№ 4
April 2026

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International Federation of Clinical Chemistry
and Laboratory Medicine

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Marilena Stamouli,
eNews Editor

Dear colleagues
April is approaching and the IFCC is about to proudly celebrate the Global MedLab Week from April 20 to 26, highlighting the pivotal work of medical laboratory professionals in worldwide patient healthcare.

In her message published in the present issue, our President, Prof. Tomris Ozben, emphasizes on important meetings and scientific events that she has attended, as well as on strategic collaborations and initiatives that advance laboratory medicine worldwide. Moreover, she invites us to register and participate to the XXVII IFCC WorldLab Congress, to be held in New Delhi from October 25 to 29, 2026, an important event expected to gather laboratory medicine professionals from all over the world with shared commitment to excellence in healthcare.

In this issue you can read several interesting news about the activities of the IFCC Working Group for the Standardization of HbA2 and HbF, the IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Programme, and the IFCC Committee on Mobile Health and Bioengineering in Laboratory Medicine, which promote excellence, global standardization of laboratory methods, and reflect on the current and future challenges of laboratory medicine. Voices of our Corporate Members who work together to increase knowledge, support research, and promote scientific innovation are also published in this issue.
Reports from our member societies of Türkyie, Pakistan, Japan and Mexico, as well as from LABAC, showcase the commitment of these societies for the empowerment of young scientists, the exchange of experiences and the development of professional networks.
UNIVANTS present multidisciplinary teams that had investigated and identified future health risks, thus contributing to improvement of patient care and enhancement of patient wellness.
It is with great pleasure that we welcome our new IFCC Affiliate Members and a new IFCC Corporate Member and we look forward to working together to advance laboratory medicine worldwide. Finally, we extend a warm welcome to the new Chairs of IFCC functional units and express our gratitude to those that have concluded their tenure in office.

Marilena Stamouli

The voice of IFCC

IFCC President's Message

April 2026
By **Tomris Ozben**

Prof. Tomris Ozben
EuSpLM, Ph.D.

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

With the arrival of spring, I hope this season brings you renewed energy and continued satisfaction in your professional activities, as well as in your collaborations with IFCC colleagues around the world.

On March 16–17, the IFCC Executive Board (EB) met in person in Milan for the first time this year. During this meeting, we had the pleasure of welcoming new EB members: President-Elect Nader Rifai, and two Regional Representatives, Tomáš Zima, representing the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM), and Myrna Germanos, representing the Arab Federation of Clinical Biology (AFCB).

During the meeting, EB members engaged in constructive discussions with the Chairs of the three IFCC Divisions (EMD, ETD, and CPD), as well as with the Chairs of more than ten Task Forces and Chairs of Awards and Accreditation Committees reporting directly to the EB. These exchanges were invaluable in understanding expectations, identifying current challenges, and exploring how the EB can further support their activities. These strategic discussions are essential for fostering dialogue, strengthening alignment with IFCC priorities, and ensuring effective and impactful collaboration.

A number of important and forward-looking topics were also addressed, contributing to the continued growth of IFCC and reinforcing the Board's commitment to supporting colleagues worldwide who work tirelessly to advance laboratory medicine.

As the IFCC Strategic Action Plan for the 2024–2026 term approaches its conclusion, the EB reviewed its outcomes and overall impact. This reflection reaffirmed our shared commitment to continuous improvement, enhanced collaboration, and the ongoing development of IFCC initiatives for the global laboratory medicine community.

March has also been a month rich in international engagements. I had the pleasure of attending the **XXXII Congress of the Andalusian Society of Clinical Analysis and Laboratory Medicine (SANAC)**, held on March 12–14, 2026, in Cádiz, Spain. The congress focused on extravascular biomarkers in clinical laboratories. I delivered a keynote presentation entitled **"Seminal Cell-Free DNA Assessment as a Novel Prostate Cancer Biomarker,"** based on our research and publications.

I was also honored to be invited to attend the **23rd China Association of Clinical Laboratory Practice (CACLP 2026)**, held from March 21–23, 2026, at the Xiamen International Exhibition Center in Fujian, China. This major global event brought together over 45,000 participants, 1,350 exhibitors, and 20 scientific conferences covering key topics in laboratory

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medicine and in vitro diagnostics. As the IFCC President, I had the privilege of participating in the opening ceremony of CACLP alongside leading Chinese professionals. Events such as CACLP highlight the vital role of international scientific meetings in fostering knowledge exchange, learning, and professional networking.

During CACLP, I also had the honor of attending the symposium as an invited speaker **"Women's Holistic Health Management: Health for Her, for Her Whole Life,"** supported by SNIBE. I sincerely thank the organizers for this valuable opportunity to exchange ideas with leading experts in China's clinical and laboratory medicine community. This important academic event emphasized women's health which is an area central to global public health. From adolescence to older age, women experience unique physiological changes requiring accurate, standardized, and timely laboratory testing. Topics such as reproductive health, pregnancy risk assessment, postmenopausal disease prevention, and early cancer screening were explored in depth, offering valuable insights not only for China, but also for advancing global models of women's holistic health management.

It was also a great honor for me to present the opening lecture entitled **"Global Cooperation and Sharing the Best Practice in Laboratory Medicine: The IFCC View"** at the **first Global Masterclass "IVD Innovation Summit"**, held on March 22, 2026, during CACLP. This event was organized by the China Association of Clinical Laboratory Practice (CACLP), the China Association of In Vitro Diagnostics (CAIVD), and the China Professional Community of Experimental Medicine (CPCEM), with support from Beijing Wantai Biological Pharmacy Enterprise. Under the theme **"Global IVD Innovation & Cross-Regional Integration,"** the Masterclass brought together international and Chinese experts to discuss emerging trends and shared challenges in laboratory medicine. The forum provided a valuable platform for strengthening global collaboration, promoting innovation, and advancing the integration of laboratory medicine and in vitro diagnostics worldwide.

I was also pleased to attend several signing ceremonies representing **IFCC Foundation for Emerging Nations (FEN)** in March 2026 with Chinese companies **"Snibe, Wondfo, and Wantai BioPharm"** formalizing Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) to support the IFCC Foundation for Emerging Nations (FEN). On behalf of FEN, we are grateful to these IVD Companies and express our appreciation and thanks for their kind support for FEN and its projects in emerging nations. These agreements reflect the strengthening of our partnerships and our shared commitment to improving laboratory medicine globally. The FEN is dedicated to fundraising and supporting initiatives aimed at enhancing the quality and accessibility of laboratory services, educational projects particularly in emerging countries. Further information is available on the Foundation's website: http://www.ifccfoundation.org.

It is my great pleasure to welcome the **Mexican Federation of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (FEMPACML) and the Indian Association for Medical Updates (AMU**) as new IFCC Affiliate Members. I am also delighted to welcome **BioMérieux** as a new IFCC Corporate Member. These additions to IFCC Community reflect the continued growth and global reach of our organization, reinforcing IFCC's role as a leading global reference in laboratory medicine.

It is my great pleasure to invite you to register and participate in the XXVII IFCC WorldLab Congress, to be held in **New Delhi from 25–29 October 2026**, one of the most influential global events in laboratory medicine.

WorldLab 2026, hosted in New Delhi by the Association of Clinical Biochemists of India, is expected to attract a large and highly engaged international audience, particularly 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, providing an outstanding platform for scientific exchange, collaboration, and global engagement.

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

Please note that the deadline for abstract submission is **15 May 2026**, while reduced registration fees will be available until **15 July 2026.**

As in previous editions, WorldLab 2026 will host the **IFCC Young Scientist Forum**, with scholarships available to support early-career professionals. This initiative offers a unique opportunity for young scientists to engage with leading experts, exchange knowledge and expertise, and benefit from extensive networking within an international and multidisciplinary environment, including interactions with major industry representatives. Such events are invaluable opportunities to exchange ideas, foster collaboration, and continue advancing our discipline while expanding professional horizons.

The IFCC Council Meeting will take place on **Sunday, 25 October 2026**, with the participation of Presidents and National Representatives from IFCC Full and Affiliate Member Societies, as well as Corporate Member Representatives. The IFCC Executive Board, together with the Chairs and Members of IFCC Functional Units, looks forward to meeting with Council Members to report on activities carried out since the previous Council Meeting/General Conference and to discuss expectations and emerging challenges in laboratory medicine.

