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International Federation of Clinical Chemistry
and Laboratory Medicine

Communications and Publications Division (CPD) of the IFCC
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Editorial

Marilena Stamouli,
eNews Editor

Dear colleagues,
It is with great pleasure that we welcome the new Regional Representatives to the IFCC Executive Board: Tomáš Zima, representing the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, and Myrna Germanos, representing the Arab Federation of Clinical Biology. Moreover, we extend a warm welcome to the new Chairs of the IFCC functional units and we express our gratitude and appreciation to those who have concluded their tenure in office.

In this issue, our President Prof. Tomris Ozben gives us valuable information about important IFCC meetings that ensure continuity of IFCC projects and initiatives, as well as will further strengthen the role of the IFCC as a global reference point in the field of laboratory medicine. She also invites us to to register and participate in the XXVII IFCC WorldLab Congress, which will be held on 25-29 October 2026 in New Delhi, and will bring together healthcare professionals from all over the world.

The IFCC Awards Committee calls for nominations for the IFCC Distinguished Awards that will be presented at the IFCC WorldLab Congress New Delhi in October 2026. The closing date for receipt of nominations is 31 March 2026.

In this issue you can read an interview of Professor Nader Rifai, IFCC President-Elect, and meet Dr. Dusanka Kasapic, Corporate Representative for the IFCC Education and Management Division. You can also read about remarkable facts and remarks of the General Conference of IFCC, held in Bruges, Belgium, on May 16 and 17, 2025, which constituted a key strategic forum for the IFCC leadership, scientific leaders, representatives of full and affiliated member societies, regional federations, and corporate partners, greatly enhancing networking and fruitful collaboration among them. Important news form the IFCC Committee on Mobile Health and Bioengineering in Laboratory Medicine, the IFCC–ISNS Joint Task Force on Global Newborn Screening, the IFCC WG-Ibero-American Nomenclature and Translations, the IFCC Committee on Clinical Application of Cardiac Bio-Markers and the IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Programme, are also included in this issue, highlighting their professional excellence, expertise, continuous development, innovation within complex healthcare environments, as well as their commitment on improving patient outcomes by the implementation of cutting edge technologies.

News from the member societies of Germany, Türkyie, Bolivia and Japan, confirm the commitment of these societies for high-performance, leadership and outstanding professional work. COLABIOCLI share with us their experience from ISO 15189 accreditation, thus showcasing their strong commitment to apply continuous improvement principles and to deliver high-quality medical laboratory services.

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UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award program, awards integrated clinical care teams who achieve measurably improvements in healthcare. Applications are accepted from August the 1st through November the 15th, 2026.

Under the theme “A Day at the Lab,” the IFCC Global Med Lab Week 2026 will be celebrated from April 20–26, 2026 and will underscore the significant contribution of the medical laboratory community to disease diagnosis, monitoring, prevention and follow-up. We eagerly await your submissions until no later than March 14, 2026.

Marilena Stamouli

The voice of IFCC

IFCC President's Message

March 2026
By **Tomris Ozben**

Prof. Tomris Ozben
EuSpLM, Ph.D.

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

With the year now well underway, I hope you have all smoothly settled into 2026 and that the months ahead will be marked by progress, collaboration, and new opportunities.

I would like to begin with an important update and, with great pleasure, welcome the newly elected Regional Representatives to the IFCC Executive Board: **Tomáš Zima**, representing EFLM (European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine), and **Myrna Germanos**, representing AFCB (Arab Federation of Clinical Biology).

The first in-person meeting of the Executive Board will take place in Milan from 16 to 17 March 2026. This meeting will provide a valuable opportunity to engage with the new Board members and to reflect together on how IFCC can further strengthen its role as a global reference point in the field of laboratory medicine.

Our discussions will be enriched by presentations from the Chairs of IFCC Divisions, Task Forces, and Functional Units, who have delivered concise reports highlighting key priorities, achievements, and challenges within their respective areas. These insights will help guide us in identifying the most effective strategies to advance IFCC's mission.

It is also my great pleasure to invite you to register and participate in the **XXVII IFCC WorldLab Congress, New Delhi (25-29 October 2026)**, one of the most influential global congresses in laboratory medicine.

The WorldLab 2026, hosted in New Delhi by the **Association of Clinical Biochemists of India**, is expected to attract a large and highly focused international audience from the Asia–Pacific region as well as from all five IFCC Regional Federations. The Congress will bring together laboratory professionals, clinicians, researchers, and healthcare decision-makers, offering an exceptional platform for scientific exchange, collaboration, and global engagement.

I am also pleased to inform you that visa arrangements have been carefully planned and coordinated by MZ Events in close collaboration with local authorities to ensure smooth participation for IVD companies, exhibitors, and all international attendees.

I would like to kindly remind you that the **deadline for abstract submission is 15 May 2026**, and **reduced registration fees will be available until 15 July 2026.**

As in previous editions, the WorldLab 2026 will host the **IFCC Young Scientist Forum**, with scholarships provided to support the participation of early-career professionals. This initiative offers a unique opportunity

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for young scientists to engage with leading experts, share knowledge and expertise, and benefit from extensive networking within an international and multidisciplinary environment, including interactions with major industry representatives.

IFCC Council meeting will be held on **Sunday, October 25, 2026**, with the participation of the Presidents/National Representatives of IFCC Full (104) and Affiliate Member Societies (26), as well as Corporate Member Representatives. IFCC Executive Board, Chairs and Members of IFCC Functional Units look forward to meeting with IFCC Council Members to report on activities carried out since the last Council meeting held during the XXVI WorldLab Congress in Dubai in 2024, and to discuss expectations and emerging challenges in laboratory medicine.

Furthermore, the **IFCC Handbook** is currently under preparation and will be officially presented at WorldLab New Delhi. The Handbook will cover the past three years, providing a comprehensive overview of IFCC's organization, activities, and achievements.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that the call for bids to host **EuroMedLab 2029** has been officially launched, with a submission deadline of **31 March 2026**. We are confident that numerous high-quality proposals will be submitted by the European Societies of IFCC. This year, the process includes an important update: the EuroMedLab Guidelines have been revised and confirmed through close collaboration between the EFLM and IFCC Presidents and Executive Boards, working together with the shared goal of further strengthening the quality, impact, and global success of the Congress.

Together, through collaboration, innovation, and shared commitment, we will continue to advance laboratory medicine worldwide for the benefit of patients and healthcare systems.

Warm regards,
Prof. **Tomris Ozben**
IFCC President

Advancing Digital Transformation in Lab Medicine: The Strategic Leadership of the IFCC C-MHBLM

By **B. Gouget (FR),** IFCC ETD-EC liaison to C-MHBLM**, J. Nichols (US),** chair IFCC C-MHBLM, and **L. Abdel Wareth** (UAE)**, A. Ganguly** (IN)**, J. Rytkonen** (FI)**, E. Saatci** (TR)**, C MHBLM members**

The IFCC Committee on Mobile Health and Bioengineering in Laboratory Medicine (C-MHBLM) continues to demonstrate strong international leadership in shaping the future of digital health and its integration into laboratory medicine. Operating within the IFCC Emerging Technologies Division (ETD), the committee plays a strategic role in aligning technological innovation with clinical practice, healthcare system transformation, and patient-centered care.

Mobile health (mHealth) technologies are rapidly redefining healthcare delivery by enabling continuous monitoring, real-time clinical insights, and improved patient engagement. Through its multidisciplinary expertise, the C-MHBLM actively promotes the integration of patient-generated health data into clinical workflows, supports interoperability across digital health ecosystems, and encourages the safe adoption of innovative diagnostic technologies.

The committee's recent work highlights the growing impact of wearable devices, including smartwatches and continuous monitoring tools, in preventive medicine, chronic disease management, and decentralized care pathways. By addressing challenges related to data reliability, standardization, cybersecurity, and regulatory frameworks, the C-MHBLM is contributing to building a trusted digital health environment where laboratory medicine remains central to quality patient care.

In 2025, the committee significantly strengthened its global visibility through high-impact scientific contributions and international outreach. A key publication released in eJIFCC examined the expanding role of wearable technologies in healthcare, emphasizing their potential to improve patient empowerment, enable real-time monitoring, and support more personalized, data-driven clinical decision-making. This work reflects the committee's commitment to translating innovation into clinically meaningful and safe practice.

The dynamism of the C-MHBLM is further illustrated by its extensive participation in major international scientific congresses across multiple regions. Under the leadership and active involvement of its members, the committee has delivered a broad range of high-level scientific presentations addressing key priorities for the future of laboratory medicine.

At ADLM (Chicago), presentations focused on improving laboratory analysis and continuous glucose monitoring quality to optimize diabetes therapy, demonstrating how digital tools can enhance clinical outcomes. At the Next Generation Diagnostics Meeting in Washington, DC, recommendations were presented on integrating patient-generated health data from mobile devices into electronic health records, an essential step toward fully connected healthcare systems.

Prof James Nichols, C-MHBLM Chair and dr Bernard Gouget, ETD EC liaison

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Global engagement extended across Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. At the International Congress of the Lebanese Syndicate of Clinical Chemists, the committee highlighted the transition from One Health to One Digital Health, illustrating the convergence of digital technologies with global health strategies. During the Moroccan Clinical Biology Days, emerging challenges related to artificial intelligence and cybersecurity in clinical laboratories were addressed, emphasizing the importance of governance and resilience in the digital era.

At the WASPaLM and ACBICON meeting in India, innovations in microfluidics and Lab-on-a-Chip technologies were presented, demonstrating how portable and multiplexed diagnostics are reshaping access to precision medicine. These innovations support decentralized testing models and extend laboratory expertise beyond traditional settings.

The inaugural Emirates Clinical Chemistry Society and Digital Health & Laboratory Medicine Forum in Dubai represented another major milestone. Multiple C-MHBLM members contributed to sessions covering AI-enabled diagnostics, interoperability, chronic disease management, and the future of digital healthcare ecosystems. The event also reinforced collaboration across international societies and strengthened IFCC leadership in digital transformation.

Further global engagement included participation in Innova-Med (China), where the evolution of mHealth as a bridge between patients and providers was presented, and at the Saudi Society for Clinical Chemistry annual meeting, where discussions addressed artificial intelligence reliability and quality considerations in laboratory environments.

Education and knowledge dissemination remain central to the committee's mission. The IFCC C-MHBLM international webinar on recent developments in continuous glucose monitoring and mobile health devices provided a global platform for knowledge exchange and reinforced the committee's role as a trusted source of expertise in emerging technologies.

Through these coordinated scientific, educational, and strategic initiatives, the C-MHBLM acts as a key innovation catalyst within the IFCC Emerging Technologies Division. Its work directly contributes to improving organization of care pathways, enabling remote and decentralized monitoring, and supporting precision medicine approaches across diverse healthcare systems.

As digital health continues to transform global healthcare delivery, the C-MHBLM remains at the forefront of ensuring that mobile technologies are implemented with quality, safety, ethics, interoperability, and clinical relevance. By fostering multidisciplinary collaboration and promoting evidence-based innovation, the committee is strengthening the international visibility of IFCC leadership in the digital transformation of laboratory medicine.

Looking ahead, the continued engagement of C-MHBLM members across scientific forums, educational initiatives, and international partnerships positions the committee as a strategic driver of innovation within IFCC. Its sustained commitment to advancing mobile health, bioengineering, and digital integration will play a decisive role in shaping more connected, efficient, and patient-centered healthcare systems worldwide.

