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Editorial

Marilena Stamouli,
eNews Editor

Dear colleagues,

This is the last issue of the e-News for 2025 and I take the opportunity to thank you all for your valuable contributions throughout this year. We are concluding another productive year, full of news from our global professional community and our functional units, which confirm our engagement for scientific excellence, professional development, innovation and continuous efforts to improve healthcare.

In her message our President, Prof. Tomris Ozben shares highlights from important meetings she attended, which provided opportunities to discuss strategic plans, review ongoing activities, and ensure continuity of IFCC's initiatives.

Prof. Bernard Gouget and Dr. Swarup Shah, share with us highlights from the contributions of the IFCC Emerging Technologies Division in important events, and its pivotal role in driving innovation, as well as in promoting cutting-edge technologies.

In this issue you can read interesting news from the national societies of Pakistan and Dominican Republic, showcasing the exceptional efforts of these societies for education and scientific collaboration, as well as their commitment to serve the well-being of the society.

The national society of Nigeria shares with us a tribute to Prof. Mabel A. Charles-Davies, a distinguished colleague, who served laboratory medicine with continuous commitment, mentorship, and tireless efforts for the best. Her unexpected loss is irreplaceable for our professional community and we convey our deepest condolences and our sympathy to her family and colleagues.

In this issue you can meet three Young Scientists from the IFCC TF-YS, who share with us their key activities and their future collaborative projects. Moreover, you can read highlights from the IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Programme, the IFCC Visiting Lecturer Programme and the IFCC Task-Force on Global Lab Quality, which reflect IFCC's vision of strengthening global laboratory capacity by means of knowledge exchange and partnership.

You can also read about professional teams that received recognition of distinction in the 2025 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence awards. These teams achieved better outcomes for patients, clinicians and the health systems, by means of interdisciplinary collaborations, thus promoting the quality of healthcare services. Their outcomes underline the importance of collaboration and the accomplishments of group work.

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You are all invited to participate and prepare local and international activities for the Global MedLab Week 2026, an important event that showcases the vital impact of medical laboratory scientists in healthcare. The IFCC Public Relations Committee shares with us the evaluation process and the relevant criteria.

I wish you all a joyful holiday season and look forward to working closely with you in the coming year.

Marilena Stamouli

The voice of IFCC

IFCC President's Message

December 2025
By Tomris Ozben

Prof. Tomris Ozben
EuSpLM, Ph.D.

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As we conclude another productive year, I am pleased to share a brief reflection on recent developments and to extend my warmest wishes to our global IFCC community.

First and foremost, I warmly congratulate the newly elected IFCC President-Elect (to begin in January 2026) and the incoming members of the IFCC Executive Board. I wish you all a highly successful term from 1 January 2027 to 31 December 2029. Your expertise and commitment will guide IFCC into the future, and I look forward to working closely with each of you in the coming years.

I attended in presence or contributed on-line important meetings held in October.

I was invited as a speaker by the International Society of Oncology and Biomarkers (ISOBM) Board to the **47th ISOBM Conference** from 13th to 16th of October 2025, at the Culture and Convention Center Murnau, Germany. The meeting brought together leading experts in the field of oncology to explore the future of biomarker research and its clinical applications. This year's focus included molecular diagnostics, disruptive technologies, and artificial intelligence, shaping a 'New Era of Biomarkers in Oncology' to advance diagnosis, therapy monitoring, and patient care throughout the course of disease.

IFCC organized a sympsium at the **XXXIV World Congress of the World Association of Societies of Pathology and Medicine of Laboratory (WASPaLM)**, alongside the **51st National Conference of Association of Clinical Biochemists of India (ACBI)**, from October 14th to 17th, 2025, at The Westin Koregaon Park, Pune, India. The theme of the Congress was "Laboratory Medicine at the Frontier of Patient-Centered Care."

I was pleased to extend my warm congratulations to the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the **International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)** on the occasion of their **2025 Annual Meeting**, held in Bangkok, Thailand, from Wednesday, 15 October to Friday, 24 October 2025. As one of the three founding organizations of the Joint Committee for Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (JCTLM), IFCC has been collaborating with ILAC since 2002 within the international consortium that promotes the global standardization of clinical laboratory test results. This collaboration has been instrumental in providing reliable information on reference materials, reference measurement procedures, and reference services worldwide.

In the last week of October, I had the privilege of attending three important scientific meetings in China as an invited speaker, together with some of the IFCC Executive Board members and IFCC officers.

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From 24 to 26 October 2025, I participated as a Plenary Speaker at the **Innova-Med 2025 Congress** held in Chongqing, P.R. China. The congress was led by Prof. Wang Chuanxin, President of the Chinese Society of Laboratory Medicine (CSLM), and Prof. Luo Yang, President of the China International Exchange and Promotive Association for Medical and Health Care (CPAM) of Laboratory Medicine, with Prof. Sergio Bernardini, IFCC Executive Secretary, serving as the Chair of the Scientific Program Committee. It was an exceptionally successful meeting, highlighting the latest innovations and hot topics in Laboratory Medicine.

On 28 October 2025, the **Global POCT Summit** in Guangzhou organized by Wondfo Biotech offered an excellent platform for networking and exploring new opportunities for collaboration in POCT and related fields. Together, we have the potential to further integrate advanced diagnostics into routine laboratory practice, strengthen global networks, and inspire the next generation of scientists and clinicians to drive the field forward.

On 30–31 October, I attended the Chinese Society of Laboratory Medicine (CSLM) Congress in Jinan, Shandong Province. This congress further strengthened our international collaborations and reaffirmed the importance of scientific exchange across regions. I extend my sincere appreciation for the warm hospitality of our hosts and for the highly constructive discussions throughout the meeting. I also wish to congratulate CSLM on organizing an outstanding event the "**19th National Congress of Laboratory Medicine (NCLM 2025)**" with more than 5,000 participants and remarkable engagement from the IVD industry. It was undoubtedly one of the most significant international congresses in our field.

In November, I participated in the **8th International Congress of the European Society of Pharmacogenomics and Personalized Therapy (ESPT)**, held in Rotterdam from 5 to 8 November. This major global event continues to play a key role in advancing pharmacogenomics and personalized medicine. I extend my deep appreciation to the Scientific and Organizing Committees, as well as all contributors and sponsors, for their exceptional efforts. As the IFCC President, I am particularly proud of the growing collaboration between IFCC and ESPT. Both organizations share a commitment to advancing laboratory medicine, enhancing clinical decision-making, and strengthening education and research globally. Through its scientific divisions, working groups, and educational programs, IFCC remains deeply engaged in supporting precision and personalized medicine worldwide.

Throughout November, I also contributed online to the following events:

- **6th Virtual Congress of Clinical Biochemistry – VIRTUALAB 2025** (3–7 November 2025)
- **57th National SIBioC Congress**, "Laboratory Medicine and Clinical Medicine: Integration for an Effective Healthcare System," held in Florence (5–7 November 2025)
- **Third Purple Mountain International Forum on Clinical Molecular Diagnosis**, in Nanjing, China (19–22 November 2025), where I delivered a keynote lecture.

December was also full of important meetings. I attended in presence the following important meetings in December:

- **The JCTLM Members' and Stakeholders' meeting and Workshop** on "Result harmonization in medical laboratories: accomplishments and challenges" held at the BIPM Headquarters, Sèvres, on Monday 1 and Tuesday 2 December 2025.
- **JCTLM Working Group on Traceability: Education and Promotion (JCTLM-TEPWG) meeting**, 3 December 2025.
- **JCTLM Database Working Group meeting (JCTLM-DBWG)**, 3 December 2025.
- **27th meeting of the Joint Committee for Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (JCTLM) Executive Committee meeting**, Thursday 4 and Friday 5 December 2025 at the BIPM Headquarters, Sèvres, France.
- Biomedical Society of Zambia (BMSZ), organized its **BMSZ2025 Annual Scientific Conference**, on 9–12 December 2025 in Livingstone, Zambia. As an invited speaker, I contributed to the conference sending my presentation video recording.

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Looking ahead, the **IFCC Executive Board** will convene on 8–9 December in London, near the ExCeL Congress Centre, where EuroMedLab 2027 will be held. This meeting will provide an important opportunity to discuss strategic plans, review ongoing activities, and ensure continuity across IFCC's scientific, educational, and global outreach initiatives.

As the holiday season approaches, I extend my heartfelt wishes to all of you. May this Christmas period bring peace, joy, and well-deserved rest. Thank you for your tireless dedication to advancing laboratory medicine and improving patient care worldwide.
With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,
Tomris Ozben
President, IFCC

IFCC TF-GLQ Workshop in Kenya: Strengthening Quality Practices Through Education and Collaboration

By **Egon Amann**, **Annette Thomas**, **Anna Carobene**

The IFCC Task-Force on Global Lab Quality (TF-GLQ) conducts lab quality workshops in resource-limited countries. These workshops typically include a series of lectures, IQC and/or EQA case studies, addressing also country-specific topics requested by the host scientific organization.

For 2025, the IFCC TF-GLQ offered to collaborate with the **Clinical Chemists Association of Kenya** (CCAK) to conduct such a workshop. Initial planning was undertaken jointly by Kibet Kiptim Peter, the president of CCAK, and Egon Amann, Chair of TF-GLQ.

As part of the preparation, the TF-GLQ suggested using EQA materials generously donated by **ASQUALAB**, a French EQA provider, for distribution to 40 Kenyan labs a few months prior to the workshop. This pilot exercise was intended to provide real-world data for educational discussions and case-based learning during the event.

The workshop, attended by 68 participants from different geographical areas in Kenya, took place on **19 - 20 November 2025, at THE NAIROBI HOSPITAL CONVENTION CENTER.**

The first part of the programme delivered a series of structured presentations addressing the results of the **ASQUALAB pilot study**, the core requirements of **ISO 15189:2022**, and their practical implications for **method evaluation**, IQC and EQA, given by Egon Amann, Annette Thomas, Anna Carobene, Kiptim Kibet Peter, Prof. Angela Amayo, and Ronald Khunga.

Participants were engaged in an **extensive case-based learning session**, involving nine clinical chemistry cases analysed in small groups. Discussions focused on identifying systematic proportional, constant, mixed, and random errors, as well as the most likely underlying causes. Analytes included bilirubin, creatinine, lipids, electrolytes, and total protein. **Interpretation quality was commendably high across all groups.**

For the interactive session **"What is the best strategy to achieve compliance with QMS- and QC-requirements in the clinical laboratory"** the 68 attendees were divided into seven groups. These groups were asked to discuss: a) general challenges experienced in daily lab practice and b) specific challenges related to the implementation and maintenance of quality management systems.

The workshop also laid the foundation for **future collaboration with the Regional EQA Centre of the Lombardy Region**, which has expressed willingness to provide Kenyan laboratories with free access to a range of image-based and specialised EQA programmes, including urinary sediment, blood smear morphology, cytology, histopathology, electrophoresis, flow cytometry, autoimmunity, and others.

This workshop conducted jointly by IFCC officers and the CCAK, was considered to be extremely useful by both the attendees and the TF-GLQ members. CCAK expressed its appreciation and noted that the workshop has significantly strengthened national awareness towards improved IQC and, even more critically, toward implementing EQA schemes for all tests being performed in Kenya.

The donation of EQA materials by ASCUALAB to 40 labs prior to the workshop was well accepted as an **important pilot exercise, representing, for several laboratories, their first exposure to EQA.** The joint review of these results during the workshop provided participants with an invaluable first-hand learning experience.

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At the end of the workshop, all participants received a Certificate of Participation.

The IFCC representatives extend their sincere appreciation to the CCAK, and in particular to Mr. Kibet Kiptim Peter, for the highly enthusiastic and well-organized coordination of the event. The authors also wish to express their thanks to Anne Vassault for donating EQA materials from ASQUALAB to the Kenyan laboratories, and to MINDRAY for generously sponsoring this workshop.

Participants, lecturers and organizers celebrate the end of the successful IFCC workshop in Nairobi on November 20, 2025.

Group work during the workshop.

Report of the Visiting Lecturer Programme (VLP) to the Pakistan Association of Pathologists (PAP) / Pakistan Society Chemical Pathologists (PSCP), 8th – 12th October 2025

By **Prof. John I. Anetor**, PhD, FRSC, ATS, FADLM, FAS
Co-Chair, IFCC TF-EILM

I arrived in Lahore on the 8th of October 2025 at 1.30 am, and was received at the airport by the President of Pakistan Association of Pathologists (PAP), Professor Mulaziu Bukhari and his team. Later that day Professor Bukhari, Professor Steven Billings, a dermatopathologist from Cleveland Clinic, and I, visited the Institute of Public Health, Lahore, where we participated in a pre-conference workshop. We also visited the Chughtai Institute of Pathology, a comprehensive private laboratory and healthcare facility.

On October 9th, the PAP President, Prof. Billings and I, visited the University of Medical Sciences, Lahore, which coordinates the activities of many universities in the Punjab region in Pakistan, where we had bilateral talks with the vice-chancellor and senior academics on possible areas of collaboration in chemical pathology and connecting with IFCC.

October 10th
This was the beginning of my real academic visit. I conducted a workshop entitled "Adaptation of the 12 Principles of Green Chemistry to Laboratory Medicine" from 9 am to 12 pm.The workshop took place in the Conference Hall of the Chughtai Institute of Pathology, with about 50 participants, as well as 20 participants in the 'hands on' activities. The key objective of the workshop was to raise awareness of how the "12 principles of Green Chemistry" could be adapted to laboratory medicine, not just considering them as the exclusive preserve of classical chemistry.

