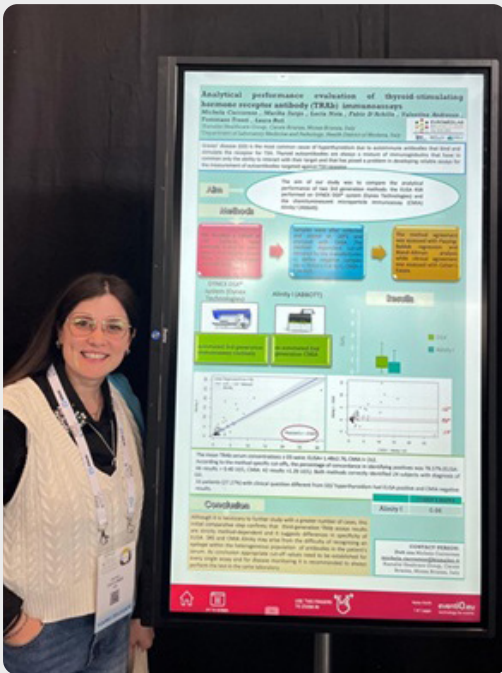
Moments of Professional Growth

The poster tour provided a valuable opportunity for growth across all career stages. Participants appreciated the supportive environment, where they could improve their communication skills, receive constructive feedback, and present their work in a friendly, non-stressful setting that encouraged open expression and critical thinking.



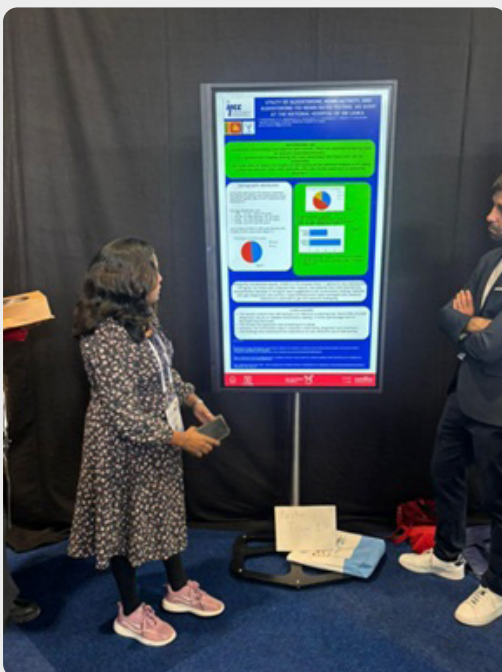
Jorik H. Amesz - Netherlands

On Monday at the EuroMedLab Congress, I had the opportunity to present our poster on blood self-sampling devices to a vibrant group of fellow young scientists. It was inspiring to meet peers from medical laboratories across the world and to witness the impressive scientific quality of their work. What made the poster tour meaningful was seeing the researchers behind the science—the brief pitches sparked lively and engaging discussions, that brought the posters to life. It was not only a platform to showcase our work, but also a valuable chance to exchange ideas, gain fresh perspectives, and connect with future collaborators. This experience challenged my thinking and opened up new directions for research. The shared passion for advancing laboratory medicine was very energising and made my first EuroMedLab Congress especially memorable.



Michela Cuccorese – Italy

Attending the TF-YS Poster Tour at EuroMedLab 2025 in Brussels was an incredible experience for me, both personally and professionally. It gave me the chance to present my research in an engaging, interactive setting and to connect with participants from diverse backgrounds across the world. Discussing my work helped me refine how I communicate complex ideas clearly—an important skill for my future career. A highlight of the event was the insightful feedback and questions I received, which challenged me to think critically and recognise areas for improvement. I also learned a great deal from other presenters, whose diverse topics and approaches broadened my understanding of key issues and innovative methods in the field. What made the experience truly special was the strong sense of community and shared passion for science. It strengthened my motivation to keep sharing my work, build meaningful connections, and stay open to learning throughout my professional journey.

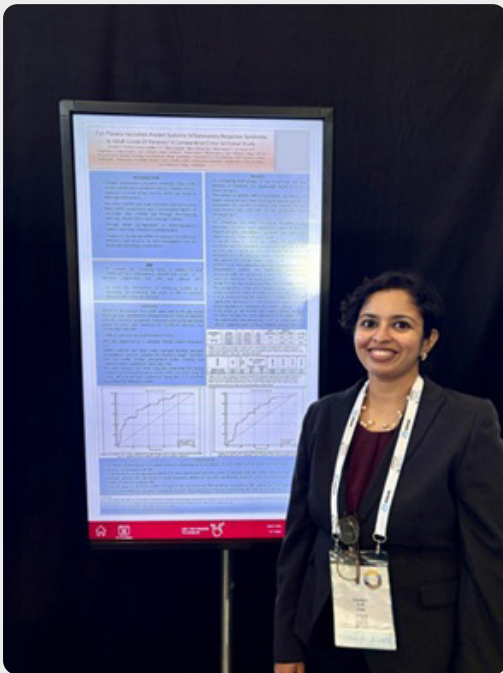


Pavithra Samarakoon - Sri Lanka

A few of my posters were accepted for the IFCC EuroMedLab 2025, and I was fortunate to present one of them during the Young Scientists Poster Tour on 20th May. The presentation took place in front of two senior members of the Young Scientists Task Force, fellow poster presenters, and an interested audience. It was a very pleasant and thought-provoking experience to listen to all the enthusiastic young scientists from around the world, to hear what they have accomplished, the level of expertise, and the new ideas we could adapt to our own settings. Presenting my work was a friendly and non-stressful experience, and I was able to express myself freely. The questions asked were genuine and thoughtful, and I was really glad to respond. I am thankful to the Young Scientists Task Force for organising this initiative to encourage young scientists globally.

Inspiration from Peers

Participants found the poster tour both professionally enriching and personally motivating. It offered a unique platform to present impactful research, engage in dynamic Q&A sessions with field leaders, and participate in meaningful scientific dialogue. The experience boosted confidence, inspired future research directions, and fostered collaboration by exposing participants to diverse perspectives and innovative approaches from their peers.



Sree Devi CP – India

First of all, I would like to thank you and the IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists for giving me this wonderful opportunity to be part of the Young Scientist Poster Tour, where I was able to present my research before some of the best minds in Biochemistry across the world. I was included in Poster Group 3, and the experience was nothing short of surreal. Presenting my research on the early prediction of SIRS in COVID-19 patients using microRNAs was both amazing and inspiring. It was an incredible opportunity to share my work and engage in meaningful conversations with peers equally passionate about advancing medical science. The feedback, questions, and discussions sparked during the session highlighted how valuable such exchanges are for scientific growth. This experience strengthened my confidence and broadened my vision for future research. I am truly thankful for this platform and will carry its inspiration and motivation into my future work.



