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International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine



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Editorial

Dear colleagues,

First I would like to express my warmest congratulations to the newly elected IFCC President Elect and the IFCC Executive Board members. I wish them a fruitful and successful time in office.

In her message our President, Prof. Tomris Ozben shares recent highlights from our professional community and our functional units, which confirm our engagement for scientific excellence, cooperation and innovation.

In this issue you can read interesting news from the IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Program, the IFCC Visiting Lecture Program and the IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists, which contribute to IFCC's vision of promoting global scientific collaboration and knowledge exchange among the global laboratory medicine community.

The IFCC Emerging Technologies Division share with us interesting highlights from the 23rd GSCC-CB Congress, held in Thessaloniki, Greece.

The news published from the national societies of Romania, Malawi and Zimbabwe showcase the significant events organized by these societies and highlight their commitment to the professional development, embracing innovative technologies and their continuous effort to improve healthcare.

You can also read about professional teams that received recognition of distinction in the 2025 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence awards, who achieved better outcomes for patients, clinicians and the health systems, by means of interdisciplinary collaborations.

Professionals from a clinical laboratory from Finland share with us their vision to reduce the environmental burden of their work and the efforts they made towards a sustainable working environment.

Global MedLab Week 2026 is fast approaching. You are all invited to participate and prepare local and international activities that will enrich this celebration and will showcase the vital impact of our work in healthcare.

Finally, we are delighted to welcome three new Full Members and one new Affiliate Member, and we wish that we will work fruitfully together, in order to build a better future for patients and healthcare





eNews Editor

The voice of IFCC

IFCC President's Message

November 2025 By Tomris Ozben

Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends

The IFCC continues to advance with great energy and enthusiasm. I am delighted to share recent highlights from our community and functional units.

The most recent IFCC Executive Board meeting was held in Sinaia, Romania, on October 7–8, 2025, in conjunction with the 32nd Meeting of the Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation (BCLF) and the 16th National Conference of the Romanian Association of Laboratory Medicine (RALM), held at the historic Sinaia Casino in October 8-11, 2025.

On behalf of the IFCC Executive Board, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the RALM President and Executive Board, along with all their members, for their kind invitation and exceptional hospitality. The warmth and hospitality we received throughout the event, were truly appreciated and unforgettable.

The BCLF-RALM Congress was an outstanding success, excellently organized both scientifically and socially. The scientific program was comprehensive and inspiring, and the enthusiasm shown by the participants during the sessions reflected the deep interest and engagement of our professional community. The IVD Industry showed a great interest for the Congress organizing an outstanding exhibition. I also had the pleasure and honor of delivering the Opening Lecture, titled "Navigating Current and Future Advances, Innovations and Challenges in Laboratory Medicine: An Overview of Current Trends and Obstacles." It was a privilege to share perspectives on the dynamic developments shaping our field and the collective efforts needed to face the challenges ahead.

The IFCC Executive Board meeting agenda covered many important topics for our community, from public relations and the Young Scientists Forum to the last updates on IFCC statutes and strategic initiatives. These discussions will help strengthen our organization, enhance collaboration, and support our shared mission of advancing laboratory medicine globally. Special thanks to the EFLM President-elect, Prof. Tomáš Zima attending the IFCC Executive Board meeting as our invited special guest to discuss, develop and improve several joint IFCC-EFLM projects.

At the conclusion of this memorable event, I was deeply honored to receive the award "Honorary Individual Member of the Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation (BCLF)" by unanimous decision of the BCLF. I sincerely express my thanks to the BCLF Executive Board for this prestigious recognition. This distinction fills me with great pride, as the IFCC President, Past-Presidents of both EFLM and BCLF, and personally, as it symbolizes the strong bonds of collaboration, friendship, and mutual



EuSpLM, Ph.D.

respect that unite our global laboratory medicine community. It is also a reminder of how important it is for all of us to continue fostering scientific excellence, cooperation, and innovation across regions.

A recent ballot was held for the four new article proposals or amendments in **Chapters 4 and 6** of the IFCC Statutes, concerning membership, Executive Board term limits, "good standing" requirements, and the Nominations Committee. The voting concluded from September 1 to September 30, 2025, receiving a majority of YES votes of IFCC full member societies for all proposals submitted by the IFCC Executive Board. These results mark an important step forward in strengthening IFCC's governance and ensuring greater transparency and efficiency in its operations.

The elections for the new IFCC Executive Board are taking place concurrently to determine the leadership for the 2027–2029 term from October 1 to October 31, 2025, while I am writing this news on October 28. Except Corporate Members' Representative which needs approval of the IFCC Council, the new members of the IFCC Executive Board will be announced following the completion of electronic elections. It is impressive to see great interest for the various IFCC Executive Board positions. Thanks to the IFCC member societies and their nominees to be ready to take these demanding, but rewarding and distinguished responsibilities.

Together, let us continue advancing excellence and collaboration in laboratory medicine worldwide.

With warm regards,

Tomris Ozben President, IFCC

IFCC 2027-2029 Executive Board Elections

We thank the candidates who campaigned and took part in the IFCC electoral process and we acknowledge their steadfast commitment to serving IFCC.

We warmly congratulate the newly elected IFCC President-Elect (to begin on January 2026) and the IFCC Executive Board members and we wish them a fruitful and successful time in office for the period 1 January 2027 - 31 December 2029

President Elect (to begin on January 2026):

Nader RIFAI (Association for Diagnostics & Laboratory Medicine (ADLM) – USA)



Secretary

Tony BADRICK (Australasian Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (AACB) – Australia)



Treasurer:

Sergio BERNARDINI (Italian Society of Clinical Biochemistry and Clinical Molecular Biology – Laboratory Medicine (SIBioC) – Italy)



Corporate Representative election:

Tricia RAVALICO (Abbott Diagnostics – USA) - pending IFCC Council's approval.



Regional Federations' Representatives:

Myrna GERMANOS (Lebanese Society of Clinical Biology/ Syndicat des Biologistes du Liban - SDBLB) - **Arab Federation of Clinical Biology (AFCB)**



Rajiv ERASMUS (South African Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine - SAACB) - **African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC)**.



Sam VASIKARAN (Australasian Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine - AACB) - **Asia-Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (APFCB).**



Tomáš ZIMA (Czech Society of Clinical Biochemistry - CSKB) - European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM).



Eduardo FREGGIARO (Confederación Unificada Bioquímica de la Republica Argentina - CUBRA) - Latin-American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI).



Allison VENNER (Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists – CSCC and Association for Diagnostics & Laboratory Medicine - ADLM) - North American Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (NAFCC).



Our congratulations also go to all participating candidates for their very high level profile and for the interest demonstrated towards the IFCC.

Full details of these elections can be found on the IFCC website at: https://ifcc.org/ifcc-news/archive/2025/ifcc-2027-2029-executive-board-elections/

23rd GSCC-CB Congress, Thessaloniki (GR): In the Footsteps of Alexander the Great – An Odyssey of Innovation for the Laboratory Medicine of Tomorrow

Bernard Gouget, IFCC TF-History, IFCC ETD-E; **Serafeim Karathanos**, ESEAP; **Makris Konstantinos**, Vice-Chair IFCC-SD EC; **Alexander Haliassos**, IFCC Treasurer, President GSCC-CB

There are places where history is not merely a backdrop but a force that whispers, inspires, and guides. Thessaloniki, the vibrant heart of Greek Macedonia, still carries the imprint of Alexander's conquests and the intellectual legacy of Aristotle, whose rational approach has shaped inquisitive minds for centuries. It was within this unique blend of intellectual heritage and modern academic life that the Greek Society of Clinical Chemistry–Clinical Biochemistry (GSCC-CB) held its 23rd National Congress (Oct 30–Nov 2, 2025), jointly with the IFCC ETD (Photo 1), reaffirming the vitality of a rapidly expanding scientific community and the central role of Greece in the lab medical landscape of the region.

Thessaloniki, gateway to the Balkans, the Mediterranean, and the Near East, hosted this major edition in a hybrid format combining on-site participation with remote contributions. This approach broadened the scope of scientific exchange, enhanced by the strong presence of IFCC ETD representatives in the first part of the program (see separate report) and by regional federations such as APFCB, AFCB, NAFCC and EFLM. It was a clear sign of the increasingly dynamic scientific dialogue between Greece and international networks.

Under the leadership of Dr. Alexander Haliassos, whose name almost naturally evokes the forward-driving momentum of his celebrated Macedonian namesake, the GSCC-CB demonstrated what a scientific society can achieve when rigor, vision, and collective engagement come together. Alexander H did more than oversee the organization of a congress, he shaped its identity. An identity grounded in collaboration, where boundaries give way to exchange and where laboratory medicine advances confidently toward new, unexplored fields. One is tempted to see, in this capacity to unite young researchers, senior academics, and partners from Europe, the Arab, and the Asian pacific world, a modern echo of the great Macedonian federations.