I started the workshop by setting the stage with the current global concern; climate change and how laboratory medicine contributes by its large energy and water consumption, emission of greenhouse gases, mainly CO_2, and the use of hazardous chemicals and attendant toxic waste generation. This was followed by giving the participants a background of the environmental impact of laboratory medicine.

The Origin of sustainability and concise definition of sustainable development, defined as *"meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of the next generation to meet theirs"* by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1987, was also discussed. Moreover, the concept of Green Chemistry (GC), first introduced by Paul Anastas and John Warner in 1998, was broadly explained, as essentially designing processes and products that do not generate substances that are harmful to humans and the environment.

All 12 principles of GC were examined. Participants were divided into four groups, named A to D, with each group examining 3 of the 12 principles, after a broad background and key objectives, provided by me. The workshop was well received by both residents and senior chemical pathologists, who came up with creative and innovative ideas on how to adapt the 12 principles of GC into the total testing process in laboratory medicine.

The formal joint opening of the 46th Annual Conference of PAP commenced at 3 pm at the Pearl Continental Hotel.

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October 11th, 2025
October 11th was the day of scientific presentations by all participating societies.

I gave a keynote lecture at Shamilar Hall A, titled "Potential Scientific and Economic Benefits of Sustainable Laboratory Medicine: Pathways to Realisation." A background acknowledging the great contribution of science to society was also provided. Moreover, it was underscored that science causes harm that may offset all the benefits. A reminder of the substantial carbon footprint from laboratory medicine practice was given. Current mitigating scientific efforts were highlighted among which the following were included:

- Carbon capture, utilization and storage with UK leading
- Green gas removal projects
- Adoption of biomanufacturing, employing less energy and associated economic benefits
    - Use of bio-based raw materials for experiments
    - Recycling plastics for new products
    - Embracing techno-economic measures
    - Developing quickly degradable products

The lecture was also well received, and some chemical pathologists were eager to start Pakistan TF-EILM, inspired and motivated by the presentation.

Future direction: It was unanimously agreed that embracing of team science, collaboration, integration of principles of green chemistry, transdisciplinary practice and introducing exposome analysis, will promote sustainable laboratory medicine.

Acknowledgment.
I thank the Pakistan Society of Chemical Pathologists for nominating me for the IFCC Visiting Lectureship and for their great hospitality.

I thank IFCC for approving my nomination for the VLP and providing funding.

From right to left: corporate group representative, Prof. Amin Ijaz, Prof. M. Dilawar Khan, President of the Pakistan Society of Chemical Pathologists, VLP Lecturer Prof. John Anetor, awarded with a plaque of honor, and senior members of the Pakistan Society of Chemical Pathologists.

VLP lecturer, John Anetor, giving his presentation about "Fundamentals of the Adaptation of the 12 Principles of Green Chemistry to Laboratory Medicine" at the workshop.

First day in Lahhore (from right to left): the Dean of the Institute of Public Health, Lahore, Prof. Dr. Saira Afzal and her mentor, Prof M. Dilawar Khan, VLP lecturer Prof. John Anetor, Prof. Steven Billings, Prof. Mulazim Bukhari, President of the Pakistan Association of Pathologists and other faculty members.

IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Programme: My Experience at JSS Medical College & Hospital in Mysuru, India

Name of Participant
Norbert Chavula, Medical Laboratory Scientist

Home Institution
Ministry of Health – Dedza District Hospital, Malawi

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 & Medical Genetics, JSS Medical College, Mysuru

Duration of the Program
3rd September to 27th November, 2025

1. Introduction
Access to reliable biochemistry diagnostics is essential for effective patient care, disease surveillance, and public health, particularly in resource-limited settings such as Malawi. Dedza District Hospital Laboratory is the main biochemistry testing facility for nearly 800,000 residents in Dedza and surrounding border areas, yet it faces recurrent challenges including reagent stock-outs, equipment aging, prolonged turnaround times, and incomplete ISO 15189 documentation.

JSS Medical College & Hospital Laboratory Services in Mysuru, India, is a regional centre of excellence with NABL-accredited laboratories, robust ISO 15189 implementation, and integrated biochemistry, immunoassay, cytogenetic, and molecular diagnostic services. This environment offered an ideal setting to learn best practices in quality management, advanced diagnostics, and efficient laboratory organization that can be adapted to both high- and low-resource contexts.

Through the IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Program (IFCC-PSEP), an intensive attachment at the Department of Biochemistry and Medical Genetics under the mentorship of Dr. Akila Prashant provided a unique opportunity to strengthen technical, quality, and academic competencies, while fostering international collaboration in laboratory medicine.

2. Scientific Training and Technical Experience
Quality Management Systems (QMS) were central to the training, with active involvement in internal quality control (IQC), external quality assessment (EQA), method validation, instrument calibration, and completion of NABL/ISO 15189 documentation and audit procedures. Practical exposure included monitoring of analytical performance (e.g., within-worker repeatability and between-run variability), use of the Infinity system for QC review, and regular evaluation of pre-analytical, analytical, and post-analytical processes.

Extensive hands-on experience covered both routine and specialized clinical chemistry, including enzyme assays, biomarker profiling, immunoassays, tumor markers, newborn and maternal screening, and protein electrophoresis. Molecular diagnostics training encompassed PCR/qPCR assay setup and interpretation, Sanger sequencing from DNA extraction to analysis, and the complete Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) workflow, from library preparation to primary data analysis and quality checks. Training in cytogenetics included karyotyping and FISH, with proficiency gained in cell culture, slide preparation, banding, analysis, interpretation, and clinical reporting, highlighting the importance of integrating genetic diagnostics with clinical management and multidisciplinary care.

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Mentorship from senior specialists in biochemistry, molecular genetics, and QMS was continuous and structured, reinforcing both technical competence and critical thinking. On return to Dedza District Hospital, the plan is: a) to lead implementation of ISO 15189–aligned SOPs, non-conformance and CAPA systems, and structured audits, b) to strengthen reagent and equipment management and c) to institutionalize regular competency assessments, IQC/EQA reviews, and quality meetings. Engagement with the National Genomics Reference Laboratory will continue on a voluntary basis to maintain and expand molecular and cytogenetic skills, while advocating for karyotyping and newborn/maternal screening initiatives within national laboratory networks.

3. Academic and Research Exchange

The exchange included active academic engagement with faculty, researchers, and postgraduate students, with opportunities to present ongoing work and explore collaborative ideas. Participation in a Continuing Medical Education (CME) session on pre-analytical excellence and other professional development activities broadened understanding of error reduction strategies and their impact on patient outcomes.

Within the IFCC-PSEP framework, planned training modules were jointly implemented with the host team, combining lectures, demonstrations, and supervised bench work. The strong focus on clinical biochemistry, cytogenetics and molecular diagnostics, and quality systems closely reflected IFCC's vision of strengthening global laboratory capacity through knowledge exchange and partnership.

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, grand processions, and traditional performances provided a unique glimpse into India's vibrant cultural heritage. This cultural immersion, combined with the hospitality and warmth of the JSS community, made my stay truly memorable and well-rounded.

5. Acknowledgements

I am profoundly grateful to the IFCC Professional Exchange Program (IFCC-PSEP) for the invaluable support provided in facilitating my participation in this program. I wish to extend my deepest thanks to Dr. Akila Prashant, Professor and Head, Department of Biochemistry & Medical Genetics, for her exemplary mentorship and unwavering guidance throughout my stay. I am truly indebted to the esteemed faculty 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 counselling, and ongoing encouragement.

My sincere appreciation also extends to the IFCC Professional Exchange Program Committee, and notably to Dr. Silvia Cardinale, whose commitment to global learning and collaboration in laboratory medicine has been instrumental in the success of this program.

6. Conclusion

The IFCC-PSEP has been a transformative professional experience, markedly broadening my scientific perspective and strengthening my competencies in laboratory practice, analytical techniques, and quality management. Through exposure to international best practices in clinical chemistry, cytogenetics, molecular diagnostics, and quality management systems, the programme substantially enhanced my technical capacity and professional insight. The knowledge and skills acquired will contribute directly to strengthening diagnostic services, advancing accreditation preparedness, and expanding research and training at Dedza District Hospital Laboratory and affiliated institutions. The integration of robust quality systems, adoption of advanced technologies, and sustained professional mentorship provide a solid foundation for improving diagnostic accuracy, accelerating progress toward SADCAS/ISO 15189 accreditation, and achieving long-term public health gains within Malawi. Continued mentorship, strategic institutional collaboration, and systematic dissemination of acquired knowledge will be essential to ensuring that the benefits of this exchange will translate into durable, system-wide improvements across national laboratory services.

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Faculty members from the Department of Clinical Biochemistry and Medical Genetics, with Norbert Chavula positioned among them.

Routine and specialized clinical chemistry testing conducted by Norbert Chavula using Roche Cobas analyzers.

Newborn screening procedure conducted by Norbert Chavula in the Clinical Biochemistry Department.

Dr. Swetha (Laboratory Director and Quality Management Officer) teaching Norbert Chavula (IFCC-PSEP 2025 Fellow) about ISO 15189, in the Department of Clinical Biochemistry.

Step-by-step execution of the karyotyping technique by Norbert Chavula in the Cytogenetics Laboratory.

Dr. Praveen Kulkarni, Vice Principal of JSS Medical College, presenting a letter to Norbert Chavula (IFCC-PSEP 2025 Fellow), witnessed by Dr. Akila, Dr. Karthik, and Dr. Shobha.

Invitation and Guidelines to Participate in IFCC- Global MedLab Week (GMLW) 2026 – "A Day at the Lab"

By: **Dr.BQF Maria Pasquel-Moxley**
C-PR Chair (Ecuador)

As Chair of the IFCC Public Relations Committee (C-PR), it is my pleasure to extend a warm and enthusiastic invitation to all IFCC member societies, laboratory professionals, and global partners to participate in the 2026 edition of the Global MedLab Week (GMLW). This year's theme, "A Day at the Lab," celebrates the essential, often unseen work carried out each day in clinical laboratories worldwide—work that safeguards the health and well-being of millions of patients.

Beginning in January, we encourage colleagues from every region to submit videos, podcasts, and photographs that authentically portray the dedication, precision, and human commitment that define our profession. These contributions will be shared through IFCC and GMLW social media platforms, amplifying the global visibility of laboratory medicine and highlighting its indispensable role in patient care.

The final deadline for all submissions is **"14 March 2026"**, (Send your videos, audio files, and photos to gmlw@gmlw.org), and we kindly urge participants to send their materials as early as possible (January and February). All entries must follow the official guidelines, including message relevance to the theme, clarity, creativity, technical quality, and accessibility. Submissions must also include the completed IFCC authorization form and all required collaborator information to ensure eligibility for participation certificates.

Outstanding contributions will be recognized with international awards, and all participants will receive a digital certificate of appreciation. Winning entries will be featured on the Global MedLab Week website and IFCC communications channels.

Evaluation process and Criteria
Criteria are weighted according to official matrices, and scoring is carried out exclusively through the authorized IFCC digital platform, with automatic score logging and audit availability
Podcasts and videos - Evaluated on max 100 points:

Videos:

Criterion	Description	Maximum Points
1. Message Clarity and Relevance	Evaluates how clearly the video communicates the theme "A Day at the Lab." The message should be easy to understand, relevant, and meaningful. If patients are included, consent must be obtained and privacy respected.	20 points
2. Storytelling and Impact	Assesses how engaging, inspiring, or emotionally resonant the story is. Considers whether the video generates public interest and appreciation for the work done in laboratories.	20 points

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3. Visual and Audio Quality	Evaluates the clarity of the images, sound, and overall presentation. The video should be visually clear and easy to listen to, even if it's not professionally produced.	15 points
4. Creativity and Presentation	Measures originality in the way the story is told, use of visuals, narration, and music. Creativity and authenticity are highly valued.	15 points
5. Language Accessibility	- Video recorded in English: 15 points. - Video recorded in another language with English subtitles or English translation: 15 points. - Video only in another language (no English subtitles or translation): 7 points.	15 points
6. Compliance with Guidelines	The video: • Does not exceed 6 minutes. • Was submitted within the deadline (by March 14, 2026). • Includes the signed IFCC authorization letter. • Contains complete collaborator information for participation certificates"	15 points

Photo Evaluation Guide - max 100 points:
Each judge will assign a score from 0 up to the maximum points indicated for each criterion, based on their assessment of the photo and its caption.

Criterion	Description	Maximum Points
1. Educational value and message clarity 40%,	Evaluates how clearly the image and its caption convey an educational or inspiring message about the clinical laboratory and its role in health. (40%)	40 points
2. Image quality and composition 30%,	Considers sharpness, lighting, focus, angle, and overall visual balance of the photograph. (30%)	30 points
3. Relevance to the theme "A Day at the Lab" 20%	Measures how directly the image relates to the contest theme, reflecting laboratory activities, environment, or professionals. (20%)	20 points
4. Impact and public interest 10%	Evaluates the photograph's ability to capture attention and generate interest or emotion among the general public and health professionals. (10%)	10 points

Result Validation & Communication
- Scores aggregated via a secure digital platform.
- C-PR and CPD chair validates results and assists in dissemination.
- IFCC Secretariat officially announces winners.
- Results published on www.globalmedlabweek.org and IFCC channels.