Ahlem Ben Massoud - Tunisia

I had the great pleasure of participating in Poster Tour 2 during the IFCC EuroMedLab Congress held in Brussels this year. I presented my scientific work titled: "Analysis of Non-Conformities in the Pre-Analytical Phase at the Microbiology Laboratory of Charles Nicolle Hospital of Tunisia." It was an enriching experience to share the key findings of my research with fellow young scientists. I particularly appreciated the engaging discussions that followed the presentation—a true demonstration of how science bridges diverse backgrounds and fosters meaningful knowledge exchange beyond borders. Listening to other participants' presentations allowed me to discover new approaches, methods, and strategies that I am eager to explore further. The Poster Tour was not only an academic opportunity but also an inspiring environment for collaboration and growth.



Elikem Kumahor - Ghana

I am thrilled to share that I had the incredible opportunity to participate in the IFCC Young Scientist (YS) Poster Tour at this year's EuroMedLab conference in Brussels. It was an inspiring and rewarding experience to present my work on Pioneering Total Laboratory Automation in Ghana: Implementation & Impact to an engaged and knowledgeable audience. The feedback and discussions during the poster session were truly encouraging, with a dynamic Q&A session moderated by esteemed leaders in the field. I also thoroughly enjoyed learning from the outstanding presentations by fellow young scientists on my tour—exchanging ideas and asking questions deepened my understanding of their innovative work. This experience was both professionally enriching and personally motivating. Thank you for this fantastic opportunity to connect, share, and grow within the global laboratory medicine community!

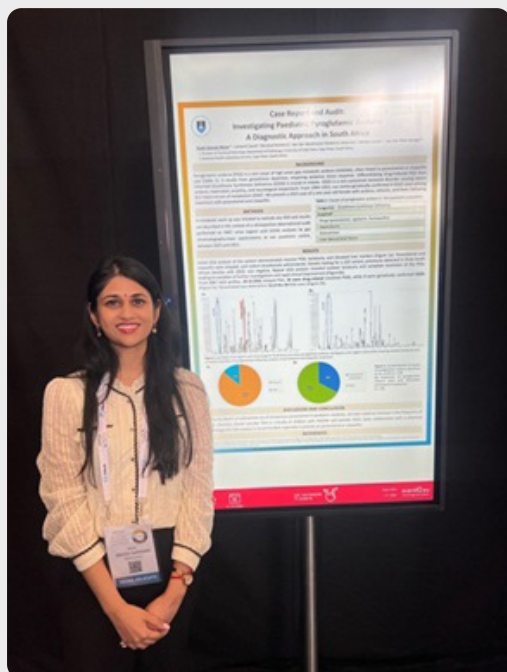


Warda Iqbal – Pakistan

Presenting my poster on thalassaemia patients at the TF-YS Poster Tour during EuroMedLab 2025 in Brussels was a truly unforgettable experience. This was my first opportunity to share my research on such a prestigious international platform. Engaging with peers, researchers, and experts from around the world not only boosted my confidence but also helped me reflect more critically on my own work. The insightful questions and feedback I received sparked new perspectives and opened up ideas for future directions in my research. What most stood out to me was the diversity and depth of scientific work presented by fellow young scientists. I was impressed by the innovative methodologies and the clarity with which complex data was communicated. It was inspiring to see how global research efforts contribute to advancements in laboratory medicine and patient care. This experience has strengthened my passion for research and motivated me to participate more actively in international scientific forums.

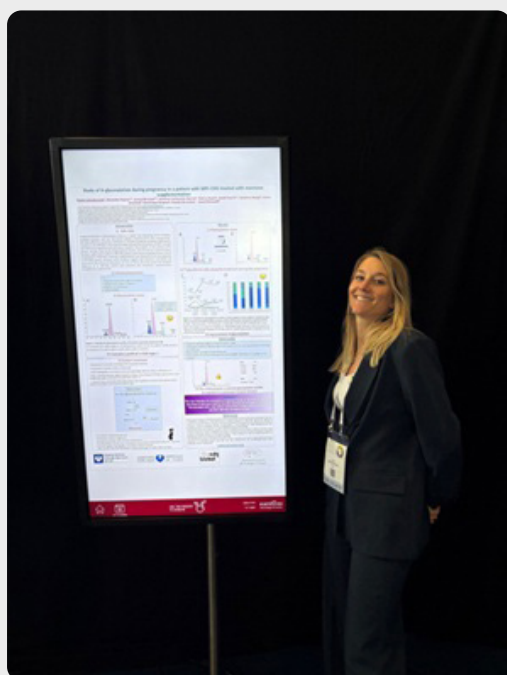
Connecting Across Borders

Across continents, participants reflected on the powerful sense of connection fostered by the poster tour. The diversity of research topics and backgrounds sparked rich exchanges, revealing new insights and opportunities beyond individual areas of expertise. Despite differences in healthcare systems, shared challenges in diagnostic pathology highlighted common ground. The tour was celebrated as an inclusive, collaborative space that encouraged openness, mutual learning, and a collective vision for the future of laboratory medicine.



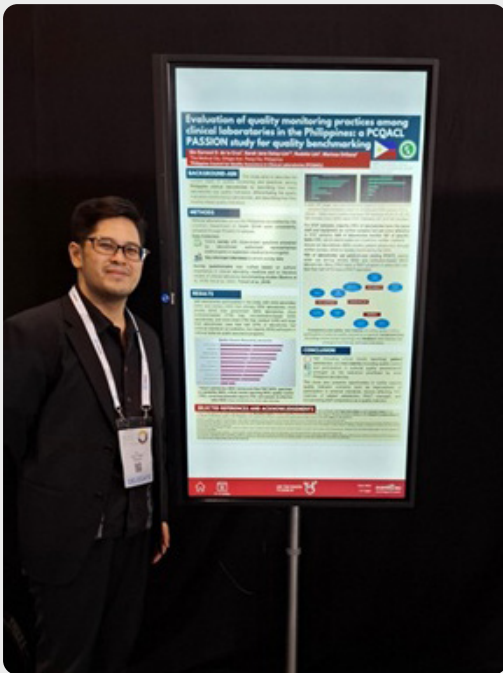
Riona Singh-Gansan - South Africa

I still reminisce about IFCC EuroMedLab Brussels 2025—an incredible opportunity to engage with the global chemical pathology community. I had the honour of displaying two posters and presenting one during the walking poster tour: Case Report and Audit: Investigating Paediatric Pyroglutamic Aciduria – A Diagnostic Approach in South Africa (oral presentation); An Audit of Lipoprotein Electrophoresis with a Focus on Lipoprotein X: A Cape Town Perspective. Presenting my work on pyroglutamic aciduria to an international audience was a true career highlight. It was rewarding to contribute to conversations on rare metabolic diseases within a South African context and to see genuine interest in the local challenges we face. A particularly impactful aspect was networking with registrars from Malaysia and Albania. Despite differing healthcare systems, we found shared obstacles in diagnostic pathology—an interesting and eye-opening experience. The tour was truly inspiring and enriching.