With my best regards,
Tomris Ozben
IFCC President

News from the IFCC Working group for the standardization of HbA2 and HbF (joint WG with ICSH)

by **Andrea Mosca** (IT) and **Cristian Arsene** (DE), Co-Chairs IFCC Working Group on Standardisation of Hemoglobin A_2 and Fetal Hemoglobin (WG-HbA2/HbF), Joint Working Group with ICSH (International Council for Standardization in Haematology)

The IFCC's current strategic plan places great emphasis on improving laboratory quality and promoting global standardization of laboratory methods. Therefore, developing reference materials, reference methods, and providing reference services are the tools to achieve this goal.
After some of the group members achieved the standardization of glycated hemoglobin (HbA1c), it was decided to undertake the process of standardizing other minor hemoglobins too. Thus, our working group has been involved in standardizing hemoglobin A2 measurements and now is also focusing on standardizing fetal hemoglobin.

The reason for this is that accurate measurements of HbA2 and HbF are an important parameter for the diagnosis of thalassemic syndromes (especially HbA2) and for monitoring therapy in patients with sickle cell anemia and beta-thalassemia (HbF). Indeed, it is estimated that there are currently more than 2 million people worldwide with hemoglobinopathies and that more than 300,000 children are born with sickle cell anemia each year, 75% of whom live in sub-Saharan Africa. Other regions with a high prevalence of hemoglobinopathies include India, Thailand, and the countries around the Mediterranean. Many of these disorders cause chronic anemia, increased sensitivity to infections, and growth retardation, resulting in high mortality, especially in children. Although mortality is declining in several areas thanks to improved care, African regions still suffer from high mortality rates.

The approach to standardization has always been the same, following the chain of metrological traceability. In the case of HbA2, the primary reference materials (consisting of recombinant hemoglobins) have been deposited at the Joint Research Center (JRC, Geel), while the Reference Measurement Procedure (RMP) and Certified Reference Materials (CRMs) have recently been listed in the JCTLM database (www.jctlmdb.org) with their identification codes (C21RMP2, ERM-DA485/IFCC, and ERM-DA486/IFCC). For fetal hemoglobin, recombinant hemoglobins (unlabeled and isotopically labeled) have been produced and are currently undergoing further purification and quantification so that they can be used for the development of the RMP. The CRMs will be prepared later on.

What else then remains to be done? First of all, with regard to HbA2, it will be essential to monitor that the CRMs will be used by diagnostic manufacturers to produce methods aligned with the reference system. If this will be achieved, looking at the results of EQAS will certainly show whether different laboratories around the world will produce results closer to each other, respect to the past, and with no significant bias compared to the RMP. This action will certainly require years of monitoring, but it is certainly a path to be chosen. As for the standardization of HbF, the road is likely to be longer, but given the experience gained with HbA2, we believe that the time to develop a complete reference system may be significantly shorter. As you can imagine, there is room for everyone to help the working group achieve its goals. At present, the composition of the members is adequate, they are all highly experienced and professional, and the corresponding members come from several National and Corporate societies. Anyone who wishes to contribute as corresponding member can apply through the IFCC Secretariat.
For more information, visit: https://ifcc.org/ifcc-scientific-division/sd-working-groups/wg-hba2/

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An informal meeting after a formal one in Milano, 25 September 2024. L-R: Cristian Arsene, Renata Paleari, Guy Auclair, Yvonne Daniel, Andrea Mosca, Patricia Kaiser, Mirjam Harteveld, Kees Harteveld, Beate Saeger, Chie Amano.

IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Programme: my experience at the Institute of Clinical Laboratory Diagnostics at the University Hospital Center in Osijek, Croatia

By: **Pawel Kozlowski,**
Department of Immunology, Central Laboratory at the Central Clinical Hospital of the Medical University of Warsaw
Warszawa, Poland

Thanks to the IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Programme, I completed a month-long internship at the Institute of Clinical Laboratory Diagnostics at the University Hospital Center in Osijek, Croatia. This is a highly specialized laboratory that conducts routine tests and a wide range of specialized tests. During my internship, I familiarized myself with mass spectrometry techniques and spectroscopic methods for trace element analysis. A valuable experience was the opportunity to work with the MALDI-TOF technique in proteomic analysis. I learned about the organization of work and the training of laboratory medicine specialists in Croatia. I managed to establish scientific collaboration with colleagues on a project concerning inflammatory diseases of the central nervous system, with the prospect of future joint publications. The experience and knowledge gained during the exchange will be useful in my workplace, especially for introducing new methods such as trace element analysis and the MALDI-TOF technique for detecting monoclonal proteins. Therefore, I would like to sincerely thank everyone who made it possible for me to gain this valuable experience—above all, IFCC for selecting me for the program, Professor Olga Ciepiela, the head of the Central Laboratory at the Central Clinical Hospital of the Medical University of Warsaw, for encouraging me to participate, and Professor Željko Debeljak, the head of the hosting laboratory, for accepting me into his team. I also extend my gratitude to all the wonderful colleagues from the host laboratory for their time and remarkable willingness to share their knowledge and experience with me. I would like to express my gratitude to the excellent professionals from the hosting laboratory. Above all, Dr. Tara Rolić, who was not only my supervisor and an excellent teacher but also an example of a good mentor to younger colleagues. I thank Dr. Robert Grgac for his commitment and extraordinary patience in teaching me the challenging MALDI-TOF technique day by day. I thank Dr. Ivana Marković for sharing her knowledge and experience in spectral analysis of trace elements and mass spectrometry. I thank Ms. Ivana Sarić for her daily care for my training and well-being. Ms. Jasna Pavela and Ms. Maja Lukić for exchanging experiences in immunological diagnostics, especially for their help in interpreting hemoglobinopathy results. Ms. Blaženka Dobrošević and her colleagues for the very fruitful time spent learning flow cytometry. Dr. Marta Žižek for inspiring conversations about monoclonal gammopathies and molecular diagnostics. I fondly remember the time spent with Professor Maria Milić, from whom I had the great pleasure of learning the diagnostics of hemostasis disorders. I am also extremely grateful to Ms. Ksenija Paradinović for sharing with me her immense passion for hematology. I would also like to warmly thank Ms. Inja Pavlic, who was an example to me of a young, passionate, and dedicated professional. I also thank all the laboratory staff who always showed me kindness and friendliness. Thanks to the IFCC PSEP I gained not only valuable knowledge and experience but also wonderful colleagues and friends with whom I hope to cooperate in the future. Thank you!

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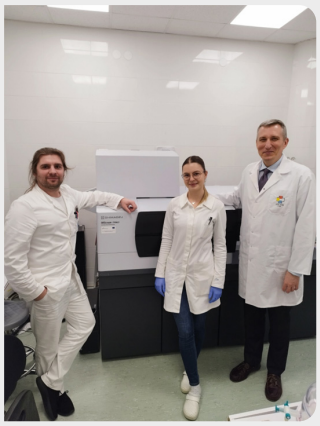
With Dr. Tara Rolić in front of the Emergency Department of the University Hospital Center in Osijek. Thank you, Dr. Rolić, for being such a kind and supportive colleague.

With Dr. Ivana Marković during training in mass spectrometry.



With Dr. Robert Grgac and Ms. Victorija Ciurila at the MALDI-TOF spectrometer.

IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Programme: my experience at the Department of Clinical Biochemistry, Attikon University General Hospital, Medical School, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

By **Dr. rer. Nat. Dr. med. Oliver Schmetzer** (MD/PhD)

During my participation in the Professional Scientific Exchange Programme (PSEP), I completed a training visit at the Department of Clinical Biochemistry, Attikon University General Hospital, Medical School, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece. The visit provided valuable insights into both advanced laboratory organization and applied clinical research.

A particularly impressive aspect of the laboratory was its highly optimized sample processing workflow. At sample reception, specimens are scanned only once, centrifuged, and then directly placed onto the laboratory automation system. Following analysis, samples are archived centrally at the sample reception without any additional resorting steps. This streamlined and sophisticated approach stands in marked contrast to many other laboratories, where samples are repeatedly transported between multiple sorting systems. The optimized workflow in Athens results in excellent operational efficiency and allows laboratory technicians to focus on more essential analytical and supervisory tasks.