Update on IFCC–ISNS Joint Task Force on Global Newborn Screening

Reported by **Prof. Aysha Habib Khan** and J**im Bonham** on behalf of the Task Force

Newborn screening (NBS) represents one of the most impactful public health achievements of the past century, enabling the early detection of congenital and metabolic disorders that can otherwise lead to severe disability or death. Despite its proven effectiveness, access to newborn screening remains profoundly inequitable. While global NBS activity has expanded steadily over the past six decades, from early pilot programs in the 1960s to approximately 40 million newborns screened annually by 2024; this still represents only about 30% of global births. Millions of infants, particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), continue to lack access even the most basic screening services.

In response to this gap, the Global Task Force on Newborn Screening (TF NBS) was formally established in 2021 through a partnership between the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) and the International Society for Neonatal Screening (ISNS). The Task Force was created to support the development, expansion, and long-term sustainability of newborn screening programs in countries where services are limited, fragmented, or not yet established.

The establishment of TF NBS reflects growing international recognition of the critical role of early detection of conditions such as congenital hypothyroidism (CH), sickle cell disease (SCD), and other disorders in reducing preventable infant morbidity and mortality. In many LMICs, these conditions remain major contributors to childhood illness and death. This urgency has been further reinforced by the World Health Organization's increasing focus on newborn health, including its 2022 recommendations supporting universal screening for hearing loss, eye abnormalities, and hyperbilirubinemia.

The Task Force operates with a mandate to identify, support, and partner with countries that are ready to introduce or strengthen newborn screening. Its approach emphasizes contextual appropriateness and sustainability, ensuring that programs are aligned with local needs, infrastructure, and health system capacity. Through advocacy, training, partnerships, and the development of sustainable screening frameworks, the Task Force aims to ensure that the life-saving benefits of newborn screening reach all children, regardless of geography or economic context.

Objective criteria have been developed to prioritize countries for engagement, and early field activities commenced in 2023. Initial engagements included South Africa, the Dominican Republic, and Romania, settings with substantial unmet screening needs. In Africa, the Task Force has supported Algeria's progress toward establishing a newborn screening program, with a pilot planned for 2025, and strengthened policymaker engagement in Nigeria through targeted workshops. In the Asia–Pacific region, the Task Force is supporting Pakistan and Nepal in planning national newborn screening committees, with technical input from UNICEF and WHO, while encouraging emerging initiatives in Bangladesh and Kazakhstan, including development of dried blood spot biobanking.

In Latin America, the Task Force contributed to progress in Dominican Republic and supported Nicaragua and Paraguay as they expanded screening capacity and test panels. In Europe, engagement with Bulgaria and Georgia supported expansion of screening panels and long-term planning, while in Romania national commitments were renewed following in-country consultations.

To strengthen global collaboration, the Task Force proposed the establishment of regional communities of practice, aligned with IFCC regional federations and ISNS networks. This initiative aims to promote regional ownership, enhance capacity building, and improve data sharing. The IFCC Executive Council responded positively, with further discussions planned into 2026. Cross-committee collaboration within IFCC, particularly with the Point-of-Care Testing Committee and the Committee on Publications and Communications, is underway to support innovation and increase visibility of newborn screening activities. Members were also encouraged to contribute to scientific publications and to participate in International Neonatal Screening Day held each year on 28th June.

Looking ahead, key priorities include strengthening partnerships in the Dominican Republic, Kenya, and Algeria, as well as expanding engagement of Young Scientists, increasing publication outputs to enhance global visibility, and establishing a dedicated publication working group. A follow-up Task Force meeting is planned for early 2026.

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The Task Force also contributed to the organization of the WHA77 side event in Geneva, which provided a platform for engaging a broad range of organizations and individuals committed to newborn screening. This event supported the development of a consensus statement on NBS, launched on International Neonatal Screening Day, and promoted shared language and understanding to underpin future collaboration. Through alignment with organizations such as CLAN, IPA, and others, IFCC and ISNS continue to contribute to the global movement advocating that no child is left behind and that laboratory medicine is recognized as essential to child health rights. The Task Force remains actively engaged with WHO in the development of the forthcoming WHO Framework on Newborn Screening, expected for release in March. Through technical input and ongoing dialogue, Task Force members have supported a broader, integrated definition of newborn screening that includes biochemical testing, congenital anomalies, and early public health interventions, as well as system-level considerations such as early family engagement and linkage with national health programs.

As part of its broader coordination role, the Task Force contributes to the International Development Co-ordination Group (IDCG), an informal, multi-stakeholder collaborative platform established to support the global advancement of newborn screening. The IDCG was created in response to the increasing number of organizations working in this field and the wide variation in programming maturity and resources across countries. It provides a structured forum for coordination and dialogue, without acting as an implementing or governing body.

The primary objective of the IDCG is to facilitate information sharing, coordination, and alignment among organizations engaged in newborn screening. Through regular exchanges, the Group promotes learning from collective experience, reduces duplication of effort, and encourages collaboration and efficient use of resources.

The IDCG brings together a diverse range of international, public health, professional, and patient-focused organizations, with ISNS as leading the activity, alongside IFCC, WHO, APHL, CDC, ADLM, IPOPI, Metabolic Support UK, MetabERN, GPED, and other global and regional stakeholders. Together, the IDCG serves as a shared global forum to strengthen coordination and advance equitable newborn screening worldwide.

Through coordinated advocacy, technical support, and partnership-driven action, the IFCC–ISNS Joint Task Force remains committed to advancing a shared global vision in which every newborn, regardless of geography or economic context, has access to timely and life-saving screening services. The December 2025 Task Force meeting reaffirmed growing global momentum behind newborn screening and underscored the importance of close collaboration with the World Health Organization. The Task Force remains committed to supporting countries at all stages of NBS development through advocacy, capacity building, technical support, and data strengthening to advance equitable access to life-saving early detection worldwide.

IFCC-ISNS Global Task Force on Newborn Screening at 26th IFCC-EFLM EUROMEDLAB Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine

The IFCC–ISNS Joint Task Force will continue to focus on consolidating progress by strengthening country-level implementation and government ownership of newborn screening programs, particularly in LMICs. Priority areas include expanding capacity building and workforce development, supporting regional communities of practice, strengthening data systems and sustainability of the ISNS World Map, and increasing engagement of Young Scientists. Close collaboration with the WHO and global advocacy partners will continue to align efforts with emerging policy frameworks and promote integration of newborn screening into national child health strategies, with the overarching goal of ensuring equitable access to life-saving screening for every newborn worldwide.

IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Programme: My Experience at the Medical Laboratory Department of the University Hospital Arnau de Vilanova de Lleida, Spain

By: **Nguyen Thi Trinh**, PGY-3 Resident
Hanoi Medical University, Viet Nam

Topic:
- Routine Clinical Biochemistry especially in pre-analytics
- Laboratory Quality Control, according to ISO 9001 and ISO 15189 standards

Host Institution: University Hospital Arnau de Vilanova de Lleida, Spain
Supervisor: Mercè Ibarz, PhD
Duration of the Program: 1st December 2025 to 31st January 2026

I am deeply grateful to the IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Programme (PSEP) for providing me with the opportunity to participate in this valuable training experience. This programme has been one of the most meaningful and enriching milestones in my academic and professional journey.

During the two-month exchange, I had the opportunity to follow a structured training schedule that allowed me to gain both theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience. In the first week, I familiarized myself with the laboratory's operational procedures, daily routines, and core responsibilities, which gave me a solid understanding of the workflow and organizational structure. I observed how different sections of the laboratory coordinate with one another, as well as how tasks are allocated and supervised to ensure efficiency and quality. This initial orientation period allowed me to understand the standard operating procedures (SOPs), quality control measures, and safety regulations implemented in the laboratory. It also provided valuable insight into the communication process between laboratory staff and clinicians, highlighting the importance of accuracy, timeliness, and interdisciplinary collaboration in delivering reliable diagnostic results.

The following two weeks focused on Quality Management and the pre-analytical phase, during which I gained deeper insight into quality control frameworks and laboratory accreditation standards. I learned about the responsibilities assigned at each stage of the testing process, from sample collection and transportation to registration and preparation for analysis. Particular attention was given to common pre-analytical errors, such as improper sample handling, labeling inaccuracies, and delays in processing, as these factors can significantly affect test reliability. I also explored practical strategies to minimize such errors, including standardized protocols, staff training, effective communication with clinical departments, and continuous monitoring through internal quality indicators. This experience strengthened my understanding of the critical role that quality management plays in ensuring accurate and dependable laboratory results.Under the dedicated guidance of Dr. Larocca Gonzales, I was able to gain valuable practical experience in the management of pre-analytical errors, as she is a specialist in this field. Her detailed explanations and real-case discussions greatly improved my understanding of error identification, prevention strategies, and the importance of systematic monitoring in daily laboratory practice.

In the subsequent two weeks, I received hands-on training in performing Internal Quality Control (IQC) and External Quality Assessment (EQA) for selected laboratory tests. This experience allowed me to identify practical challenges, discuss potential solutions with mentors, and strengthen my problem-solving skills. The next two weeks were dedicated to Laboratory Standards and Compliance, particularly ISO 15189, where I learned methods to maintain and fulfill international quality standards. During the final week, I reflected on all the knowledge and skills acquired and engaged in knowledge exchange with laboratory colleagues, proposing recommendations to enhance quality management in both the host institution and my home laboratory in Vietnam.

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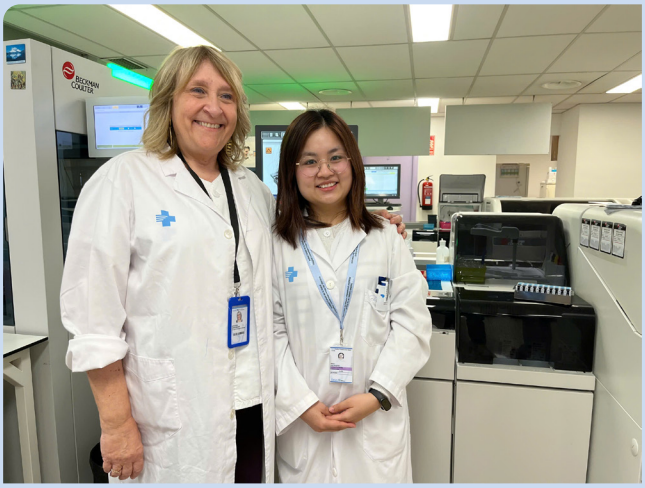
Beyond technical skills, this programme has been an unforgettable personal and professional experience. Working in an international environment allowed me to improve my communication, observe exemplary teamwork, and witness the application of high-standard laboratory practices firsthand. The guidance and support of the laboratory staff have inspired me greatly, and the opportunity to contribute and learn within such a professional setting has strengthened my motivation to pursue a career in laboratory medicine.

Overall, the IFCC PEP has significantly enhanced my professional development and provided valuable insights that will directly benefit my work in Vietnam. I sincerely appreciate the support of IFCC, the host institution, and all individuals who made this experience possible. In particular, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my supervisor, Mercè Ibarz, PhD, for her dedicated guidance, encouragement, and continuous support throughout the program. I am also profoundly thankful to Associate Professor Pham Thien Ngoc, PhD, for kindly introducing me to the laboratory and for his trust and support, which made this valuable opportunity possible. I will carry these lessons with me throughout my future career and am truly grateful for the opportunity to grow both scientifically and personally.