Lebredonchel Elodie - France

As in previous years, the poster tour was a great success. Each day at lunchtime, we gathered to present our work to our peers, gain insight from their perspectives, and reflect together on the future of our projects—all in an atmosphere of kindness and open exchange. It was also a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow young scientists.

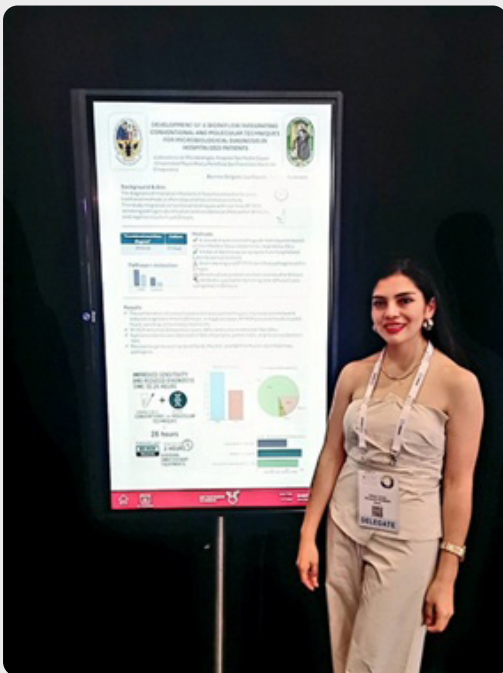


Gio Earnest D. de la Cruz - Philippines

The IFCC TF-YS poster tour was an enriching educational experience, offering us a platform to share our research with an international audience from various disciplines. Concisely and engagingly presenting our work was a worthwhile challenge that enhanced our communication skills. It was exciting and humbling to hear from many scientists and their respective areas of expertise—from molecular diagnostics, clinical chemistry, and genetic studies to laboratory operations and machine learning, to name just a few. I gained insights into new research possibilities relevant to my setting and discovered concepts beyond my usual interests. I am grateful to the IFCC TF-YS for this learning opportunity and hopeful that more scientists will be given the chance to experience this empowering activity.

Purpose Beyond the Poster

For many, the TF-YS Poster Tour evolved from a research presentation into a profound journey of purpose and professional identity. It inspired renewed motivation, lasting commitment, and a deeper sense of belonging within the global scientific community. More than an academic platform, the tour became a celebration of interest, a driver of personal growth, and a powerful reflection of the collaborative spirit shaping the future of laboratory medicine.



Carmen Delgado Barrera – Bolivia

Being part of the poster tour at EuroMedLab 2025 in Brussels was an experience that left a quiet yet profound mark—like those small, meaningful moments that, without making noise, shift your path completely. Representing Bolivia, a country small on the map but immense in effort and passion, was a true honour. Many approached with curiosity, pleasantly surprised to discover solid, committed work emerging from the heart of South America. Presenting my research was more than sharing results; it was telling a story woven from hope, vocation, and quiet dedication. Hearing questions, receiving sincere praise, and realising that what we do from our own context can also inspire, was deeply rewarding. I learned new ways of thinking, discovered fresh perspectives on what I thought I knew, and confirmed that science has no borders. I returned back home with a full heart and a renewed commitment to continue building—from Bolivia—with rigour, sensitivity, and the unwavering belief that we, too, can contribute meaningfully to the world.

IFCC Satellite Symposium on Mass Spectrometry

Marie Lenski, France (Société Française de Biologie Clinique, SFBC), IFCC-TF-YS member

Caroline Le Goff, Belgium (Royal Belgian Society of Laboratory Medicine, RBSML)

In conjunction with EuroMedLab 2025 in Brussels, the IFCC organized a half-day satellite symposium dedicated to Mass Spectrometry in Laboratory Medicine. Held on 22 May 2025, this scientific event brought together almost 90 attendees and seven internationally recognized speakers. Co-organized with the IFCC Task Force-Young Scientists (TF-YS), the EFLM and the EFLM Committee - Young Scientists, and RBSML, the symposium aimed to highlight the transformative role of mass spectrometry (MS) in clinical diagnostics, while fostering the engagement of emerging scientists in this field.

Session 1: Enhancing Clinical Diagnostics – The Role of Mass Spectrometry

Chairs: Marie Lenski (France) & Caroline Le Goff (Belgium)

The plenary lecture was delivered by Professor Markus Herrmann (Medical University of Graz, Austria), a renowned expert in metabolic bone disease diagnostics. His talk, “Improvement of Clinical Diagnostics by Mass Spectrometry – Why and How”, explored how MS enhances precision in biomarker detection, with a special focus on vitamins and bile acids. Drawing on his experience leading one of Europe’s foremost clinical MS centers, Prof. Herrmann discussed the integration of MS into diagnostic workflows and addressed challenges including standardization, analytical complexity, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Session 2: Technical Aspects and Methodology

Chairs: Kostas Makris (Greece) & Michelle Van der Helm (The Netherlands)

Dr Jonathan Sidibe (Geneva University Hospitals, Switzerland) opened this technical session with a foundational presentation titled “Clinical Mass Spectrometry: Principles and Technical Aspects”. He detailed the core principles of LC-MS, explaining components such as ionization (ESI), mass analyzers, and detectors. Dr Sidibe stressed the importance of calibration, quality control, and regulatory compliance to ensure robust clinical implementation.

Next, Dr Giovanni Rodríguez-Blanco (LKH-University Hospital Graz, Austria) addressed “Choosing the Right Method for the Right Analyte”. He presented method selection strategies for analyzing inborn errors of metabolism—particularly amino acids, organic acids, acylcarnitines, and bile acids. His talk covered sample preparation, ionization techniques, and chromatography selection as essential aspects of assay optimization.

Dr Luise Luckau (National Measurement Laboratory, UK) followed with an in-depth lecture on “The Role of Mass Spectrometry in the Standardization of Protein Biomarker Measurements”. She introduced DEM-IDMS as a high-accuracy method for SI-traceable protein quantification. Dr Luckau discussed the development of reference measurement procedures (RMPs) and calibrators for biomarkers such as BNP and NT-proBNP—highlighting IFCC’s leadership in global standardization efforts for natriuretic peptides.