We look forward to receiving creative, inspiring, and impactful submissions from across the world. Together, let us showcase the true heartbeat of laboratory medicine and strengthen public understanding of the vital role our profession plays in healthcare.

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"Let us raise our voices, our images, and our stories—because when the world sees what happens inside the laboratory, it finally understands the true power of our profession. I warmly invite you to join us and make IFCC-GMLW 2026 a global celebration worthy of the science and service we stand for."

On demand content is available at this link

ACBICON–WASPaLM 2025, Pune (India): Driving the future of patient-centered lab medicine

Bernard Gouget and **Swarup Shah,** IFCC Emerging Technologies Division-EC .

The joint **51st ACBICON – 34th WASPaLM 2025 Congress**, held in Koregaon Park, Pune, from October 14 to 17, brought together the global community under the unifying theme **"Lab Medicine at the Frontier of Patient-Centered Care."** The event showcased the profound transformations reshaping the clinical laboratories across modern healthcare pathways. Founded in 1947, **WASPaLM** unites national societies to strengthen international cooperation, harmonize practices, and support the training of future professionals. In recent years, its collaboration with the **IFCC** has intensified, promoting standardization, innovation, and global alignment. With experts from more than 25 countries, the congress demonstrated the strong and growing synergy between WASPaLM, ACBI, and the broader international community, an alliance committed to advancing diagnostic quality and patient-centered medical practice. As emphasized by **Dr. Walter Alallon** (President) and **Dr. Roberto Verna** (President-Elect), collaboration between senior experts and emerging researchers continues to fuel a fertile environment for learning and innovation.

Under the leadership of **Dr. Rajiv Sinha** (Organizing Committee Chair), **Dr. Praveen Sharma** (Scientific Committee Chair), and **Dr. Sadanand Naik** (COC, ACBICON 2025), the congress provided a strategic platform to address the most pressing challenges facing laboratory medicine. ACBI President **Dr. Indu Verma** highlighted that this year's edition fully reflects the evolution of the field: the integration of disruptive technologies, the rise of molecular and precision diagnostics, and the growing convergence between traditional laboratory strengths and emerging innovations. Held in Pune, the "Queen of the Deccan," a thriving hub of life sciences, healthtech, medtech and medical AI, the congress benefited from an exceptional scientific environment. Known as the "Oxford of the East," the city combines leading research institutes and biotechnology clusters with a rich historical heritage, including Shaniwar Wada, the Aga Khan Palace and the Dagdusheth Halwai Temple. This unique combination of innovation and culture offered an ideal backdrop for exploring the intersections of laboratory medicine, digital health and technology. ACBICON–WASPaLM 2025 also positioned itself as a strategic steppingstone toward IFCC WorldLab New Delhi 2026, which ACBI will co-organize with the IFCC.

The scientific program included **52 sessions**: 32 led by ACBI, 17 by WASPaLM, and 3 by IFCC/ACBI. Joint symposia, international training panels, and the WASPaLM Residents' Program further enriched the exchanges, reinforcing the congress as a dynamic forum for innovation. The key scientific axes of the congress can be grouped into five core areas:

1. Artificial Intelligence in Laboratory Medicine
AI-focused sessions brought together ACBI experts and international contributors who explored the full diagnostic continuum, from automated imaging workflows to advanced interpretation of biological data and clinical decision-support systems. Discussions also addressed AI as a medical device and workflow optimization within laboratories evolving into data-driven platforms. Speakers highlighted the need for robust standards and international guidelines, echoing priorities emphasized throughout the event to ensure the responsible and equitable integration of AI into patient care.

2. Global Infectious Diseases, Metagenomics, and Global Health
Sessions dedicated to infectious diseases featured contributions from WASPaLM leaders, along with experts from Brazil, Mexico, China, Korea, Japan and Uruguay. Discussions covered the transition to NGS for identifying atypical pathogens, liquid biopsy for early pathogen or tumor DNA detection, and new sequencing-based surveillance tools, particularly for MRSA. Emerging concerns such as microplastics and endocrine disruptors broadened the debate, reaffirming the laboratory's central role in global biosurveillance and stressing the importance of international data sharing.

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3. Quality, Harmonization, and POCT: Strengthening the Foundations of Diagnostic Excellence Ahead of WorldLab 2026

Quality and harmonization occupied a central place at ACBICON–WASPaLM 2025, reflecting the growing recognition that reliable diagnostics begin with robust, standardized laboratory practices. Sessions led by ACBI's quality networks highlighted how these principles underpin both patient safety and the credibility of laboratory medicine in an era of rapid technological change. Speakers emphasized the need to establish reference intervals tailored to local populations, a critical step in ensuring that laboratory results reflect the clinical realities of diverse demographic groups. The implementation of strong quality systems and the pursuit of NABL accreditation were presented as key drivers for operational consistency and sustained performance. Discussions also addressed the international frameworks necessary for the responsible deployment of POCT, whose growing use in decentralized settings demands stringent oversight to ensure accuracy and interoperability. Another important theme was the standardization of immunoassays and the reduction of analytical interferences, areas where variability can directly compromise clinical interpretation. Presenters stressed that achieving reproducible, interference-free assays is essential for supporting the expanding demands of precision diagnostics. Across these sessions, a clear message emerged: quality and harmonization are no longer static requirements, they have become strategic enablers of diagnostic innovation. This perspective aligns closely with the IFCC's global initiatives in metrological traceability, data comparability, and the development of harmonized international standards. As the laboratory community prepares for IFCC WorldLab New Delhi 2026, the discussions in Pune underscored the importance of building a unified framework that supports innovation while safeguarding analytical reliability. In this context, ACBICON–WASPaLM 2025 served not only as a platform for scientific exchange but also as a catalyst for strengthening global coherence in laboratory practices. By reinforcing the essential role of the clinical laboratory in patient care and equity, the meeting set the stage for the next chapter, one in which harmonized quality systems form the backbone of tomorrow's diagnostic landscape.

4. Leadership, Training Pathways, and Generation 2030

Sessions on leadership and training, supported by figures such as Dr. Sadanand Naik, Dr. Rajiv Sinha, and WASPaLM educational leaders, highlighted the emergence of a proactive **"Generation 2030"** committed to redefining laboratory medicine as a fully recognized clinical specialty. A comparative analysis of ten international training models, from Latin America to Asia, revealed a clear conclusion: the diversity of existing pathways now calls for the rapid development of a global competency framework. Such a framework must reflect new modes of practice for the "smart lab," integrating decentralized testing, clinical interpretation, AI, omics, and broader decision-making responsibilities. A major highlight of the scientific program, the 4th International Meeting of Residents in Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, accelerated this transformation. This innovative forum enabled participants to compare training experiences, align expectations, and strengthen the emergence of a structured, ambitious global network of young professionals shaping tomorrow's standards. Supported by WASPaLM, ACBI, and the IFCC Young Scientists, this network now extends far beyond simple collaboration: it forms the backbone of an international community able to influence training, clinical practice, and diagnostic innovation. A new generation of leaders is clearly stepping onto the world stage. Driven by collaborative momentum between WASPaLM and the IFCC Young Scientists, this movement is building a truly international talent pipeline, shaping a unified professional identity, and laying solid foundations for a laboratory ecosystem that is more medical, more connected and far more influential by 2030 and beyond. This isn't a distant future, the shift has already begun, and it's transforming the profession from the inside out.

5. Shaping What's Next: The IFCC ETD Contributions at ACBICON–WASPaLM 2025"

The IFCC Emerging Technologies Division (ETD), supported by the Visiting Lecturer Program (VLP), played a prominent role at the congress by delivering two high-impact sessions that brought a global perspective to artificial intelligence, multi-omics, pharmacogenomics and microfluidic technologies. The first session, dedicated to AI-driven innovations in diagnostics and healthcare, provided a clear and forward-looking view of how artificial intelligence is reshaping clinical practice. Moderated by **B. Gouget**, the session featured **A. Kharat**, who demonstrated how AI integration in radiology, from workflow automation to enhanced efficiency, broadens access to diagnostic imaging. **A. Agravatt** further illustrated how machine-learning models refine laboratory data interpretation,

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strengthening early detection and clinical risk stratification. Beyond technological advances, the session placed strong emphasis on the urgent need for coherent ethical governance of medical AI. While global principles are increasingly shared, regional policy landscapes differ markedly. Europe, the Americas and Asia have each adopted distinct approaches to transparency, fairness, oversight and data protection, as summarized in the following comparative table.

Table 1 : International Ethical Strategies for Medical AI :

Ethical Principle	Europe	Americas	Asia
1. Transparency & Explainability	Traceability and explainability governed by the AI Act.	Priority on clinical effectiveness; explainability less regulated.	Explainability developing; rapid deployment.
2. Fairness & Bias Reduction	Integrated regulatory audits.	Independent audits and multi-ethnic datasets.	Training on large national cohorts.
3. Governance & Oversight	Strict pre-certification and compliance requirements.	Flexible shared-responsibility model.	Centralized governance in evolution.
4. Data Protection	Robust GDPR framework.	Sector-based approach (HIPAA).	Centralized national data platforms.

This comparative perspective underscored the need for harmonized global approaches to support the safe and equitable deployment of AI in laboratory medicine.

The second ETD session offered a forward-looking overview of precision diagnostics, bringing together major advances in multi-omics, pharmacogenomics and microfluidic technologies. **S. Shah** (IFCC ETD EC Vice-Chair) outlined global trends that are accelerating the adoption of precision medicine, falling sequencing costs, expanding clinical integration and growing therapeutic impact. Building on this, **Dr. Rahul Bhoyar** presented next-generation platforms that unify NGS, transcriptomics, pharmacogenomics and variant interpretation into a seamless analytical continuum, a critical approach for genetically diverse populations in which omic signatures directly influence treatment decisions. Complementing these developments, B. Gouget highlighted the rapid evolution of Lab-on-a-Chip systems. These miniaturized platforms drastically reduce sample volume requirements, accelerate molecular workflows, including PCR, sequencing and immunoassays, and enable truly decentralized advanced diagnostics. Evidence presented throughout the session converged on the same point: lab-on-chip technologies are emerging as a key enabler of rapid, portable and equitable diagnostics, strengthening both routine care and global health preparedness. Taken together, these contributions underscored the pivotal role of the IFCC Emerging Technologies Division in driving innovation, promoting international harmonization and guiding the ethical and regulatory integration of emerging diagnostic technologies. Its longstanding collaboration with ACBI continues to support the development of a laboratory ecosystem that is innovative, safe, equitable and globally aligned.

ACBICON–WASPaLM 2025 demonstrated India's remarkable capacity to convene expertise, innovation and a shared global vision for the future of laboratory medicine. The synergy between ACBI and WASPaLM gave the congress exceptional depth, combining scientific excellence, international collaboration and a strong commitment to patient-centered healthcare. This momentum naturally paves the way toward IFCC WorldLab New Delhi 2026, set to be a major milestone in global cooperation and the responsible integration of emerging technologies. More than a congress, ACBICON 2025 was a movement, a collective step toward smarter, more connected and future-driven healthcare. It embodied the generosity, ambition and unity of a community shaping the laboratory of tomorrow.

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See : Attached PHOTOS of the Congress Patrons and IFCC ETD sessions

APFCB News on : « Precision Healthcare in India: Integrating Omics Science with Digital Health Innovation- APFCB News Volume 4, Issue 2, 2025 –
DOI- https://doi.org/10.62772/APFCB-News.2025.4201
https://www.apfcb.org/APFCB_News/uploads/1/37_pdf.pdf

IFCC eNewsletter: ACBICON-WASPALM,Pune(India): Where innovation meets Lab Diagnostics
https://ifccfiles.com/2025/09/jFLpMrcv-IFCCeNewsSep2025.pdf

IFCC VLP session: AI Driven innovation in Clinical Diagnostics and Healthcare
L-R: Dr. Ashish Agravatt, Dr Bernard Gouget, IFCC ETD-EC,Dr Swarup Shah, IFCC ETD EC, Dr. Amit Kharat, Co-Founder, DeepTek AI.

IFCC ETD symposium: Advanced Diagnostic for Precision Medicine: From omics to On-the-go-testing
(L-R): Dr. Rahul Bhoyar, Senior Scientist, Karkinos Healthcare Private Limited, India, Dr Bernard Gouget, IFCC ETC-EC, Dr Swarup Shah, IFCC ETD-EC

The Future Is Rising : IFCC ETD as VIP Guest at the 23rd GSCC-CB National Congress in Thessaloniki (GR)

Bernard GOUGET*, **Seraphein KARATHANOS****, **Swarup SHAH***, **Alexander HALIASSOS****, **Damien GRUSON***. * IFCC ETD EC, **GSCC-CB and ESEAP

The Greek Society of Clinical Chemistry – Clinical Biochemistry (GSCC-CB) proudly welcomed the IFCC Emerging Technologies Division (IFCC ETD) as a key partner at its 23rd National Congress on Emerging Technologies in Clinical Chemistry and Biochemistry, held in Thessaloniki, Greece, from October 30 to November 2, 2025. A full day of joint IFCC–ETD sessions highlighted how rapidly evolving innovations are reshaping laboratory medicine. These flagship sessions showcased cutting-edge technologies and their real-world impact on diagnostic workflows and clinical decision-making. They provided professionals with updated insights into the strengths and challenges of emerging tools while supporting informed and responsible adoption. This collaboration created a dynamic platform for scientific exchange and a forward-looking perspective on the future of laboratory practice. The ETD's goal was to deepen scientific understanding, promote critical reflection, and support the informed adoption of breakthrough innovations in clinical practice. Through this collaboration, the congress fostered a dynamic forum for knowledge exchange and future-oriented dialogue. This partnership added a clear, future-focused dimension to the scientific program.