In addition to routine laboratory exposure, a small research project was conducted focusing on the interference rate of the Roche high-sensitivity cardiac troponin T (cTnT) assay. Measurement of cTnT plays a crucial role in the diagnosis of acute myocardial infarction (AMI). Due to its very high analytical sensitivity, the assay is susceptible to interference from antibodies, including autoantibodies directed against troponin T as a result of altered self-antigen recognition. Such interference may lead to falsely low or masked troponin T results, often deviating more than 40 % from the true concentration. According to the literature, 10–20 % of measurements may be affected, with even higher rates observed in patients with a prior history of AMI.

To investigate this phenomenon, serum samples were spiked with defined amounts of recombinant troponin T and recovery rates were analyzed. A reduced recovery indicated the presence of clinically relevant assay interference. Using this approach, we identified masked troponin T results in approximately 10 % of patients, revealing actual troponin concentrations at least fivefold higher than those reported by routine analysis. These findings have recently been published in the Journal of Laboratory Medicine. The full text is available at https://www.degruyterbrill.com/document/doi/10.1515/labmed-2025-0280/html.

The excellent technician M. Pappas, Prof. C. Kroupis and Dr. Dr. O. Schmetzer in front of the bridge of the Roche laboratory automatization solution.

Based on these results, a collaborative project has been initiated to develop an improved diagnostic test for acute myocardial infarction. Overall, the PSEP training visit in Athens was scientifically productive and professionally enriching, and the experience gained will have a lasting impact on my clinical laboratory practice.

Finally I want to thank the IFCC for funding this great opportunity!

IFCC Live Webinars – New Features and Ongoing Enhancements

The IFCC is pleased to announce that, in its ongoing effort to enhance accessibility to its educational content, captions translated from English into Spanish and French are now available for its on-demand webinar series. This new feature represents an important step forward in supporting a broader global audience and further strengthening the inclusivity of IFCC webinars. This development builds on the success of the IFCC LIVE Webinar Series, which since 2020 has attracted between 2,500 and 5,000 participants per session from over 180 countries, demonstrating its truly international reach and impact in the field of laboratory medicine.

Looking ahead, new webinars are planned for 2026 and will be announced through official IFCC communication channels, ensuring that members and participants stay informed about upcoming opportunities for learning and engagement. These webinars feature high-quality topics and expert speakers, and are supported by the IFCC accreditation programme, further reinforcing their educational value and global recognition.

IFCC: the people

IFCC C-MHBLM Member Focus: Dr Anirban Ganguly (India), a dynamic voice shaping the future of AI and Mobile Health in Laboratory Medicine

By: **B. Gouget** (FR), ETD-EC liaison to C-MHBLM; **J. Nichols** (US), Chair C-MHBLM; and **L. Abdel Wareth** (UAE), **A. Ganguly** (IN), **J. Rytkönen** (FI), **E. Saatçi** (TR), C MHBLM members

Innovation in laboratory medicine requires more than technical expertise, it demands vision, mobility, and the ability to transform emerging science into clinical impact. Within the IFCC-Committee on Mobile Health and Bioengineering in Laboratory Medicine (C-MHBLM), Dr Anirban Ganguly stands out as a dynamic and forward-thinking contributor whose work bridges artificial intelligence, mobile health, and the management of major diseases.

Dr Anirban Ganguly
MBBS, MD, DNB (Biochemistry) MNAMS
Associate Professor
Department of Biochemistry
AIIMS Deoghar
Member of C-MHBLM, IFCC-ETD
General Secretary, Jharkhand ACCLMP Chapter

Associate Professor of Biochemistry at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences Deoghar, Dr Ganguly has developed a research portfolio characterized by both scientific rigor and innovation. His interests encompass applications of artificial intelligence in healthcare, the expanding role of mobile health technologies, translational biochemistry, molecular neuroscience, and cancer immunobiology. With around 30 peer-reviewed publications, he has built a solid academic foundation while consistently exploring the intersection between advanced analytics and real-world clinical needs.

A defining feature of his work is its clear clinical orientation. His research in oncology and cancer immunobiology explores how AI-driven interpretation of molecular and epigenetic data can enhance early diagnosis, refine prognostic stratification, and support personalized therapeutic strategies. In parallel, his involvement as principal investigator and co-principal investigator in extramural projects, including metabolic models of Alzheimer's disease pathogenesis, cancer biology, and tuberculosis, reflects a sustained commitment to improving the management of high-burden and life-threatening diseases through integrative laboratory innovation.

Dr Ganguly's contribution to the eJIFCC opinion paper on smartwatches in healthcare further illustrates his structured and prospective mindset. He contributed a forward-looking perspective emphasizing that wearable technologies can only become clinically transformative if laboratory medicine leads the validation, harmonization, and contextual interpretation of the data generated. This balanced approach resonates strongly with the C-MHBLM Terms of Reference, particularly in ensuring that mobile health innovations are scientifically robust and clinically meaningful.

His engagement extends beyond research into leadership and professional development. As the Organizing Secretary of the Jharkhand State Chapter of the Association of Clinical Chemistry and Lab Medicine Practitioners (ACCLMP), and as Chairperson International Affairs within the central executive committee of the national body, he plays a pivotal role in strengthening international collaboration. Over the past five years, he has organized four pre-conference Continuing Medical Education programs in Jharkhand, contributing significantly to knowledge

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dissemination and professional recognition among his Indian peers. His editorial responsibilities as Community Editor and Guest Associate Editor for Frontiers in Immunology further highlight his academic credibility.

Internationally, Dr Ganguly has demonstrated remarkable mobility and integrative commitment. His participation in the IFCC General Conference and the "Meeting of Minds" in Bruges reinforced high-level strategic dialogue within the global IFCC community. His presence at the ECCS–IFCC Digital Health & Laboratory Medicine Forum in Dubai strengthened cross-regional collaboration in AI-enabled diagnostics. Through these engagements, he actively connects India's rapidly evolving digital health ecosystem with global IFCC initiatives, promoting bidirectional exchange of knowledge and innovation.

Beyond his scientific and organizational contributions, colleagues frequently highlight his convivial and collaborative spirit. Within a C-MHBLM committee composed of members from diverse nationalities and cultural backgrounds, Dr Ganguly naturally bridges frontiers, not only of science and technology, but also of friendship and professional solidarity, fostering an atmosphere where innovation thrives through mutual respect and shared purpose.

Within C-MHBLM, Dr Anirban Ganguly exemplifies a new generation of specialists in Lab medicine: clinically focused, technologically visionary, globally connected, and personally engaging. His work reflects a coherent ambition to ensure that artificial intelligence and mobile health evolve as integrated, validated, and patient-centered pillars of future laboratory medicine.

IFCC-C-MHBLM after on-site committee meeting at EuroMedLab Brussels 2025

The EFLM President elected as representative for Europe to the IFCC Executive Board

Reported by **Snezana Jovicic**, EFLM Executive Board Secretary

We are pleased to announce that the EFLM President, Prof. Tomas Zima, has been elected as the EFLM representative on the IFCC Executive Board for the current year. This important appointment reflects both his distinguished professional profile and the confidence placed in his leadership and vision by the international laboratory medicine community.

His election to the IFCC Executive Board represents an important opportunity to further contribute to shaping the strategic direction of the field at a global level, while also ensuring that the perspectives and priorities of EFLM are effectively represented.

Following the decision of the IFCC Council at the end of 2025, Prof. Zima will also continue to serve in this role for the upcoming three-year term. His mandate on the IFCC Executive Board will therefore run until 31 December 2029. This extended tenure provides continuity and stability in representation, allowing for the development and implementation of long-term initiatives and fostering sustained collaboration between key stakeholders.

This appointment further reinforces the active and influential role of EFLM within the global scientific community. It also strengthens the long-standing collaboration between EFLM and IFCC, through coordinated efforts in standards, innovation, and professional development.

Prof. Tomas Zima

Dr Myrna Germanos-Haddad joins the IFCC Executive Board: a Strategic Asset for the AFCB in Advancing Science, Resilience, and Collective Health Response

By: **Dr Christian Haddad**, President, Arab Federation of Clinical Biology (AFCB)
Notre Dame de Secours Hospital, USEK University, Lebanon

As a Regional Federation of the IFCC, the AFCB welcomes the appointment of Dr Myrna Germanos-Haddad (Beirut, Lebanon) as the representative of our Federation on the IFCC Executive Board for the remaining duration of the 2024–2026 term. This appointment follows the passing of our esteemed colleague Dr Osama Najjar, whose exemplary commitment to laboratory medicine and to our region remains a lasting reference for our community. It is made within a specific framework, distinct from the elective mandate for which Dr Haddad has been elected for the 2027–2029 term.