Session 3: Applications of Clinical Mass Spectrometry

Chairs: Santiago Fares Taie (Argentina) & Marko Antunovic (Serbia)

Dr. Jakob Adler (IHP and IMD Berlin, Germany) began the session with “Toxicology Abuse and Therapeutic Drug Monitoring in Clinical Routine”. His talk examined the limitations of immunoassays in drug screening and the critical role of LC-MS/MS in confirmatory testing. He reviewed the AGNP (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Neuropsychopharmakologie und Pharmakopsychiatrie) guidelines for therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM), pharmacokinetic /pharmacodynamic principles, and concluded with perspectives on AI-driven developments in clinical pharmacology.

Prof. Caroline Le Goff (CHU Liège, Belgium) presented “Mass Spectrometry in Endocrinology: Beyond Steroids”. She explored how mass spectrometry is expanding the scope of hormone analysis in endocrine diagnostics. Her talk highlighted the advantages of MS in measuring low-concentration and structurally similar hormones, providing examples of novel applications beyond classical steroid panels.

The final presentation by Dr. Ales Kvasnička (Oslo University Hospital, Norway) was titled “Shaping the Future of Laboratory Medicine with Mass Spectrometry-Based Omics Technologies”. He showcased cutting-edge developments in metabolomics and lipidomics, including clinical applications of ceramide-based risk scores and innovative intraoperative tools like the MassSpec Pen and iKnife. Dr. Kvasnička projected a future where real-time, MS-driven data will guide clinical decisions at the bedside.

The symposium concluded with reflections on the growing importance of mass spectrometry in modern laboratory medicine. It underscored the importance of training, international collaboration, and standardization to fully realize the clinical potential of MS. The active involvement of young scientists, supported by IFCC TF-YS, demonstrated the vitality and future of this transformative field.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the sponsors who made this event possible. Our Gold sponsors, Shimadzu and Thermo Fisher Scientific, and our Platinum sponsors, Roche and Waters, provided invaluable support for the organization of this symposium. Their commitment to advancing innovation in clinical mass spectrometry and their continued investment in education and scientific collaboration are deeply appreciated.



Organizers and speakers at the « IFCC Satellite Symposium on Mass Spectrometry ». L-R: Santiago Fares Taie (Argentina), Ales Kvasnička (Norway), Marie Lenski (France), Kostas Makris (Greece), Luise Luckau (UK), Caroline Le Goff (Belgium), Marko Antunovic (Serbia)



Professor Markus Herrmann (Austria) delivered the plenary lecture on: “Improvement of Clinical Diagnostics by Mass Spectrometry – Why and How”.



The speakers of Session 2: Jonathan Sidibe (Switzerland), Giovanni Rodríguez-Blanco (Austria), Luise Luckau (UK), Jakob Adler (Germany), Caroline Le Goff (Belgium), Ales Kvasnička (Norway)

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IFCC Live Webinar on Equity and Access to Laboratory Testing



Moderator

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Ethical issues around the use of race in medical equations

Improving health equity through digital access to sexually transmitted infections testing in British Columbia

Autonomy or Harm? Navigating the ethics of direct-to-consumer laboratory testing



Dr. Sudip Kumar Datta
[India]

Professor & Head, Department of Laboratory Medicine
All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)



Prof. Tahir Pillay
[South Africa]

Professor and Head of the Department of Chemical Pathology
University of Pretoria



Dr. Christina Pierre
[USA]

Clinical Chemist
Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania



Dr. Devon Haag
[Canada]

Digital Public Health Manager
British Columbia Centre for Disease Control



Dr. Melissa Budelier
[USA]

Laboratory Director and Medical Director
TriCore Reference Laboratories / University of New Mexico

Date: 9 July, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM (Eastern Daylight), 4:00 PM (Central European), 10:00 PM (China Standard)



On demand content is available at [this link](#).

A Night to Remember during EuroMedLab 2025: Young Scientists Social Event Tuesday, May 20th, 2025

Meryem Benamour, Yasmine Boufelliga, Antoine Laffalize, Belgian YS (Royal Belgian Society of Laboratory Medicine, RBSML and Association des Assistants en Biologie Clinique, AABC)

As part of the EuromedLab 2025 Congress held in Brussels, a vibrant social event for young scientists took place on Tuesday, May 20th, co-organized by the AABC (Association des Assistants en Biologie Clinique), the IFCC Task Force Young Scientists and the EFLM Task Group Young Scientists, with the generous support of EuromedLab. The evening brought together over a hundred young professionals from around the world who had come to participate in one of the most prestigious congresses in laboratory medicine.

Set in the heart of the Bois de la Cambre, the event took place at Le Flore, a chic guinguette-style bar surrounded by nature. Its laid-back yet elegant atmosphere made it the perfect venue for an evening of relaxation, conversation, and celebration after a full day of scientific sessions.

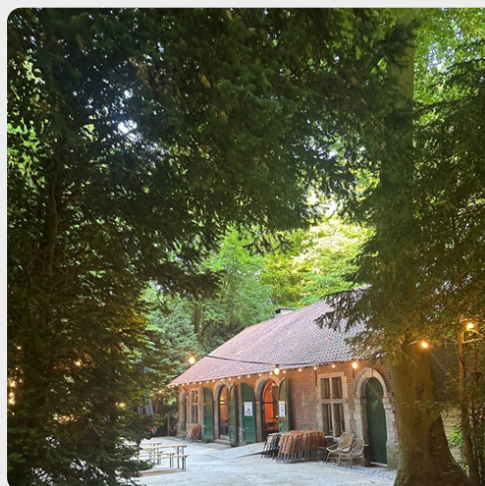
The night began informally, with attendees enjoying drinks from the bar and indulging in burgers and fries, a delicious and satisfying treat that helped everyone recharge in a friendly, open setting. As the venue filled up and conversations sparked across the terrace, the social games began.

The first icebreaker invited each guest to find their “missing half”: every participant received a card with one half of a funny or iconic duo, like “Bonnie” looking for “Clyde,” or “CRISPR” searching for “CAS9.” It was a fun and interactive way to encourage mingling and laughter right from the start. Once the duos were matched, they teamed up for a lively round of social bingo. With prompts like “Find someone who is younger than 25 years old”, “Find someone who has published at least 3 papers” or “Find someone who has run a marathon”, the game encouraged everyone to move, mingle, and connect across cultures and backgrounds, perfectly reflecting the international spirit of EuromedLab.