Predicting the future is considered by many to be a precarious endeavor, one that resists scientific validation and leans instead toward conjecture. Yet at a time when our understanding of biological time, memory mechanisms, and cognitive models of the human mind is rapidly expanding, imagination is becoming a key driver of scientific innovation. These advances open new horizons, promising yet uncertain, within a scientific landscape that has grown increasingly complex, dynamic, and almost kaleidoscopic. In this environment, laboratory medicine must strengthen its capacity to anticipate and interpret transformation, unlock its scientific creativity, and reinvent its methods and technologies. Only by embracing this creative and forward-looking mindset can the profession illuminate the future of medical diagnostics with greater clarity and precision. This year's congress theme reflected precisely this ambition: to provide professionals with rapid, relevant insights into emerging technologies and to empower laboratory medicine to imagine, innovate, and lead the future. AI, as a cornerstone of Industry 4.0, is inevitably intertwined with the future of laboratory medicine.

The opening lecture was delivered by Damien Gruson, Chair of the IFCC Emerging Technologies Division (ETD). He presented a compelling overview of the Division's expanding role in shaping the future of laboratory medicine. His address reflected the collective work of the IFCC ETD, emphasizing innovation, integration, and the growing cross-fertilization with other IFCC divisions. He highlighted how breakthrough technologies (agentic AI, metaverse applications, nanotechnologies, smart implants, Lab-on-a-Chip platforms, advanced POCT, and the full omics spectrum) are transforming laboratory medicine into a more predictive, decentralized, continuous, and patient-aligned discipline. The future of laboratory medicine will therefore depend on evidence-based reforms that integrate technology, reorganize systems, and strengthen governance. A key message was the need to attract and engage new generations of scientists in IFCC, reinforcing agility, creativity, and scientific leadership. His presentation also underscored that future technological advancement must remain anchored in sustainability, responsible innovation, quality, and equitable access. The convergence of AI and human expertise will form the foundation of personalized, patient-centered medicine, with the potential to transform healthcare from a disease-oriented model to a health-preserving system. In conclusion, he positioned the IFCC ETD as a catalyst for a healthcare future that is more intelligent, more interconnected, more sustainable, and unmistakably human.
The IFCC–ETD sessions were structured around four main pillars: technological synergies and metrology, micro-sampling and biomarkers, the exposome/environment, and disruptive diagnostics/adaptive education. Together, these themes converged toward a shared vision: the laboratory of tomorrow is no longer merely a site of reactive measurement, but a predictive hub fully integrated into the patient care pathway, capable of interacting with the environment, patient data, and intelligent algorithms.

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R. Greaves, Chair of the Working Group on Neonatal Bilirubin (WG-NB), which brings together the IFCC ETD and SD Divisions, presented major advances toward establishing metrological traceability for neonatal bilirubin measurement. The priority is to harmonize methods and reference materials (NIST916b), develop commutable samples for EQA, and integrate point-of-care testing into a comprehensive quality framework. This model of interdivisional collaboration exemplifies “shared science” in service of the patient. The reduction of blood sample volume, home collection, and multi-omics analysis are opening a new paradigm: capturing biological dynamics across time and space rather than relying on a single, static snapshot. Recent reviews highlight the rapid rise of micro-sampling technologies (DBS, VAMS) and their integration with omics approaches for low-cost longitudinal monitoring. M. Thaitumu emphasized that, when combined with standardization, this approach breaks down traditional laboratory boundaries and paves the way for connected, decentralized medicine. The laboratory becomes virtually accessible and embedded within care pathways, prevention, and research. The future is moving toward interconnected “personal biobanks” and temporal biomarkers capable of adapting clinical management. Continuous Glucose Monitors (CGMs) represent a turning point in diabetes management, noted K. Makris, but their clinical value depends on a reliable traceability chain. The absence of a reference method for interstitial glucose remains a barrier to harmonization. The dedicated IFCC SD working group is currently developing performance standards and common metrics to ensure inter-system comparability and the clinical validation of these minimally invasive technologies. This metrological infrastructure is becoming the foundation upon which future innovation will rely. Together, these initiatives demonstrate how metrology-driven harmonization and technological convergence are laying the scientific foundations for a more reliable, interoperable, and clinically impactful laboratory ecosystem. B. Gouget and S. Stankovic repositioned the clinical laboratory at the center of environmental and cardiovascular health, drawing on major advances from European research initiatives such as EHEN and EXIMIOUS. The integrated study of the exposome, encompassing chemical, physical, social, and behavioral exposures, reveals new and decisive links with cardiovascular risk, aging, diabetes, and coronary disease. High-resolution metabolomics and integrated omics analyses now make it possible to detect the molecular signatures of these exposures and to quantify their biological impact. Looking ahead, the laboratory emerges as a true sentinel of planetary health, capable of simultaneously assessing individual health status and environmental conditions. This expanding role reinforces the idea that laboratory medicine is becoming essential not only for diagnosis but also for public health surveillance and prevention. Recent literature confirms that nearly two-thirds of chronic diseases are linked to environmental exposures, including pollutants, noise, sleep disturbances, and socioeconomic factors. The laboratories of tomorrow will evolve into genuine environmental impact observatories, integrating classical biomarkers, exposure signatures, and environmental data into personalized risk algorithms. This evolution will create a seamless continuum, from home sampling to individualized environmental risk assessment, opening the way to tailored, sustainable prevention strategies and repositioning the laboratory “at the heart of the living world,” far beyond its traditional role as a producer of analytical results.

In his plenary lecture, S. Shah highlighted the rise of CRISPR-Cas–based diagnostics, particularly Cas12 and Cas13 enzymes as implemented in the DETECTR and SHERLOCK diagnostic platforms respectively. These tools represent a breakthrough thanks to their speed, programmability, and exceptional sensitivity, enabling the detection of pathogens or single-nucleotide variants in just minutes. Recent scientific reviews show that these diagnostics have now reached a level of simplicity and performance compatible with point-of-care and even self-testing, applications, paving the way for true decentralization of biomedical diagnostics. Current developments further support the integration of CRISPR into multiplexed biochips capable of simultaneously targeting multiple sequences, with applications in infectious diseases, oncology, and minimally invasive tumor monitoring. CRISPR diagnostics are therefore no longer limited to experimental prototypes but are gradually establishing themselves as operational clinical tools. In parallel, G. Theodoridis emphasized the growing importance of advanced omics approaches, including genomics, proteomics, and clinical metabolomics. Integrating these layers of information enables a systemic understanding of patient status, far beyond the isolated biomarkers traditionally used. Metabolomics is beginning to enter routine practice for metabolic risk stratification and for assessing therapeutic response. This multi-omics perspective provides a dynamic view of biological processes and represents a major lever for precision medicine. It is progressively transforming the laboratory into a center for holistic analysis, where interpretation is grounded in complex biological networks rather than single analytical signals.

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Together, these breakthroughs position CRISPR-based diagnostics and multi-omics integration as complementary pillars of a new diagnostic era; one where ultra-rapid detection, systemic biological insight, and decentralized testing converge to redefine the clinical laboratory's strategic role in precision medicine.

However, this technological transition can only succeed if professionals are fully supported in adopting these innovations. As emphasized by N. Rifai, training must evolve into a continuous, dynamic process that remains tightly aligned with advances in laboratory technologies. The rise of adaptive learning, illustrated by initiatives such as the Learning Lab for Laboratory Medicine (19,000 users across 156 countries), demonstrates how AI can identify individual gaps, personalize learning pathways, and significantly shorten the time between technological innovation and clinical application. The integration of advanced models such as GPT-4 further accelerates the creation of multilingual content, enhancing accessibility, equity, and the global dissemination of essential competencies for laboratory scientists and clinicians.

To unlock this potential, it is essential to mobilize interdisciplinary consortia, adapt regulatory frameworks, and redesign training strategies within a continuous and adaptive learning model. The rapid acceleration of innovation now positions the medical laboratory at the core of a predictive, responsive, and sustainable healthcare system. No longer a simple technical space, the laboratory is transforming into a cognitive ecosystem, integrating programmable CRISPR diagnostics, advanced omics technologies, large-scale data infrastructures, and AI-driven decision support, all sustained by training systems capable of evolving at the pace of technological change. This convergence is redefining the diagnostic pathway, strengthening interdisciplinary collaboration, and bringing analytical capabilities closer to real-time clinical environments. In this emerging paradigm, diagnostics become not only faster but also more context-aware, more personalized, and more closely connected to prevention. The synergy between ultra-rapid detection, multimodal interpretation, and AI-augmented analysis paves the way for earlier diagnostics, more targeted therapeutic decisions, and a truly anticipatory form of medicine. In this evolving landscape, the medical laboratory professional becomes the guardian of scientific validity and clinical interpretation, at the interface between automation and human expertise. Laboratory medicine will no longer merely follow the evolution of the healthcare system: it will drive it and become one of its principal architects. The time has come to move from promise to impact.

Through this congress, the IFCC ETD Team remains true to the spirit of Alexander the Great, who believed that "there is nothing impossible to the one who tries." This collective and enlightened ambition, carried by determined scientific leadership, demonstrates how new perspectives can be opened and how vision can be transformed into reality. A sincere thank you to Alexander H. As Aristotle reminded us, "excellence is an art achieved only through constant practice." This maxim resonates strongly with the commitment of Alexander Haliassos, whose scientific rigor, consistency, and vision shaped the organizational excellence of the 23rd Congress of the Greek Society (2025). His work fully reflects the demanding pursuit of precision and mastery that underpins the successful organization of high-level congresses and conferences.

IFCC ETD EC Happy Hour! Bringing science, smiles, and a bit of Halloween magic together.

Coffee break during the IFCC EC meeting at the Electra Hotel, Thessaloniki , Greece

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A walk to awaken the mind, a feast to stir the senses: thus continues the discourse among the IFCC ETD-EC members, the Greek society, and the Chair of IFCC-EMD.

Crowned by the IFCC vote, savoring a discreet victory like a perfectly shared cake.

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IFCC: the people

Tribute to Prof. Mabel A. Charles-Davies, PhD

By **Prof. Idris Mohammed** *President, ACCN,* **on behalf of the Association of Clinical Chemists of Nigeria (ACCN)**

A Passionate African Clinical Chemist, "Mother of Reproductive Endocrinology," and a Devoted Leader in the Global Laboratory Medicine Community

Prof. Mabel Ada Charles-Davies, BSc, MSc, PhD (1964–2025), lived a remarkable life marked by excellence, service, mentorship, and unwavering commitment to the advancement of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine in Nigeria, and the global community. Her passing represents an irreplaceable loss for the profession she served with distinction.

Prof. Mabel A. Charles-Davies (1964–2025)

Early Life and Academic Journey
Born on December 3rd, 1964, Prof. Charles-Davies had her secondary education at Federal Government College, Harcourt Road, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.

She obtained her BSc in Biochemistry from the University of Port Harcourt and proceeded for the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC). Her passion for laboratory medicine led her to the University of Ibadan, home to the oldest Chemical Pathology programme in the Commonwealth, where she completed her MSc under the supervision of Prof. Yomi Akanji (MBBS, DPhil, FRCPath, FAS).

Her doctoral work in Reproductive Endocrinology was supervised by the late Prof. Babatunde Osotimehin (MBBS, MD, FRCP, FAS, OON), former Nigerian Minister of Health and Executive Director/Under Secretary of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). This relationship shaped her lifelong passion for reproductive endocrinology.

Professional Career and Leadership
Prof. Charles-Davies had an early stint as General Manager at Immunoassay Laboratories, Lagos, under Dr. Popo Akinyanju, a former ACCN President, who encouraged her early involvement in leadership. She served first as Assistant Secretary and later as General Secretary of the Association of Clinical Chemists of Nigeria (ACCN).

She joined the academic staff of the University of Ibadan on 26 April 2004 as Lecturer I and rose steadily to become Professor of Chemical Pathology and Reproductive Endocrinology in 2020.
She coordinated the postgraduate programmes in her department for many years, supervised at least eight PhD candidates, and led the Reproductive Endocrinology Unit with rare dedication.

Service to ACCN, AFCC, and IFCC
Prof.Charles-Davies served the ACCN for over a decade and distinguished herself as an exceptional administrator, mobiliser, and ambassador of Nigerian clinical chemistry. She served as:

- Secretary, ACCN (formerly NACC) for many years
- President, African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC) (2022–2024)

Article continued on the next page

- Nigeria's National Representative to IFCC for at least 10 years
- An informal but devoted member of the IFCC Office in Milan—never missing the opportunity to visit whenever she was in Italy, a reflection of her deep love for the global laboratory community

She also attracted global experts to national scientific meetings, raising the visibility of Nigerian and African clinical chemistry.

Contributions to Newborn Screening and National Initiatives
Her passion for transformative programmes was evident in her unwavering commitment to newborn screening (NBS). She was a vocal advocate and a key driver of Nigeria's early NBS efforts, contributing significantly to national and regional implementation frameworks.

Despite her declining health, she represented AFCC at the National Workshop on NBS in Lagos, November 2024, demonstrating her unmatched dedication to the profession.