Dr Myrna Germanos

Dr Myrna Germanos-Haddad is a highly respected clinical biologist, recognized for the excellence of her scientific career and her structured commitment to the advancement of laboratory medicine. As President of the Syndicate of Biologists of Lebanon, she has made significant contributions to improving the quality and reliability of laboratory testing, implementing accreditation and quality assurance systems, developing initial and continuing education, particularly for young professionals, and strengthening the profession in complex environments.

She is also distinguished by her strong organizational and federative skills, notably through her leadership in organizing AFCB regional congresses, thereby enhancing scientific exchange and cohesion among member societies. In often constrained contexts, she has demonstrated strong operational capacity by facilitating access to essential reagents and advanced diagnostic technologies, particularly through active international collaborations. She has also been engaged for many years in addressing the health challenges of displaced populations, with concrete actions already implemented at both national and regional levels.

The Arab region is currently facing profound crises marked by conflicts, large-scale population displacement, and increasing pressure on healthcare systems. In Lebanon in particular, the humanitarian situation remains highly concerning, with a very large number of displaced and vulnerable individuals. In this context, the need for health responses and laboratory medicine services is considerable, especially for migrants and refugees, including access to diagnostics, disease monitoring, epidemiological surveillance, and continuity of care. In the face of these challenges, our scientific and professional community has a duty to alert and to support. Health responses must fully integrate laboratory medicine, including in emergency settings where systems must be deployed rapidly and effectively.

At the regional level, coordinated actions are already underway in collaboration with quality control structures such as ASQUALAB, France–Lebanon and international cooperation associations, international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), and

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humanitarian actors including Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), among others. These initiatives aim to address the health needs of displaced populations, ensure continuity of care, including through mobile units, strengthen emergency care and diagnostic capacities in conflict situations, and contribute to essential public health measures, including access to safe drinking water in shelters. In a context where needs are rapidly evolving, these actions require further consolidation and coordination.

The IFCC, as a leading global organization bringing together more than 100 countries and structured around six regional federations, provides, in collaboration with its international partners, an appropriate framework to support these dynamics. Without encroaching upon the prerogatives of its governing bodies, the AFCB emphasizes the importance of acknowledging the urgency of health needs related to conflicts, supporting ongoing field initiatives, and strengthening coordination among IFCC regional federations. Despite ongoing crises, the laboratory medicine community in the region continues to demonstrate remarkable resilience, maintaining scientific activity, educational efforts, and cooperation. As Dr Myrna Haddad recently reminded us, “the trials of history must not overshadow what matters most: science, cooperation, and commitment to patients endure. Lebanon, which has faced numerous crises, has always demonstrated a remarkable capacity to recover.”

In a context of multiple crises, laboratory medicine has a critical role to play in health responses, particularly for the most vulnerable populations. The presence of Dr Myrna Haddad on the IFCC EB represents an important opportunity to strengthen dialogue between regional and international levels and to contribute to coordinated, scientific, and context-adapted responses.
The AFCB will continue to act in this spirit, in service of health, human dignity, and the advancement of laboratory medicine.

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 second group of IFCC Chairs who began their time in office in 2026.

Working Group Ibero-American Nomenclature and Translations (WG-IANT)

Welcome to the new Chair, **Dr Alvaro Justiniano Cortez** (Bolivia) and thanks for his commitment to **Dr Raúl Girardi** (Argentina), who led the Working Group for two terms, from January 2020 to December 2025.

Alvaro Justiniano Cortez, 31 years old, is a Biochemist from Tarija, a small city with a small population located in the south of Bolivia, in Latin America. His native language is Spanish and he also speaks English.

Actually he is working in a high complexity private lab, family owned, the main private lab in the city. He is in charge of the molecular biology and immunology area. Moreover, he is responsible for the proper functioning of the laboratory and its branches.

He is member of the Clinical Chemistry Bolivian Society (SOBOBIOCLI) and corresponding member of the IFCC Task Force Youngs Scientist (TF-YS) nominated by SOBOBIOCLI. He is member of the Professional Youngs of the Latin American Clinical Biochemistry Confederation (COLABIOCLI). Also he is involved in the process of creating and organizing a group of young bolivian professionals in clinical chemistry.

Recently Alvaro Justiniano Cortez has been appointed as Chair of Iberoamerican Nomenclature and Translation Working Group (WG-IANT), where he will continue the great work done so far, and achieve goals of the group with the help and collaboration of all the members of the group.

Dr Alvaro Justiniano Cortez, new Chair of the Working Group Ibero-American Nomenclature and Translations (WG-IANT)

Dr Raúl Girardi, who served as Chair of the Working Group from January 2020 to December 2025

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Working Group on Neonatal Bilirubin (WG-NB) in cooperation with the Emerging Technologies Division (ETD) and the Scientific Division (SD)

Welcome to the new ETD Co-Chair, **Dr Mercy Thomas** (Australia) and thanks for her commitment to **A. Prof. Ronda Greaves** (Australia), who co-Chaired the Working Group from December 2022 to December 2025.

Dr Mercy Thomas, RN, RM, PhD, is a clinical academic and nurse scientist based in Melbourne, Australia. She is a Senior Lecturer and Deputy Chair at Swinburne University of Technology and an Honorary Researcher with the Murdoch Children's Research Institute. Her clinical and academic career has spanned Australia, New Zealand, and India, shaping her enduring commitment to improving newborn outcomes through advances in diagnostics and clinical care. Her doctoral research and ongoing international collaborations focus on neonatal jaundice, with particular emphasis on bilirubin measurement standardisation and emerging point-of-care technologies.
Dr Thomas has been an active member of the IFCC Working Group on Neonatal Bilirubin since 2022 and now serves as Co-Chair within the Emerging Technologies Division. She collaborates with international laboratory medicine and clinical experts to support harmonisation, guideline development, and translation of laboratory innovation into clinical practice. She is committed to advancing interdisciplinary collaboration and strengthening equitable, evidence-based diagnostic strategies for newborns worldwide.

Dr Mercy Thomas, new Co-Chair of the ETD Working Group on Neonatal Bilirubin (WG-NB) in cooperation with the SD.

A. Prof. Ronda Greaves who served as ETD Co-Chair of the Working Group from January 2022 to December 2025

Working Group Commutability in Metrological Traceability (WG-CMT)

Welcome to the new Chair, **Prof. Jesper Vestermark Johansen** (Denmark) and thanks for his commitment to **Prof. Greg Miller** (US), who chaired the Working Group for two terms, from January 2020 to December 2025.

Prof. Jesper Vestermark Johansen is a Principal Medical Advisor with longstanding experience in developing and evaluating in vitro diagnostic devices. His work includes test method development, analytical performance assessment, statistical evaluation, and activities supporting metrological traceability. He contributes to requirement setting, technical problem solving, and the development of clinically relevant and regulatory-aligned measurement procedures.
He is actively involved in international standardization across several organizations. Prof. Johansen serves in chairing, member, and contributor roles within CLSI Evaluation Protocols and ISO/TC 212, IFCC working groups, and participates in JCTLM activities focused on method evaluation, traceability, commutability, and reference system development. He is also a member of the COMET Advisory Board. Through this work, he contributes to the development of standards and guidance documents that support global practice in laboratory measurement quality.