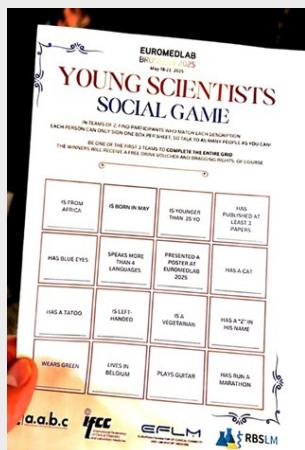
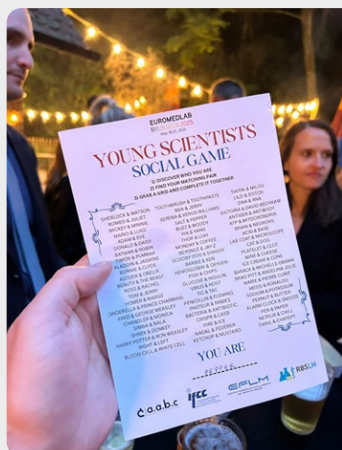
The result? A warm and joyful evening where science met community, and where new friendships and professional ties were formed under the stars.

A big thank-you to EuromedLab for making this event possible, and to the organizing teams of the AABC, the IFCC Task Force Young Scientists, and the EFLM Task Group Young Scientists for creating a space where young scientists could come together to learn, laugh, and connect.

Here's to the next one!



A Night to Remember during EuroMedLab 2025: Young Scientists Social Event



Nice memories of the Young Scientists Social Event

EuroMedLab 2025 in Focus: Shaping the Future of Laboratory Medicine

Reported by **Lejla Alic**, member of EFLM Committee: Promotion and Publication

The European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) is pleased to share highlights from a season marked by collaboration, innovation, and scientific progress. At the heart of recent activity was the 26th EuroMedLab Congress, organized with the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) and the Royal Belgian Society of Laboratory Medicine (RBSLM). From May 18 to 22, Brussels hosted over 9,000 delegates and 112 exhibitors, reaffirming EuroMedLab's place as Europe's premier event in laboratory medicine.

Over five engaging days, the congress featured symposia on precision medicine, value-based healthcare, integrated diagnostics, and emerging biomolecular technologies. A highlight was the EFLM Awards Ceremony at the Brussels Museum of Arts, recognizing excellence across science, education, outcomes research, and early-career contributions—celebrating the strength and diversity of the laboratory medicine community.

The EFLM General Meeting, held during the congress, marked a leadership transition with the election of a new Executive Board. Prof. Tomas Zima (Czechia) will assume the presidency in 2026, joined by board members Damien Gruson (Belgium) as President-Elect, Snezana Jovicic (Serbia) as Executive Board Secretary, Matthias F. Bauer (Germany) as Treasurer, and Abdurrahman Coskun (Turkey) and Anne Stavelin (Norway) as Members at large. New society members from Armenia and Moldova, along with a corporate member from Switzerland, were also welcomed—signaling the EFLM's continued expansion. Read here a comprehensive overview of the EuroMedLab 2025 by Prof. Mario Plebani, current EFLM President and by Division:Communication Members.

Young professionals were actively involved through the Young Scientists Forum, jointly organized by IFCC, EFLM, and the Belgian Association of Clinical Biology Assistants (AABC). The forum included leadership workshops, scientific sessions, and a poster tour. EFLM's presence at the BioMedJ congress in Paris further demonstrated the growing international role of its young members. EFLM also awarded its 2025 Research Grants to two exceptional projects. Dr. Kristin Moberg Aakre (Norway) was recognized for her study on cardiac DNA to improve myocardial injury diagnostics, and Dr. Zihni Onur Uygun (Türkiye) received the Vic Blaton Grant for his development of a novel electrochemical platform to detect epilepsy-related microRNAs.

Sustainability remained in focus through the Green & Sustainable Laboratories initiative led by Prof. Tomris Ozben. Laboratories across Europe are embracing practical actions for reducing chemical hazards, waste, water use, and energy consumption. This year's International Biomedical Laboratory Science Day echoed the message with the theme "Biomedical Laboratory Scientists Promoting Sustainability in Clinical Diagnostics," supported by educational podcasts.

Cross-border collaboration continues to thrive through the EFLMLabX program, which now includes over 26 participating institutions. LabX facilitates professional exchanges that promote shared learning, mentorship, and the spread of best practices across Europe.

Looking ahead, EFLM invites the community to save the dates for upcoming events: the 7th Preanalytical Conference in Padova (December 12–13, 2025), the Strategic Conference in Prague (April 25–26, 2026), and the next EuroMedLab 2027 in London (May 16–20, 2027). Meanwhile, EFLM Academy members can access live and on-demand webinars via the EFLM e-learning platform. If you would like to become an EFLM Academy member, please register through this website.

As EFLM community continues to grow, so do the opportunities for education, engagement, and impact. Whether through science, sustainability, or exchange, the laboratory medicine community is shaping the future of patient care!

Contribute to IFCC eNews

Nine New Integrated Clinical Care Teams Receive Recognition Through the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Awards

In June 2025, the IFCC, in partnership with Abbott and 6 other prestigious partner organizations, proudly announced the nine clinical care teams who have received recognition through the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence program for their measurable impact for patients, clinicians, health systems/ administrations and payors. These 2025 winning teams are recognized for “UNIFYING” across disciplines to enable the development and implementation of “AVANT-GARDE” processes to enable measurably better health outcomes.

These impressive teams have made measurably improvements to care, with impact made across disease states and focuses. With 3 top global winners, 3 teams of distinction, and 3 teams of achievement (see table below), these diverse and innovative initiatives span geographies, health systems, patients and disease states. To learn more about these best practices, please visit www.UnivantsHCE.com.

Are you interested in recognition through UNIVANTS? Start preparing your application now as applications for the 2025 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award program open Aug 1, 2025, through until Nov 15, 2025. To learn more about UNIVANTS, to gain insights on tips and tricks and/or apply, please visit www.UnivantsHCE.com.

The UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award program is proudly comprised of the following program partners: International Federation of Clinical Chemistry (IFCC), Association for Diagnostics and Laboratory Medicine (ADLM, formerly AACC), Modern Healthcare, National Association for Healthcare Quality (NAHQ), European Health Management Association (EHMA), Institute of Health Economics (IHE), Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS); each in partnership with Abbott.