A close look at the abstracts and sessions reveals an intellectual momentum that goes beyond a simple juxtaposition of results: a coherent, structured, forward-looking scientific approach emerges where technology fully assumes its clinical role. Greek contributions particularly excelled in the field of intraoperative flow cytometry. The work of G. Markopoulos, G. Vartholomatos, and C. Mpali illustrates how a technology long confined to the laboratory can become a tool for surgical decision-making, capable of influencing an intervention in real time. Here, science does more than observe: it acts, directs, and informs. This clinical translation, still too rare internationally, reflects a deeply rooted culture of hospital-university expertise in Greece.

The GSCC-CB stands at the crossroads of precision medicine and clinical practice. Presentations on oncologic, cardiometabolic, and neurodegenerative biomarkers demonstrated a consistent effort to connect molecular signatures with clinical reality. The contributions of M. Trapali, C. Kroupis, A. Strati, P. Filippou, M. Samiotaki, and others reflect an approach in which analytical innovation is never detached from patient care. Greece does not merely multiply biomarkers; it integrates, contextualizes, and gives them meaning hallmarks of mature scientific ecosystems. The Omics fields are undergoing strong technological expansion. The work of M. Aivaliotis, G. Theodoridis, O. Deda, O. Begou, and C. Virgiliou confirms that the omic chain; proteomics, metabolomics, genomics; has become a central pillar of translational research. Data structuring, artificial intelligence integration, and inter-laboratory networking have positioned Greece as an emerging force, driven by a generation fluent in technique, methodology, and clinical interpretation.

At Aristotle University, the international IFCC community gathered in a distinctly Mediterranean atmosphere. The active participation of scientists and experts from abroad brought a cosmopolitan yet warm tone to the congress, so characteristic of Mediterranean scientific culture. Exchanges with the federations affiliated with IFCC reaffirmed Greece's growing influence in laboratory medicine,

with Thessaloniki acting as a natural bridge between continents. The announcement of the results of the upcoming IFCC EB elections reflected Greece's strong engagement within the international federation.

During the official closing ceremony, the Greek society honored several distinguished contributors: Eleni Bairaktari, Katherina Psarra, Ioannis Papassotiriou (photo 2).

This was complemented by numerous Poster Awards, highlighting the excellence of emerging Greek teams whose work stands out for scientific rigor and clinical relevance.

The technical staff with Sofia Kourbassi, Lia Moira, Serafeim Karathanos, also received warm acknowledgment for their flawless management of the hybrid format, ensuring smooth, reliable access for an international audience (photo 3). The GSCC-CB expressed its gratitude to the IFCC Emerging Technologies Division (ETD), which ensured continuity of the international dimension this year, following the IFCC Scientific Division (SD) last year (photo 4). This sustained involvement reflects the IFCC's long-standing confidence in Greek expertise and the excellent relationship between national and international structures.

At the conclusion of the 2025 congress, one point was unmistakably clear: the Greek Society of Clinical Chemistry–Clinical Biochemistry is no longer simply a national scientific society. It has become an intellectual hub shaping the future of laboratory medicine in the Balkans, the Mediterranean, and beyond. In the city of Alexander the Great, Greece did more than celebrate its past: it demonstrated with clarity and confidence that the drive for discovery can also be scientific and, that Thessaloniki remains, once again, at the forefront where worlds meet.



The ETD EC with Nader Rifai



The awardees Eleni Bairaktari, Katherina Psarra, Ioannis Papassotiriou



The congress Staff (L to R) Sofia Kourbassi, Alexander Haliassos, Lia Moira, Serafeim Karathanos



Konstantinos Makris, Vice Chair of IFCC SD EC captivating a full audience

Global MedLab Week 2026 - The Worldwide Celebration of Clinical Laboratory Professionals is coming

By **Dr. Maria Pasquel-Moxley**Chair, IFCC Committee on Public Relations (C-PR)

Global MedLab Week 2026 (GMLW2026) is fast approaching. From 20 to 26 April 2026, thousands of clinical laboratory professionals across the globe will come together under the theme "A Day at the Laboratory," to showcase the vital impact of their work in healthcare.

Every day, in laboratories across the globe, dedicated professionals generate the results that make accurate diagnosis, effective treatment, and careful monitoring of diseases possible. Their work, often unseen by the public, is at the very heart of medicine. GMLW2026 is our moment to tell this story loudly and proudly—to colleagues, to patients, to students, and to society at large.

Coordinated by the IFCC through its Public Relations Committee (C-PR) and its Communications and Publications Division (CPD), this global initiative seeks to raise awareness among the public, healthcare professionals, and policymakers about the essential role that clinical laboratories play in healthcare. The official promotion will be launched in November 2025 and will invite all professionals to participate and prepare local and international activities that will enrich this celebration.

Key Activities

- Social Media Campaigns: Using the hashtag #GlobalMedLabWeek, participants are encouraged to share photos, videos, and stories that demonstrate how laboratory work transforms lives.
- Local and Global Events: Professionals are invited to organize seminars, educational talks, exhibitions, and community activities, as well as join IFCC-hosted webinars.
- Storytelling: Participants can submit audiovisual stories highlighting the significance of their daily work.

This edition also continues the call for participants to submit videos and audio recordings, which can be transformed into podcasts for global distribution. These creative contributions are powerful tools to communicate the importance of clinical laboratory science in everyday life, fully aligned with the theme.

Recognition and Awards

CPD selects podcast, video, and photo winners.

Guidelines and Submissions

- Photos: Submit JPG or PNG format, minimum 3000 pixels on the longest side, with a description and authorization letter by 14 March 2026.
 Evaluation criteria include educational value (40%), technical quality (30%), relevance (20%), and impact (10%).
- Videos and Podcasts: Official guidelines and authorization forms will be provided to ensure high-quality, ethical content suitable for social media, congresses, and IFCC campaigns.





Expected Impact

GMLW2026 will be more than a celebration. It will be a platform to educate the public, inspire students and future specialists, and strengthen the recognition of laboratory professionals who make modern medicine possible. Success will be measured by participation levels, social media reach, and the quality of creative contributions.

Join Us!

We warmly invite colleagues, universities, hospitals, clinics, and laboratories to actively participate. Each photo, video, podcast, and story shared will help amplify the visibility of our profession worldwide. Global MedLab Week 2026 is more than a campaign: it is a chance to proudly show that laboratory science is the very heart of medical diagnosis.

Let us unite and celebrate together: "A Day at the Laboratory."



Special thanks to the members and corresponding members of the IFCC Committee on Public Relations (C-PR): Enrique Rodríguez (Spain), Dr. Maria del C. Pasquel (Ecuador, Chair), María Schroeder-Castagno (Uruguay), Ronald Khunga (Malawi), Rihab Makhlouf (Tunisia), Ashish Agravatt (India), and Reezan Ali (India), who together approved the official logo of GMLW2026 during the Zoom meeting on 10 September 2025.

IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Programme (PSEP): my experience at the Department of Clinical Chemistry of the University Hospital of Liège (CHU de Liège)

By **Alessia Biasotto**, MD, Clinical pathologist / Institute of Clinical Pathology, Department of Laboratory Medicine, University Hospital of Udine, Italy

As part of the IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Programme (PSEP), I had the opportunity to undertake a three-month training stay at the Department of Clinical Chemistry of the University Hospital of Liège (CHU de Liège), under the supervision of Professor Étienne Cavalier.

Professor Cavalier and his team carry out high-level routine and research activities on bone status indices, vitamin D, PTH, and markers of kidney disease, with significant scientific impact.

This experience allowed me to acquire advanced skills and knowledge in specialized endocrinology testing, which is my main field of interest, particularly regarding the performance and interpretation of bone metabolism analyses, as well as to further develop my expertise in liquid chromatography coupled to tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) and its numerous applications in endocrinology.

With regard to LC-MS/MS, I collaborated with Dr. Le Goff, Head of the Separative Techniques Laboratory, and other colleagues and laboratory technicians to follow the entire testing process, from sample preparation and the analytical phase, to peak review and result validation.

In this context, I had the opportunity to explore various methods currently used in the Laboratory, from well-established and widely known steroid panels to more complex hormone quantifications. Concerning bone status indices, I took part in routine testing activities and learned about the test validation process. Owing to the host Laboratory's expertise in this field, I reviewed relevant references, procedures, and guidelines, and became familiar with biomarkers not yet analysed in my institution, thus gaining deeper scientific knowledge and the ability to introduce these assays into our routine practice or research activities.

I was also introduced to the laboratory's Quality Management System (QMS) and learned about the EQA (External Quality Assessment) programs carried out and their management, from sample reception and storage to report review. This aspect proved particularly relevant for methods not performed in my laboratory and for tests not yet covered by an EQA scheme.

During my stay, I also attended, together with the entire Laboratory team, the 26th IFCC-EFLM EUROMEDLAB Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, held in Brussels. It was an important opportunity to gain insight into the latest advances in mass spectrometry, especially through a dedicated satellite symposium on this topic.

As a young specialist in Laboratory medicine, I believe that continuous professional development is essential to keep pace with technological improvements and scientific progress in the field. In this respect, the IFCC PSEP programme perfectly matches the aim of enhancing one's professional skills and knowledge.