Merce Ibarz, PhD, and me, at the Medical Laboratory Department, University Hospital Arnau de Vilanova de Lleida, Spain

Participation in daily routine laboratory activities with colleagues at the Medical Laboratory Department during the IFCC Professional Exchange Programme

Dr. Larocca Gonzales and me after a discussion on pre-analytical error management

IFCC Distinguished Awards Call for Nominations

Presidents and National Representatives of the IFCC Full Member Societies
Presidents and National Representatives of the IFCC Affiliate Member Societies

As you are aware, the IFCC confers several Distinguished Awards to scientists and clinicians who work in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine or related disciplines. These Awards are the highest honours that our Federation can bestow to colleagues worldwide, recognizing their outstanding achievements, highlighting their exceptional research and other contributions that have improved medical practice and healthcare, and inspiring and encouraging other scientists to accelerate their efforts in advancing clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine.

On behalf of IFCC and its Awards Committee, I am pleased to call for nominations for the following IFCC Distinguished Awards for presentation at the IFCC WorldLab Congress in October 2026, New Delhi (India):

1. IFCC Howard Morris Distinguished Clinical Chemist Award (since 2020) (formerly the IFCC Distinguished Clinical Chemist Award (1967- 2017).
2. IFCC Award for Significant Contributions in Molecular Diagnostics.
3. IFCC Distinguished Award for Laboratory Medicine and Patient Care.
4. IFCC-Robert Shaffer Award for Outstanding Achievements in the Development of Standards for Use in Laboratory Medicine.
5. IFCC-Gérard Siest Young Scientist Award for Distinguished Contributions in Pharmacogenetics (under 40 years of age).
6. IFCC Distinguished Woman Scientist Award for Contributions to In Vitro Diagnostics.

Nominations are welcome from the President or National Representative of the nominees' national society, which should be a member of the IFCC.

Each nomination should contain:
1) a statement outlining the reasons for nomination;
2) a full CV of the nominees including a bibliography;
3) optional letters of support.
For the IFCC-Gérard Siest Award Young Scientist Award for Distinguished Contributions in Pharmacogenetics, please also include a passport or government-issued ID as proof of age.

Above documents should be sent to Silvia Colli Lanzi, IFCC office (colli-lanzi@ifcc.org).

Each country/society can only nominate candidates for a maximum of two awards. This rule helps ensure better distribution of awards to scientists from various regions around the world.

The closing date for receipt of nominations is 31 March 2026.

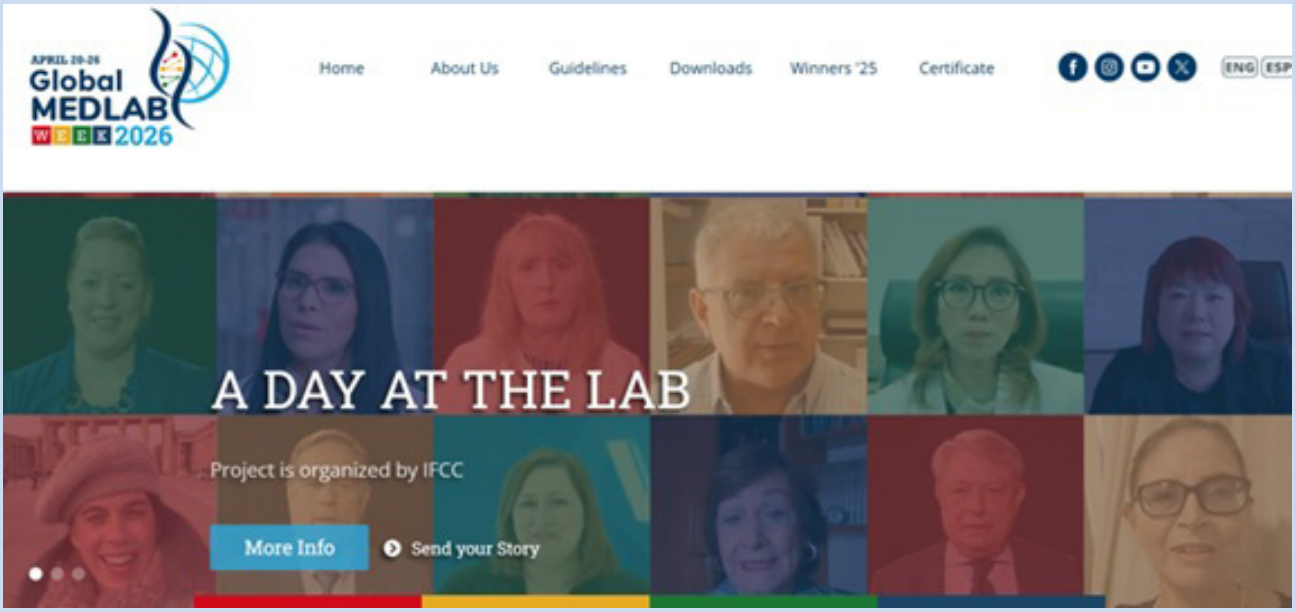
Please do not hesitate to write to Silvia Colli Lanzi or me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Khosrow Adeli
Chair, IFCC Awards Committee

IFCC GLOBAL MED LAB WEEK 2026
"A Day at the Lab" April 20–26, 2026

By: Dr. BQF. **María Pasquel-Moxley,** Chair, Committee on Public Relations (C-PR)



Making the Invisible Visible: A Global Call to Laboratory Professionals

In clinical laboratories around the world, critical medical decisions are shaped every minute. Behind each validated result lies scientific rigor, ethical responsibility, quality assurance, and an unwavering commitment to patient safety. Yet much of this essential work remains unseen.

The IFCC Global Med Lab Week 2026 (GMLW 2026), to be held from April 20 to 26, 2026, offers a unique international platform to highlight the indispensable contribution of laboratory medicine to healthcare systems worldwide. Under the theme "A Day at the Lab," this initiative seeks to demonstrate how daily laboratory practice directly influences diagnosis, therapeutic monitoring, disease prevention, and clinical follow-up.

This program is more than a celebration. It is a global invitation to communicate, educate, and inspire.

International Call for Submissions
Laboratory professionals across all disciplines — including clinical chemistry, hematology, microbiology, molecular biology, genetics, newborn screening, and related specialties — are invited to share their experience of a typical day in the laboratory.

Submissions may be presented as:
- Audio recordings (to be finalized by IFCC as official podcasts)
- Videos
- Photographs
- Short greeting messages (non-competitive)

Entries wishing to compete for global recognition must be submitted no later than March 14, 2026. Winners will be announced during the first week of April 2026. Submissions received after the deadline may be shared on IFCC social media platforms but will not enter the official evaluation process.

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Evaluation Framework: Transparency and Excellence
To ensure fairness and uphold high standards of scientific communication, all competitive submissions will be evaluated according to structured scoring criteria, with a maximum total score of 100 points per category.

Evaluation Criteria – Podcasts - See here the related guidelines:
- English version here
- Spanish version here

Evaluation Criteria – Videos - See here the related guidelines:
- English version here
- Spanish version here

Evaluation Criteria – Photos - See here the related guidelines:
- English version here
- Spanish version here

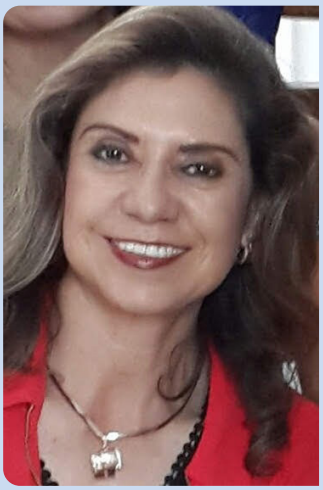
Send to:
elisa.fossati@ifcc.org
gmlw@gmlw.org
More information: https://gmlw.org/

KEY DATES
Deadline for submitting audio, video, and photos for the contest: **March 14, 2026.**
Announcement of winners: First week of April 2026.
GMLW Celebration: April 20–26, 2026.

A Collective Professional Commitment
The IFCC Committee on Public Relations (C-PR), in collaboration with the IFCC global community, the Task Force of Young Scientists (TF-YS), and the Task Force on Newborn Screening (TF-NBS), is honored to lead this initiative.

We extend our sincere appreciation to IFCC President Prof. Tomris Ozben and to the Chair of the Communications and Publications Division (CPD), Prof. Harjit Pal Bhattoa, for their support.

The clinical laboratory is not an invisible space — it is the scientific heart of modern medicine. Let us share our daily work with the world and demonstrate its transformative impact on patient care. We look forward to your contributions.



María Pasquel-Moxley

Prof. Tomris Ozben, invited to participate in this new edition of IFCC-GMLW2026, https://gmlw.org/

New Podcasts from the IFCC Committee on Clinical Application of Cardiac Bio-Markers

Three new podcasts have become available from the IFCC Committee on Clinical Application of Cardiac Bio-Markers. In these podcasts Dr Louise Cullen is interviewing Dr Ola Hammarsten who is a medical doctor and clinical chemist from Sahlgrenska Academy at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden, and Saara Wittfooth who is associate professor at the University of Turku in Finland. Prof. Hammarsten's work spans from mechanistic studies of troponin release and clearance, assay interference and reference limit derivation whilst Associate Professor Wittfooth's research activities are related to the development of highly sensitive novel immunoassays for long forms of cardiac troponin T and cardiac troponin autoantibodies / macrotroponin. Both experts have published extensively within the field and have broadened our knowledge by not only focusing on development of new analytical techniques but also the application of these assays in diverse clinical settings. Both assays and clinical applications will be discussed in this educational podcast (https://eacademy.ifcc.org/lessons/prof-hammarsten-and-dr-wittfooth-interference-on-troponin-assays/), and we do invite you all to listen carefully and engage in this highly interesting and rapidly developing field.
In the "Meet the experts - podcast" Dr Hammarsten (https://eacademy.ifcc.org/lessons/doctor-ola-hammarsten/) and associate professor Wittfooth (https://eacademy.ifcc.org/lessons/doctor-saara-wittfooth/) talk about how they entered the field of cardiac biomarkers, why the field is found fascinating and rewarding, and how novel assays may facilitate improvement in patient care. The podcasts are rounded up with some advices for young researchers and are also discussing future challenges and opportunities in the field of novel assay development.

Prof. Ola Hammarsten, MD, PhD, Professor of Clinical Chemistry at the Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg, and Senior Physician at Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Sweden. He is also Conjoint Professor at Newcastle University, Australia

Saara Wittfooth, Associate Professor and Vice Department Head at the Department of Life Technologies at the University of Turku, Finland

IFCC: the people

Advancing Global Laboratory Medicine: A Conversation with Professor Nader Rifai

President-Elect, International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC)

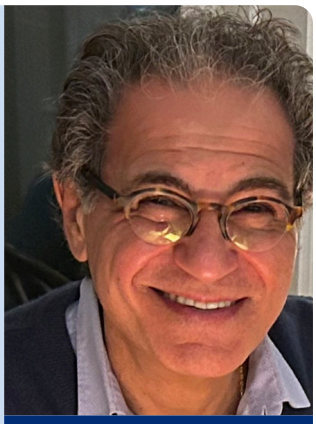
Professional Profile
Professor Nader Rifai, PhD, is an internationally recognized leader in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine. He serves as Professor of Pathology at Harvard Medical School and Director of Clinical Chemistry at Boston Children's Hospital in the United States. Over the course of his distinguished career, Professor Rifai has made substantial contributions to cardiovascular biomarker research, assay standardization, and the advancement of evidence-based laboratory practice.