Academic Excellence and Mentorship
At the University of Ibadan, she earned the cherished title "Mother of Reproductive Endocrinology"—a testament to her nurturing mentorship, openness, and compassion. She was the lecturer to whom students turned in moments of difficulty, confident that she would advocate for them.

The "Endocrine Day" held on November 2, 2023, in honour of Prof. K. S. Akinlade stands as one of her most memorable academic legacies, featuring high-profile local and international speakers and showcasing her exceptional organisational skills.

Personal Qualities
Prof. Charles-Davies was admired for her:

- Deep ethical values
- Warmth and motherliness
- Tireless work ethic
- Humility and grace
- Ability to mobilise people and resources with quiet strength

She was radiant, cheerful, and committed to service until her final months.

Family
She is survived by her loving husband, Dr. Dominion Charles-Davies, FWACS, a Consultant Surgeon, three sons, three daughters-in-law and a grandaughter. Her family was her joy, and she spoke lovingly of them at every opportunity.

Farewell to a Legend
Words are insufficient to capture the full measure of Prof. Mabel Charles-Davies' contributions. Her legacy in Clinical Chemistry, Reproductive Endocrinology, AFCC, IFCC, and postgraduate training will endure for generations.

Adieu, Prof. Mabel Ada Charles-Davies.
You served with honour.
You inspired with passion.
You will be sorely missed, but never forgotten.

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.

The IFCC is inviting nominations for following positions:

Scientific Division (SD) announces following calls for nominations:
C-NPU (Committee on Nomenclature for Properties and Units) one member.
Click here to download the Call for nominations letter.

C-RIDL (Committee on Reference Intervals and Decision Limits) - one member.
Click here to download the Call for nominations letter.

SD C-STFT (Committee on Standardization of Thyroid Function Tests) - one member
Click here to download the Call for nominations letter.

Replies for SD calls for nominations should be sent to the IFCC Office (elisa.fossati@ifcc.org) by 19 December 2025.

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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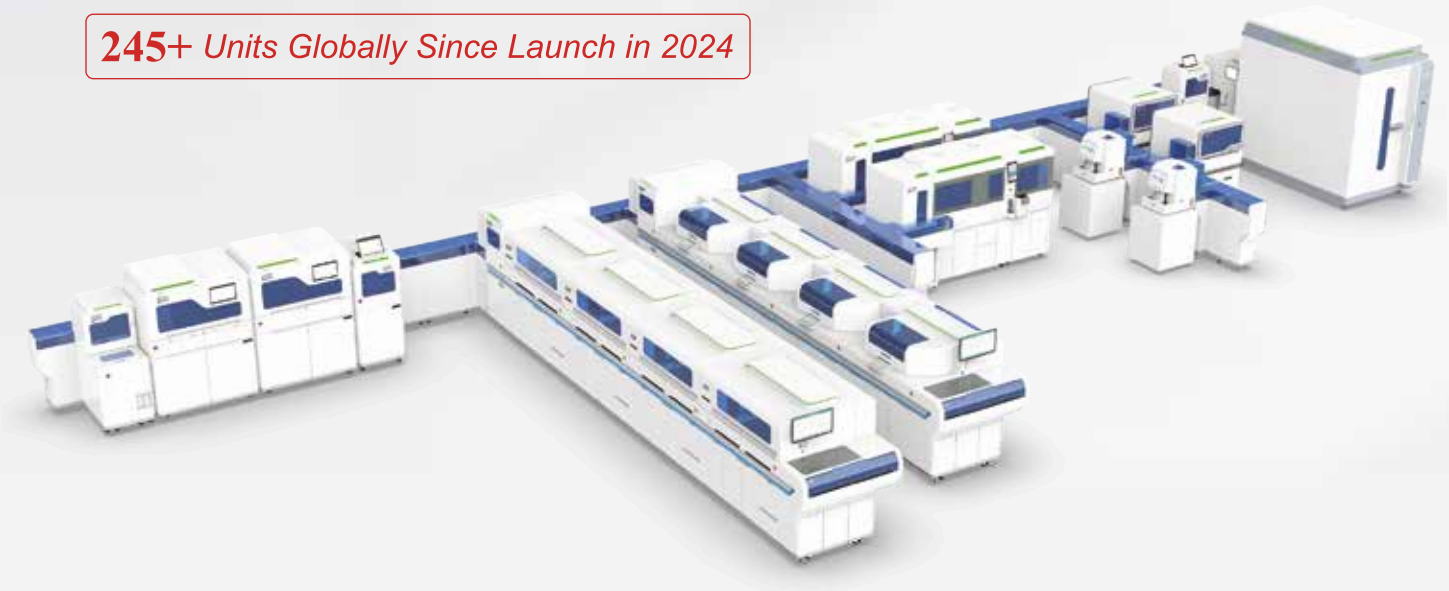

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IFCC: the Young Scientists

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

Spotlight on: **B. Vinodh Kumar**
IFCC Task Force-Young Scientists corresponding member from India, nominated by the Association of Medical Biochemists of India (AMBI)

Could you please introduce yourself?
I am currently serving as an Assistant Professor of Biochemistry at the Institute of Child Health & Hospital for Children (ICH&HC), Madras Medical College, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India. I obtained my Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) in 2008 and Doctor of Medicine (MD) in Biochemistry in 2014. My areas of special interest include Clinical Chemistry, Analytical Techniques and Instrumentation, Quality Management, Newborn and Antenatal Screening, and Immunohematology.

Could you share a bit about your background?
I completed my MD in Biochemistry at the prestigious Madras Medical College, where I received extensive training in Clinical Chemistry. During my training, I became proficient in Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) related to Quality Control (both Internal and External), calibration, interpretation of Levey-Jennings charts, Westgard multirule applications, reagent inventory management, and troubleshooting of automated analyzers. I also gained experience in report validation with clinical correlation.
In addition, I was trained in Laboratory Quality Systems and Internal Auditing as per ISO 15189:2022 standard, as well as in Antenatal and Newborn Screening. My professional journey includes roles as Senior Resident, Laboratory Manager, Consultant Biochemist, and currently as Assistant Professor.

What is your current role in the laboratory daily activity?
I work in a pediatric specialty biochemistry laboratory where I perform and report advanced metabolic screening tests, such as amino acid and acylcarnitine profiling by Tandem Mass Spectrometry (TMS) and urine organic acid analysis by Gas Chromatography–Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS), contributing to the diagnosis of aminoacidopathies, fatty acid oxidation disorders, and organic acidemias.
Additionally, I conduct and report hemoglobin variant analysis by HPLC, and supervise the routine chemistry and hormonal assay sections. I am also actively involved in teaching undergraduate (MBBS) and paramedical students.

Could you give us a brief introduction to your national society and its main activities?
I am a member of the Association of Medical Biochemists of India (AMBI). The association aims to promote and advance the discipline of Medical Biochemistry and allied sciences, as well as to enhance diagnostic services, public health, medical education, and research. AMBI also works to establish uniform policies in areas of common interest, such as medical education and laboratory standards, and to foster collaborations with national and international organizations.

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Can you highlight some of the key activities that you had with the IFCC Task Force-Young Scientists?
I had the privilege to attend the XXV IFCC WorldLab – EuroMedLab 2023 (21–25 May 2023) and the 2nd Edition of the IFCC Forum for Young Scientists held in Rome, Italy, where I presented my oral abstract on "Establishment of Age-Specific Reference Intervals for Amino Acids in Dried Blood Spots by Tandem Mass Spectrometry."
I regularly participate in IFCC webinars and the Clinical Case Series organized by the IFCC TF-YS. On behalf of the IFCC Committee on Public Relations, I contributed an audio segment for the Global Med Lab Week 2024 podcast series, focusing on "The Importance of Reflex and Reflective Testing in a Clinical Chemistry Laboratory." I also participated in the 2022 International Laboratory Medicine Case Contest.

How can YS from your national society get additional information about the activities of the association and activities with the TF-YS?
Information regarding IFCC TF-YS activities is disseminated to AMBI members through official emails and WhatsApp groups. Updates and collaborative opportunities are also shared during national and state-level conferences organized by the association.
Is there any future collaborative project of IFCC TF-YS that you want to share with readers of IFCC eNews?
A promising area for collaboration would be the establishment of indirect reference intervals for clinical chemistry and hormone parameters, supported by multi-center data analysis and coordinated efforts between IFCC TF-YS and national laboratories.

Article continued on the next page

Spotlight on: **Sushant Pokhrel**, IFCC Task Force-Young Scientists corresponding member from Nepal, nominated by the Nepalese Association for Medical Laboratory Sciences (NAMLS)

Could you please introduce yourself?
Hi, I am Sushant Pokhrel, from Nepal. I completed my undergraduate in Laboratory Medicine from Tribhuvan University in 2018 and worked as a medical laboratory technologist in National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL), Bir Hospital, and various reference laboratories (Modern Diagnostics, Alfa Healthcare, Nepal Lab House, and United Reference Laboratory). I also worked as a research assistant at Manmohan Memorial Institute of Health Sciences, Kathmandu, Nepal. Currently, I am pursuing my graduate study in Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology from University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), Nebraska, USA.

Could you share a bit about your background?
I worked as a Medical Laboratory Technologist and Quality Control (QC) Officer in a clinical laboratory. During the early stage of my career, I served as a technical member, analyzing human samples for disease diagnosis. I gained experience working in hematology, biochemistry, immunoassay, and molecular biology laboratories. Later, I took on the role of QC Manager and Documentation Officer, where I was responsible for maintaining quality assurance and ensuring the proper management of the clinical laboratory.

Could you give us a brief introduction to your national society and its main activities?
The Nepalese Association for Medical Laboratory Sciences (NAMLS) supports laboratory professionals by connecting and engaging with them. This organization actively collaborates with the government in policy-making, recruitment, and curriculum development in the laboratory field. NAMLS raises its voice for, and stands with laboratory professionals across the country. It also facilitates seminars and professional development programs in collaboration with various stakeholders. NAMLS has successfully organized webinars, seminars, and conferences in the laboratory field and continues to motivate professionals to participate in IFCC and APFCB programs.

Can you highlight some of the key activities that you had with the IFCC Task Force-Young Scientists?
I participated in a research paper writing competition organized by the IFCC Task Force–Young Scientists in 2019 and won the IFCC TF-YS Snibe Travel Award to attend the APFCB 2019 Conference in Jaipur, India. I also participated in the IFCC TF-YS conferences held in Seoul, South Korea, in 2021, and in Rome, Italy, in 2022. During the TF-YS forum in Italy, I had an opportunity to give an oral presentation on my research work.

How can YS from your national society get additional information about the activities of the association and activities with the TF-YS?
We share information about programmes, activities, and news with the members of NAMLS through social media posts. Additionally, members can personally contact the executive board of NAMLS for more information.

Is there any future collaborative project of IFCC TF-YS that you want to share with readers of IFCC eNews?
As a TF-YS, I am interested in conducting collaborative research projects on the normal range of clinical chemistry analytes in the Nepalese population. In addition, I am interested in organizing seminars and talk series for young members on quality assurance and laboratory management.

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Jamal Amri, IFCC Task Force-Young Scientists corresponding member from Iran, nominated by the Iranian Society of Biochemistry (ISB)

Could you please introduce yourself?
My name is Jamal Amri, and I hold a PhD in Clinical Biochemistry from Tehran University of Medical Sciences. I am currently a member of the Iranian Society of Biochemistry (ISB) and a corresponding member of the IFCC Task Force-Young Scientists (TF-YS). My main research interests include metabolic disorders, cancer biochemistry, and enzymology. I am deeply passionate about advancing laboratory medicine, strengthening international collaboration, and empowering young scientists to contribute effectively to scientific progress.

Could you share a bit about your background?
My academic journey started in medical laboratory sciences and continued through an MSc and a PhD in clinical biochemistry. Throughout these years, I have participated in national and international congresses, published several scientific articles, and authored educational textbooks in my field. I also founded and served as secretary of the Clinical Biochemistry Student Scientific Society at Tehran University, gaining valuable experience in leadership and scientific management. These activities gave me a broad perspective on the educational and professional needs of early career laboratory scientists.

Could you give us a brief introduction to your national society and its main activities?
At present, I am an active member of the Iranian Society of Biochemistry (ISB). Our society plays an important role in promoting education, professional development, and scientific communication among biochemists in Iran. The ISB organizes webinars, national and international congresses, prepares clinical and diagnostic guidelines, and addresses national challenges in laboratory biochemistry. Within the society, I focus on supporting educational programs, collaborative projects, and promoting international partnerships, especially those that strengthen links between young researchers and global scientific communities.

Can you highlight some of the key activities that you had with the IFCC Task Force-Young Scientists?
As a corresponding member of the TF-YS I have actively participated in several webinars and helped promote TF-YS and IFCC activities through social media and the ISB's communication channels. I regularly share news and opportunities with young scientists and encourage wider participation in international discussions and IFCC events. I am committed to expanding cooperation between TF-YS and Iranian young researchers through educational and networking initiatives.

How can YS from your national society get additional information about the activities of the association and activities with the TF-YS?
Young scientists in Iran can access information about IFCC and TF-YS through the Iranian Society of Biochemistry official website and social media pages. I personally manage the circulation of updated news, webinars, and opportunities to ensure that young professionals remain informed about educational and networking programs worldwide.