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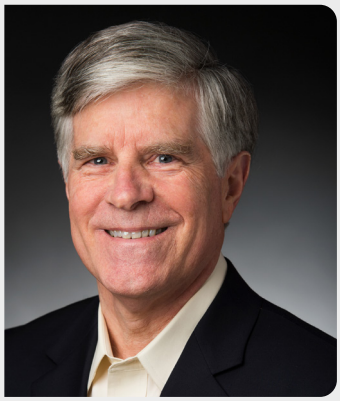
Prof. Jesper Vestermark Johansen, new chair of the Working Group on Commutability in Metrological Traceability (WG-CMT)



Prof. Greg Miller, who served as Chair of the Working Group on Commutability in Metrological Traceability (WG-CMT) from 2020 to 2025

Voices of our Corporate Members

Spotlight on IFCC Corporate Members
Meet Dr. Yan Liu and Dr. Sven Ebert, Corporate Members for the IFCC Emerging Technologies Division (ETD) Executive Committee

How long have you been associated with IFCC?
Yan Liu has been serving as a member of the Executive Committee since January 2023, focusing on building a bridge between the rapid pace of the diagnostic industry and the clinical needs of patients worldwide. Sven Ebert began his term on the Executive Committee in January 2025 and has found it to be an incredible journey working to translate disruptive ideas into sustainable diagnostic solutions.

What inspires you to get more involved?
We are inspired by the transformative power of innovation in laboratory medicine at a pivotal moment where upcoming technologies, ranging from Mass Spectrometry to Mobile Health, are redefining patient care. A core priority for us is also the work of our Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Data Science in Laboratory Medicine, which addresses the rigorous validation and transparent governance required for AI to improve quality and optimize workflows.

The ETD provides the strategic leadership to ensure these breakthroughs reach laboratories everywhere; it is deeply rewarding to contribute to advancements in these vital areas.

What do you like most about your involvement with IFCC?
We believe the IFCC is a unique global forum where scientists from clinical research, university research, and corporate research work together to increase knowledge, independent of their home institution or origin. It is deeply inspiring to work across boundaries and witness how a shared curiosity for the future unites competing companies and institutions in a collaborative environment.

One aspect we particularly appreciate in the ETD is the openness and inclusiveness in considering perspectives from different sectors, including industry. The ETD leadership actively encourages dialogue across stakeholders and values the practical insights that industry members can contribute when shaping strategic initiatives, surveys, and scientific publications.

Beyond the strategic goals, we truly enjoy the great collaboration within our Emerging Technologies Division; it is fun working together in this team, and that energy drives our progress. We take great pride in our division's high-impact scientific publications and global surveys that help define the needs of our profession. Furthermore, our active contributions to IFCC conferences enable direct exchange with the global community

What advice do you have for other Corporate Members?
Involvement is the absolute key to progress because active engagement in a committee or working group allows you to use your specific expertise to help achieve the organization's goals. By working together, we can

The ETD Corporate Leadership Duo: Yan Liu, PhD & Sven Ebert, PhD - Corporate Representatives & Executive Committee Members, IFCC Emerging Technologies Division (ETD)

Article continued on the next page

ensure that laboratory medicine is recognized as the foundational element of all effective healthcare decisions and patient pathways.

Is there anything else you would like to add before we close this interview?
It has also been a very positive experience for us to serve together as corporate representatives within the ETD. Having two industry perspectives involved in the discussions has created a dynamic and constructive dialogue, allowing us to bring complementary experiences from the diagnostics field and from different countries.

Although we come from different companies and naturally operate in a competitive industry environment, our collaboration within IFCC has been very constructive and enjoyable. In this role, we do not represent our individual companies but rather share a common motivation to contribute industry perspectives to the IFCC community and to support the advancement of laboratory medicine together.

Looking ahead, we must stay focused on innovation to enhance the value of laboratory testing. A very exciting project currently underway in our division is the development of foresight publication, which explores the landscape of laboratory medicine 25 years into the future, and we look forward to publishing this soon. Our responsibility is to make the profession vibrant for new generations by highlighting its global impact, scientific rigor, and pivotal role in shaping public health.

Contribute to IFCC eNews

The Power of Laboratory Medicine in Advancing Wellness: Evidence from UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence

Laboratory medicine is an essential driver of wellness across healthcare systems and populations. Evidence to support the connection between laboratory medicine and wellness and long been postulated, with growing bodies of evidence emerging. The UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award program is considered the largest repository of evidence to support the value of laboratory medicine and provides compelling evidence that when laboratory medicine and insights are strategically integrated into care through cross-disciplinary collaboration, meaningful improvements in patient wellness are possible.

One example comes from Medcan Health Management Inc. in Toronto, Canada. A multidisciplinary team providing comprehensive annual health assessments (AHAs) sourced and implemented high-sensitivity troponin I assay testing in place of traditional stress testing to improve and enhance identification of future cardiovascular risk. Through this new process 204 individuals were identified as high-risk for future cardiovascular disease, with another 451 at moderate risk, enabling early intervention and treatments when needed. By empowering individuals to understand their health risks early, and to act sooner, this integrated clinical care initiative exemplifies how laboratory insights can drive wellness at population level.

A second wellness-focused best practice example emerges from Prisma Health Greenville Memorial Hospital in South Carolina, USA. Recognized for their focus on early risk assessments and personalized care, this integrated clinical care team implemented an electronic medical record (EMR) registry risk score for patients with heart failure who are at risk of decompensating. Through this initiative they actively increased the number of patients who were at high risk for disease progression now receiving early care through an advanced heart failure specialist, enabling a reduction in healthcare disparities, as well as a 12% improvement in overall mortality for those on their registry. .

A third example of laboratory-enabled wellness comes from Kaiser Permanente Southern California, which improved management of patients with high LDL-C through an EMR-driven, guideline-concordant statin-prescribing algorithm (A SureNet Initiative). This integrated clinical care initiative increased treatment opportunities for patients with untreated high cholesterol by identifying those with an LDL-C >190 mg/dL and no evidence of a statin prescription within the last 2-6 months. Through clear communications and education, these laboratory insights enabled a 22.2% relative increase (from 34.7% to 42.4%, $p<0.001$) in the proportion of patients who improved their LDL-C below 190mg/dL, post SureNet program implementation.

Across these best practice examples, a theme emerges in that laboratory medicine and insights can and do inform care that directly improve patient wellness. Feeling inspired and want to learn more about these best practice examples and others? Please visit www.UnivantsHCE.com.

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IFCC International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine · ADLM · EHMA European Health Management Association · Modern Healthcare · HIMSS · NAHQ National Association for Healthcare Quality · IHE · INSTITUTE OF HEALTH ECONOMICS

IFCC-FEN Signs MOU with Snibe to Strengthen Collaboration in Laboratory Medicine

The IFCC Foundation for Emerging Nations (FEN) announces a strategic collaboration with Snibe Co., Ltd., following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on March 1, 2026. The MOU was formally signed by **Prof. Tomris Ozbe**n, IFCC President and Member of the FEN Board of Directors, and **Ms. Lucy Liu**, Vice President of Snibe.

As a leading corporate member of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC), Snibe has long been a steadfast supporter of IFCC's mission to advance excellence in laboratory medicine and drive improvements in global healthcare. The company's commitment to global collaboration and knowledge exchange in the field is exemplified by its long-term sponsorship of key IFCC events, including WorldLab and Euromedlab—two of the most influential congresses in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine, which unite global professionals to share cutting-edge insights, technological innovations, and industry best practices.

Beyond event sponsorship, Snibe places high priority on nurturing emerging talent and recognizing outstanding contributions to the field. The company closely tracks and supports exceptional young researchers and scientists in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine, and has continuously supported IFCC in establishing two prestigious awards: the IFCC Young Investigator Award and the IFCC Distinguished Award for Laboratory Medicine and Patient Care.

The signing of the MOU with IFCC-FEN marks a new milestone in Snibe's long-standing partnership with IFCC. By integrating Snibe's expertise in laboratory medicine technology and innovation with FEN's commitment to capacity building in emerging nations, the collaboration aims to drive tangible progress in enhancing laboratory service quality, empowering local professionals, and improving patient outcomes on a global scale.

Prof Tomris Ozben, IFCC President and Member of the FEN Board of Directors signing the formal MoU with Ms. Lucy Liu, Vice President of Snibe.

Women's Holistic Health Management: Health for Her, for Her Whole Life

IFCC President Prof. Tomris Ozben Delivers Keynote at Snibe-Hosted Satellite Symposium on Women's Holistic Health Management

Xiamen, China, March 21, 2026 – The International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) took part in a satellite symposium titled "Women's Holistic Health Management: Health for Her, for Her Whole Life", hosted by Snibe Co., Ltd. during the 2026 CACLP conference in Xiamen. IFCC President Prof. Tomris Ozben delivered a keynote address at the event.