His research has focused extensively on biomarkers of cardiovascular disease and the clinical application of emerging laboratory technologies. In parallel with his scientific work, he has demonstrated a profound commitment to education and global knowledge dissemination, particularly through innovative e-learning initiatives and digital educational platforms.

Professor Rifai has been actively engaged in numerous national and international scientific organizations. Within the IFCC, his service spans several decades and multiple divisions, including standardization committees, the Scientific Division, and more recently, the Education and Management Division. His leadership reflects both deep scientific expertise and a strategic vision for the future of laboratory medicine worldwide.

Interview

Could you please share with us some of your experiences from your past activities in IFCC?
I started getting involved in IFCC in the early 1990's through the standardization activities, a main focus of the organization at the time. During that period, enzymes, specific proteins, apolipoproteins and lipoprotein(a) [Lp(a)] assays were being standardized. I believe it was one of the most impactful activities of the IFCC. Initially, I was peripherally involved in the standardization of apolipoprotein assays but then served, as a member, on the Lp(a) standardization committee. It was a fantastic group of smart but opinionated individuals with strong personalities (Photo 1). So, the meetings were lively with long, and often difficult, discussions. However, due to the fact that they were all excellent scientists who believed in data and reason, the group always managed to reach a consensus. We were successful in our effort and even managed to become friends. In early 2000's, I served on the Scientific Division with great scientists like Ulf-Håkan Stenman, Mauro Panteghini and Ian Young. Most recently, I had been involved with the Education and Management Division, working with wonderful and talented people (Photo 2). Again, it was an enjoyable and special experience that also enabled me to develop a better understanding of the complexity and sophistication of the organization at large.



Prof. Nader Rifai, PhD
IFCC President-Elect

Dra. BQF, Maria Pasquel-Moxley
C-PR Chair/Member GW-IANT/CPD

Article continued on the next page

2. Could you please tell us which of these experiences you consider as the most important one(s) and for what reason?
That is a difficult question to answer, like asking someone who is your favorite child? Actually, all were unique and positive experiences. Yet, if I were to choose one, I would say Lp(a) standardization. The reasons are: first, it was my first true experience working for the IFCC, an organization I long admired; second, as a then young scientist, I was fortunate to be part of a team that included people whose work I studied, like Kåre Berg, the discoverer of Lp(a), and Gert Kostner, who set up the clinical cut-points for interpretating this analyte; and third, unlike other groups that dealt with many topics and activities, here we focused intensely on a single issue. So, there was a great opportunity to learn from each other and continuously argue to determine the best path to move forward.

3. What are your goals for IFCC now that you hold such a high position in this leading global federation of laboratory medicine?
My goals for the coming years touch several fundamental aspects of our field. To strengthen the practice of laboratory medicine, I will work on making the organization a leader in developing and implementing applications of novel digital technologies. I will also continue to promote the IFCC's standardization and harmonization activities with the ultimate goal of their implementation in routine clinical practice; this can be accomplished by working closely with the IVD industry. For education and training, I will aim to modernize IFCC's approach through novel technologies such AI, promote contemporary learning concepts such as personalized education, and create multi-lingual educational materials. In addition, as young scientists are our future, I will promote their integration within the structure of the IFCC so they will start getting the experience needed to become leaders. To increase the visibility of laboratory medicine, I will strengthen relationship with both clinical societies and regulatory agencies as well as the IVD industry to better promote the profession and the IFCC. These are just some of the highlights of what I wish to accomplish during my tenure.

4. What would be your message and invitation to the thousands of readers of this journal, especially to the young colleagues who are part of IFCC?
I urge everyone reading this article to be involved; the organization is as good as its volunteers. The IFCC needs people at all levels and experiences. It is incredible what you can learn by working with good and smart people. Not only you will be contributing to the advancement of the profession, but you will find the experience rewarding.

My advice to the young scientists is, do not wait for the perfect opportunity. Just get involved. People will get to know you and when you do a good job, they will remember you and recommend you for more interesting opportunities. At least, this is how I started and it worked well for me.

Meeting of the Lp(a) standardization group in Leipzig, Germany (April, 1995). Left to right, Jill Tate (AU), Rémy Couderc (FR), Nader Rifai (US), Francesco Dati (DE), Armin Steinmetz (DE), Gert Kostner (AT), Ikunosuke Sakurabayashi (JP), and Kåre Berg (NO)

The executive committee of the Education and Management Division, 2023. Left to right Tomáš Zima (CZ), Silvia Cardinale (IFCC), Nader Rifai (US), Sedef Yenice (TR), Vanessa Steenkamp (ZA), André Ziegler (CH)

Article continued on the next page

We extend our sincere gratitude to Professor Nader Rifai for his generosity, openness, and willingness to share his professional journey, vision, and commitment to the global laboratory medicine community.
His leadership, experience, and forward-looking perspective on innovation, education, and harmonization will undoubtedly strengthen the IFCC at a pivotal moment for our profession.
We wish him every success in this distinguished and highly responsible role as President of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine. We are confident that his tenure will leave a lasting and meaningful impact on the advancement of laboratory medicine worldwide.

Welcome and thanks to the Chairs

The IFCC extends a warm welcome to the new Chairs of its functional units while expressing gratitude to those who have concluded their tenure in office. We present here a first group of IFCC Chairs who began their time in office in 2026.

Education and Management Division (EMD)
Welcome to the new Chair, **Prof. Vanessa Steenkamp** (South Africa) and thanks for his commitment to **Prof. Nader Rifai** (US), who led the Division until December 2025 and on 1st January 2026 began his mandate as IFCC President Elect until December 2026.

Professor Vanessa Steenkamp received her PhD in Clinical Chemistry from the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. She took up a position in the Department of Pharmacology in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Pretoria, where she headed the Phytopharmacology Unit and later served as Head of Department. Her research interests include traditional herbal medicine and toxicology, with a particular focus on pre-clinical drug development. She has held the position of President of both the South African Association of Clinical Chemistry and the Federation of South African Societies of Pathology and was the inaugural President of the African Federation of Clinical Chemistry - a Regional Federation of the IFCC. She is currently the Deputy Dean of Teaching and Learning in the Faculty of Health Sciences, responsible for leading and coordinating the Faculty's academic teaching mission.She is deeply committed to mentorship, actively guiding and supporting students and early-career academics. Despite her senior leadership role, she remains research-intensive and has supervised 78 postgraduate students, published 194 scholarly outputs, and contributed to more than 350 conference presentations. Based on her publication record, innovations, leadership roles, and contributions to society, she has been elected a Fellow of the Academy of Science of South Africa and the African Academy of Sciences.

Prof. Vanessa Steenkamp, new Chair of the Education and Management Division (EMD)

Prof Nader Rifai who served as Chair of the Division from January 2021 to December 2025

Committee on Clinical Laboratory Management (C-CLM)
Welcome to the new Chair, Prof. Annalise Zemlin (South Africa) and thanks for his commitment to Prof. Praveen Sharma (India), who led the Committee for two terms, from January 2020 to December 2025.

Prof. Annalise Zemlin is Head of Division of Chemical Pathology (National Health Laboratory Service and Stellenbosch University) at Tygerberg Hospital, Cape Town. She received her MBChB degree in 1989 from Stellenbosch University. After some years in emergency medicine, she changed direction and specialised in Chemical Pathology, receiving her FCPath (Chem) in 2003, MMed (Chem Path) in 2004 and PhD in 2016 (all at Stellenbosch University).

Her research interests are Laboratory Management and Operational Research, Point of Care Testing, Evidence-Based Laboratory Medicine, Diabetes Mellitus and Cardiovascular Disease. She is past chair and now consultant for the IFCC C-EBLM, corresponding member of the IFCC C-POCT and consultant for the IFCC C-EUBD. She is involved in module and curriculum development, training

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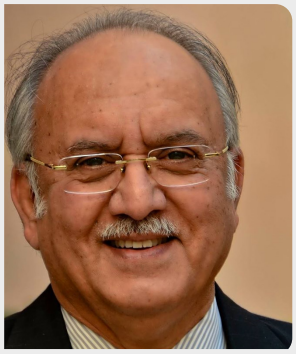
of undergraduate students, teaching and supervising of postgraduate students, and is module coordinator of the Laboratory Management Module in Pathology. This module is presented to all senior pathology registrars in South Africa. She has an interest in the extra-analytical phases of laboratory testing and the use of laboratory audits as quality improvement tools to add value to laboratory medicine. She has performed numerous laboratory audits both in South Africa and in Africa and has over 80 peer-reviewed publications. She is a founder member of the College of Pathologists of East, Central and Southern Africa which was founded in Kampala, Uganda in 2010.

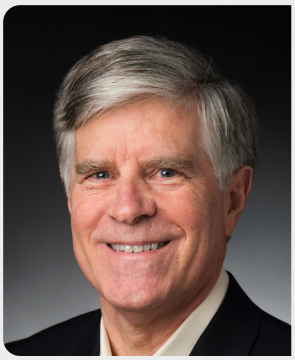
Prof. Annalise Zemlin, New Chair of the Committee on Clinical Laboratory Management (C-CLM)



Prof. Praveen Sharma, who served as chair of the Committee for two terms, from January 2020 to December 2025.

Working Group on Standardisation of Albumin Assay in Urine (WG-SAU) - in collaboration with NIDDK

Welcome to the new Chair, Prof. **Greg Miller** (US) and thanks for his commitment to Prof. **Jesse Seegmiller** (US), who led the Working Group for two terms, from January 2020 to December 2025. **Greg Miller**, PhD, is a Professor in the Pathology Department at Virginia Commonwealth University where he serves as Co-Director of Clinical Chemistry and Director of Pathology Information Systems. He is an active contributor to several national and international groups for standardization and harmonization of laboratory results. He was appointed as Chair of the IFCC Working Group for Standardization of Albumin in Urine in 2026 which has collaborated since 2008 with the NIDDK Laboratory Working Group which Dr. Miller also chairs. The joint working group has collaborated with producers of certified reference materials and reference measurement procedures to develop higher-order references for urine albumin listed by JCTLM. Collaborating IVD Manufacturers will begin implementing metrological traceability of urine albumin measurement procedures to these higher-order references in 2027. Dr. Miller is a past-president of the Association for Diagnostic Laboratory Medicine (formerly AACC) and of the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute.



Prof. Greg Miller, new Chair of the IFCC Working Group on Standardisation of Albumin Assay in Urine (WG-SAU) - in collaboration with NIDDK

Dr Jesse Seegmiller, who led the Working Group for two terms, from January 2020 to December 2025.

Article continued on the next page

Task Force for Young Scientists

Welcome to the new Chair, **Dr Marie Lenski** (FR) and thanks for his commitment to **Dr. Santiago Fares Taie** (AR), who led the Task Force for two terms, from January 2020 to December 2025.

Dr. Marie Lenski is a young specialist in laboratory medicine. She works at the Toxicology Laboratory of Lille, France, contributing to activities related to therapeutic drug monitoring, emergency toxicology, addiction medicine, and laboratory quality managment.