Is there any future collaborative project of IFCC TF-YS that you want to share with readers of IFCC eNews?
In the upcoming years, I aim to focus my efforts on building international collaboration platforms and educational initiatives to support young laboratory scientists. My first objective is to establish a structured international mentoring program dedicated to quality control, method validation, and

Article continued on the next page

interpretation of laboratory results. This program will connect young scientists with experienced mentors, combining online guidance, interactive workshops, and international congress participation.

Scientific Communication and Publication

By **IFCC TF-YS**

The challenges of scientific communication and publication, while complex, also offer exciting opportunities for growth and innovation. Young researchers may initially struggle with formulating clear research questions, designing robust methodologies, and interpreting results with integrity. Yet, these early difficulties can be addressed by cultivating a well-structured narrative that highlights the significance of findings and maintains clarity and logical flow throughout. The peer-review process, often regarded with apprehension, can be navigated confidently through thoughtful engagement with reviewer feedback and a willingness to revise and refine. Even writer's block, a common barrier, can become an opportunity to explore creative approaches to expressing scientific ideas. Case reports, though sometimes undervalued, play an essential role in advancing medical knowledge by enabling the early identification of new diseases, unusual presentations, and emerging treatment responses. Overall, effective scientific communication demands critical thinking, collaboration, and resilience, empowering researchers to transform challenges into meaningful contributions that shape the evolving landscape of scientific discovery in laboratory medicine.
The IFCC TF-YS Live Webinar on Scientific Communication and Publication, held on 5 November 2025, brought together experts from Hungary, India, Sri Lanka, and Mexico to guide early-career researchers through these principles and practices. Moderated by **Prof. Dr Harjit Bhattoa** (University of Debrecen, Hungary) and **Prof. Dr Kannan Valdyanathan** (Believers Church Medical College, Kerala, India), the session opened with reflections on the global need to strengthen scientific communication skills among young professionals. Their remarks set a thoughtful tone for the event, emphasising both the responsibility and the potential that young scientists carry as the next generation of contributors to global medical research.

Three thematic presentations formed the core of the webinar, each delivering a distinct and complementary perspective. **Dr Udara Dilrukshi Senarathne** (University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka) presented Research Question to Publication, guiding participants through the complete trajectory of research, from conceptualising a question to publishing results. **Dr Ashishkumar Mohanbhai Agravat** (PDU Medical College, Gujarat, India) followed with Scientific Communication for Young Scientists, emphasising clarity, structure, and responsible academic practice. The final session, delivered by **Dr Francisco Josué Carrillo-Ballesteros** (University of Guadalajara, Mexico) and titled From Observation to Discovery, illustrated how well-prepared case reports can act as the crucial starting point for clinical inquiry, offering early insights that ultimately influence medical understanding and practice.

More than 300 participants joined the webinar across multiple time zones, demonstrating the strong engagement of the IFCC Young Scientists network. Together, the speakers reinforced a central message: mastering scientific communication is essential for ensuring that research findings translate into real-world impact.

Session Highlights
To set the foundation for the day's learning, Dr Senarathne framed research as a dynamic and cyclical process rather than a linear one, an ongoing journey that moves through idea generation, questioning, experimentation, analysis, reflection, and ultimately toward refinement and new avenues of inquiry. She emphasised the importance of formulating a strong research question, drawing on the established framework of feasibility, interest, novelty, ethics, and relevance. These elements serve as the bedrock of meaningful, impactful research. She then shifted focus to the role of the literature review, highlighting how it enables researchers to understand existing evidence, identify knowledge gaps, and critically evaluate prior methodologies. Clarity on "what is known" must always precede the pursuit of "what is new."
To support the development of well-structured research questions, Dr Senarathne introduced several methodological frameworks, such as PICO, each suited to different types of research. Practical examples, including one drawn from paediatric thyroid studies, demonstrated how context-specific clinical questions evolve into well-formulated hypotheses. She then explored the importance of rigorous methodology, referencing Douglas Altman's reminder that "poor methods waste good

Article continued on the next page

ideas." Dr Senarathne detailed the components of a strong research proposal, including background, objectives, methods, ethics, anticipated impact, and feasibility, and underscored the value of international reporting standards such as SPIRIT, CONSORT, STROBE, STARD, and TRIPOD. Ethical considerations, including informed consent, data ownership, academic integrity, and transparency, were also highlighted, alongside registries such as ClinicalTrials.gov, ISRCTN, EUCTR, OSF, and PROSPERO. The session concluded by emphasising the inherently collaborative nature of modern research and encouraging young scientists to begin writing and sharing their own scientific stories.
The second session, delivered by Dr Agravat, provided young researchers with a practical and insightful roadmap for navigating the research-to-publication journey. He reiterated the importance of clarity, structure, and strategic communication, noting that the choice between written, oral, or visual formats must be aligned with the audience and purpose. Both formal academic outputs, such as manuscripts, reviews, theses, conference presentations, and grant applications, and public-engagement formats, including blogs and social media, were discussed. A key focus was mastering the IMRaD structure. Dr Agravat offered clear, practical guidance on crafting effective titles and abstracts to enhance discoverability, writing introductions that progress from broad context to specific research questions, ensuring transparency in the Methods section, presenting Results with clarity through tables, figures, and appropriate statistics, and composing balanced Discussions and Conclusions without overstatement. He also addressed journal selection, the importance of indexing in databases such as PubMed, Scopus, and Web of Science, and recognising red flags associated with predatory journals. The session concluded with a detailed overview of the peer-review process, stressing the importance of professional, point-by-point responses to reviewer comments, resilience in the face of rejection, and constructive use of feedback to strengthen manuscripts.
The final session by Dr Carrillo-Ballesteros underscored the vital role that case reports play as the foundation of clinical research. He highlighted the historical significance of case reports, noting that many landmark medical discoveries, and even the identification of specific diseases, began as single, carefully documented clinical observations. Far from being anecdotal, case reports were presented as high-resolution snapshots of unique or unexpected clinical phenomena that fall outside the boundaries of typical presentations. These observations often act as early warning signals for rare diseases, unusual manifestations of common conditions, or previously unrecognised drug interactions. Dr Carrillo-Ballesteros also explained how case reports can inspire further research, including cohort studies and clinical trials, and emphasised their value in medical education, where real-world clinical narratives enhance diagnostic reasoning and decision-making skills for students and trainees.

To maximise the scientific impact of case reports, he provided practical strategies for preparation and publication. These included rigorous documentation, clear clinical histories, precise examination findings, high-quality images, and complete diagnostic workups. He also emphasised the importance of using standardised reporting guidelines, such as CARE, to ensure transparency and completeness. The session concluded with a motivating call to action, encouraging young scientists and laboratory professionals to view their everyday clinical observations not as isolated events but as potential catalysts for broader discovery. By promoting a culture that values and supports the careful reporting of unusual or instructive cases, the medical community can more rapidly share critical information and ultimately improve patient care through earlier recognition and intervention.

On demand content is available at **this link**

Contribute to IFCC eNews

Enhancing wellness through guideline concordant follow-up and treatment for patients with diabetes and chronic kidney disease

The complex interplay between cardiovascular, kidney and metabolic health is increasingly important with aging populations, increased focus on disease prevention and wellness, and the significant clinical impact of each disease on morbidity and mortality. Chronic kidney disease (CKD) in particular is a common complication associated with disease, with opportunities to mitigate adverse outcomes and improve patient overall. At Sanford Health, data suggests that many patients with diabetes were not being monitored and/or screened for kidney disease, based on low levels of urine albumin to creatinine ratio testing. This gap was largely attributed to limited diagnosis and intervention in primary care.

Pictured (from left to right): Rochelle Odenbrett, Andrew Burgard, Christina Lankhorst, Clark Casarella, Elizabeth Montgomery

In response to these gaps, an integrated clinical care team from Sanford Health, in partnership with the National Kidney Foundation (NKF), developed a system to improve CKD testing and diagnosis for people with diabetes through the NKF CKD Change Package. A primary goal was to increase early intervention, including increased such of sodium-glucose cotransporter-2 inhibitors (SGLT2i). Implementation included: 1) laboratory implementation of the NKF-recommended Kidney Profile testing, 2) update of relevant electronic health record (EHR) SmartSets, 3) addition of CKD testing to the EHR health maintenance menu, and 4) easy access to education, tools, and resources for clinicians and patients embedded in the EHR.

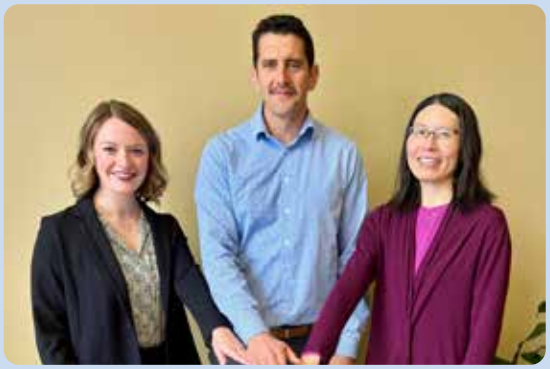
Following a series of continuing medical education webinars to support high-quality implementation, this initiative found that the percentage of people with diabetes receiving guideline concordant CKD testing significantly increased from 38% to 70%. Accordingly, the number of people with laboratory evidence of CKD with an ICD-10 code in their health record rose from 20% to 73%, with corresponding prescriptions of sodium-glucose cotransporter-2 inhibitors (SGLT2i) among people with CKD rising from <2% to 9.6%.

These outcomes highlight the value of laboratory driven care to improve outcomes and mitigate future risks. Based on the outcomes, the integrated clinical care team responsible for this initiative received recognition of Achievement in association with the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award program. Congratulations to Christina Lankhorst, Nephrologist and Enterprise Chair of Nephrology Service Line, Sanford Health, Andrew Burgard, Family Medicine Physician and Enterprise Chair of Primary Care Service Line, Sanford Health, Clark Casarella, Lead Data Scientist, Sanford Health, Rochelle Odenbrett, Vice President, Laboratory, Sanford Health, Elizabeth Montgomery, National VP, Clinical Practice Innovation and Population Health, National Kidney Foundation.

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

Personalizing H. pylori antibiotic therapy for enhanced safety and H. pylori eradication

Antibiotic resistance is a growing global concern, thus, efforts are underway globally to tackle this concern. Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori) is a prevalent, global infectious disease that causes dyspepsia, peptic ulcer disease, and gastric cancer and is recognized as one of the top 10 antibiotic-resistant pathogens of concern by the World Health Organization.



Pictured (from left to right): Rachel Wells, Navid Sadri, Linda C. Cummings

Understanding the importance of accurate diagnosis and treatment for H. pylori, while also balancing the need to minimize antibiotic resistance, an integrated clinical care team at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center,
developed and implemented a cost-effective molecular susceptibility assay to detect resistance-related mutations in H. pylori, thus enabling tailored treatment regimens.

Based on H. pylori antimicrobial susceptibility testing, personalized treatment recommendations using genetic markers of resistance were used to significantly improve patient outcomes, with a more than a 17% increase in eradication success compared to previous empirical treatments. This corresponded to a 4.4-fold increase in success with recommended regimens versus unrecommended treatments. Importantly, antimicrobial susceptibility testing reduced inappropriate antibiotic use by 30%, and reduced rates of no treatment by 55%.

This best practice underscores the value of laboratory leadership and interdisciplinary collaboration to improve patient outcomes. Congratulations to Navid Sadri, Division Chief, Genomic and Molecular Pathology, Linda C. Cummings, Senior Attending Physician, Division of Gastroenterology & Liver Disease, Leila S. Hojat, Physician and Director, Antimicrobial Stewardship, Rachel A. Wells, Operations Coordinator, Ambulatory Pharmacy Services, for unifying for something greater and achieving recognition of Achievement in association with the 2026 UNVAINTS of Healthcare Excellence award. To learn more about this best practice and others, and/or to apply, please visit www.UnivantsHCE.com.

Improved patient experiences and decreased patient length of stay in the emergency department through a multidisciplinary approach

It is no secret that emergency departments around the globe often struggle with capacity and with quickly moving patients through the department. The cause of these struggles are often multi-faceted, requiring solutions that specifically address the complexities of the department and associated long length of stays. Steps associated with increase length of stay (LOS) include patient registration, triage, being placed in a room, being seen by the provider, and a completion of orders, which can include laboratory blood specimens and/or imaging studies and concluding with the review of results and to determine next steps.

Pictured (from left to right): Brian Thomas, Teri Dahn, Chris Zufall, Hites Patel, Gordon Weimer

Recognizing that reducing length of stay for patients in the ED is both important for patient flow and outcomes, an integrated clinical care team from two Banner Health community hospitals launched an initiative to reduce length of stay in the ED, while continuing to provide safe, effective, and quality care to patients, with minimal financial impact.

Using Total Quality Management [define, measure, analyze, improve, implement, innovate, control (DMAI3C)] and Lean principles, departments across Banner Boswell Medical Center and Banner Del E. Webb Medical Center implemented direct patient bedding to bring services to the patient sooner, including phlebotomy. With leadership from laboratory medicine, ED and Quality POCT a new phlebotomy-specific areas in triage was created when direct bedding is not possible, with point-of-care testing also implemented to further expedite testing and results. Through their collaborative efforts there was a 20.2% reduction in patient LOS [from 634 to 506 minutes], attributable to a 23.3% reduction in laboratory specimen turnaround time [i.e. order to result time went from 133 to 102 minutes], 70.4% improvement in door-to-doc times [from 27 to 8 minutes], and a 47.0% reduction in provider disposition to home times [from 41.5 to 22 minutes]. For their efforts, this team received recognition of Achievement in association with the 2025 UNIVANTs of Healthcare Excellence award program. Congratulations to Teri Dahn, Director, Quality Improvement, Brian Thomas, Director, Laboratory, Chris Zufall, Director, Emergency Department, Hites Patel, Emergency Medicine Physician and Medical Director, Emergency Services, Gordon Weimer, Director, Radiology/Imaging.