I am deeply grateful to Professor Cavalier and his team for their mentorship and commitment to build not only an efficient routine laboratory but also a dynamic research environment. It has been a pleasure to take part in all the proposed activities, exchange ideas, and receive valuable suggestions to improve the analytical performance in my Laboratory, including possible future collaborations.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the IFCC for fostering international collaboration among laboratory professionals and for the opportunity to take part in this PSEP.

This experience has contributed significantly to my professional and personal growth, and I look forward to implementing in my Laboratory the skills and insights I have gained - including new analytical techniques and biomarkers - to improve the services provided to our patients.



With Dr. Le Goff and part of the Mass Spec team in the Laboratory.



With Prof. Cavalier and colleagues in the CoreLab.



With Prof. Cavalier, Dr. Le Goff and residents at the 26th IFCC-EFLM EUROMEDLAB in Brussels.

IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Programme, my experience at: Sanquin Blood Supply, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Jules Al Samara, Paris University Hospitals <u>jules.alsamara@aphp.fr</u>

As a resident in laboratory medicine specializing in immunology, I have always been driven by a strong ambition to deepen my expertise in emerging immune-based therapies. With immunotherapies becoming increasingly prominent, acquiring a thorough understanding of their underlying mechanisms is essential for tackling current developmental challenges and envisioning the next generation of monitoring technologies.

This motivation led me to pursue a fellowship at Sanquin, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, within the T Cell Metabolism and Immunotherapy group led by Dr. Iosifina Foskolou. During this enriching experience, I focused on developing enhanced CAR-T cells designed to target pediatric high-grade gliomas (PHGG). CAR-T cells are a type of cellular immunotherapies in which T cells collected from individual patients are genetically modified to express a "chimeric antigen receptor" (CAR), enabling them to directly recognize a specific target antigen. While CAR-T therapies have shown outstanding success in treating adult and pediatric B cell malignancies, their benefit in solid tumors remains limited. Moreover, PHGGs continue to represent an urgent unmet medical need, as they are often refractory to conventional therapies.

Our aim was to advance the development of CAR-T cells for PHGGs by addressing key challenges such as the risk of antigen escape, which is driven by tumor heterogeneity, and the immunosuppressive microenvironment that restricts CAR-T cell activity. To tackle these obstacles, our work focused on optimizing antigen targeting and generating CAR-T cells with enhanced cytotoxic activity and improved persistence. Our experiments involved a combination of functional assays, as well as detailed phenotypic and metabolic assessments of the different optimization strategies investigated.

I am sincerely grateful to Dr. losifina Foskolou for providing me with the opportunity to contribute to this inspiring project and to join the dynamic and stimulating community of Sanquin. I also extend my heartfelt thanks to PhD candidates Joana Akoto and Michel Driessen for their invaluable guidance and continuous support throughout my training.

I wish to express my warm thanks to the IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Programme (PSEP), whose support was instrumental in making this impactful exchange possible. This experience has greatly enriched my professional and personal development, broadening my perspective on translational immunology and research collaboration. I strongly encourage every laboratory medicine professional to seize this opportunity to gain new experiences, expand their skills, and foster international scientific exchange.



Me at Sanquin Blood Supply, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

IFCC Visiting Lecture Programme (VLP): 23rd International Congress of the CNB Visit Report

By **Yenedith De Vargas Uparela**, President of the CNB and **Ángela Florez Pacheco**, Administrative and Congressional Assistant



GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS OF THE EVENT

The 23rd International Congress of the National College of Bacteriology (CNB) was held at the City of Bogotá at Agora Convention Center, from August 15 to 18, 2025. It was organized by the National College of Bacteriology (CNB) and the Member Organizations: College of Bacteriologists of La Guajira - COLBAGUA, College of Bacteriologists Magdalena - CBM and College of Bacteriologists of San Andrés - COBASAI.

With the slogan "Current Diagnostics, Future Innovations: A Global Perspective", we reaffirmed our commitment to science, recognizing current advances in clinical diagnostics, while promoting a look to the future, driving innovation, technology and knowledge exchange. In this sense, we invited speakers who could share their valuable experience and knowledge with the more than 1,500 national and foreign professionals from the clinical laboratory who accompanied us in this important event.

Within the framework of the 23rd International Congress of the National College of Bacteriology, we had the Visiting Lecturer Programme (VLP), with the participation of three international guest speakers, thanks to IFCC, who presented topics of high relevance to professional practice.

Activities such as pre-congress workshops, academic conferences, symposia, a discussion on artificial intelligence, exhibition of paintings and research works, cultural and artistic exhibitions, aimed at professionals and students in the clinical laboratory area.

The feedback received through the evaluation surveys reflects a highly positive balance. The overall quality of the program was rated as high. Attendees highlighted the importance of having this experience of IFCC-VLP participation and considered that the number and content of the conferences were adequate.

In addition to the organization, logistics and space assigned for the sessions were valued favorably and with a fairly high and positive impact. The participants highlighted that the topics presented were useful and pertinent for their professional practice. In general, all respondents would recommend that the CNB must continue to have this type of participation of visiting speakers by IFCC in future events.

The experience in each of the conferences was described as enriching and rewarding for the academic and professional community of the Congress.

The CNB thanks the IFCC for its support through the VLP program, which contributed significantly to the academic success of the Congress. The positive impact and high satisfaction of the attendees reaffirm the importance of continuing efforts to strengthen this collaboration for future editions.

COMMENTS BY SPEAKERS

Dr. Ellis Jacobs

Conferences:

- IFCC recommendations on reporting blood glucose results and sources of error in measuring glucose in POCT
- · Are internal and external quality controls necessary for the Point of Care Testing?

Most useful aspects:

- The participants highlighted that the way he explained the frequent errors in POCT was very illustrative, allowing them to recognize situations that are experienced in daily practice.
- The comparison between international standards and the reality of local laboratories generated a valuable reflection.
- His ability to integrate theory with practical examples was underlined and facilitated the understanding of the subject.





Conference Dr. Ellis Jacobs

Conference Dr. Ellis Jacobs

Dr. Patricia Hernández

Conferences:

- ISO 15189 ISO 9001.
- · Laboratory Management.

Most useful aspects:

- She was valued for her ability to translate complex technical standards into clear and practical messages.
- Many attendees commented that her presentations motivated them to review the internal processes of their laboratories and to think about accreditation as an achievable goal.
- Her comprehensive vision was highlighted, and linked technical management with leadership and the organization of work teams.





Conference Dra. Patricia Hernández

Conference Dra. Patricia Hernández

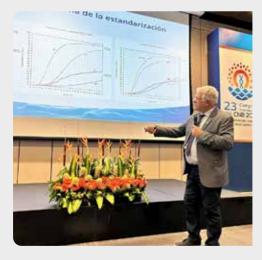
Dr. Raúl Girardi

Conferences:

- Analytical considerations for the use of plasma creatinine in the estimation of glomerular filtration rate.
- Implementation of metrological traceability in laboratory medicine.

Most useful aspects:

- The attendees mentioned that the explanations on metrological traceability provided a novel and highly relevant approach to strengthen quality in laboratories.
- The scientific depth of his interventions allowed us to understand in more detail the importance of accuracy in clinical results.
- Some participants highlighted that the examples given helped to understand how to put these concepts into everyday practice.



Conference Dr. Raúl Girardi



Conference Dr. Raúl Girardi

CONCLUSIONS

- The participation of the IFCC's Visiting Lecturer Programme (VLP) in the 23rd International Congress of the CNB represented an academic contribution of great value, as it provided spaces for updating on priority topics for the practice of the clinical laboratory.
- The lectures developed by the three invited speakers were recognized for their clarity, relevance and practical applicability, responding to the real needs of the attending professionals.
- The contributions of Dr. Ellis Jacobs strengthened the understanding of the importance of quality control and international recommendations in the field of Point of Care Testing.
- Dr. Patricia Hernández's interventions motivated professionals to reflect on accreditation processes, quality management and leadership in laboratories, providing practical tools for continuous improvement.
- Dr. Raúl Girardi's lectures offered a very in-depth scientific and technical vision, especially in relation to metrological traceability and its impact on the reliability of clinical results.
- Overall, the Visiting Lecturer Programme was evaluated as an enriching and rewarding
 experience for the academic and professional community, strengthening the ties of cooperation
 between the CNB and IFCC, and reaffirming the need to continue promoting this type of
 programs in future editions of the Congress.

IFCC Webinars

Sponsored by Siemens Healthineers Boston Children's Hospital

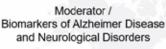
Live Series

2025 www.ifcc.org



IFCC Live Webinar on

Biomarkers for Neurological Disorders: Are We There Yet?





Dr. Laila Abdelwareth
[UAE]
Chief Executive Officer
National Reference Laboratory

The Role of Blood Biomarkers in Diagnosis and Management of Stroke



Dr. Shereen Amer
[UAE]
Consultant Clinical Pathologist
National Reference Laboratory

Paraneoplastic disorders affecting neurological function



Dr. James G Donnelly
[USA]
Senior Director
Center for Advanced Medicine,
Northwell Health

Date: 14 October, 2025

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

On demand content is available at this link

IFCC Visiting Lecture Programme (VLP): 23rd International Congress of the CNB

By Dr Patricia Hernández Rubio (Mexico) – VLP lecturer

The experience was very enriching for me, since tools for professional and scientific development were shared in a framework for updating Latin American health professionals. We exchanged knowledge, experiences and perspectives in the field of Medical Laboratory. I also attended conferences with high-level academic value, especially technological advances and current challenges inherent to laboratories, mainly those of genetics, molecular biology, patient safety, risk assessment and quality management. I liked that burnout was addressed, since it is a current trending topic for health professionals.