Her main research interests include clinical and biological toxicology, mass spectrometry, and the development of new analytical methods, particularly for evaluating the impact of the chemical environment on health. To this end, she specialized in metabolomics and has been a member of the IFCC Working Group on Metabolomics (WG-M) since 2021.

She is a member of the French Society of Laboratory Medicine (SFBC, Société Française de Biologie Clinique) and a member of the Young Scientists group of the International Francophone Federation of Laboratory Medicine (FIFBCML, Fédération Internationale Francophone de Biologie Clinique et de Médecine de Laboratoire). Since 2015 (EuroMedLab Paris), she has been an active member of the IFCC Task Force – Young Scientists (IFCC TF-YS). From 2023 to 2025, she served as a core member of the IFCC TF-YS, having previously been the french corresponding member for the SFBC.

Dr Marie Lenski, new Chair of the Task Force for Young Scientists

Dr Santiago Fares Taie, who led the Task Force for two terms, from January 2020 to December 2025.

Voices of our Corporate Members

Spotlight on IFCC Corporate Members
Meet Dr. Dusanka Kasapic, Corporate Representative for the IFCC Education and Management Division

Dr. Dusanka Kasapic, Corporate Representative for the IFCC Education and Management Division

How long have you been associated with IFCC?
My association with the IFCC is long-standing, marked by participation in discussions on TSH harmonization and FT4 standardization topics. More recently, I have been directly involved with the IFCC as a member of the Education and Management Division (EMD) since January 2025.

What inspires you to get more involved?
What truly inspires me is the possibility to actively support the educational initiatives of the IFCC and to engage in professional exchange with colleagues.

Three IFCC programmes are particularly noteworthy in this regard:
1. The IFCC Visiting Lecturer Programme (VLP), that facilitates international education exchange which significantly enhances worldwide education and collaboration in the field.
2. The Professional Scientific Exchange Programme (PSEP) that aims to exchange or develop high level scientific information or skills. It facilitates temporary placements for focused scientific exchange, aiming to share cutting-edge information and develop sophisticated laboratory skills unavailable in a scientist's home institution. PSEP elevates scientific standards and capabilities in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine worldwide.
3. Additionally, it is great to discuss further developments of the adaptive e-learning programme, designed for certification preparation, competency assessment, and continuing medical education.

What do you like most about your involvement with IFCC?
I most enjoy the direct strategic engagement with the IFCC's mission, specifically within the Education and Management Division. As a corporate member, I have a voice in initiating and supporting projects that directly influence the future of clinical laboratory practice and diagnostic strategies globally. It's an honor to sit alongside top international experts, fostering the kind of high-level collaboration needed to strengthen healthcare delivery worldwide and ensure the profession remains aligned with evolving global needs. This ability to contribute to truly impactful educational and managerial solutions and programs is incredibly rewarding. Of course, I also value the chance to learn, share my experiences, and provide input, using my specific knowledge and expertise to help achieve the organization's goals.

What advice do you have for other Corporate Members?
Involvement is the key to progress. While membership provides access to vast opportunities, active engagement is essential to maximize your impact. Get involved and join a working group or committee that matches your area of expertise.

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Is there anything else you would like to add before we close this interview?
We must actively advocate for continuous developments that leverage cutting-edge technology to improve diagnostic accuracy, speed, and accessibility worldwide. Simultaneously, it is essential to enhance the understanding of laboratory medicine's immense value—positioning it not as a hidden service, but as the foundational element of all effective healthcare decisions and patient pathways. Finally, we have a responsibility to make the profession attractive for new generations by highlighting its global impact, scientific rigor, and pivotal role in shaping public health. By investing in education and showcasing the transformative power of our field, we can ensure the talent pipeline remains strong and vibrant.

Contribute to IFCC eNews

Spotlighting valued clinical algorithms for measurably better health outcomes

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With the advent of clinical decision support technologies and artificial intelligence, algorithms for decision-making in clinical are growing in need, popularity and complexity. Insights from laboratory medicine are not only essential for enabling and informing diagnostic and treatment decisions but can be foundational in the development and deployment of novel algorithms. Laboratory medicine driven algorithms can serve to 1) standardize care, 2) strengthen adherence to guidelines, 3) mitigate errors, 4) drive operational efficiencies, while 5) improving patient outcomes.

The development and implementation of laboratory medicine-guided algorithms often requires collaboration across disciplines, with input from clinicians, laboratorians, administrators, informatics teams and more. Unsurprisingly, the value of collaborative algorithm development can lead to substantial value for patients, clinicians, health systems and payors. Since inception, the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence program has recognized 85 best practices for their laboratory enabled outcomes, with many involving impressive and valued algorithms. Standout examples exist across many disease states, including liver, kidney and heart disease.

An integrated clinical care team from Scotland, designed and implemented the intelligent liver function test (iLFT) to enable early identification and treatment of liver disease. Through implementation of strategic, real-time reflexive testing, combined with clinical data to provide diagnostic, investigatory and management plans are generated and tailored to each patient. Following implementation, there was a 59% increase in appropriate investigations for patients with abnormal liver function tests (LFTs) and a corresponding 52% increase in the likelihood of a correct and timely liver dysfunction diagnosis. Implementation of iLFT had a low incremental cost-effectiveness ratio of £284 per correct diagnosis, highlighting its cost-effective nature.

Another strong example of laboratory enabled algorithms include an integrated clinical care team from Germany. This team recognized that acute kidney injury (AKI) was a common occurrence in-hospital admissions, with an in-hospital mortality rate between 20-25%. Thus, this team implemented a delta-creatinine guided alert system according to KDIGO guidelines. Treating physicians and nephrologists were informed of any clinically significant changes through their accelerated detection and treatment pathway (ADTP), enabling nephrologist-optimized treatment recommendations. Following implementation, the e-alert identified 4.5% of all in-hospital patients with previously undetected AKI, enabling treatment and follow-up, with AKI complications reduced by 50%.

Lastly, a multi-disciplinary team from New Zealand sought to improve patient flow through the emergency department (ED) through the development and implementation of a high-sensitivity cardiac troponin (hscTn)-guided accelerated diagnostic protocol. This need was especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic when resource utilization was high and exposure to pathogens was very deadly. Using MACE-guided (major adverse cardiac events) prediction models, implementation of this ADP enabled a 55% increase in patients safely ruled-out for a heart attack using a single troponin. This enabled a 45% and 35% increase in the total number of patients safely sent home with 2 and 3 hours of presentation, respectively, and a 24% reduction in hospital admissions for patients who ultimately were not diagnosed with a heat attack.

These valued clinical algorithms have direct and measurable impact of patient care, while also enabling health system-efficiencies. Interested in learning more about these impressive algorithms and teams, please visit www.UnivantsHCE.com. If you have implemented clinical algorithms into practice with measurable outcomes, consider sharing best practice by applying to the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award program. Applications are accepted from Aug 1st through Nov 15th.

– PATIENTS –

61% INCREASE
in the diagnosis of previously undetected HCV-infections[1]

80% REDUCTION
in patient wait times[2]

– CLINICIANS –

11% INCREASE
in clinical satisfaction[3]

100% INCREASE
of surveyed clinicians had increased decision confidence through use of the nodule risk model for risk stratification[4]

– PAYORS –

19,109,800
Kenyan Shilling in recovered revenue per half annum[5]

€250K
in mitigated costs and procedures[6]

– ADMINISTRATION –

5-FOLD REDUCTION
in medical errors with laboratory led point-of-care program[7]

$80K
of incremental revenue over 3 years[8]

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1. University of Alabama Birmingham Hospital, 2020. 2. Nova Scotia Health, 2020. 3. St. Petersburg Hospital Number Two, 2020. 4. The First Affiliated Hospital of Sun Yat-sen University, 2020. 5. Aga Khan University Hospital, 2020. 6. Hospital Clínico San Carlos, 2020. 7. Aga Khan University Hospital, 2020. 8. Seirei Hamamatsu HP, 2020.

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IFCC General Conference Bruges 2025 at a glance after a period of reflection

By: **Agustina Chávez Pilon**[1], **Julián Verona**[2], and **Nilda E. Fink**[1,3]

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[2]Servicio de Laboratorio, Hospital de Balcarce "Dr. Felipe A. Fossati." Buenos Aires, Argentina.
[3]Programa de Estímulos para el Avance de las Ciencias de Laboratorio Clínico (PROES). Fundación Bioquímica Argentina. Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The General Conference of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) was held in Bruges, Belgium, on May 16 and 17, 2025. This biennial meeting — the sixteenth since its establishment in 1981 — constituted a key strategic forum for IFCC leaders, scientific leaders, representatives of full and affiliated member societies, regional federations, and corporate partners, bringing together more than 200 participants. IFCC Officers, leading scientists, representatives from Full and Affiliate Member Societies, Regional Federations, and Corporate Members were all gathered in one place. The presence of thought leaders in diagnostics, digital health, in vitro technologies, and medical innovation, as well as esteemed representatives from European Commission, MedTech Europe, the World Health Organization, JCTLM, and the Global Diagnostics Alliance, and others, brought new perspectives and direction to our commitments and reinforced the transformative power of partnerships. It was a unique opportunity to share progress, exchange expertise, and define the priorities that will drive the next era of Laboratory Medicine.

The inspiring theme of **the Meeting of Minds Conference** was **"Connecting Science, Health and Innovation: The Future Flows Like Water,"** emphasizing the need to build interdisciplinary links, transform data into relevant clinical decisions, and drive innovation for meaningful impact. This message invites the community to maintain flexibility, adaptability, and resilience to face the constantly evolving healthcare landscape.

IFCC President, Prof. Ozben addressed in her opening talk that the frontier of diagnostics from scientific breakthroughs to practical implementation will be explored throughout the conference, and that the way technology, data, and design converge to improve outcomes and elevate patient care will be examined. In interactive sessions and open forums, the following topics were questioned:

- What challenges most urgently demand our attention?
- Where can innovation have the greatest impact?
- How can we better align global efforts to serve patients effectively?
- And what legacy do we, as a community, wish to build?

Prof. Ozben said that these are not easy questions, but this was an opportunity to answer them. She concluded her talk stating that together, we would challenge assumptions, break silos, and translate bold ideas into strategic action. She thanked all the participants for their time, their insight, and their unwavering dedication to excellence in science and service to humanity, as well as for their presence, which is a testament to the strength, diversity, and vision of the IFCC.

The General Conference held in Bruges served as an essential platform to analyze the current situation of the discipline, addressing its most urgent challenges, and identifying future innovations. The future plans of the IFCC Divisions, Task Forces and Regional Federations, the outlook for the In Vitro Diagnostics (IVD) Industry and its Partnerships, and the Management of Laboratory Errors, Patient Safety, Traceability and Sustainability were the primary thematic areas of the Conference. The conference was structured into 7 main presentation sessions, featuring approximately 46 unique speakers. Its central purpose was the discussion and strategic planning of laboratory medicine at a global scale. The sessions included:

- Welcoming and presentations of the IFCC President, Secretary, Treasurer and CM Representative;
- Current activities and future plans of the 6 IFCC Regional Federations;

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- Current activities and future plans of IFCC Divisions;
- Current activities and future plans of IFCC Task Forces;
- An interactive session dedicated to the IFCC Corporate Members, featuring speakers/ discussants from different IVD companies who discussed two important topics: 1."Where is the in vitro diagnostic industry headed in the next decade? 2. "A partnership model for the efficient integration and adoption of emerging technologies and innovations in the IVD landscape into medical laboratories";
- This session focused on laboratory errors and strategies developed by IFCC and WHO to improve diagnostic tests and patient safety. The revised WHO Model List of Essential In Vitro Diagnostics Tests, Standardization and Harmonization of Laboratory Tests in the Traceability Era, Accurate Results for Patient Care through Metrological Traceability, How to Improve Availability of Affordable Clinical Chemistry Testing in Developing Countries, as well as Sustainability and Innovative Payment Schemes, including updates, current realities, and emerging trends, were discussed and featured the participation of European Commissioner for Health, Experts in Laboratory Errors and Patient Safety, and Representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO), JCTLM and BIPM.