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News from Regional Federations and Member Societies

Post-CME Report: Biomarkers in Sepsis: Improving Outcomes Through Early Detection

By **Dr Nayab Afzal** and **Dr Hafsa Majid**

Organized by: Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan
Date: 1st October 2025
Mode: Hybrid – Lecture Hall 3, Aga Khan University and Zoom

The CME titled "Biomarkers in Sepsis: Improving Outcomes Through Early Detection" was successfully organized on 1st October, 2025, by the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Aga Khan University (AKU), Karachi. The program highlighted the role of emerging biomarkers in the early detection and management of sepsis, a critical condition associated with high morbidity and mortality. The event brought together physicians, nurses, and laboratory professionals, fostering interdisciplinary collaborations to improve sepsis outcomes.
The session began with a welcome address by Dr. Afia Zafar, Professor of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, AKU, who emphasized the important role of laboratory biomarkers to clinical decision-making for the improved management of sepsis. Dr. Sibtain Ahmed, Assistant Professor of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, AKU, highlighted the role of point-of-care testing (POCT) in clinical settings. He emphasized how rapid, bedside testing of sepsis biomarkers can facilitate timely interventions and improve patient outcomes, particularly in resource-constrained or high-acuity settings.

Next, Dr. Qalab Abbas, Associate Professor and Associate Chief Medical Officer in Paediatrics & Child Health, AKU, touched upon the overall epidemiology of sepsis, the challenges clinicians face and the updated guidelines used for timely diagnosis and management. He emphasized that delayed recognition remains a significant barrier to improving patient outcomes, underlining the urgent need for accessible and reliable biomarkers. Key markers of sepsis including procalcitonin, IL-6, TNF, and lactate, were discussed by Dr. Nayab Afzal, Senior Instructor in Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, AKU, highlighting their diagnostic and prognostic value, and addressing the limitations of current assays in real-world clinical settings. Her talk was followed by case discussion on laboratory perspective of different clinical sepsis scenarios.

Dr. Badar Afzal, Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine, AKU, elaborated on biomarker-guided clinical pathways, providing practical algorithms for integrating biomarker data into early sepsis management strategies. His talk emphasized the translation of laboratory findings into actionable clinical decisions to optimize patient care. The session concluded with a discussion on antibiotic stewardship, presented by Mohammad Zeeshan, Assistant Professor of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine. He outlined how biomarker-guided protocols can help rationalize antibiotic use, reduce overprescribing, and ultimately improve both patient outcomes and antimicrobial resistance patterns. The CME was concluded with closing remarks by Prof. Imran Siddiqui, who reinforced the importance of ongoing education and collaboration between laboratory and clinical teams to implement biomarker-driven strategies for sepsis.

The CME successfully achieved its objectives, equipping participants with knowledge to identify key sepsis biomarkers, evaluate the strengths and limitations of assays, and apply biomarker-guided algorithms in clinical practice. Participants left with actionable insights to enhance early detection and management of sepsis, demonstrating the impact of integrating laboratory expertise with bedside care.

Article continued on the next page

Highlights from the Biomarkers in Sepsis CME

Report from Pakistan Society of Chemical Pathology (PSCP) on the Pre-Conference Webinar: "From Detection to Care: Shaping the Future of Newborn Screening in Pakistan through Allied Health"

Ms **Mahwish Saleem** & **Prof Aysha Habib Khan**

Pakistan Inherited Metabolic Disorders Network (Pak-IMD-Net) of PSCP in collaboration with the Allied Health Education Committee of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (AHEC-PLM) at the Aga Khan University, hosted a pre-conference webinar on October 13, 2025.

Newborn screening (NBS) is a proven public health initiative that enables the early detection and management of congenital disorders, thereby preventing severe disability and mortality. While well-established in many countries, NBS in Pakistan is still in its nascent stages, facing challenges related to infrastructure, policy, and trained human resources. This webinar was strategically designed to bridge this gap by mobilizing the allied health community including laboratory technologists, nurses, audiologists, and counselors for aligning their efforts with national and global priorities set forth by the IFCC-ISNS Global Taskforce.

Held under the esteemed auspices of IFCC, this hybrid event convened leading national and international experts, to illuminate the current landscape, global benchmarks, and practical strategies for integrating comprehensive NBS into Pakistan's healthcare framework, highlighting the role of allied health professionals as the backbone of a sustainable NBS system and to foster a meaningful interdisciplinary dialogue on the need for enhanced collaboration, education, and systemic strengthening.

The two-hour hybrid program, moderated by Ms. Saba Abdul Mateen, in charge of Biochemical Genetics Laboratory at AKU, was structured into scientific presentations and a panel discussion, engaging over 50 live and 100 online participants. Dr. Erum Khan, Chair of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at AKU, delivered the opening remarks, emphasizing on AKU's commitment to advancing laboratory medicine and allied health education as a cornerstone for improving child health in Pakistan.

Dr. Hafsa Majid, Chair Pak-IMD-Net and Director Newborn Screening Programme, set the stage for a comprehensive overview of NBS, covering biochemical, hearing, cardiac, and birth defect screenings, establishing a common understanding for all attendees. Dr. Lena Jafri, founding chair of Pak-IMD-net provided a powerful narrative on "Early Detection Matters," juxtaposing global standards with the local Pakistani context. She compellingly articulated the critical, multi-faceted role that allied health professionals play at every step of the NBS pathway. Dr. George Seyhon, CEO Medlab, shifted the focus on systems integration, discussing strategic models for embedding NBS within national healthcare frameworks, drawing on international best practices from his role at MedLabs Consultancy Group. Dr. Shazia Moosa presented a ground-level perspective, sharing valuable lessons from a facility-based program in Pakistan for screening and counseling newborns with external congenital anomalies, highlighting real-world challenges and successes. Ms. Asna Hasan provided a crucial operational viewpoint, sharing the hands-on experience of establishing and running the NBS lab at the Sindh Institute of Child Health & Neonatology (SICHN), underscoring the practicalities of program implementation.

The presentations were followed by a panel discussion on Strengthening Health Systems through Curriculum, Care, and Collaboration, moderated by Dr. Sibtain Ahmed and Dr. Khadija Humayun. Expert panelists included Dr. Afzal Saeed (Director, Laboratory Services, SICHN), Dr. Bushra Afroze (Metabolic Physician, Pediatrics & Child Health, AKU), Dr. Muhammad Sohail Salat (Neonatologist,

Article continued on the next page

Pediatrics & Child Health, AKU), Dr. Shazia Mohsin (Pediatric Cardiologist, SIUT), and Mr. Waqar Mirza (Director, Clinical Laboratories, AKU). A series of discussions highlighted several overarching recommendations for strengthening newborn screening programs.

First, curriculum development should be informed by real-world clinical scenarios. Unexpected or challenging cases encountered in practice can expose gaps in preparedness, underscoring the need to continually revise training in areas such as palliative care, parent counseling, and the management of complex congenital anomalies. To avoid overburdening existing curricula, a phased, data-driven approach was recommended, beginning with systematic documentation of the prevalence of major conditions and gradually expanding training based on local evidence.

Second, participants emphasized the importance of building resilience within diagnostic pathways. Disruptions in critical laboratory equipment or single-point service dependencies can delay essential test reporting and create uncertainty for both clinicians and families. Programs should therefore consider equipment redundancy, strengthened maintenance systems, and networked laboratory models to ensure continuity of essential diagnostic services.

Finally, sustained success in newborn screening requires strong cross-disciplinary collaboration. Integrating the perspectives of clinicians, laboratorians, educators, and system leaders helps avoid fragmented efforts and ensures a cohesive approach across the entire screening pathway, from education and sample collection to diagnosis, follow-up, and family support. These collective insights reinforce the need for coordinated, adaptable, and resilient systems to support effective newborn screening.

Dr. Aysha Habib Khan, as Co-chair of the IFCC/ISNS Global Taskforce, reaffirmed the collective commitment to advancing newborn screening in Pakistan. She emphasized that newborn screening must be approached as a comprehensive national program, integrating metabolic, cardiac, hearing, and birth-defect screening into one cohesive framework rather than separate, siloed initiatives. Only such an integrated system can ensure timely detection, coordinated care, shared data, and unified workflows across allied health teams. She highlighted three priorities for progress: embedding NBS education in all allied health curricula to build a skilled workforce; establishing seamless, nationally adaptable "screening-to-care" pathways with strong referral, follow-up, and counseling systems; and strengthening interprofessional collaboration among laboratory professionals, clinicians, surgeons, audiologists, geneticists, policymakers, and educators to create a unified national NBS network.

Presentation by dr George Sahyoun

Participants at the Panel discussion: (L-R) Dr Sibtain Ahmed (Moderator), Dr Khadija Humayun (Moderator), Dr Afzaal Saeed, Dr Shazia Mohsin, Dr Bushra Afroz, Dr Sohail Salat, Mr. Waqar Mirza

Presentation by Dr Lena Jafri

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MZ EVENTS

ChemCon 2025: 16th Annual Conference of Chemical Pathology, October 2025, Lahore, Pakistan

Dr Hijab Batool Assistant Prof, Consultant Pathologist, **Dr Sadia Bashir** Resident Chemical Pathology
Chughtai Institute of Pathology, Lahore

ChemCon 2025, the 46th Annual Conference of the Pakistan Association of Pathologists, was held in Lahore from 10th to 13th October 2025 and brought together a diverse group of national and international experts, chemical pathologists, clinicians, scientists and trainees. Building on the legacy of previous ChemCon meetings, including ChemCon 2024, this year's conference further strengthened the academic, research and collaborative foundations of chemical pathology in Pakistan, with a particular emphasis on big data, sustainable laboratory medicine, cardiovascular risk assessment, artificial intelligence and emerging diagnostic technologies.

The conference opened with pre-conference workshops that set a strong scientific and practical tone. The first workshop, "Optimizing PCR in Laboratory Practice: Protocols, Precision, and Pitfalls," conducted by Dr. Sikandar Hayat Khan and Ms. Rijaab Seher, focused on improving analytical performance and troubleshooting in routine molecular diagnostics, a crucial area for laboratories across the country. The second workshop, "Fundamentals of Adaptation of the 12 Principles of Green Chemistry to Laboratory Medicine," led by Prof. John Anetor from Nigeria and Dr. Tayyaba Rashid, highlighted the growing importance of sustainability and environmental responsibility in clinical laboratories, linking scientific quality with ecological stewardship.
The formal scientific proceedings began with a joint session featuring the distinguished foreign speaker, Prof. Tahir Pillay from South Africa, who delivered an insightful lecture on harnessing big data for patient-based real-time quality control (PBRTQC) in developing countries. His talk underlined how laboratories can move beyond traditional internal quality control to data-driven, continuous quality surveillance, even in resource-limited settings. The inaugural ceremony, Razi Lecture and conference dinner that followed, created an atmosphere of academic celebration and collegiality, bringing together senior faculty, early-career pathologists and trainees in an engaging and welcoming environment.

The core scientific program on 11th October was anchored by Chem Path Session 1, chaired by Prof. Farhan Ahmed (UK) with Prof. Aysha Habib as co-chair and moderated by the author of this report, Dr. Hijab Batool. This session featured the Syed Azhar Ahmad Memorial Lecture by Maj Gen (R) Farooq Ahmed Khan, who traced the legacy and transformation of chemical pathology and the Pakistan Society of Chemical Pathologists (PSCP), reflecting on the journey of the specialty in Pakistan. Keynotes by Prof. Tahir Pillay on advances in cardiovascular risk markers, Prof. John Anetor on the scientific and economic benefits of sustainable laboratory medicine, and Prof. Aamir Ijaz on machine learning and generative AI in laboratory medicine, collectively framed the conference's broader theme: laboratories must embrace innovation, digital tools and sustainability to remain central to modern patient care. The distribution of souvenirs at the end of the session acknowledged the contributions of the speakers and organizers.

Subsequent sessions on the same day brought together invited speakers who discussed metabolomics, the future of laboratory diagnostics in the era of artificial intelligence, analytical challenges in drug-of-abuse testing and the potential impact of AI on medical specialties. These talks highlighted how chemical pathology is evolving from traditional analyte-based interpretation to systems-level thinking, integrating omics, data science and clinical decision support. Consultant presentations in Chem Path Session 3 showcased local research on vitamin D and asthma, lipid profiles in cancer, pharmacogenetics, pediatric obesity genetics, high-sensitivity troponin pathways, CRISPR-based innovations and AI adoption among residents. This mix of topics reflected the breadth and depth of ongoing scientific work in Pakistani laboratories.