Regarding my participation as a speaker, I consider that a management excellence system currently requires implementing innovative technologies and customized processes to analyze and exchange knowledge to optimize processes. That's why I took advantage of the forum to reflect on the challenges of digital transformation and the importance of relationship management in Latin American organizations. Effective relationship management creates a positive and productive environment, benefiting the organization, which facilitates collaboration, effective communication, and problem-solving, with increased productivity and improved performance.

Basically, the objectives of my "Laboratory Management" conference were:

General:

To promote mutual learning among professionals, academics, and organizations in medical laboratories and healthcare research, driving digital transformation to optimize processes and managing relationships for continuous improvement.

And the **specific** objectives were:

- 1. Analyze, reflect, and exchange knowledge on innovations and challenges in digital transformation in Latin American laboratories.
- 2. Continuous improvement of Quality Management Systems in Clinical and Research Laboratories in the Healthcare Sector through relationship management.

Moreover, it's important for medical laboratory professionals to understand international quality standards and their scope. The ISO 9001 standard is used to evaluate the quality of management systems, resulting in "Certification".

ISO 15189 validates the technical competence of clinical laboratories and accreditation is obtained. Both are processes that evaluate and validate a laboratory's technical competence, ensuring that it can consistently deliver high-quality results in its specific testing, calibration, or analysis work. I also commented on CAP standards and good laboratory practices. Finally, I discussed the possibility of continuous improvement in difficult economic environments and integrated quality management systems, giving an example published by Aguilera Becerra & Contreras Castañeda (2024). The objectives of my participation with the topic "ISO 9001-ISO 152189" were:

General:

Promote the implementation of international quality standards in clinical laboratories to ensure they are technically competent, that the results they produce are reliable, and that they continuously improve their processes. These are important requirements for strengthening customer confidence in the laboratory and its results, facilitating international recognition of its expertise. Finally, to invite medical laboratories to implement integrated quality management systems.

The specific objectives of my "ISO 9001-ISO 152189" conference were:

- 1. Encourage and promote the interest of medical laboratories to demonstrate their technical competence and guarantee reliable results by implementing the international quality standards ISO 9001 and ISO/IEC 15189.
- 2. Promote continuous improvement that increases customer confidence and ensures that laboratory capabilities are recognized worldwide.

Thank you again for the support



Dr Patricia Hernández Rubio, delivering her speech at the 23rd Congreso Internacional del CNB 2025



The audience at the 23rd Congreso Internacional del CNB 2025, during the VLP session held by dr Patricia Hernández Rubio

IFCC Professional Exchange Program: my experience at JSS Medical College and Hospital in Mysuru, India

By Dr. Milad Khorasani

Neyshabur University of Medical Sciences, Neyshabur, Iran

Host Institution:

JSS Medical College and JSS Hospital, JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research (JSS AHER), Mysuru, India

Host Supervisor:

Dr. Akila Prashant, Professor & Head, Department of Biochemistry, JSS Medical College, Mysuru

Duration of the Program:

24th July to September 30th 2025

1. Introduction

The IFCC Professional Exchange Program (IFCC PSEP) provided me with an exceptional opportunity to enhance my technical expertise and academic experience through international training and collaboration. My exchange visit to JSS Medical College and Hospital in Mysuru, India, under the guidance of Dr. Akila Prashant, was a professionally enriching and personally memorable journey. The program offered valuable exposure to advanced laboratory techniques, interdisciplinary teamwork, and cross-cultural scientific collaboration in the fields of biochemistry and medical genetics.

2. Scientific Training and Technical Experience

A major focus of my training was the Newborn Screening (NBS) program using Liquid Chromatography–Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC–MS/MS) at JSS Medical College and Hospital. Although LC–MS/MS is utilized in Iran, it has not yet been widely implemented nationally. The handson experience at JSS Medical College and Hospital allowed me to understand the complete workflow – from sample preparation and instrument calibration to data interpretation and reporting of screening outcomes.

I also got trained in the Department of Medical Genetics, where I gained experience to karyotyping and cytogenetic analysis in a clinical setting. This experience helped me appreciate the integration of genetic diagnostics with clinical management and the importance of multidisciplinary collaboration in improving patient outcomes.

3. Academic and Research Exchange

During my stay, I delivered a guest lecture on my Ph.D. research work, where I shared insights from my ongoing studies and discussed new perspectives with faculty members, researchers, and postgraduate students. The session fostered meaningful scientific dialogue and exchange of ideas. Additionally, during my stay, I actively participated in the execution of the IFCC PSEP that has been conceptualized earlier, in collaboration with Dr. Akila and her team. My involvement focused on implementing the planned training modules, engaging in hands-on learning sessions, and contributing to the exchange of technical expertise. The program's emphasis on clinical biochemistry, metabolomics, and newborn screening provided a strong framework for knowledge transfer and skill development, aligning perfectly with IFCC's vision of promoting global scientific collaboration and capacity building in laboratory medicine.

4. Cultural and Personal Experience

My visit coincided with the Mysuru Dasara Festival, one of India's most celebrated cultural events. Experiencing the illuminated Mysore Palace, the grand processions, and the traditional performances offered a unique glimpse into India's vibrant cultural heritage. This cultural immersion, combined with the hospitality and warmth of the people at JSS, made my stay truly memorable and well-rounded.

5. Acknowledgements

I would like to kindly acknowledge and thank the IFCC for their support in making this program possible. I express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Akila Prashant, Professor and Head, Department of Biochemistry, for her mentorship and continuous support throughout my exchange program. I also thank all the faculty members and staff of the Departments of Biochemistry and Medical Genetics, as well as the administration of JSS Medical College and JSS Hospital, for their generous hospitality, academic guidance, and encouragement.

My heartfelt appreciation extends to the IFCC Professional Exchange Program Committee for providing this invaluable platform to foster global learning and collaboration in laboratory medicine.

6. Conclusion

The IFCC Professional Exchange Program has been a transformative experience that broadened my scientific perspective, enhanced my laboratory and analytical skills, and deepened my understanding of international best practices in biochemistry and genetics. I return to my home institution inspired and motivated to apply the knowledge gained to advance diagnostic and research capabilities in my country, and to contribute to future collaborative initiatives between our institutions.



JSS Hospital - Clinical Biochemistry laboratory.



With my esteemed professors from the Department of Clinical Biochemistry & Medical Genetics.



From right to left: Dr. Narayanappa D (Principal), Milad Khorasani, Dr. Akila Prashant (Professor and Head, Department of Biochemistry), and Dr. Karthik Kanakoor.



Alongside Dr. Narayanappa D, the Principal.



The magnificent Mysuru Palace illuminated during the Mysuru Dasara festival.



A beautiful view of the majestic Mysuru Palace.

IFCC: the people

IFCC Calls for Nominations

Participate in IFCC activities and give your contribution! Review the open positions and, if interested, contact your National or Corporate Representative.

IFCC is inviting nominations for the following positions:

EMD C-EBLM Call for Nominations for two members Please note that the deadline for the C-EBLM Call for Nominations has been extended to 25 November 2025. Nominations should be sent to the IFCC Office (cardinale@ifcc.org)

Click here to download the Call for nominations letter.

TF-GEL Call for nomination for three Webinar Coordinators The Taskforce on Global eLearning/eAcademy (TF-GEL), announces a call for nominations for for three Webinar Coordinators within the Task Force.

Replies should be sent to the IFCC Office

(smeralda.skenderaj@ifcc.org) by 30 November 2025.

Click here to download the Call for nominations letter.



TF-YS Call for Nominations for two members

The Task Force for Young Scientists (TF-YS), announces a call for nominations for two members within the Task Force.

Replies should be sent to the IFCC Office (<u>smeralda.skenderaj@ifcc.org</u>) by **15 December 2025.** Click here to download the Call for nominations letter.

EMD EC Call for Nominations for one member

The Education and Management Division (EMD) announces a call for nominations for one member on the EMD Executive Committee (EMD EC).

Replies should be sent to the IFCC Office (<u>cardinale@ifcc.org</u>) by **15 December 2025**.

Click here to download the Call for nominations letter.

FOR UPDATES ABOUT IFCC CALL FOR NOMINATIONS VISIT

https://ifcc.org/about/ifcc-calls-for-nominations/

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





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IFCC: the Young Scientists

Meet a Young Scientist from the IFCC Task Force-Young Scientists

Spotlight on: Miklós FAGYAS, IFCC Task Force-Young Scientists corresponding member from Hungary, nominated by the Hungarian Society of Laboratory Medicine (MLDT)





Could you please introduce yourself?

My name is Miklós Fagyas, I am married, and father of two children. I graduated as a medical doctor from the University of Debrecen, Hungary. I obtained my PhD degree in 2014, completed my specialization in Laboratory Medicine in 2015 and received habilitation in 2021. I also hold a diploma in Health Care Management and a Certificate in Accounting. Currently, I work as an associate professor at the Division of Clinical Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Debrecen, where I am mainly engaged in research, teaching, and specialized laboratory diagnostics.