  The Strategic Planning Session – Integrating Feedback into IFCC's Future. Networking on the Platform, was an open discussion platform about the latest trends, challenges and opportunities being faced and how IFCC should plan to adapt and implement strategies to respond to the needs. The following topics were discussed with the audience:

  - New Vision, New Trends, and Strategies for Cost-effective and Clinically Effective Laboratory Services– Enhancing the Value of Laboratory Testing. How will today's trends define tomorrow's laboratory medicine? perspectives for the next decade
  - What are the main opportunities and challenges faced by the clinical laboratories?
  - What changes or improvements are projected for the near future of laboratory medicine in your country/region

A central theme emerging from the deliberations was the progressive transition from a volume- to a value-driven paradigm in laboratory medicine. This evolution means that success can no longer be defined merely by the number of tests performed, but rather by the extent to which laboratory information contributes to clinically relevant decision-making, improves patient outcomes and supports efficient and responsible healthcare delivery.

While we embrace a value-oriented framework, it must not diminish the foundational mandate of our discipline. Analytical accuracy, precision, and scientific rigor remain non-negotiable. Ensuring reliability through robust systems of traceability and harmonization is essential to diagnostic quality and patient safety. Above all, this approach must not obscure our primary identity: the production of accurate and precise results. Our analytical integrity is the cornerstone of diagnosis and therapy. We remain committed to unwavering rigor, mitigating bias and eliminating errors to ensure clinical clarity. Accuracy and precision are—and will always be—our guiding principles.

The adoption of a value-based laboratory medicine model requires the incorporation of bioethical principles in every facet of our practice. This means adopting a broader perspective and an active commitment to equity and justice. We cannot ignore the profound inequalities and access problems affecting laboratory services in many regions of the world, particularly in marginalized settings such as several countries on the African continent.

A focal point of the deliberations at this General Conference was the final validation of the IFCC Strategic Action Plans for the 2024–2026 period. These plans can be articulated around nine strategic blocks (Fig. 1):

1. Governance, Strategy and Alliances
2. Global Quality and Standardization
3. Ethics and Professional Conduct
4. Global Public Health Programs
5. Innovation and Emerging Technologies
6. Global Education

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7. Young Scientists
8. Sustainability and Green Laboratories
9. Innovation for Low-Resource Settings

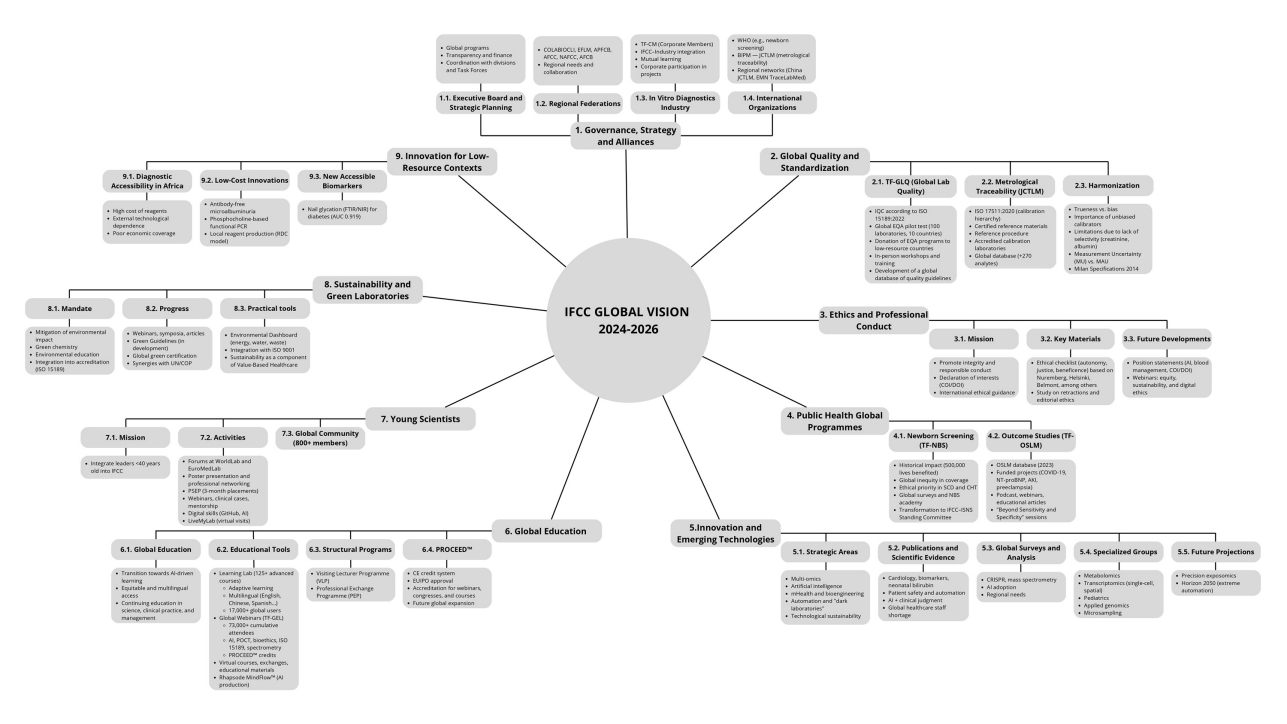

Figure 1.Topic-clustered conceptual map on the IFCC General Conference held in Bruges on May 16 and 17, 2025.

In deeply revision of the presentations, we arrived to an order of the aforementioned blocks that followed a logical, hierarchical and topic-clustered structure that reflects the natural pathway of influence of a global organization, from its foundational pillars to its tangible and applied impact in specific contexts. The starting point is Governance, Strategy and Alliances (Fig. 1, Block 1), which establishes the legal, leadership, and collaborative bases essential for IFCC to operate and exercise its authority worldwide, including coordination with regional federations and industry.

From this foundation, we understood that IFCC could establish its essential technical and ethical pillars: Global Quality and Standardization (Fig. 1, Block 2), which ensures the reliability of laboratory results through traceability and harmonization, and Ethics and Professional Conduct (Fig. 1, Block 3), which guarantees integrity in practice.

Based on these pillars (structure, quality, and ethics), IFCC can address its main functional objectives: Global Public Health Programs (Fig. 1, Block 4) and Innovation and Emerging Technologies (Fig. 1, Block 5), which drive the discipline forward.

Finally, the entire framework is supported by Global Education (Fig. 1, Block 6) and the development of Young Talent (Fig. 1, Block 7) to ensure continuity and dissemination of knowledge, and it culminates in the practical application of these principles and advances in areas of emerging social impact, such as Sustainability and Green Laboratories (Fig. 1, Block 8). It then focuses on the most pressing challenges of global equity through Innovation for Low-Resource Settings (Fig. 1, Block 9), the most applied level and one with direct impact on health disparities.

This topic-clustered flow — from structure to strategy, from ethics to technology, and from education to application — demonstrates the complexity and depth of the ongoing transformation of clinical laboratory sciences, in harmony with scientific and technological progress. Furthermore, it represents the joint work of the IFCC's Divisions and Task Forces, which act as leaders of change as well as essential means for achieving and developing the organization's objectives.

The Divisions of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) demonstrated that the Federation is not only adapting to change but actively leading it, reflecting a strong commitment to a sustainable future. In parallel, the Task Forces highlighted the expanding scope of IFCC's mission by addressing critical areas such as ethics, engagement of young scientists, global reference intervals, newborn screening, environmental sustainability, outcome studies, and

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global e-Learning, underscoring the Federation's growing reach and influence.
An international organization that aspires to safeguard laboratory medicine practice at the global level must implement a strategic plan considering the particular realities of each nation. IFCC role was, and surely shall be to empower communities to find their own responses, respecting their idiosyncrasies and cultural values.
We must recognize an inescapable reality: the average laboratory is far from being a first-world facility with access to the latest technology and unlimited resources. The great majority of laboratories are modest organizations with significant limitations. It is precisely in this context that ethical values and principles become even more relevant, and where the effort and dedication of health professionals are crucial for patient well-being.
Within this context, IFCC reinforced its Strategic Action Plans for 2024–2026 across those mentioned and interrelated domains, emphasizing governance, ethics, innovation, building capacity, sustainability, and equity. Artificial intelligence (AI) was highlighted as a transformative yet ethically demanding technology, requiring rigorous validation and transparent governance. In this sense, AI was presented as an enabling technology capable of improving quality, optimizing workflows, and strengthening data-driven clinical support, provided that its adoption is guided by appropriate training and methodological transparency. Likewise, the critical role of traceability throughout the increasingly complex supply chains — encompassing calibrators, control materials, and reagents — was reaffirmed as a central element for reliability, accountability, and patient safety.
In summary, the Conference reaffirmed an integrated vision of laboratory medicine grounded in:

- Scientific excellence,
- Ethical responsibility,
- Value-based practice,
- Equity in access, and
- Responsible innovation.

From this perspective, laboratory professionals are called to exercise leadership as stewards of quality, promoters of equitable access, and informed partners in the ethical integration of emerging technologies always keeping the patient at the center of care.

In her closing remarks, Prof. Ozben emphasized the theme **"Science: Now More Than Ever."**

So, where do we go from here?

The next decade will be decisive—not only for science, but for the planet, for public health, and for how we define value in medicine. Now more than ever, science requires open collaboration, bold leadership, and unwavering integrity.

To meet these challenges, we must:
• Invest in sustainability
• Empower the next generation
• Drive harmonization and traceability
• Keep the patient at the center of everything we do

The Conference concluded with the participation of delegates in EuroMedLab 2025, held in Brussels, where a high-level scientific program was delivered.

Recommended links:
Message from IFCC President Tomris Ozben in eNews, June 2025. https://ifccfiles.com/2025/06/eNews25-June.pdf
Presentations of the IFCC General Conference held in Bruges, May 16-17 2025. https://ifcc.org/ifcc-congresses-and-conferences/ifcc-general-conference-bruges-belgium/

Prof Ozben during her speech at the IFCC General Conference Gala Dinner

News from Regional Federations and Member Societies

"Biochemical Analytics" Prize Announced

The German Society for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (DGKL) awards the "Biochemical Analytics" Prize for outstanding achievements in the field of biochemical and molecular analysis. The prize, endowed with €50,000 and donated by Sarstedt AG & Co. KG, recognizes methodological advances as well as new discoveries made through modern analytical techniques in the biological sciences, particularly in clinical chemistry and biochemistry.

The prize is usually awarded every two years at the opening ceremony of the DGKL Annual Meeting. Award winners present their results and explain them to the scientific press. Scientists with published work or work accepted for publication are eligible. Several contributions on a related topic may also be considered, and the prize may be shared among recipients.