*Nine New Integrated Clinical Care Teams
Receive Recognition Through the UNIVANTS of
Healthcare Excellence Awards*

UNIVANTS OF HEALTHCARE EXCELLENCE TOP ELITE WINNERS

Radiation Reduction: Increased Safety and Improved Length of Stay for Patients with Suspected Mild Traumatic Brain Injury in the Emergency Department <i>– Complejo Hospitalario Universitario Nuestra Señora de Candelaria</i>	María Cecilia Martín Fernández de Basoa Pilar González Romero María Teresa Concepción Masip	Mónica Fernández del Castillo Ascanio Carlos Alberto Marichal Hernández
The Pathway to HCV Elimination: Multidisciplinary Team Effort for Improved Identification, Diagnosis and Treatment of HCV Positive Patients <i>– Musashino Red Cross Hospital</i>	Maki Furuya Nobuharu Tamaki Noriko Kubota	Marina Muneyama Masayuki Kurosaki
TBI Strategies: Expediting Patient Flow and Reducing Length of Stay through Blood Biomarker Guided Management of Patients with Suspected Mild Traumatic Brain Injury <i>– Centre Hospitalier Universitaire of Clermont-Ferrand</i>	Vincent Sapin Charlotte Oris Bruno Pereira	Damien Bouvier Jeannot Schmidt

UNIVANTS OF HEALTHCARE EXCELLENCE RECOGNITION OF DISTINCTION

The Fiix Project: Reducing Anticoagulation Variability and Adverse Patient Outcomes through Safe and Cost-Effective Factor II and X (Fiix) Monitoring in Place of Conventional PT-INR Warfarin Monitoring <i>– Landspítali National University Hospital of Iceland</i>	Pall T. Onundarson Brynja R. Gudmundsdottir David O. Arnar	Einar S. Bjornsson Charles W. Francis
Implementation of a Comprehensive Syphilis Screening Strategy for Cost-Effective and Timely Syphilis Management <i>– Tongji Hospital, Tongji Medical College, Huazhong University of Science and Technology</i>	Liming Cheng Jing Peng Yong Zhang	Sainan Shu Huijun Li
Reduced Hepatocellular Carcinoma Recurrence with Enhanced 3-Year Survival for Patients Post Liver Transplant <i>– Kaohsiung Chang Gung Memorial Hospital</i>	Chih-Che Lin Jen-Yu Cheng Hsin-You Ou	Chien-Chin Hsu Wan-Ting Huang

UNIVANTS OF HEALTHCARE EXCELLENCE RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT

Improved Patient Experiences and Decreased Patient Length of Stay in the Emergency Department through a Multidisciplinary Approach <i>– Banner Health and Laboratory Sciences of Arizona</i>	Teri Dahn Brian Thomas Chris Zufall	Hites Patel Gordon Weimer
Personalizing H. Pylori Antibiotic Therapy for Enhanced Safety and H. Pylori Eradication <i>– University Hospitals Cleveland</i>	Navid Sadri Linda C. Cummings	Leila S. Hojat Rachel A. Wells
Enhancing Wellness through Guideline Concordant Follow-Up and Treatment for Patients with Diabetes and Chronic Kidney Disease <i>– National Kidney Foundation in collaboration with Sanford Health</i>	Christina Lankhorst Andrew Burgard Clark Casarella	Rochelle Odenbrett Elizabeth Montgomery

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News from Regional Federations and Member Societies

Report from Pakistan

Rare Links Webinar on 'Advancing Universal Newborn Screening (NBS) – Current Insights and Future Directions for Low-Middle Income Countries (LMICs)'

Ms. Mahwish Saleem and Dr Hafsa Majid, Aga Khan University, Pakistan

The Pakistan Inherited Metabolic Diseases Network (Pak-IMD-Net) is a working group of Pakistan Society of Chemical Pathology (PSCP). Education and capacity building are at the heart of Pak-IMD-Net's strategic vision to improve the recognition, diagnosis, and management of IMDs in Pakistan. As part of this commitment, the network launched the RareLink Webinar Series—a dedicated educational platform connecting clinicians, laboratory professionals, researchers, and policy advocates through high-impact virtual learning.

On June 10, 2025, the Pak-IMD-Net hosted a webinar in collaboration with the IFCC–ISNS Global NBS Taskforce, led by the co-chair of taskforce Dr Aysha Habib Khan. The webinar aimed to discuss challenges and potential solutions for implementing NBS in LMICs and was attended by NBS experts from Pakistan, Africa, and international organizations.

The event keynote speaker, Dr. James Bonham, President of the International Society of Neonatal Screening (ISNS) and Co-Chair of the IFCC–ISNS Global NBS Taskforce, opened the event with his presentation titled “From Policy to Practice: Building Equitable Newborn Screening Programs in LMICs.” He emphasized that while policy frameworks are critical, sustainable implementation depends on infrastructure, training, stakeholder collaboration, and equitable access. He highlighted the importance of integrating screening into national health systems early and emphasized regional collaboration.

From Pakistan, Dr. Hafsa Majid presented a lecture on “The Status of Newborn Screening in Pakistan,” describing the current landscape, including recent pilot initiatives using dried blood spot (DBS) techniques, capacity-building efforts, and the need for policy-level support to scale up screening beyond urban centers. From South Africa, Prof. Helen Malherbe delivered a presentation titled “Strengthening Newborn Screening Infrastructure Through Research and Advocacy”. She highlighted how a data-driven, research-informed approach has helped identify system gaps, improve resource allocation, and push for policy reforms. Her presentation emphasized the essential role of stakeholder advocacy and community engagement in strengthening and expanding newborn screening in the African context.

Dr. John Anetor, from Nigeria, gave a lecture on “The Status of Newborn Screening in the African Region: Coupling the World Health Assembly Resolutions”. He addressed the importance of aligning national efforts with WHO resolutions, and the growing momentum across Africa, while acknowledging persisting gaps in infrastructure, public awareness, and funding.

From East Africa, Dr. Daniel Maina shared Kenya's experience in “Newborn Screening Journey: Overcoming Challenges and Celebrating Milestones”. He highlighted local innovations in logistics, data management, and partnerships that helped overcome resource limitations and improve diagnostic follow-up.

Rare Links Webinar on 'Advancing Universal Newborn Screening (NBS) - Current Insights and Future Directions for Low-Middle Income Countries (LMICs)'

Following the speaker presentations, an expert panel discussion brought together all speakers along with distinguished experts including Prof. Javed Akram (Director Pakistan Society for Novel and Rare Diseases-SNARE), Dr. Sibtain Ahmed (Vice Chair, Pathology, AKU), and Salimah R. Walani (Dean, School of Nursing, AKU). The panel emphasized the importance of policy alignment, collaboration, and local ownership in escalating newborn screening efforts. They stressed the role of national coordination, cross-sector advocacy and inter-country partnerships in driving sustainable NBS programs in LMICs.

This webinar served as a vital platform for cross-continental dialogue, particularly among LMICs, to share lessons learned, policy progress, and practical innovations in newborn screening. It highlighted the urgent need for regional collaboration, policy commitment, and international support to advance universal NBS. Discussions reinforced the importance of equity, advocacy, and sustained capacity-building in achieving long-term goals for early diagnosis and treatment of inherited metabolic disorders.



RareLinks Speakers and Panelists.

SEMEDLAB presents the fundamental aspects of requesting and determining Lipoprotein (a) in the clinical laboratory.