Could you share a bit about your background and academic activities?

My professional activities combine teaching and mentoring with laboratory-based research. I am actively involved in undergraduate medical education and in the training of young researchers. So far, I have successfully supervised two PhD students who defended their theses, while two more have already completed their final pre-defense requirements. For the past two years, I have been serving as the Academic Secretary of the Students' Research Society (SRS) in the field of medicine and health sciences at the University of Debrecen. The SRS is a voluntary organization in Hungary whose main goal is to involve undergraduate students in scientific research at an early stage and to provide them with opportunities to present their work. Each year, hundreds of students present their research at local conferences. At the most recent conference in Debrecen, more than 400 oral presentations and over 260 research essays were submitted in the field of medicine and health sciences. As Academic Secretary, my role is to organize the local conferences and manage the peerreview process of the submitted essays. In practice, I assign independent reviewers, coordinate the review process, and make sure that evaluations are completed on time – very similar to the work of an editor of a scientific journal.

Could you give us a brief introduction to your national society and its main activities?

The Hungarian Society of Laboratory Medicine will celebrate its 80th anniversary in 2026. In addition to fostering national and international professional collaborations and ensuring the quality of laboratory practice, the Society places great emphasis on supporting young colleagues and researchers. The Society recently held its 62nd Annual Meeting, a distinguished event that provided an excellent platform for young scientists and laboratory professionals to showcase their research, where the most outstanding oral and poster presentations were honored with awards, underlining the Society's strong commitment to supporting the next generation of laboratory professionals. Can you highlight some of the key activities that you had with the IFCC Task Force-Young Scientists? Since 2022, I have been the Corresponding Member of the IFCC Task Force – Young Scientists (TF-YS) for Hungary. In this role, I promote TF-YS activities, encourage young colleagues to apply for international programs, and act as a link between the Hungarian community and the international network of young scientists.

Did you participate on an exchange programme in your career?

Yes, I spent three months in Rome as part of the Erasmus program. This experience was very valuable for me: I gained new methodological knowledge and laboratory experience, while also learning to work in a different cultural and economic environment. In my opinion, international exchanges are extremely important for young scientists. They broaden horizons, make participants more adaptable, and provide them with lifelong personal and professional connections. Furthermore, such programs help young scientists build an international professional network that can support their careers for many years.

I also encourage my students to pursue such opportunities. One of my PhD students recently returned from Japan after completing a research exchange, while another is preparing to continue his research in Austria. I believe these programs provide essential early-career experience that helps young researchers grow into independent scientists.

Is there any future collaborative project of IFCC TF-YS that you want to share with readers of IFCC eNews?

I believe it would be highly motivating if young postdocs could apply for a publication award with their first independent research paper, where they are listed as last (senior) authors. Such recognition would mark their first steps as research leaders and provide encouragement at a crucial stage of their career.

IFCC Webinars

Sponsored by Siemens Healthineers **Boston Children's Hospital**

Live Series

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IFCC Live Webinar on

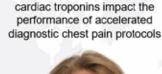
Update on cardiac biomarkers

Moderator



Prof. Paul O. Collinson [UK] Professor of Cardiovascular

Biomarkers St George's University of London



How does the analytical quality of



Prof. Kristin Moberg Aakre [Norway]

Professor and Medical Doctor Department of Clinical Science, University of Bergen

Recent insights on novel mechanisms for cardiomyocyte troponin release



Prof. Ola Hammarsten [Sweden]

Medical Doctor and Professor in Clinical Chemistry University of Gothenburg



Prof. Allan Jaffe [USA]

Professor of Cardiovascular Disease Research Mayo Clinic, Minnesota

Date: 29 October, 2025

Time: 10 AM (Eastern Standard), 3 PM (Central European), 10 PM (China Standard)





TF-YS Clinical Case Discussions – Session 8: Diagnostic Dialogues

By IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists (TF-YS)

On September 26th, 2025, the eighth session of the Young Scientists' Clinical Case Discussion series took place virtually, bringing together young laboratory professionals and researchers from around the world. Organized by the IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists (TF-YS), this session continued the successful prior series aimed at promoting global collaboration, education, and exchange of diagnostic experiences among young professionals in laboratory medicine.

The session was warmly opened by TF-YS core member from Sri Lanka, Dr. Udara Senarathne and corresponding member from Georgia, Dr. Tamar Ramishvili, who moderated the event and welcomed the international audience. Three fascinating and educational clinical cases were presented by young scientists from India, Sri Lanka, and South Africa, focusing on the critical diagnostic role of the clinical laboratory in complex endocrine and metabolic disorders.

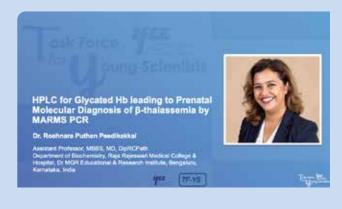
The first presentation was delivered by Dr. Roshnara Puthan Peedikakkal from India, entitled "How HPLC for Glycated Haemoglobin Led to Prenatal Molecular Diagnosis of Beta Thalassemia by MARMS PCR." The case described how an incidental laboratory finding during a routine glycated haemoglobin (HbA1c) test using high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) led to the discovery of elevated HbA2, suggesting beta-thalassemia trait. Through a detailed investigation involving Multiplex Amplification Refractory Mutation System Polymerase Chain Reaction (MARMS PCR), both parents were confirmed as heterozygous carriers of the IVS1-5 (G>C) mutation in the -globin gene. Prenatal molecular testing of the foetus revealed homozygosity for the same mutation, confirming -thalassemia major. This case emphasized how a simple laboratory test such as HbA1c can identify significant underlying genetic disorders and highlighted the crucial role of the laboratory in guiding genetic counselling and informed reproductive decisions.

The second case was presented by Dr. Thilini Premadasa from Sri Lanka, titled "Lesch-Nyhan Syndrome in a Child with Self-Mutilation and Hyperuricemia." The presentation focused on a rare X-linked recessive disorder of purine metabolism caused by hypoxanthine-guanine phosphoribosyltransferase (HPRT) deficiency. The three-year-old male patient exhibited irritability, dystonia, and characteristic self-injurious behaviour. Biochemical evaluation revealed marked hyperuricemia and hyperuricosuria, providing early diagnostic clues. Genetic analysis confirmed the diagnosis, with the mother testing negative for carrier status, indicating a de novo mutation. Dr. Premadasa discussed the importance of early recognition of Lesch-Nyhan Syndrome through simple, low-cost tests such as serum uric acid measurement, and underscored the need for vigilant monitoring during allopurinol therapy. The presentation also highlighted the importance of multidisciplinary management, including neurology, urology, physiotherapy, and psychological support, to improve patient quality of life despite irreversible neurological manifestations.

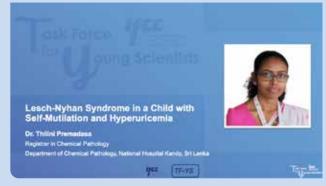
The final presentation was given by Dr. Kgotlatjho Magolego from South Africa, titled "ACTH-Dependent Cushing's Syndrome: A Case for BIPSS in Diagnostic Ambiguity." The case described a 36-year-old woman with biochemically confirmed ACTH-dependent hypercortisolism and an equivocal pituitary MRI. The challenge of differentiating between pituitary and ectopic sources of ACTH secretion prompted the use of Bilateral Inferior Petrosal Sinus Sampling (BIPSS). Despite meticulous preanalytical planning and multidisciplinary coordination, the absence of a diagnostic ACTH gradient, together with prolactin ratios indicating failed catheterization, rendered the test inconclusive. Dr. Magolego emphasized that although BIPSS remains the gold standard for localization in ACTH-dependent Cushing's syndrome, technical expertise and collaboration between clinicians, radiologists, and laboratory team are critical for accurate interpretation. The case also illustrated how coexisting conditions, such as neurocysticercosis, can mimic pituitary lesions and complicate diagnostic pathways.

Each case reinforced the pivotal role of laboratory medicine in patient care, ranging from biochemical screening and molecular genetics to dynamic endocrine testing. The engaging discussions between presenters and attendees fostered an enriching environment for knowledge sharing and critical thinking among young scientists.

The IFCC TF-YS encourages young professionals to participate in future case discussion sessions, continue sharing their experiences, and contribute to advancing laboratory medicine globally. Upcoming sessions and events will be announced through TF-YS social media platforms.







Contribute to IFCC eNews

Implementation of a comprehensive syphilis screening strategy for cost-effective and timely syphilis management

Accurate and early identification of any infectious disease is paramount to ensuring timely treatment and to mitigate downstream transmission. The absence of programs directly focused on infectious disease identification and treatment are well documented, with a continued push globally to maintain momentum in these efforts. Early identification and treatment of syphilis is no exception.