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The program on 12th October continued to build on this momentum. Chem Path Session 4, chaired by Maj Gen (R) Farooq Ahmed Khan with keynote speaker Prof. Farhan Ahmed (UK), focused on the role of the chemical pathologist in kidney stone management, emphasizing the importance of biochemical evaluation, metabolic profiling and long-term preventive strategies. Consultant-led presentations covered thalassemia-related liver enzyme abnormalities, optimization of newborn screening services, microRNA-based diagnostics, competency-based education for technologists, perceptions of AI in medical education, lipid disorders and advanced quality management tools such as Six Sigma, illustrating how chemical pathology intersects with hematology, pediatrics, cardiology, nephrology and education.

Free paper sessions by postgraduate residents offered a valuable platform for young researchers to present original work on MAFLD biomarkers, turnaround time benchmarking for high-sensitivity troponin, population reference values for pepsinogen, analysis of critical alert values, AI-supported prevention of laboratory errors, bone status indices in chronic kidney disease, sepsis biomarkers such as procalcitonin, diagnostic accuracy of HE4 in endometrial carcinoma, vitamin D deficiency in breast cancer and futuristic concepts such as AI-driven nanobots in diagnostics. Parallel poster sessions and prize distribution further recognized and encouraged research productivity among trainees and early-career professionals.

The corporate and industry-linked Chem Path Session 6 provided a forum where participants interacted with representatives from diagnostic companies presenting on quality enhancement, tuberculosis diagnostics and innovations in clinical chemistry automation. This integration of academic content with corporate innovation strengthened the bridge between laboratories, industry and technology providers and helped attendees stay abreast of rapidly evolving platforms and solutions.

The conference formally concluded with a closing ceremony and award presentations, followed by a post-conference workshop on 13th October titled “From Sample to Pattern: Mastering Protein Electrophoresis,” conducted by Prof. Farhan Ahmed and Dr. Hijab Batool. This workshop focused on practical interpretation of protein electrophoresis patterns, monoclonal protein identification and the clinical correlation of electrophoretic findings, reinforcing one of the core competencies of chemical pathologists.

Overall, ChemCon 2025 can be regarded as a highly successful academic, scientific and professional event that significantly contributed to the advancement of chemical pathology in Pakistan. It combined rigorous scientific content, exposure to cutting-edge technologies, emphasis on sustainability and artificial intelligence, and strong engagement of trainees through free papers and posters. The presence of international experts added a global perspective, while the active participation of local faculty and residents demonstrated the growing strength of the specialty within the country

ChemCon 2025 was intellectually stimulating and professionally rewarding for the Pakistani Society of Chemical Pathologists. The conference not only enhanced knowledge and skills but also fostered collaboration, mentorship, and a shared vision for the future of chemical pathology. I am grateful to the organizers, speakers, sponsors, and participants for their efforts in making ChemCon 2025 a memorable and impactful event.

Bioanalysis as Science and Vocation of Service

Reflections by **Professor Rita Solís** before the Dominican College of Bioanalysts

The address delivered by Professor Rita Solís before the Dominican College of Bioanalysts (CODOBIO) stands as a profound reflection on the role of the bioanalyst in the contemporary society. From a comprehensive perspective—human, scientific, and ethical—the speaker presents seven thematic axes that examine the social value of bioanalysis, technological innovation, artificial intelligence, continuing education, legal aspects, professional unity, and the moral commitment that sustains this noble vocation.

From her opening words, Prof. Rita Solís establishes a tone of humility and gratitude. She thanks God, the source of wisdom and strength, for allowing her to address her colleagues with responsibility and dedication. She acknowledges the support of key figures such as Prof. Ivoon Inver, Director of the National Laboratory, and Prof. Modesta De la Cruz, former President of the College, as well as the encouragement of active members, retirees, and institutional authorities. This introduction, is filled with gratitude and respect.

1. The social value of bioanalysis
Professor Solís reaffirms that bioanalysis is, above all, a science in service to life. Beyond its technical dimension, it represents an ethical and human commitment to public health. Behind every accurate diagnosis or effective treatment lies the meticulous and often unseen work of Dominican bioanalysts who perform their duties with precision, integrity, and unwavering principles.

2. Innovation and technological transformation
The second section explores the challenges and opportunities of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, characterized by the convergence of the physical, digital, and biological realms. Prof. Rita Solís highlights how automation, molecular biology, telemedicine, and the digitalization of clinical records have reshaped the practice of bioanalysis. She invites her colleagues to embrace innovation with openness and critical thinking, reminding them that true progress must always uphold human dignity and serve the well-being of society.

3. Artificial Intelligence applied to bioanalysis.
Prof. Solís discusses the emergence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) as an increasingly present tool in modern laboratories. Capable of processing vast data sets and identifying epidemiological patterns, AI offers immense potential to enhance analytical efficiency. Nevertheless, she cautions that its adoption raises important ethical and legal considerations. Confidentiality, patient privacy, and professional autonomy must remain non-negotiable values. “AI may assist the bioanalyst,” she states, “but it can never replace.”

4. Continuing education:
The foundation of professional growth, scientific knowledge, evolves at a rapid pace; therefore, lifelong learning is an ethical and professional duty. The Dominican College of Bioanalysts plays a crucial role in fostering excellence through continuing education—offering diplomas, graduate programs, and certifications that strengthen technical and scientific standards. Yet, education should also embrace ethical formation, justice, respect for the patient, and social responsibility. Only a professional committed to ongoing education can ensure quality and trust.

5. Legal framework and professional defense.
Professor Solís underscores the importance of Law No. 92-05, which established the Dominican College of Bioanalysts, as the legal cornerstone that grants recognition and protection to the profession. This law not only legitimizes bioanalytical practice but also safeguards the labor and ethical rights of those who serve within it. She points out the challenges of occupational intrusion, the need for updated regulations to address new technologies, and the pursuit of fair and safe working conditions.

Article continued on the next page

6. Professional unity:
Prof. Solís emphasizes that unity is the essential pillar of collective success. The Dominican College of Bioanalysts is not merely an administrative institution—it is the shared home of all professionals in the field. A divided voice is weak, but a united one can achieve historic milestones. Unity, she asserts, must be built upon four guiding principles: ethics, integrity, justice, and respect. Only through these values can the College remain strong, respected, and representative of its members.

7. An Inspiring Closing
The speech culminates with a message of hope and deep commitment. Prof. Rita Solís reminds the audience that the future of Dominican bioanalysis lies in the hands of its professionals, who are called to honor the legacy of previous generations with excellence, ethics, and responsible innovation. Finally, she reaffirms the value of Law 92-05 as the foundation for the institutional recognition of bioanalysis and invites the professionals to strengthen unity, fairness, and service.

Prof. Rita Solia CODOBIO President

Prof. Rita Solis during the speech ath the inauguration of the Board of Directors

CODOBIO Board of Directors

European Lab Community: Celebrating a Year of Value and Vision

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

As the festive season approaches and the year draws to a close, the European community of laboratory professionals is bustling with activities. This period marks a significant transition in leadership as **Prof. Mario Plebani** concludes his mandate as President of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM). Looking back on the past two years, Prof. Plebani reflects on the significant changes in EFLM structure, especially on the formation of the new EFLM functional unit - the Committee on "Value-Score for Clinical Laboratories" - which represents a step toward promoting value-based laboratory medicine across the continent. More on the activities during his mandate and important reflections and messages for laboratory medicine professionals can be found here.

The EFLM and the European Society of Radiology (ESR) have officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding to foster collaboration and the implementation of integrative diagnostics that promote a patient-centric approach. The vision behind this partnership is further explored in an insightful interview featuring **Regina Beets-Tan** of the ESR and the Scientific Director of EIBIR, and Joe Lennerz, Chair of the EFLM Committee on Integrative Diagnostics.

The prestigious Walter Guder Preanalytical Award, sponsored by BD, has been presented to **Emel Çolak Samsum** and colleagues from Türkiye. Their winning study, "Comparison of lipemia interference created with native lipemic material and intravenous lipid emulsion in emergency laboratory tests," was published in Biochemia Medica, highlighting how native lipemia and intravenous lipid emulsions interfere with clinical chemistry and coagulation parameters. Continuing on the path of awards, both **Prof. Plebani** and **Prof. Dr. Klaus Kohse** have recently received international recognition for their contributions to the field.

The exchange of staff and knowledge remains a cornerstone of EFLM. The EFLM LabX program is in full swing, recently facilitating the exchange of two laboratory professionals who spent valuable time gaining experience in foreign laboratories. The European community united to celebrate **European Laboratory Day** on November 5th. With participation from over 20 countries, the event was a testament to our shared passion. The reflection on the celebration and the video can be found here. Additionally, the mission of EFLM to stay green is reflected in the recommendation of 4 simple steps to be more sustainable in your lab.

Educational opportunities continue to flourish, with numerous events available to those who join the EFLM Academy. The energy of the young generations is palpable, as young scientists from the Balkan countries gathered in Romania for the meeting of the Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation and the 16th National Conference of the Romanian Association of Laboratory Medicine. Additionally, National Societies across Europe have hosted a multitude of congresses and courses throughout October and November.

As we look back on a productive year, the entire EFLM community extends its warmest wishes for the holidays and a healthy, happy, and truly "labtastic" New Year.

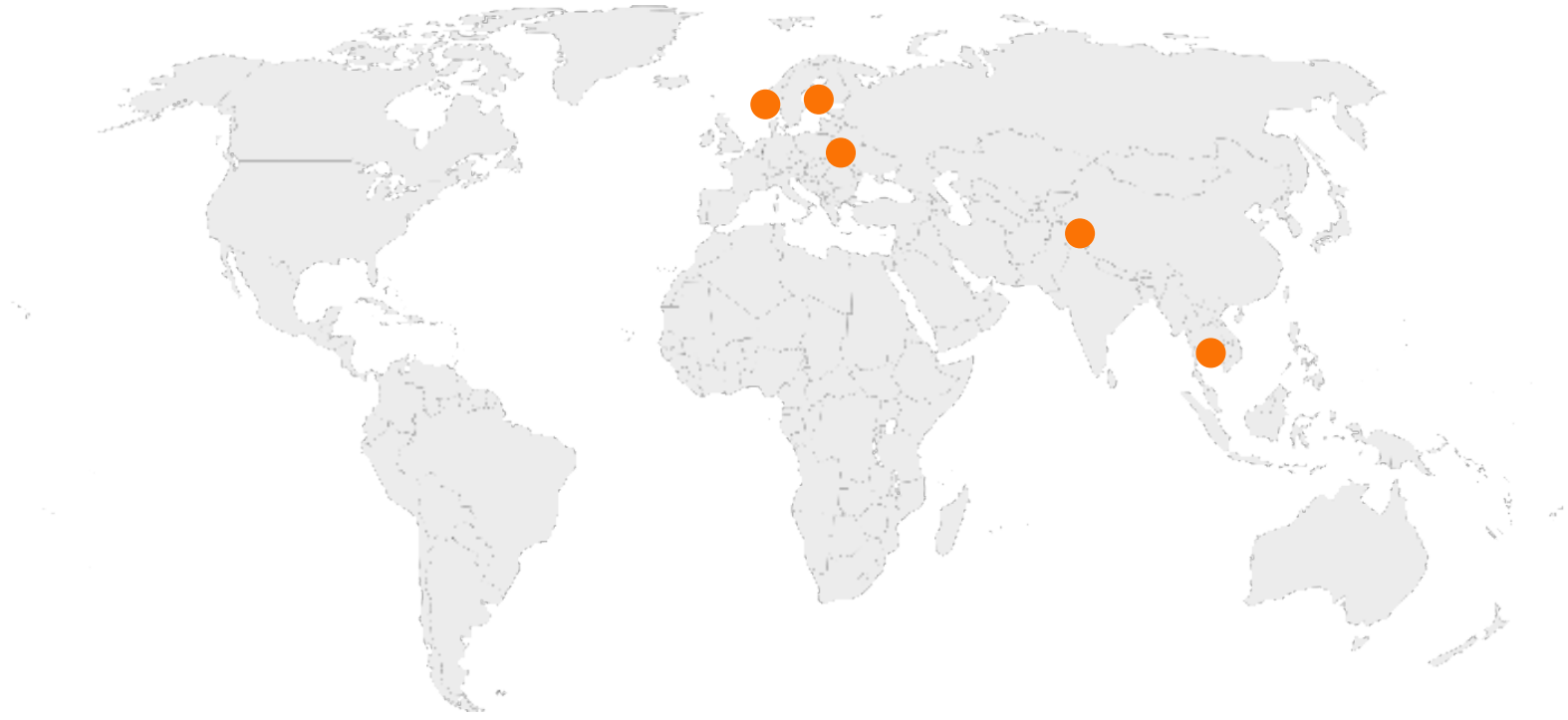
IFCC's Calendar of Congresses, Conferences & Events

IFCC and Regional Federation Events			
Date		Title	Place
Oct 25 - 30, 2026		XXVII IFCC WORLDLAB 2026	New Delhi, IN
May 16-20, 2027		XXVII IFCC-EFLM EUROMEDLAB 2027	London, UK
Oct 7 - 11, 2026		XXVII COLABIOCLI 2026	Santa Cruz, BO
Oct 10 - 13, 2027		APFCB 2027 KUALA LUMPUR	Kuala Lumpur, MY
Date to be announced		XXVIII IFCC WORLDLAB 2028 - Date to be announced	Buenos Aires, AR

Article continued on the next page

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
Dec 14, 2025	International Symposium on Laboratory Medicine	SNIBE, Shenzen, P.R:. China
Dec 23, 2025	DiagHub 9th Session: Microbiology	Zybio, Online event

Other events with IFCC auspices
Click here



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