The symposium focused on addressing women's unique health needs across all life stages—from adolescence and pregnancy to older adulthood—highlighting the pivotal role of precise, accessible laboratory testing in advancing clinical care and value-based medicine.

In her speech, Prof. Ozben emphasized the critical importance of laboratory medicine in chronic disease prevention and holistic health management throughout a woman's lifecycle. She expressed IFCC's strong support for global collaboration to drive the standardization and wider adoption of women's health testing technologies.

Snibe reaffirmed its commitment to translating laboratory innovations into real-world clinical impact, with ongoing efforts to refine women's health testing solutions and deliver accessible, high-quality care that safeguards women's health outcomes worldwide.

The audience at the Satellite Symposium on Women's Holistic Health Management hosted by Snibe

Prof Tomris Ozben, IFCC President delivering her speech at the Satellite Symposium

IFCC FEN and Wondfo Partner to Advance Global Laboratory Medicine

On March 21, Wondfo Biotech officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the IFCC Foundation for Emerging Nations (FEN) during CACLP 2026, marking the beginning of a new collaboration aimed at advancing laboratory medicine worldwide.
FEN is devoted to fund raising and to supporting programmes that help to improve the quality and delivery of laboratory medicine services, particularly in emerging nations. Aligned with FEN's mission, Wondfo and FEN will strengthen cooperation in scientific research and educational initiatives related to laboratory medicine.
Prof. Tomris Ozben, President of the IFCC and Member of the FEN Board of Directors, expressed enthusiasm about the collaboration, noting that partnerships between global organizations and industry leaders play an important role in advancing innovation and strengthening the global impact of laboratory medicine.

Prof Tomris Ozben, IFCC President and Member of the FEN Board of Directors, speaking during the event

Mr. Mark Xu, Vice President and Head of International Sales & Marketing Center of Wondfo, during his speech.

Mr. Mark Xu, Vice President and Head of International Sales & Marketing Center of Wondfo, also highlighted the significance of the partnership. He noted that Wondfo remains committed to advancing diagnostic technologies and looks forward to working closely with FEN to support the development of laboratory medicine worldwide.

Wondfo will continue to collaborate with global partners to accelerate innovation and expand access to high-quality diagnostic solutions, contributing to better healthcare for communities around the world.

Wondfo has been an official member of the IFCC for many years. Last year, we successfully co-hosted the Global POCT Summit with the IFCC in Guangzhou, bringing together over 200 experts and industry professionals from more than 70 countries. Looking ahead, Wondfo is confident about embarking on even deeper collaborations with the IFCC to build a bright future together!
Learn more: https://en.wondfo.com/news/index322.html

Prof Tomris Ozben, IFCC President and Member of the FEN Board of Directors, and Mr. Mark Xu, Vice President and Head of International Sales & Marketing Center of Wondfo, after signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Participants at the Global Summit on PoCT in 2025

IFCC FEN and Beijing Wantai Biopharm Sign Strategic MoU to Advance Laboratory Medicine in Emerging Nations

The official signing of a Strategic Cooperation Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the IFCC Foundation for Emerging Nations (FEN) and Beijing Wantai Biological Pharmacy Enterprise Co., Ltd. took place on **22nd March 2026** during the **CACLP Exhibition in Xiamen, China**, with the partnership dedicated to elevating global laboratory medicine standards and enhancing medical diagnostic capabilities across emerging nations worldwide.

The landmark signing ceremony brought together senior representatives from both parties, uniting FEN's global expertise in laboratory medicine capacity building and professional education with Wantai Biopharm's cutting-edge diagnostic biotechnology innovation to drive tangible, practical progress in healthcare systems across emerging nations.

Core Cooperation Focus and Shared Mission
This dedicated MoU was formally signed by **Professor Tomris Ozben**, President of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) and FEN Board Member, and **Dr. Tiffany Jiang**, General Manager of Beijing Wantai Biological Pharmacy Enterprise Co., Ltd., officially launching targeted cross-sector collaboration in the field of laboratory medicine. Under the agreement, the two parties will anchor their cooperation on two core pillars: **joint research support** and **specialized educational cooperation.** As a flagship initiative, they will co-host tailored online teaching and training programmes across **Africa, the Middle East and Asia**, focused on promoting the clinical application and localized translation of state-of-the-art innovative laboratory technologies to address the practical diagnostic needs of emerging nations.
This strategic partnership aligns perfectly with FEN's core mission to close gaps in laboratory medicine infrastructure and professional expertise across emerging economies, paired with Wantai Biological's longstanding commitment to expanding global access to high-quality diagnostic solutions. By integrating FEN's extensive global professional network and educational resources with Wantai's robust technical and R&D capabilities, the two parties will accelerate the practical translation and on-the-ground deployment of innovative diagnostic technologies.

About the Partners
IFCC Foundation for Emerging Nations (FEN): A specialized initiative under the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC), the global apex body for clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine. FEN is dedicated to empowering emerging nations through laboratory medicine capacity building, professional education, technical support and healthcare equity advocacy, while IFCC sets global standards and promotes excellence in laboratory medicine worldwide.

Beijing Wantai Biological Pharmacy Enterprise Co., Ltd.: A leading global innovator in the in vitro diagnostic and biopharmaceutical industry, focusing on R&D, manufacturing and distribution of high-quality diagnostic products. The company is committed to global healthcare cooperation and expanding equitable access to advanced diagnostic technologies across emerging and international markets.

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Professor Tomris Ozben, President of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) and FEN Board Member, and Dr. Tiffany Jiang, General Manager of Beijing Wantai Biological Pharmacy Enterprise Co., Ltd., signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the IFCC Foundation for Emerging Nations (FEN) and the Beijing Wantai Biological Pharmacy Enterprise Co., Ltd.

Professor Tomris Ozben and Dr. Tiffany Jiang shaking hands after the signing ceremony

Professor Tomris Ozben and Dr. Tiffany Jiang after the signing ceremony

1st Global IVD Innovation Summit Held in Xiamen, Highlighting Global Collaboration With International Experts

On March 22, the 1st Global IVD Innovation Summit, co-hosted by Wantai BioPharm alongside CACLP, CAIVD and CPCEM, successfully took place in Xiamen, China, under the theme “Global IVD Innovation and Cross-Regional Integration”. The summit gathered top-tier laboratory medicine experts from across the world, with core participation and leadership from the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC), Singapore Association of Clinical Biochemists (SACB), Korean Society of Laboratory Medicine (KSLM), African Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (AFCC) and Chinese Society of Laboratory Medicine (CSLM), marking a high-standard, inclusive platform for global IVD industry exchange, innovation alignment and cross-regional cooperation.

Speakers at the 1st Global IVD Innovation Summit

The audience of the 1st Global IVD Innovation Summit

Opening Address

Professor Hualiang Wang of the China Association of Health Industry and Management moderated the opening ceremony. Professor Chuanxin Wang, President of CSLM, delivered a keynote opening remark, noting that laboratory medicine in China has completed a vital transition “from following to running alongside” global industry leaders. He called for open international collaboration and cross-regional coordination as irreplaceable pillars for the long-term progress of the global IVD and laboratory medicine sector, and expressed expectations for closer partnership with IFCC and global peers.

IFCC President Professor Tomris Ozben shared IFCC’s advanced experience in laboratory medicine standardization and quality management, emphasizing that cross-regional cooperation is an absolute necessity for the sustainable development of the global IVD industry. She highlighted artificial intelligence as a crucial tool to empower frontline laboratory professionals, adding that IFCC remains firmly committed to promoting the equitable and widely accessible application of digital health technologies across the world.

Keynote Speeches

Moderated by Professor Wei Cui and IFCC Secretary Professor Sergio Bernardini, the keynote session brought together a host of prominent global experts to share cutting-edge insights. Professor Ming Guan, Vice President of CSLM, advocated that laboratory medicine must shift from conventional general testing to specialized, disease-focused diagnostic approaches, pointing out that this precision-oriented transformation will provide strong support for accurate subsequent diagnostics and targeted clinical treatment.

Professor Vittorio Sambri of the University of Bologna analyzed key bottlenecks restricting tuberculosis diagnostics, calling for faster and more accessible diagnostic solutions that adapt to the practical conditions of resource-limited regions.Professor Rajiv Erasmus, Past President of AFCC, stressed the urgent need for IVD innovations tailored to Africa’s local medical and public health demands. SACB President Professor Leslie Lam highlighted that automation and intelligent upgrading of diagnostic services have become essential measures to address the challenges brought by population aging in Southeast Asia.