Pictured (from left to right): Jing Peng, Sainan Shu, Liming Cheng, Yong Zhang, Huijun Li

In China, the incidence of syphilis is rising by an average of 4.4% each year, thus highlighting the continued importance of diagnostics in identifying infectious diseases. Diagnosis alone, however, is not enough. Recognizing that an integrated clinical approach to identification and treatment of syphilis is needed, an integrated clinical care team from Tong ji Hospital, Tong ji Medical College, Huazhong University of Science and Technology Hubei in Mainland China implemented a comprehensive syphilis screening strategy to address the limitations of conventional stepwise syphilis testing. Traditional stepwise syphilis testing (i.e., one test at a time) can lead to missed diagnosis and misdiagnosis, causing delays in treatment. Treatment delays can also occur when patients are lost to follow-up.

Thus, the strategy of this team involved a new syphilis testing algorithm with confirmatory testing (RPR: rapid plasma reagin and TPPA: Treponema pallidum particle agglutination) reflexed and done immediately following a reactive CLIA. Further, a new repeat testing strategy and clinical review for isolated reactive CLIA cases (CLIA+TPPA-RPR-) was initiated, along with revised diagnostic thresholds, including reference values with a 95% positive predictive value (PPV) for syphilis in neonates and children aged 2-12 years.

The success of this initiative is evident in their outcomes, with a 67% reduction in the number of visits needed for a diagnosis, saving patients time and money. Importantly, there was a 14.9% reduction in missed diagnosis for patients who initially screened negative for syphilis [i.e., isolated reactive CLIA results (CLIA+TPPA-RPR-)] were ultimately diagnosed with syphilis. These diagnoses are directly attributable to enhanced screening and comprehensive review of clinical history. For their efforts and outcomes, this integrated clinical care team was awarded recognition of distinction in the 2025 UNVIANTS of Healthcare Excellence awards. Congratulations to Liming Cheng, Professor and Director, Department of Laboratory Medicine, Jing Peng, Associate Professor, Department of Laboratory Medicine, Yong Zhang, Professor and Director, Department of Dermatology, Sainan Shu, Professor and Director, Department of Pediatrics, Huijun Li, Assistant Professor, Department of Laboratory Medicine.

To learn more about this best practice and others, and/or to apply for recognition, please visit www.UnivantsHCE.com.

Reduced hepatocellular carcinoma recurrence with enhanced 3-year survival for patients post liver transplant

A diagnosis of cancer can be some of the most devastating news to receive for patients and their loved ones. In these situations, hope is something that everyone holds on to closely; the hope that it can be treated, the hope that it's not too advanced, and the hope for more time. Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) now ranks as the sixth most common cancer worldwide. Millions hope for a cure often through liver transplantation, which has a 5-year survival rate exceeding 70% globally, for

Pictured (from left to right): Huey-Ling You, Jen-Yu Cheng, Chih-Che Lin, Chien-Chin Hsu, Wan-Ting Huang.

those staged with UCSF criteria (staging criteria for HCC based on morphology).

In 2020, an integrated clinical care team from Kaohsiung Chang Gung Memorial Hospital developed an innovative approach to identify potential liver transplant candidates through the use of alpha-fetoprotein (AFP) levels and positron emission tomography (PET) results to create a predictive model for post-transplant recurrence. The latter involves transarterial radioembolization (TARE, Yttrium-90) or proton therapy pretransplant to potentially enable cancer downstaging. Post-transplant, Lenvatinib is used for adjuvant treatment in high-risk recipients.

Through this new approach, 24 patients were successfully downstaged, enabling subsequent liver

transplants. These 24 patients demonstrated a decreased recurrence rate (3-year 8.3% vs. 35.2%) and improved overall survival (3-year 85.9% vs. 69.3%). Importantly, 7 patients with locally advanced HCC, who were previously considered incurable and ineligible for liver transplantation received transplants, and only one patient experienced disease recurrence under median follow-up of 20 months.

The ability to treat and potentially cure cancer is something that Kaohsiung Chang Gung Memorial Hospital in Taiwan prides itself as one of the leading treatment centers in Taiwan for hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Since the implementation of the aforementioned approach Kaohsiung Chang Gung Memorial Hospital has ranked in the top three HCC care centers nationwide.

For their efforts and outcomes, this team received recognition of distinction in association with the 2025 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence awards. Congratulations to Chih-Che Lin, Vice Superintendent, Jen-Yu Cheng, Physician, Radiation Oncology, Hsin-You Ou, Deputy Director, Diagnostic Radiology, Chien-Chin Hsu, Physician, Nuclear Medicine, Wan-Ting Huang, Director of Laboratory Medicine.

To learn more about this best practice and others, and/or to apply for recognition, please visit www.UnivantsHCE.com.

Traumatic brain injury takes center stage in the news around the world

The importance of brain health and protecting the enigmatic organ that is the brain cannot be understated. Thus, the ability to quickly triage and manage any injury or suspected injury to brain is of equal importance. In recent years, the emergence and commercial availability of blood brain biomarkers has changed the landscape of traumatic brain injury (TBI) assessment in the emergency department. Implementation of brain biomarkers into routine clinical practice has changed outcomes for patients, clinicians, health systems and payors at two hospitals in Europe with recent recognition through the <u>UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award program.</u>



Pictured (from left to right): Vincent Sapin, Bruno Pereira, Jeannot Schmidt, Damien Bouvier, Charlotte Oris

The first team, led by Professor Vincent Sapin, from Centre Hospitalier Universitaire of Clermont-Ferrand, France reduced ED length of stay by an average of 3.35 hours for patients presenting to the ED with mTBI post implementation S100B. Accordingly, 2,300 resource hours were mitigated across medical and non-medical staff as a direct result of expedited patient flow, which also accounted for a cost savings of €5184 due to 216 mitigated CT scans. Their outcomes and associated UNIVANTS recognition caught the attention of local media with featured articles found here, here, and here.

An integrated clinical care team from Complejo Hospitalario Universitario Nuestra Señora de Candelaria, Spain was also featured across news outlets for their outstanding outcomes post implementation of glial fibrillary acid protein (GFAP) and ubiquitin carboxyterminal hydrolase L1 (UCH-L1). They achieved a 36.8% reduction in unnecessary CT scans for patients being assessed for mTBI, thus protecting patient safety through mitigated exposure to radiation associated with a head CT scan. Further, there was a 4.2 hour reduction [from 8.7 hours (SD 16.42) to 4.47 hours (SD 02.95)] in average length of stay for patients assessed for mild traumatic brain injury in the emergency department. This further enabled €274,000 in annual mitigated healthcare costs associated with reduced unnecessary CT scans. Their outcomes were honored by the President of the Canary Islands, Fernando Clavijo, and Minister for Health, Esther Monzón, with select featured articles available here, here, and here, with an associated podcast now available.



Pictured (from left to right): María Teresa Concepción Masip, María Cecilia Martín Fernández de Basoa, Carlos Alberto Marichal Hernández, Pilar González Romero, Mónica Fernández del Castillo Ascanio

The collective outcomes associated with both teams underscore the value and interest in protecting brain health and improving outcomes for those under assessment for TBI. Congratulations to these two top winning teams for their outcomes and well-earned recognition.

Interested in learning more? Please visit $\underline{www.UnivantsHCE.com}$ to learn more about these team and others and to apply for recognition.



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The **UNIVANTS** of Healthcare Excellence Award recognizes teams who collaborate across disciplines and transform healthcare delivery, and ultimately patient lives.

Submit your team application to the **UNIVANTS** of Healthcare Excellence Award program on or before November 15th at UnivantsHCE.com.

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News from Regional Federations and Member Societies

Malawi Lab Scientists Push for Broader Diagnostic Access

Andrew Maulidi

Malawi Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists Publicity Secretary andrewmaulidi25@gmail.com

The Malawi Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists (MAMLS) recently held its 2025 Annual General Conference on May 8, at the Amaryllis Hotel. Over 100 professionals gathered under the theme "Enhancing Access to Diagnostics for All Malawians.", underscoring the vital role of laboratory medicine in national healthcare, especially at primary health centres.

The conference addressed significant barriers to timely and accurate diagnostics in the country. Expert presentations, including those from Prof. Kondwani Jambo and Dr. Alice Mbewe (Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Programme MLW), and Dr. Andrews Gunda (Clinton Health Access Initiative CHAI), sparked discussions on key strategies. These included decentralising diagnostics, which involves bringing essential testing closer to communities to reduce patient travel burden and speed clinical decisions, a crucial step for early disease detection and management in remote areas. Another focus was on adopting sustainable technologies, with the exploration of innovative, robust, and cost-effective diagnostic tools designed for low-resource environments. An exhibition featuring partners such as Pacific Diagnostics, Inqaba, and Hallmark, showcased these solutions, poised to transform primary healthcare. Furthermore, efforts were made to bridge the gap between national health strategies and their practical implementation, ensuring policies genuinely improve patient outcomes, a process termed translating health policies into action.

A notable moment was the Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Mr George Kadewere. He was honoured for his profound and lasting contributions to Malawi's laboratory sector, recognising the dedication of the nation's medical laboratory pioneers.