Applicants or nominees are asked to submit a scientific curriculum vitae, a summary of their complete work, and the relevant publications. The selection is made by a committee comprising three members of the DGKL Executive Committee, three nominated scientists, one secretary, and a representative of the sponsor, based on external peer reviews.

Applications must be submitted as a single PDF file by e-mail to preise@dgkl.de by **15 April 2026.**

On demand content is available at this link

2026: The Accreditation Path as a Strategic Pillar for Excellence in Clinical Laboratories Across Iberoamerica

By **Dr. María del C. Pasquel**
Coordinator, Accreditation Working Group – COLABIOCLI

Dr. María del C. Pasquel

ISO 15189:2022 accreditation of clinical laboratories represents far more than a regulatory compliance. It is a structural transformation that strengthens technical competence, ensures diagnostic reliability, and reinforces patient safety. Through its Accreditation Working Group, COLABIOCLI has assumed a sustained and strategic leadership role in advancing this transformation across the region.

Our vision for 2026 is built upon three strategic pillars: specialized continuous education, consolidation of a quality culture, and regional articulation with National Accreditation Bodies (NABs) and the Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC). Our goal is clear: to position accreditation not as a distant aspiration, but as a natural and expected standard of excellence for clinical laboratories throughout Ibero-America.

Strengthening Regional Cooperation: COLABIOCLI–IAAC Strategic Meeting

A key milestone in this process was the strategic meeting held on December 9, 2025, between COLABIOCLI and IAAC. This high-level dialogue focused on strengthening institutional cooperation and advancing a shared regional agenda aimed at enhancing the visibility, promotion, and awareness of the importance of accreditation in clinical laboratories.

Following the meeting, IAAC publicly highlighted that both organizations aligned efforts to position the public value of accredited clinical laboratories, emphasizing their contribution to trust and confidence in laboratory results, evidence-based clinical and public health decision-making, and the development of reliable private healthcare services for the benefit of society.

This interaction reaffirmed the shared commitment of both institutions to combine capabilities, amplify impactful messaging, and strengthen societal understanding of how accreditation supports sound clinical and health policy decisions. The collaboration represents a meaningful step forward—from dialogue to coordinated regional action—in favor of health, quality, and public trust.

Building the “Quality Path” 2026

During 2025, important academic initiatives marked the beginning of this structured path toward accreditation. International webinars addressed ISO 15189 requirements, effective internal auditing, equipment qualification, and precision laboratory medicine. These activities demonstrated strong engagement from the scientific laboratory community across multiple countries.

For 2026, the Accreditation Working Group has structured the “Quality Path,” a comprehensive monthly international webinar program (January–September). The agenda includes verification of quantitative and qualitative measurement procedures, internal quality control programs, interlaboratory comparisons, proficiency testing and external quality assessment, analytical indicators (CVR, SR, IET, Sigma metrics), quality planning, and continuous improvement and management of nonconformities.

Each session will include participation from members of the Accreditation Working Group, representatives from National Accreditation Bodies across the region, IAAC experts, and accredited laboratories that will share practical experiences and measurable benefits achieved through accreditation.

Article continued on the next page

Accreditation as a Strategic Instrument for Public Health
The 2026 initiative is not merely an academic calendar. It is a declaration of principles. It promotes technical leadership, professional ethics, risk-based management, and the consolidation of robust quality systems that directly impact public health outcomes.
ISO 15189:2022 accreditation becomes, therefore, a strategic instrument to enhance credibility, traceability, sustainability, and international recognition of laboratory services.
We invite the scientific community of clinical laboratories to actively engage in this Quality Path. Excellence is not a singular achievement, it is a continuous process requiring discipline, knowledge, and long-term vision.
Through collective commitment and regional collaboration, we move confidently forward in 2026 toward consolidating a quality culture that distinguishes our laboratories at the international level.

Leaflet of the webinar held on November 20, 2025, with the participation of the Ecuadorian Accreditation Service (SAE), featuring a presentation by Dr. BQF: Miriam Romo, and participation from Ecuador, Paraguay, and the Dominican Republic.

Webinar held on December 11, 2025, with the participation of the National Accreditation Council of Panama (CNA). The presentation was given by Ing. Guillermo Vega López, while Dr. Yury Rodriguez from Colombia presented on behalf of GT-Accreditation. The moderator was Rigoberto Sánchez from Panama, and the event was introduced by Dr. Elena George from Mexico, Second Member of the COLABIOCLI Board.

Meeting between the coordinator of the COLABIOCLI Accreditation Working Group, Dr. Maria del C. Pasquel, and authorities of the Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC), chaired by Dr. Mauricio Rodríguez, who also represents the Organismo Nacional de Acreditacion Colombiao, December 9, 2025.

EFLM welcomes new Exectuive Board for the next two years!

Reported by **Lejla Alić**, Executive Committee Member, EFLM Division Communication

The beginning of 2026 marks an exciting transition for the EFLM with the welcoming of its new Executive Board. The new President is Prof. Tomas Zima, joined by an esteemed team: Prof. Mario Plebani (Past-President), Prof. Damien Gruson (President-Elect), Prof. Snezana Jovicic (continuing her role as Secretary), Prof. Matthias F. Bauer (Treasurer), alongside Members-at-Large Prof. Abdurrahman Coskun and Prof. Anne Stavelin.

In his welcoming address, Prof. Zima proudly highlighted the signing of a cornerstone document: The Strategy of Laboratory Medicine – EFLM Vision (you can read the document here). Emphasizing the significance of translating this vision into action, Prof. Zima outlined his priorities, including a strong focus on education, empowering young scientists, and initiating and fostering collaborations with national societies, the IFCC, regional federations, international clinical societies, and the IVD sector. This strategic approach will be the central theme of the highly anticipated EFLM Strategic Conference 2026, to be held April 24–25 in Prague, Czechia.

As new leadership steps in, the EFLM community expresses gratitude to Prof. Tomris Ozben, who reflects on her six-year tenure serving as President-Elect, President, and Past-President. During her mandate, Prof. Ozben initiated transformative initiatives, including the organization of the 3rd EFLM Strategic Conference and the successful execution of the 2022–2023 Action Plan, which optimized EFLM's structure and organization. Her tenure leaves a legacy of sustainable and green laboratory medicine, expanded global relations, the formation of new functional units, enhanced educational and scientific affairs, and the establishment of vital corporate memberships and cross-federation agreements.

The EFLM continues to nurture the next generation of laboratory medicine professionals. This commitment is evident through open calls for the EFLM Young Laboratory Medicine Professional Award and the EFLM LabX bursaries—both exclusive to members of EFLM national societies. Additionally, as an outgoing chair of the Committee for Young Scientists, Aleš Kvasnička reflects on his mandate. Through LabX users' experiences, readers get a glimpse into how the EFLM LabX program actively facilitates the exchange of knowledge and experience across European and wider borders.
Prof. Tomris Ozben returns to offer four simple, actionable steps laboratory professionals can take to make their workspaces more eco-friendly. Readers can also explore an inspiring case study from the UK, breaking down the step-by-step process of acquiring a Green Lab Certificate and demonstrating that sustainable laboratory medicine is within our reach.

We look back at the highly successful 7th EFLM Conference on the Preanalytical Phase, held in Padua on December 12–13, 2025. Aleš Kvasnička provides a detailed report on the new insights into preanalytical quality discussed during this important meeting.

Looking ahead, we invite you to save the dates for several upcoming events. The EFLM Strategic Conference 2026 will take place in Prague, Czechia, from April 24–25, 2026. This highly anticipated two-day event will dive deep into four main topics: Harmonization, AI & Data-Driven Innovation, Cooperation with Clinicians, and a dedicated Young Scientists session focusing on visibility, communication, and education. Additionally, be sure to save the date for EuroMedLab 2027, Europe's largest gathering of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine professionals, which will be held in London, UK, from May 16–20, 2027.

Get involved: Stay at the forefront of the field by checking the EFLM webinars and events. Want full, free access to EFLM webinars and online educational resources? Become a member of the EFLM Academy today and join a thriving community dedicated to advancing laboratory medicine!

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MZ EVENTS

Turkish Biochemical Society (TBS) International Laboratory Medicine Summit 2025 Advancing Education, Innovation, and International Dialogue in Laboratory Medicine

By **Assoc. Prof. Oğuzhan Zengi**, MD Turkish Biochemical Society (TBS)

The TBS International Laboratory Medicine Summit, organised by the Turkish Biochemical Society (TBS), was successfully held in Erzurum, Türkiye, between 28 and 31 October 2025 at the Atatürk University Cultural Center. The Summit marked a strategic departure from the traditional congress format, offering instead a focused, education-driven scientific platform tailored to contemporary challenges and future directions in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine.

The event was officially endorsed by the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) and the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM), underscoring its alignment with international professional standards and educational priorities. The scientific programme brought together a diverse faculty of experts from IFCC and EFLM bodies, alongside speakers from Türkiye, neighbouring countries, and the Turkic Republics, fostering strong regional and international engagement.

A central strength of the Summit was its emphasis on professional education and methodological harmonisation. Scientific sessions addressed key topics such as quality management systems, reference intervals, standardisation strategies, analytical and post-analytical processes, and the evolving role of the clinical laboratory in patient-centred healthcare. These discussions reflected the increasing demand for robust, evidence-based laboratory practices within complex healthcare environments.

The Summit featured a series of high-level keynote lectures delivered by internationally recognised leaders in laboratory medicine. Keynote speakers included Kannan Vaidyanathan, Matthias Orth, Mazhar Adli, Tahir Pillay, and Abdurrahman Coşkun. Their lectures provided strategic perspectives on innovation, quality, translational laboratory medicine, and the interface between laboratory diagnostics and clinical decision-making, stimulating active discussion among participants.

Innovation and digital transformation constituted another major thematic pillar of the programme. Sessions exploring artificial intelligence, data science, decision-support systems, and advanced analytical technologies addressed not only technical advances but also validation, governance, and ethical considerations. This comprehensive approach supported the responsible integration of emerging technologies into routine laboratory workflows.

Hands-on workshops complemented the plenary and symposium sessions, focusing on practical competencies such as statistical applications in laboratory medicine, decision-support systems, and core diagnostic skills including complete blood count and peripheral blood smear interpretation. These workshops were designed to meet the educational needs of both early-career professionals and experienced laboratory specialists.

Consistent with TBS's long-standing commitment to capacity building, the Summit provided registration and accommodation scholarships for young investigators actively contributing to the scientific programme. Abstracts presented during the Summit were published in the Turkish Journal of Biochemistry, a journal indexed in the Science Citation Index Expanded, ensuring academic dissemination and visibility.

Importantly, the Summit coincided with the 50th anniversary of the Turkish Biochemical Society, adding symbolic significance to the event. Hosted in Erzurum, at the foothills of Palandöken Mountain, the Summit combined scientific excellence with cultural and regional engagement, reinforcing collaboration across borders.

Article continued on the next page

Prof. Abdurrahman Coskun

Prof. Mathias Orth

Prof Mazhar Adli

Closing Ceremony

Prof Tahir Pilay

XXVII Latin American Congress of Clinical Biochemistry – COLABIOCLI 2026

By **Dr. Álvaro Justiniano Grosz**, Congress President, President, Bolivian Society of Clinical Biochemistry

Álvaro Justiniano Grosz

The Bolivian Society of Clinical Biochemistry (SOBOBIOCLI) is a non-profit academic and scientific institution that brings together biochemical professionals dedicated to clinical laboratory medicine in Bolivia. It is affiliated with the Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI) and the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC), thereby strengthening its presence within the leading international scientific networks in this field.