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Roundtable Discussion

Moderated by Professor Qishui Ou, Deputy Chair of CSLM, the roundtable session brought together senior experts including IFCC Secretary Professor Sergio Bernardini, University of Modena & Reggio Emilia and Scientific Director of Technopark Professor Aldo Tomasi, AFCC Past President Professor Rajiv Erasmus, and KSLM President Professor Myunggeun Shin. After in-depth and focused exchanges, the panel reached clear core consensus: AI is a powerful tool to empower laboratory medical professionals instead of replacing them, and human-machine collaboration represents the future development direction of laboratory medicine. Additionally, enhancing global access to high-quality IVD and diagnostic services stands as the shared mission of the international industry, laying a solid foundation for sustained cross-regional cooperation.

Closing Remarks and Future Cooperation Commitment

In the closing address, Dr. Tiffany Jiang, General Manager of Wantai BioPharm, emphasized that open global collaboration is the core driving force of sustained IVD innovation, and expressed the company's strong willingness to build closer and deeper ties with IFCC, CSLM, CACLP and all global partners to expand the worldwide accessibility of precision diagnostic solutions. Adhering to the mission "Innovation for Life", Wantai BioPharm will continue to deepen strategic cooperation with IFCC and global laboratory medicine organizations, jointly promoting the standardized, innovative and inclusive development of the global IVD industry.

Dr Tiffany Jiang, General Manager of Wantai BioPharm, during her speech

A moment during the 1st Global IVD Innovation Summit

News from Regional Federations and Member Societies

Prof. Muhittin A. Serdar is the new President of the Turkish Biochemical Society (TBS)

The Turkish Biochemical Society (TBS) is happy to announce that Prof. Muhittin A. Serdar is the new President of the society. See here his message:

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is a great honor to assume the presidency of the Turkish Biochemical Society (TBS), an institution with over half a century of history. I take over this responsibility from our esteemed colleague, Prof. Doğan Yücel, who will continue to serve on our executive board and as Editor-in-Chief of the Turkish Journal of Biochemistry. I extend my deepest gratitude to him for his outstanding contributions and the institutional strength he has built.

Together with our continuing executive board, we remain committed to advancing TBS through our core values of scientific excellence, inclusivity, and equity. A primary goal for this term is to strengthen our active role within global networks and expand our collaborations with international organizations, particularly EFLM, IFCC, FEBS, and BCLF. We firmly believe that advancing science requires both local dedication and strong global dialogue.

Locally, we will continue our steadfast advocacy for public health, clinical biochemistry awareness, and the professional rights of our colleagues.

We look forward to a successful term of shared progress.

Sincerely,

Prof. Muhittin A. Serdar
President, Turkish Biochemical Society

Prof. Muhittin A. Serdar, new President of the Turkish Biochemical Society (TBS).

LABAC: From Accreditation Culture to Strategic Leadership

Jean-Marc Giannoli, LABAC President, **Bernard Gouget**, IFCC/EFLM LABAC representative

Since the beginning of the millennium, LABAC (Réseau des Laboratoires de Biologie Médicale Accrédités, https://www.labac.eu) has played a defining role in shaping the culture of quality and accreditation in French laboratory medicine. Established at a time when accreditation was emerging as a structural transformation in medical biology, the network has progressively evolved into a scientifically mature, institutionally recognized, and internationally connected professional society. As an Affiliate Member of the IFCC and closely aligned with the EFLM, LABAC operates at the intersection of national implementation and international harmonization. It brings together accredited laboratories and laboratory medicine professionals from across the private, hospital, and academic sectors, offering a structured platform for scientific exchange, quality advancement, and regulatory dialogue.

Dr Jean-Marc Giannoli, LABAC President

From its inception, LABAC's mission has been clear: to promote excellence in quality assurance, facilitate the sharing of best practices, and serve as a constructive interlocutor for accreditation and regulatory authorities. Over time, this mission has translated into sustained engagement with key institutional stakeholders, including COFRAC, AFNOR, and ISO-related working environments. Through these interfaces, LABAC contributes to the interpretation and operational implementation of ISO 15189:2022, supporting consistent and harmonized accreditation practices across France.

Beyond its regulatory engagement, LABAC has distinguished itself through its strong scientific animation. The association organizes two major national scientific meetings each year, dedicated to the practical implementation of quality systems, the evolution of accreditation frameworks, and emerging scientific and regulatory challenges in laboratory medicine. These meetings provide not only technical updates but also strategic reflection on the future of the profession.
A defining characteristic of LABAC has been its ability to mobilize internationally recognized experts and opinion leaders. Over the years, its conferences have featured prominent figures such as N. Rifai, T. Badrick, S. Sandberg, and G. Miller. Yet the added value of LABAC does not lie solely in individual keynote speakers. Rather, it resides in its capacity to create a sustained intellectual ecosystem where global perspectives inform national practice, and where members benefit from direct exposure to international best practices and forward-looking scientific debate. All scientific content remains accessible through LABAC's digital platform, reinforcing its role as a continuous knowledge dissemination hub. This digital dimension ensures that learning extends beyond annual meetings, supporting ongoing professional development and competency reinforcement.

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Institutionally, LABAC benefits from formal recognition by the French Ministry of Health as a relevant scientific stakeholder in the structuring and reform of medical biology. Its influence spans the three foundational pillars of French laboratory medicine: private laboratory groups, hospital laboratories, and academic institutions. This transversal positioning enables LABAC to function as a unifying scientific bridge, fostering coherence and dialogue across sectors that often operate within distinct organizational cultures. In parallel, LABAC has developed transparent and contractually governed collaborations with in vitro diagnostics (IVD) partners. These partnerships support joint scientific programs, educational initiatives, and technology evaluation, all conducted within a framework of strict scientific independence and ethical compliance. By integrating innovation while safeguarding professional integrity, LABAC ensures that technological progress aligns with quality standards and patient-centered laboratory practice.

Education and forward-looking competency development remain central to its strategy. LABAC is actively investing in adaptive learning models, digital education tools, and competency-based training approaches, aligning its educational framework with global evolutions in professional training. This commitment reflects a broader understanding that accreditation is not a static objective but a dynamic process requiring continuous knowledge renewal and organizational agility. Internationally, LABAC reinforces its visibility and benchmarking capacity through active participation in major congresses, including Labquality Days, one of the leading European meetings dedicated to quality in laboratory medicine and health technology. This involvement helps French laboratory medicine stay connected with developments in Europe and worldwide. Working with the Francophony Federation (FIFBCML), LABAC also supports scientific exchange within French-speaking regions and helps share IFCC and EFLM recommendations. Through additional partnerships with international laboratory medicine organizations, LABAC strengthens its role as a platform for scientific dialogue at regional, national, and global levels.

After twenty-six years of development, LABAC stands as more than a professional association. It is a structured network of accredited laboratories, a recognized interlocutor for public authorities, a cross-sector scientific bridge, and an active contributor to global harmonization efforts in laboratory medicine. Looking ahead, LABAC is positioning itself as a national partner for the implementation of IFCC standards, a laboratory quality think-tank capable of anticipating structural transformations, an innovative educational platform, and a driver of sustainability within the profession. In a context where laboratory medicine faces technological acceleration, regulatory complexity, and growing societal expectations, LABAC embodies stability, scientific rigor, and strategic vision. More than a network, LABAC has become an architect of accreditation culture and a catalyst for structured progress, advancing quality, fostering harmonization, and strengthening the future of laboratory medicine in France and beyond.