Guest of Honour, Mr Joseph Bitilinyu-Bangoh, a Deputy Director at the Public Health Institute of Malawi (PHIM) (the Ministry of Health's primary technical and scientific arm), who leads the National Public Health Laboratory, delivered a powerful message. He stressed the critical need for collaboration and shared responsibility within the medical laboratory profession, aiming to ensure every Malawian accesses quality diagnostics.

While a national event, this MAMLS conference holds significant international relevance. As a member of the African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC), a regional federation of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC), MAMLS's efforts contribute directly to the global mission of advancing clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine. The pursuit of equitable diagnostic access, the embrace of innovative technologies, and the commitment to professional development highlighted at this conference are shared priorities across the IFCC network, reinforcing the interconnectedness of the global laboratory community in improving patient lives.

MaDINe Workshop Drives Malawi Diagnostics Post-MAMLS 2025 AGM

Building on the momentum of the Malawi Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists (MAMLS) 2025 Annual General Conference, where enhancing diagnostic access was a key discussion point, a dedicated workshop was recently convened. On 4th of July 2025, the Malawi Diagnostics and Innovation Network (MaDINe), in collaboration with MAMLS, hosted this strategic event in Blantyre. Held as part of the Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Programme's Innovation Week, the workshop brought together experts from government, academia, research, and the private sector. Their collective aim was to forge a shared vision for strengthening diagnostic capacity across the country.

Discussions centred on vital priority areas for Malawi's healthcare future. These included enhancing access to quality diagnostics, promoting local innovations, investing in digital technologies, building a robust workforce capacity, supporting local manufacturing, and mobilising sustainable resources. These strategic pillars are essential for transforming Malawi's diagnostic landscape through innovation and collaboration.

These efforts resonate strongly with the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) and its regional body, the African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC). The commitment to improving diagnostic access, fostering local solutions, and developing skilled professionals directly aligns with IFCC's mission to advance laboratory medicine globally, particularly in developing nations. Such initiatives demonstrate the tangible impact of national associations within the wider international laboratory community.

MaDINe is set to begin implementing its projects later this year. This will see a focused approach on these strategic areas, driving forward significant advancements in Malawi's diagnostic capabilities.



MAMLS Annual General Conference (Blantyre, May 2025):
Delegates at the Malawi Association of Medical Laboratory
Scientists (MAMLS) 2025 Annual General Conference, held
under the theme "Enhancing Access to Diagnostics for All
Malawians."



Part of the audience during the 2025 MAMLS Annual General Conference held at Amaryllis Hotels in Blantyre, Malawi.



MaDINe Workshop (Blantyre, July 2025):
Participants of the Malawi Diagnostics and Innovation
Network (MaDINe) Workshop, held in collaboration with
the Malawi Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists
(MAMLS), to strengthen diagnostic capacity and foster
innovation in Malawi's health sector.

The 32th Meeting of the Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation – the 16th National Conference of the Romanian Association of Laboratory Medicine Sinaia Casino, Romania, 8–11 October 2025

By: **Dr. Daniela Jitaru** RALM president

The 16th National Conference with international participation of the Romanian Association of Laboratory Medicine (RALM), organized under the auspices of IFCC and EFLM and in collaboration with the Romanian Society of Microbiology, the Romanian Society of Hematology and the Universities of Medicine and Pharmacy of Bucharest, Târgu Mures, Cluj Napoca, Iași, and Timișoara, took place on 8-11 October 2025, in Sinaia Casino, Romania. This year, the RALM hosted the 32nd Meeting of the Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation.



The two events took place over 4 days in the Sinaia Casino, which hosted the conference attended by 1030 participants including doctors, biologists, chemists and scientists working in medical laboratories.

The scientific program comprised 16 sessions of plenary reports (31) and brief oral communications (63), and 4 poster sessions at which a total number of 46 posters were presented. Thus, this program provided an excellent opportunity for participants to learn, be trained and find concrete answers for different situations encountered in everyday practice.

The official language of conference was English and conference abstracts were published in a supplement of Romanian Journal of Laboratory Medicine, a journal indexed in the ISI Web of Knowledge - Web of Science - Science Citation Index Expanded (Clarivate analytics) since 2008. Topics of interest in clinical biochemistry, hematology, immunology, microbiology, molecular biology, laboratory management and quality control, as well as professional guidelines were addressed during the various sessions. Among them, we mention: A threefold perspective on various accreditation pathways for the patient benefit, Quality management in laboratory medicine, Advanced methods in hemato-oncology, Clinical biochemistry, immunology and transplant, Tumor markers and molecular biology, Antimicrobial resistance.

The participants had the opportunity to ask questions and make comments after presentations, and also to share their experience in a particular field.

A special session was organized during the conference, dedicated to young specialists under the name - EFLM young scientists section: international networking and learning.

A total of 150 speakers were present, of which the participation of 70 speakers was fully supported by RALM. Thus, invited speakers from abroad, as well as guests from academic institutions in Romania, significantly contributed to the scientific program of the congress (some images are presented in Annex 1 of this report):

- 1. Prof. Dr. Tomris Ozben IFCC PRESIDENT
- 2. Prof. Khosrow Adeli Past President IFCC
- 3. Prof. Dr. Sergio Bernardini IFCC secretary
- 4. Prof. Dr. Tomas Zima EFLM PRESIDENT
- 5. Prof. Dr. Anila Bulo Kasneci BCLF Executive Board Representative
- 6. Mr Chris Gunning Director of Operational Excellence, American Association of Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA), USA

- 7. Prof. Dr. Bernd Kaina Institute of Toxicology, University Medical Center, Mainz, Germany
- 8. Prof Dr. med. Dr. phil. nat. Il Paula C. Fernandez Leitende Ärztin und stellvertretende Institutsleiterin, Abteilungsleiterin FACS/Stammzell-Labor, Kantonsspital Aarau AG, Switzerland
- 9. Prof Dr Martín Perez Y Andrés Departamento de Medicina y Servicio de Citometria, Universidad de Salamanca, Spain
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- 36. Irena Gencheva–Angelova Medical University Pleven, Bulgaria

Tamar Didbaridze - Tbilisi State Medical University, Microbiology Department, Georgia

As RALM manifests a strong interest in encouraging and motivating young laboratory professionals, many communications and posters were presented by young colleagues, most of them PhD fellows. During the conference a large exhibition of equipment, reagents, supplies, software was held, being involved 32 IVD companies. In addition, diagnostic industry organized 20 symposia that introduced new technologies and clinical assays.

After the closing ceremony, the RAML general assembly took place, where the president awarded two prizes for the best posters.

The scientific quality and variety of topics included in the program, as well as the level of organization of the conference, led to a successful scientific and professional event.



Prof. Dr. Tomris Ozben - IFCC **PRESIDENT**



Prof. Dr. Anila Bulo Kasneci - BCLF Executive Board Representative (right part), Prof. Dr. Minodora Dobreanu president of National Conference of the Romanian Association of Laboratory Medicine (RALM), vicepresident of RALM, Dr. Laboratory Federation to the Sinaia Daniela Jitaru president of RALM (left part) Casino, Romania, 08-11 October 2025.



Picture from the first day of The 16th National Conference of the Romanian Association of Laboratory Medicine (AMLR) which hosted The 32nd Meeting of the Balkan Clinical



Prof. Dr. Tomáš Zima - EFLM **PRESIDENT**



Picture from the exhibition made during the conference

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News from Zimbabwe: ZACBLabMed

By: **Professor HT Matarira**President ZACBLabMed

ZACB LabMed has made great strides in the following:

- 1. Diagnostics Management and Control of Covid 19 from 2020-2023. Limited fatalities were recorded largely from African antiviral pharmaceuticals used during viral pandemics.
- 2. Advances in quality assurance with production of own materials, which started in 1999 and has spread to supply of materials into 16 SADC countries. Chemical Pathology is upscaling the production and widening the number of analytes.
- 3. An online doctorate in Laboratory Medicine has been approved by the medical regulatory authority to be launched in 2026/20227.
- 4. The public menace of alcohol and substance abuse which has risen for the past 15 years, has been put now under the responsibility of the national association. The national diagnostics management distribution of equipment and consumables is to be directed by the newly appointed Project Principal Professor Hilda T Matarira. She will drive the processes among all stakeholders through their various intervention pillars.

ZACBLabMed wishes to invite partners in this mammoth task for the 16.7 million in this Southern African Nation.

COLLABORATION

It is key that no single entity can combat substance abuse alone. This fight requires the concerted efforts of government agencies, private institutions, law enforcement, civil society, and community leaders. We stand ready to collaborate further, not only by providing testing equipment but also by offering training, awareness programs, and technical support to ensure these resources are effectively utilized.

We also continue to engage other like-minded organisations in Zimbabwe in order to walk the talk on the war against substance abuse.



ZACBLabMed Zimbabwe College of Pathology & Industrial Partners Support Public Laboratories with Equipment and Consumables to Analyze Alcohol and Substances Abuse in Harare on 13th February 2025



Professor HT Matarira National Public Advocacy

A CALL TO ACTION

As we hand over this equipment today, let us reaffirm our shared commitment to a drug-free Zimbabwe. Let this be a call to action for stricter policies, increased awareness, and enhanced support systems to protect the most vulnerable in our society. Every life saved through early detection and intervention is a victory for our nation. We at Abused Substances Diagnostics and Management believe that with the right tools, the right policies, and the right partnerships, we can turn the tide against drug and substance abuse. Let this day mark the beginning of a new era, an era of vigilance, accountability, and hope. Thank you, and may we continue to work together towards a healthier, safer, and drug-free Zimbabwe.