During the XXV Latin American Congress of Clinical Biochemistry, held in León–Guanajuato, Mexico, in March 2022, Bolivia —and particularly the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra— was selected as the host venue for the XXVII Latin American Congress of Clinical Biochemistry. This candidacy received unanimous support from member countries, granting Bolivia both the honor and responsibility of organizing the most important event for clinical laboratory professionals in the region.

With this significant recognition, the Bolivian scientific community linked to laboratory medicine, together with the Executive Committee of SOBOBIOCLI, has undertaken the commitment to organize, in coordination with COLABIOCLI, the XXVII Latin American Congress of Clinical Biochemistry – COLABIOCLI 2026, to be held from October 7 to 10, 2026, at the FEXPOCRUZ Convention Center in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia.

This Congress represents the leading scientific and academic gathering of laboratory medicine in Latin America, bringing together national and international experts in an environment of excellence, professional development, and future-oriented innovation.

The Clinical Laboratory: A Cornerstone of Modern Diagnosis

Contemporary medicine recognizes laboratory testing as one of the fundamental pillars of medical decision-making. In this context, the role of the clinical laboratory professional is strategic and irreplaceable: their work supports evidence-based medicine, contributes directly to timely diagnosis, guides therapeutic approaches, and enables safe and effective patient monitoring.

The Congress will provide an outstanding opportunity to highlight and strengthen this essential function by convening clinical biochemists, researchers, and highly specialized professionals, fostering scientific exchange, continuous professional education, and regional development. Innovation, Artificial Intelligence, and Sustainability: The Laboratory of the Future.

COLABIOCLI 2026 aims to bring together professionals from Bolivia, Latin America, and other regions of the world, encouraging the exchange of experiences and updated knowledge in:

- Advanced diagnostic techniques
- Quality management systems
- Technological innovation
- Laboratory automation
- Emerging applications of artificial intelligence in clinical diagnostics

Article continued on the next page

In addition, priority areas for public health will be addressed, including infectious diseases and chronic non-communicable conditions.

The modern clinical laboratory is moving toward a future in which science, automation, and artificial intelligence are integrated with an increasing commitment to environmental stewardship, promoting sustainable and responsible practices within healthcare systems.

Academic Program and International Participation
The scientific and academic agenda will encompass key topics in quality assurance, core and specialized areas of clinical laboratory practice, as well as advances in technological innovation, automation, and artificial intelligence, all framed within the fundamental principle of environmental responsibility.

This program will feature the participation of an elite group of professionals across multiple specialties, with the support of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry (IFCC) and the presence of distinguished leaders such as Dr. Tomris Ozben, President of IFCC, together with members of the Executive Board, who will enrich the event with highly relevant and cutting-edge lectures.

Commercial Exhibition: Science, Industry, and Innovation
The Commercial Exhibition will provide leading companies in the sector with the opportunity to:

- Showcase state-of-the-art solutions, technologies, and products
- Strengthen institutional and brand positioning
- Establish sustainable connections with highly specialized professionals
- Actively contribute to the scientific and technological development of clinical laboratory medicine

We are confident that the participation of the in vitro diagnostics industry will further enhance this major event, consolidating a strategic relationship between business innovation and the scientific laboratory community.

A Historic Milestone for Bolivia
It is important to emphasize that this will be the first time a Latin American Congress of this magnitude is held in Bolivian territory, representing a historic milestone for our profession. SOBOBIOCLI assumes this challenge with the highest level of responsibility and institutional commitment, fully aware that the success of the event requires the active support and participation of all stakeholders involved.

The Latin American clinical laboratory community, and particularly the Bolivian community, is committed to serving as a driving force behind COLABIOCLI 2026. Therefore, we invite all professionals in the field to participate, support, and recommend this scientific gathering —the most important in the region.

Bolivia opens its doors to the world.
Laboratory science unites us.
COLABIOCLI 2026 will make history.
BOLIVIA AWAITS YOU

WG-IANT IFCC Report
Official Launch of Colabiocli 2026 Congress Marks a Milestone for Clinical Biochemistry in Bolivia

Dr. Álvaro Justiniano Cortez
Chair, Working Group IANT IFCC

“The main scientific event for clinical laboratories in Latin America will arrive in Bolivia for the first time with a high-level academic agenda and international participation.”

Currently, laboratory tests are an essential pillar for medical decision-making. In this context, organizing an academic-scientific event of this magnitude represents a strategic investment in the updating and training of professionals who play key roles in clinical analysis laboratories. Their work, as part of the multidisciplinary health team, directly impacts the diagnosis, treatment, and monitoring of patients’ health.

Under the motto “Automation, quality, artificial intelligence, and environmental care: challenges and the role of the laboratory professional”, the official launch of the XXVII Latin American Congress of Clinical Biochemistry – COLABIOCLI 2026 took place on January 23, 2026. The Congress will be held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, from October 7 to 10, 2026, at the FEXPOCRUZ Convention Center.

The launch was conducted in a hybrid format, with over 717 participants registered virtually and more than 100 professionals and company representatives attending in person at the Novotel Santa Cruz Hotel on January 23, 2026.

The event included participation from the Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI) through its president, Dr. Julio Nieto Ramos, who welcomed the virtually connected countries and all attendees in person, emphasizing confidence that the event would be a complete success and that preparations are underway to achieve this. Likewise, Dr. Álvaro Justiniano Grosz, president of the Congress, presented the main features and objectives of the event.

As a highlight, Dr. Eduardo Freggiaro, COLABIOCLI’s representative to the Executive Committee of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry (IFCC), delivered a keynote lecture on Artificial Intelligence applied to the Clinical Laboratory, one of the central topics on the current scientific agenda.

It is important to note that the Congress is also sponsored by the IFCC and constitutes the primary scientific-academic meeting for clinical laboratory professionals in Latin America, bringing together national and international leaders in the field.

COLABIOCLI 2026 represents a highly significant occasion for the country’s scientific and healthcare community, bringing together clinical biochemists, researchers, specialists, and laboratory medicine professionals to promote knowledge exchange, professional development, and regional scientific strengthening.

Additionally, the Congress is projected as a unique opportunity to gather professionals from Bolivia, Latin America, and other regions worldwide, addressing priority topics such as advanced diagnostic techniques, quality management systems, technological innovation, artificial intelligence, and applications of clinical biochemistry in public health.

Article continued on the next page

The launch also highlighted the importance of the Commercial Exhibition, where leading industry companies will present equipment, supplies, reagents, and solutions related to in vitro diagnostics. This strategic space will foster scientific exchange, technological innovation, and strengthened ties between industry and the professional community.

The academic-scientific agenda will include pre-Congress courses, keynote lectures, plenaries, symposia, and specialized sessions, as well as the second edition of the II Latin American Forum of Young Clinical Laboratory Professionals, promoting leadership among new generations in the field. In this context, the presence of Prof. Dr. Tomris Ozben, president of the IFCC, along with members of the Executive Committee, was also anticipated. They will contribute with symposia of the highest academic level, enriching the program with presentations of current international relevance.

Finally, it is worth highlighting that this will be the first time a Latin American Congress of this magnitude is held in Bolivian territory, constituting a historic milestone for the profession and a strategic opportunity to position Bolivia as a reference host for regional scientific excellence.

President of the Congress Dr. Álvaro Justiniano Grosz, launches the XXVII Latin American Congress of Clinical Biochemistry

Launch Ceremony of the XXVII Latin American Congress of Clinical Biochemistry

Launch Ceremony of the XXVII Latin American Congress of Clinical Biochemistry

News from Japan Society of Clinical Chemistry (JSCC)
2025 JSCC Outstanding Young Investigator Award.

By **Hideo Sakamoto**, Ph.D., International Exchange Committee of JSCC

Japan Society of Clinical Chemistry (JSCC) Outstanding Young Investigator Award is awarded to an individual who has contributed outstanding academic research in clinical chemistry. In 2025, Dr. Bomme Gowda Siddabasave Gowda, won the JSCC Outstanding Young Investigator Award. At the 65th Annual Meeting of the JSCC in Nagoya, Japan, held November 7 to 9, 2025, award winner Dr. Bomme Gowda Siddabasave Gowda was congratulated by Dr. Takashi Miida, President of JSCC, for his outstanding work in clinical chemistry.
We JSCC proudly introduce the 2025 JSCC Outstanding Young Investigator Award winner in this issue and distribute his outstanding work.

Bomme Gowda Siddabasave Gowda Ph.D. (Faculty of Health Sciences, Hokkaido University) is the winner of the 2025 JSCC Outstanding Young Investigator Award, entitled “Analysis of lipidome in brain from animals of land and aquatic habitats-by LC/MS”.

Lipids are fundamental nutrients essential for energy metabolism and are found in all tissues. In humans, blood lipids constitute the major class of biomolecules, arising from both endogenous synthesis and dietary intake. Advances in analytical techniques have enabled the identification of over 50,000 lipid species across eight major lipid categories, highlighting the structural and functional diversity of these molecules. Nevertheless, comprehensive lipid analysis and the identification of disease-specific lipid biomarkers remain challenging areas in clinical chemistry. Dr. Gowda’s team has focused on developing both targeted and untargeted lipidomics platforms to enable comprehensive profiling of lipid metabolites. Their work includes investigating the role of lipids as biomarkers in obesity, heart failure, influenza virus infection, colon cancer, and Alzheimer’s disease, using both murine and clinical samples. The application of lipidomics allows for deeper investigation into disease mechanisms and the discovery of new therapeutic targets. Among their notable achievements, the team identified novel saturated fatty acid esters of hydroxy fatty acids (SFAHFAs), as reported in Analytica Chimica Acta (2024). The research, recognized by the JSCC Award, examined lipid composition in the brains of mammals adapting to land and aquatic environments. A total of 294 lipid molecular species were identified. Their findings revealed high levels of polyunsaturated fatty acids and cholesterol esters in the brain tissues of semi-aquatic and aquatic mammals and elevated phosphatidylethanolamines in terrestrial species. This suggests that living environment significantly influences brain lipid composition. Given the structural and functional parallels between animal and human brains, such studies offer important insights into human neurological health and disease processes.

IFCC's Calendar of Congresses, Conferences & Events

IFCC and Regional Federation Events			
Date		Title	Place
May 11 - 12, 2026		1ST IFCC ROME FORUM Jointly organised by ETD and EMD	Rome, IT
Jul 16 - 17, 2026		AFCC 2026 NAIROBI	Nairobi, KE
Oct 7 - 11, 2026		XXVII COLABIOCLI 2026	Santa Cruz, BO
Oct 25 - 30, 2026		XXVII IFCC WORLDLAB 2026	New Delhi, IN
May 16-20, 2027		XXVII IFCC-EFLM EUROMEDLAB 2027	London, UK
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
Feb 23 - Jun 26, 2026	Flow Cytometry for Malignant Hematological Disorders	Quality consulting, online event
Mar 1 - Mar 20, 2026	International Symposium on Laboratory Medicine	SNIBE, Shenzen, P.R:. China
Mar 20, 2026	International Symposium on Laboratory Medicine	SNIBE, Warsaw, PL

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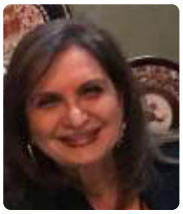

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