- Lipoprotein (a) represents one of the most important heritable risk factors for cardiovascular disease.
- Between 10% and 30% of the world's population has high Lp(a) concentrations, a health problem associated with an increased risk of developing aortic valve stenosis, arteriosclerotic cardiovascular disease, ischemic stroke, and peripheral arterial disease.
- Experts recommend measuring Lipoprotein (a) at least once in a lifetime as part of the basic lipid profile.
- The Laboratory Medicine specialist is key in the analytical and post-analytical processing of Lp(a).

Lipoprotein (a) or Lp(a) is a crucial risk factor involved in the development of atherosclerotic plaque, which results in the accumulation of fats, cholesterol, and other substances on arterial walls. Increased levels of Lp(a) have been associated with an increased risk of developing conditions such as aortic valve stenosis, arteriosclerotic cardiovascular disease, and ischemic stroke. Plasma Lp(a) levels, or hyperlipoproteinemia (a), are a widespread health problem in the population: between 10% and 30% of the population have risk levels of Lp(a).

In this context, the Commission on Lipoproteins and Cardiovascular Diseases of the Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEMEDLAB) has published the document, "Fundamental Aspects in the Request and Determination of Lipoprotein(a) in the Clinical Laboratory." The aim of this document, based on current evidence, is to establish a series of recommendations on which patients should have Lp(a) measured, recommended measurement methods and their limitations, the desirable levels, their usefulness in reclassifying patients according to their cardiovascular risk, and the laboratory's role in the analytical report.

Cardiovascular and circulatory system diseases were the second leading cause of death in Spain last year, according to the latest data from the National Institute of Statistics (INE). Lp(a), first described by Norwegian physician Kåre Berg in 1963, is considered one of the most important heritable risk factors for cardiovascular disease. Plasma Lp(a) concentrations remain relatively stable throughout a person's life due to a genetic predisposition, are little affected by lifestyle, and can be 5-10% higher in women than in men.

This is highlighted by Dr. Teresa Arrobas, president of the SEMEDLAB Commission on Lipoproteins and Vascular Diseases, who explains that most clinical guidelines do not recommend universal screening, since despite the strong association between elevated concentrations of Lp(a) and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease and aortic valve stenosis, "currently there is not enough clinical evidence to demonstrate a direct association between the reduction of Lp(a) and the decrease in cardiovascular events, independently of LDL-Cholesterol, so we will have to wait for the results of the clinical trials currently in progress."

The SEMEDLAB document recommends measuring Lp(a) at least once in a lifetime, confirming it twice if it was determined in childhood, and repeating it as an adult. "Lp(a) measurement should be considered in selected patients with a family history of premature cardiovascular disease (CVD) not explained by traditional risk factors. Moreover, its measurement should be performed to reclassify the risk in those who are at the borderline between moderate and high risk of CVD, and even in those who have had their Lp(a) measured using different analytical techniques for proper monitoring," Dr. Arrobas highlights.

SEMEDLAB presents the fundamental aspects of requesting and determining Lipoprotein (a) in the clinical laboratory.

Dr. Arrobas, along with Dr. José Puzo, a member of the SEMEDLAB Lipids and Vascular Diseases Commission, points out that the intra-individual variability of Lipoprotein(a) concentration is low, “so repeat measurements would only be indicated if a secondary cause that modifies Lp(a) concentration is suspected, such as chronic kidney disease, nephrotic syndrome, or chronic liver disease, among others.”

Standardized analytical procedures

Measuring Lp(a) concentrations using a standardized assay is the method of choice for estimating the atherogenic risk associated with this lipoprotein. However, as Dr. Puzo warns, there is no consensus on establishing a universal risk threshold, as there are differences between the methods used for its determination and in the units of measurement. To minimize problems associated with measuring Lp(a) concentrations, Dr. Puzo emphasizes the importance of following the guidelines and recommendations of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) “to ensure accurate and reliable results.”

Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEMEDLAB)



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Moderator	Machine Learning in Laboratory Medicine: Promises and Pitfalls	Rationale and methodological framework for leveraging machine learning in paediatric endocrinology	Establishment of a Rare Disease Registry with Artificial Intelligence Integrating Laboratory and Clinical Data
			
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Date: 30 June, 2025
Time: 9:00 AM (Eastern Daylight), 3:00 PM (Central European), 9:00 PM (China Standard)


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On demand content is available at [this link](#).

1st Interhospital Clinical Laboratory Training Conference: "Not everything that glitters is autoimmune, or is it?"

The Clinical Laboratory facilitates early detection and monitoring of the therapeutic response in autoimmune diseases.

The immune system is our body's line of defense against bacteria, parasites, and cancer cells. Sometimes, for reasons still unknown, this system stops recognizing one or more tissues or components of the body as its own and creates autoantibodies that attack the body's own cells, tissues, and/or organs. This entire process can generate inflammation and lesions in different locations within the body, giving rise to various autoimmune diseases. The clinical approach to these autoimmune pathologies requires multidisciplinary work, in which the Clinical Laboratory specialist plays a fundamental role as a consulting body and a structural linchpin in the diagnosis and monitoring of autoimmune pathologies.

In this context, the Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEMEDLAB) organized the 1st Interhospital Clinical Laboratory Training Conference: "Not Everything That Glitters Is Autoimmune, Or Is It?" The conference was held on June 2nd at Getafe University Hospital (Madrid). Through a teaching and interhospital format, the event aimed to foster collaborative learning among young professionals from different specialties, highlighting shared knowledge and the clinical interpretation of laboratory tests.

According to Dr. Ramiro Antonio Torrado Carrión, conference co-director and Clinical Biochemistry specialist at Getafe University Hospital, the participating experts highlighted the importance of integrating laboratory findings with clinical suspicion within a framework of personalized medicine. The conference emphasized the need for a coordinated multidisciplinary approach, with the laboratory acting as a key interlocutor, in addition to highlighting the growing value of biomarkers and immunological techniques in early diagnosis and prognostic stratification, along with Laboratory Medicine's commitment to continuing education, innovation, and improving the quality of care".

Laboratory Medicine, Key in the Comprehensive Approach to Autoimmune Pathology

Clinical Laboratory professionals play a strategic role in the comprehensive approach to patients with autoimmune diseases. This was noted by Dr. Carmen Blanco Barros, co-director of the conference and head of the Clinical Analysis Service at Getafe University Hospital, who emphasized that her involvement is not limited to performing analytical tests, but rather serving as a key figure in the integration and interpretation of the

patient's biochemical, immunological, and clinical data. "This consultative capacity of the Clinical Laboratory allows for effective guidance in the diagnosis, the monitoring and the prognosis of these pathologies, which often present with high clinical heterogeneity", she explained during the conference.