Working Medical Laboratory Tecnologists



Zimbabwe College of Pathology Alcohol and Substance Abuse Diagnostics Team

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Research Question to Publication



Dr. Udara Dilrukshi Senarathne [Sri Lanka] Lecturer University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Scientific Communication for Young Scientists



Mohanbhai Agravatt
[India]
Associate Professor in
Biochemistry
PDU Medical College,
Rajkot, Gujarat

From observation to discovery: Case reports as the beginning of clinical research



Dr. Francisco Josué
Carrillo-Ballesteros
[Mexico]
Research
Department
University of Guadalajara



Date: 5 November, 2025

Time: 8 AM (Eastern Standard), PM (Central European), 9 PM (China Standard)

On demand content is available at this link

Pioneering a Greener Future in Diagnostics: About Mehiläinen Central Laboratory's Green Lab – certification and ESG Achievements

Mehiläinen's central laboratory in Töölö was recently awarded the "Green & Sustainable Laboratories" certificate by the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, a first in Finland. This recognition highlights the company's commitment to environmental responsibility. We sat down with Kristina Hotakainen, Director of Mehiläinen's Laboratory Services, to discuss this significant achievement and the path toward a more sustainable healthcare industry.

Interviewer: Kristina, congratulations on this remarkable achievement. Mehiläinen's central laboratory is the first in Finland to receive the EFLM "Green & Sustainable Laboratories" certificate. What does this recognition mean to you and your team?

Kristina Hotakainen: Thank you. We are incredibly proud of this certificate. It serves as a formal acknowledgment that our laboratory is managed according to the principles of sustainable development and environmental friendliness. For us, it's not just about one laboratory. The practices and models we have established in our central laboratory in Töölö will be reflected nationally across more than one hundred of our clinics, as we are committed to upholding these same principles everywhere.

Interviewer: Laboratory operations are known to have a significant environmental footprint. Could you elaborate on the main challenges you are addressing?

Kristina Hotakainen: That's correct. The environmental impact of laboratory work comes from many sources. It begins with the use of supplies and chemicals and extends to sample transportation and waste management. Laboratories traditionally have a large environmental footprint, which is evident in high electricity and water consumption, as well as a significant chemical load. Reducing these impacts is essential, and it is possible to do so significantly through good, conscious operational practices.

Interviewer: What practical steps has Mehiläinen taken to mitigate these environmental impacts in the laboratory setting?

Kristina Hotakainen: Our approach is very hands-on. We focus on integrating environmental considerations into our daily work and providing clear guidelines for our staff. In practice, this involves simple but effective measures, such as switching off equipment when not in use and carefully regulating the temperatures of our cold storage units to conserve energy. We also pay close attention to the amount of packaging materials we use, which in turn helps optimize our transport needs and routes for both samples and chemicals.

Interviewer: How does this Green Lab initiative align with Mehiläinen's broader corporate sustainability goals?

Kristina Hotakainen: This initiative is a core component of our larger commitment to sustainability. In 2023, Mehiläinen became the first Finnish social care and healthcare services provider to join the international Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi). Our goal is to reduce our emissions in line with the Paris Agreement's targets by 2030. The work we are doing in our laboratories is a crucial part of this journey towards carbon neutrality and demonstrates our commitment at every level of the organization.

Interviewer: Finally, what is your vision for the future of sustainable laboratory services at Mehiläinen?

Kristina Hotakainen: Our vision is to continue leading by example. We believe it is vital to share best practices among laboratories to collectively reduce the environmental burden of the healthcare sector. This European-level recognition encourages us to keep pushing forward and to strive for carbon neutrality in all aspects of our work. We are committed to building a more sustainable future for healthcare, one test at a time.

IFCC welcomes new Members

The IFCC is delighted to welcome three new Full Members to our global community. We look forward to working together to advance clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine worldwide. Please join us in extending a warm welcome to our newest members.

The IFCC is delighted to welcome also a new Affiliate Member to our global community. A warm welcome to them, and we look forward to working together fruitfully!



Full Member: National Association of Biomedical Technologists of Burundi (ANTEBBU)



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Full Member: Mauritanian Society of Clinical Biology (SMBC)











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News from the website

The IFCC President announces that Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina, will host the IFCC WorldLab 2028

Prof Ozben, the IFCC President, is pleased to announce that the venue for the IFCC WorldLab 2028 will be Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Prof Ozben said: "The IFCC received four strong bids from IFCC Member Societies outside Europe to host this prestigious Congress. All bids were carefully evaluated and scored by the IFCC Committee for Congresses and Conferences (C-CC). Buenos Aires received the highest score and C-CC recommended that WorldLab 2028 be held in Buenos Aires. This recommendation has been formally endorsed by the IFCC Executive Board. On behalf of the IFCC Executive Board I sincerely thank all four bidding societies for the high quality of their bids. I'm glad to congratulate the Confederación Unificada Bioquímica de la República Argentina (CUBRA) on their successful bid".

IFCC WorldLab congress will facilitate the exchange of ideas and foster collaboration between laboratory scientists and clinicians, with the ultimate objective of advancing excellence in laboratory medicine for better healthcare worldwide.



La IFCC se complace una vez más publicar la edición Nro. 31 de la Revista Científica Diagnóstico in Vitro.

Con el objetivo de difundir y promover las actividades científicas, relacionadas con nuestra profesión y modestamente, generar un lugar de reflexión es que se ha trabajado en el número que les presento, no sin antes agradecer la enorme colaboración del Comité de Redacción y especialmente el Consejo Editorial de inestimable eficacia y celeridad que hace de la edición una tarea muy placentera.

Por supuesto un profundo agradecimiento a los autores que confiaron en esta revista para compartir sus actividades, y a los Directivos y secretaria de IFCC por cedernos este espacio y hacer que nuestro trabajo se concrete.

The IFCC is pleased to publish Issue No. 31 of the scientific journal of In Vitro Diagnostics (DiV). With the aim of disseminating and promoting scientific activities related to our profession, and of modestly creating a space for reflection, we have worked diligently on this issue. We would like to express our sincere gratitude for the invaluable collaboration of the Editorial Committee and, in particular, the Editorial Board, whose efficiency and dedication make the editing process a truly enjoyable task.

We also extend our deepest thanks to the authors who entrusted this journal with sharing their work, as well as to the IFCC for providing us with this platform and enabling our efforts to come to fruition.

https://ifcc.org/div/



IFCC's Calendar of Congresses, Conferences & Events

IFCC and Regional Federation Events				
Date		Title	Place	
Nov 19-20 2025	Interestional Federations of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicines	IFCC TF-GLQ Laboratory Quality Assurance Workshop: Quality of Laboratory Examination Beyond the Analytical Phase	Nairobi, KE	
Nov 24-25 2025	International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine	IFCC TF-GLQ Laboratory Quality Assurance Workshop: Strengthening Laboratory Quality: Foundations and Practical Approaches	Montevideo, UY	
Dec 1-2 2025	International Federation of Chemical Chemicals and Calebra Chemicals	JCTLM Members' and Stakeholders' meeting with Workshop on 'Result harmonization in medical laboratories: accomplishments and challenges'	Sèvres, FR	
Dec 7-9 2025	Interestional Federations of Classed Chemistry and Cabacuttry Medicines	6th International Course on Basics of Flow Cytometry Basic Concepts and Clinical Applications	Cairo, EG	
May 11-12 2026	International Federations of Clinical Colembathy and Cababathy and Cababathy Medicines	1st Rome Forum-Paving the way for Al in Laboratory Medicine	Roma, IT	
Oct 25 - 30, 2026	OCTOBER 25-29, 2028 NEW DELMI, INDIA	XXVII IFCC WORLDLAB 2026	New Delhi, IN	
May 16-20, 2027	EUROMEDLAB LONDON2027	XXVII IFCC-EFLM EUROMEDLAB 2027	London, UK	
Oct 7 - 11, 2026	COMMENCE AND THE BEOGRAPH OF T	COLABIOCLI 2026 SANTA CRUZ	Santa Cruz, BO	
Oct 10 - 13, 2027	IFEE International Federation of Canada Chemistry and Cabarathry Medicine	APFCB 2027 KUALA LUMPUR	Kuala Lumpur, MY	
Date to be announced	International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicines	XXVIII IFCC WORLDLAB 2028 - Date to be announced	Buenos Aires, AR	

Corporate Member Events with IFCC Auspices			
Date	Title	Place	
Oct 1, 2025 - Jul 31, 2026	Diplomado international in Analytical Quality Management	Quality consulting, online event	
Nov 21, 2025	International Symposium on Laboratory Medicine	SNIBE, Panama City, PA	
Nov 22, 2025	International Symposium on Laboratory Medicine	SNIBE, Bogota, CO	
Nov 27, 2025	DiagHub 8th Session: Molecular	Zybio, Online event	

Other events with IFCC auspices

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