In autoimmune diseases, the laboratory facilitates early detection by identifying specific autoantibodies and inflammatory biomarkers. Furthermore, Dr. Blanco emphasized that "the correct interpretation of these data in their clinical context directly contributes to more personalized medicine, avoiding unnecessary testing, improving the efficiency of the diagnostic process, and optimizing treatment".

Throughout the day, the various Clinical Laboratory techniques and tests that are key to support accurate diagnosis, monitoring the course of the disease, and evaluating response to treatment were identified. As Dr. Blanco explained, the measurement of antinuclear or anticellular antibodies (ANAs) is one of the most common laboratory tests "and helps detect the presence of antibodies

that attack components of the cell nucleus, typical in various autoimmune diseases such as systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)”. In turn, tests are performed to detect specific antibodies depending on the potential disease, such as anti-DNA and anti-Smith antibodies in lupus or anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide antibodies in rheumatoid arthritis, among others.

Likewise, the residents highlighted the laboratory’s role in diffuse interstitial lung disease (DILD) associated with autoimmune diseases. Finally, the work of Laboratory Medicine was introduced in the management of juvenile idiopathic arthritis, systemic sclerosis, and autoimmune myopathies, “where the laboratory, through the detection of specific autoantibodies, contributes decisively to the diagnosis, clinical classification, and prognostic evaluation of the disease”, explained Dr. Torrado, who also emphasized that in all these pathologies, the work of the Laboratory Medicine specialist plays a key role, “as part of the clinical team that makes decisions regarding the patient’s management”.

In this regard, Drs. Blanco and Torrado emphasized that the clinical approach to autoimmune diseases requires close multidisciplinary collaboration due to the broad systemic involvement that these patients can present. Therefore, “the management of these pathologies cannot be understood without fluid and effective communication between specialties, with the Clinical Laboratory as the technical and scientific meeting point”.

Both physicians highlighted the strategic value of this type of training initiative, especially those that promote cross-specialty teaching and strengthen the role of the Clinical Laboratory as the backbone of the diagnostic system. In their words, the event represented an opportunity to highlight the transformation of the laboratory’s role, which has shifted from being a technical support service to becoming an active agent in clinical decision-making.



<https://semedlab.es/>



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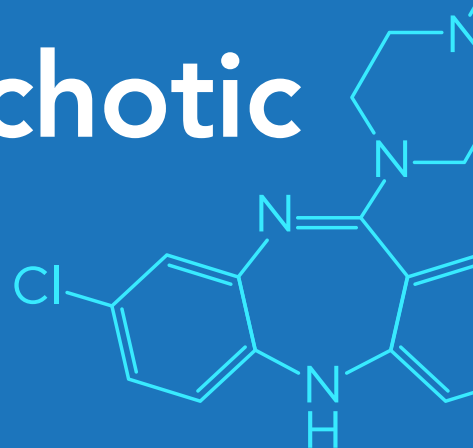


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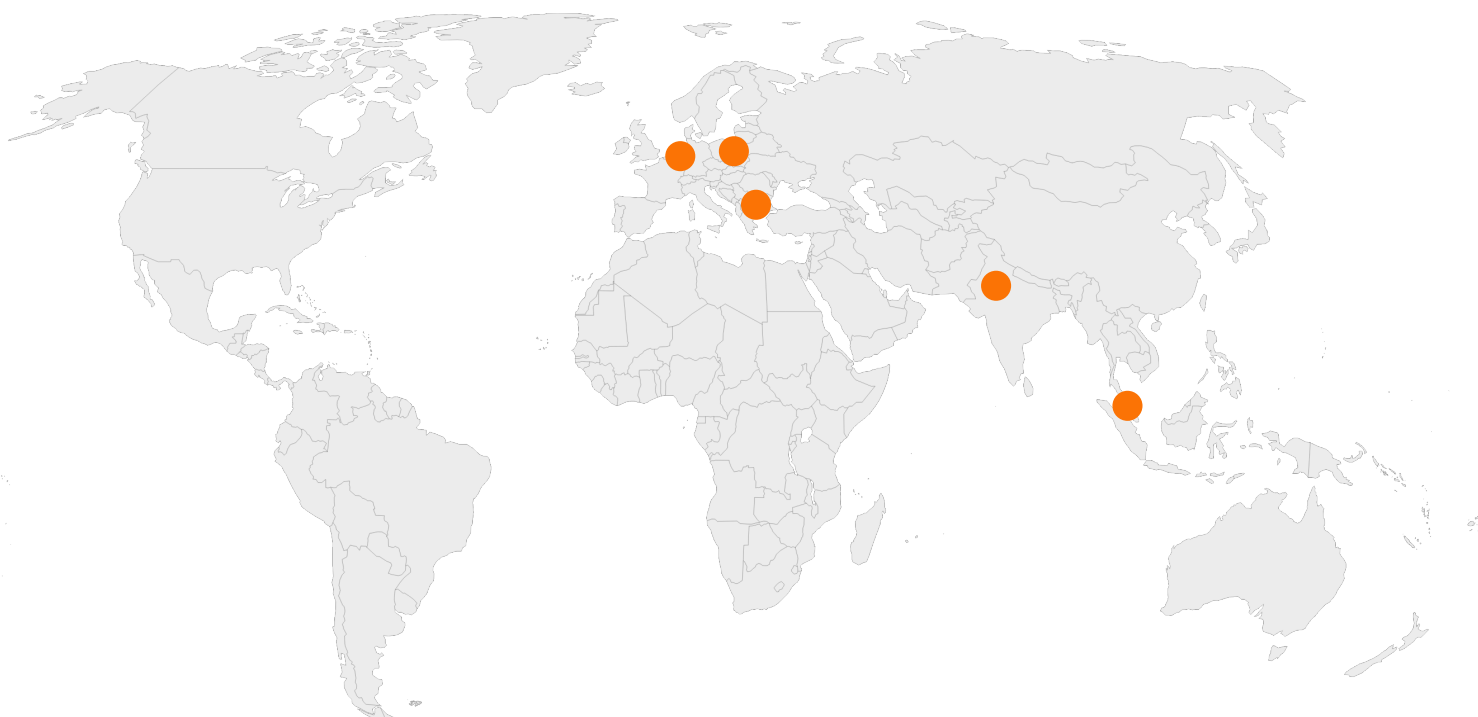
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Oct 7 - 11, 2026		COLABIOCLI 2026 SANTA CRUZ	Santa Cruz, BO
Oct 10 - 13, 2027		APFCB 2027 KUALA LUMPUR	Kuala Lumpur, MY

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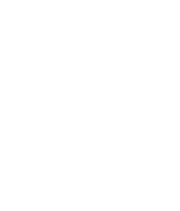
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Editor

Dr Marilena STAMOULI
Head of the Department of Biochemistry
Naval and Veterans Hospital
Athens - Greece
E-mail: enews@ifcc.org

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