Report from Pakistan Society of Chemical Pathology: Building Greener Labs

By: **Rizwana Kausar** & **Hafsa Majid**
Section of Chemical Pathology, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Aga khan University (AKU), Karachi, Pakistan

Building Greener Labs: Strategies for Resilience and Sustainability

As part of the 27th National Health Sciences Research Symposium at Aga Khan University (AKU), Karachi, Pakistan, the Section of Chemical Pathology, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, in collaboration with Pakistan Society of Chemical Pathology hosted a workshop on February 3, 2026, titled 'Building Greener Labs: Strategies for Resilience and Sustainability.' The workshop was conducted under the auspices of IFCC and brought together both international and local experts to discuss practical approaches for developing environmentally responsible laboratories. It was attended by laboratory professionals from laboratories of Karachi and Quetta. The workshop opened with an interactive session, inviting participants to highlight their current green lab initiatives and discuss what motivated them to attend. Prof. Dr. John Anetor, Chair of the IFCC Task Force on Environmental Impact of Laboratory Medicine and Professor at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, delivered a keynote speech on global trends in sustainable laboratory practices. Prof. Anetor emphasized the environmental responsibilities of laboratory medicine and the importance of adapting global frameworks to local contexts. His speech was followed by an interactive session by Dr. Lena Jafri, visiting Lecturer in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at AKU, who delivered an engaging session focusing on the three pillars of the green lab: energy, waste, and water management. She particularly emphasized the practical strategies for efficient use of resources. Dr Shiriyani Herath, Biochemist at the National Hospital of Sri Lanka, shared her experience of implementing sustainable practices at her laboratory. Moreover, another success story of effective implementation of a Single Tube Strategy to reduce plastic waste in a clinical laboratory in Pakistan was shared by Ms Rizwana Kausar, Assistant Manager, Chemical Pathology at AKU.

The final activity of the workshop included interactive group work, where different case scenarios on paper reduction, energy conservation, and waste minimization were shared with participants. In a brainstorming session each group identified areas of improvement based on green lab principles and proposed sustainable and resilient initiatives applicable to their own laboratory settings. This session was followed by group presentations and constructive feedback by the workshop facilitators.

Participants engaged in an interactive brainstorming session.

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The workshop concluded with overwhelmingly positive feedback, significantly raising awareness regarding the environmental footprint of laboratory operations. Participants particularly valued the real-world case studies of successful green lab transitions and advocated for these sessions to become a regular fixture. A notable recommendation was to integrate similar workshops as pre-conference activities for broader laboratory medicine events, extending beyond Chemical Pathology to include Hematology, Immunology, and other specialties. Ultimately, the event was a success, equipping attendees with actionable strategies to foster more sustainable laboratory environments.

Group Picture of the Workshop Participants.

First anniversary of the Young Scientists Working Group of the Mexican Society of Clinical Laboratory Sciences A.C.

By **Rosa Sierra-Amor**, PhD Member eNews WG CPD and **Francisco Josué Carrillo-Ballesteros**, PhD, Chair YS WG CMCLabC.

On March 11th, 2026, the Mexican Society of Clinical Laboratory Sciences A.C. organized a virtual symposium to commemorate the first year of the formation of the Young Scientists Working Group (YS-WG). This proactive participation of young professionals in clinical biochemistry and laboratory medicine in Mexico has become a priority aligned with the IFCC's international activities. CMCLabC is committed to strengthening the academic, professional and pre-graduate community of Young Scientists in México. This initiative´s aim has been promoting the participation of young professionals, scientists and students under 40 years of age who are members of the national society up to today, with scientific leadership and collaboration between generations of professionals, contributing to the development of a dynamic community that strengthens the present and future of the medical laboratory.

The initiative was inspired by international programs that promote the participation of young scientists within professional societies, such as the IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists and the COLABIOCLI Young Professionals Group, which aim is to ensure that new generations actively contribute to the development of laboratory medicine at a global and regional level respectively. The CMCLabC YS-WG was created on March 8th, 2025, and is currently coordinated by Francisco Josué Carrillo-Ballesteros, PhD, from the University of Guadalajara, Guadalajara, Mexico. In addition, there are members along the country: Mexico City, Jalisco, Veracruz, Yucatán and Hidalgo, with experience in different areas of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, and multidisciplinary groups and areas of research that facilitate the integration of diverse perspectives of laboratory medicine, including the creation of collaborative networks. Likewise, the group is accompanied by experienced CMCLabC members, who are mentors or academic advisors, strengthening the exchange of knowledge between generations.

Among the main activities carried out by the YS-WG throughout the first year are the promotion of continuous scientific activities. There were eleven free webinars organized on diverse topics of high scientific relevance, such as autoimmunity, clinical microbiology, histocompatibility, artificial intelligence, omics sciences and new biomarkers. The content was generated on digital platforms and social networks, with the aim of bringing scientific knowledge closer to both professionals and society, inspired by the commemoration of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) World Days. This action strengthens awareness and health promotion, and in this way, makes visible the role of the clinical laboratory professional as a key collaborative element in multidisciplinary fields addressing problems of current healthcare interest. The members of this group have also actively participated in congresses, seminars and academic conferences, presenting research papers, scientific reviews and professional experiences. These activities favor the development of scientific communication skills, the exchange of experiences and the creation of professional networks. One of the central objectives of the YS-WG has been to strengthen leadership skills among young professionals, promoting their participation in the organization of academic events. For this reason, they were also involved in the organization of the 3rd National Congress of the CMCLabC, coordinating a Forum of Students´ Chapters and Young Scientists with a Symposium on Emerging Biomarkers and Advanced Cell Therapies.

The CMCLC YS-WG will continue to work to expand its educational activities, strengthen international participation, and encouraging the development of collaborative scientific projects. By promoting training, leadership and innovation among the new generations, this group represents a strategic investment in the future of laboratory medicine in favor of a better health systems in Mexico and therefore, along their peers worldwide.

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For further information please go to: facebook.com/jovenes.profesionalesCMCLabC & Instagram jovenes.cmclabc

Dissemination and Publicity of some of the activities in 2025.

Members YS-WG CMCLabC 2025-2026

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, Azusa Yamazaki, Ph.D, 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 Azusa Yamazaki, Ph.D was congratulated by Dr. Takashi Miida, President of JSCC, for her outstanding work in clinical chemistry. We JSCC proudly introduce the 2025 JSCC Outstanding Young Investigator Award winner in this issue and distribute her outstanding work.

Azusa Yamazaki, Ph.D. (Clinical Bioanalysis and Molecular Biology, Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences, Institute of Science Tokyo) is the winner of 2025 JSCC Outstanding Young Investigator Award, entitled “Validation and application of direct measurement method for erythrocytes cholesterol content”.

Conventionally, cholesterol assessments have focused on lipoprotein cholesterol in serum or plasma. However, erythrocytes make up about half of the blood volume and contain a large amount of cholesterol in their membranes. In the research group she belongs to, they focused on cholesterol in erythrocytes and reported on the transfer of cholesterol between erythrocytes and lipoproteins (Ohkawa R et al. J Lipid Res. 2020 and Lai SJ et al. Biol Chem. 2019). In addition, previous studies reported that the cholesterol content of erythrocyte membranes positively correlate with the severity of cardiovascular disease (CVD). These results indicate that erythrocytes are also actively involved in cholesterol dynamics, and measuring their cholesterol contents may be useful for CVD risk assessment. However, conventional methods require many complicated processes and are not suitable for clinical application. Therefore, Ms. Yamazaki and her colleagues developed and reported a simple and accurate method for quantifying the cholesterol content of erythrocytes (Yamazaki A et al. Biosci Rep. 2025). This method allows the determination of erythrocyte cholesterol content per volume and per cell, and this study further demonstrated that these values do not correlate with serum cholesterol content in healthy individuals. Additionally, they evaluated erythrocyte cholesterol content across different maturation stages, revealing that younger erythrocytes possesses significantly higher cholesterol content. These results suggest that the erythrocyte cholesterol content may be a clinically important biomarker independent of serum lipids, and that cholesterol may be released during the maturation process.

Their final goal is to establish erythrocyte cholesterol content as a widely used biomarker for assessing the risk of CVD and other lipid-related diseases. To this end, they are currently applying this new method to clinical samples from patients with various pathophysiological conditions. These studies would contribute to a deeper understanding of erythrocyte-related lipid metabolism by analyzing a larger cohort of patient samples.

Azusa Yamazaki, Ph.D, winner of the 2025 JSCC Outstanding Young Investigator Award

IFCC WorldLab

OCTOBER 25-29, 2026 | NEW DELHI, INDIA

IFCC WORLDLAB NEW DELHI 2026

27TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE
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15 JULY 2026 Deadline for reduced registration fees

Organising Secretariat
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MZ EVENTS

IFCC welcomes new Members

Advancing Laboratory Medicine: A New Era for the Cameroon Society of Clinical Biology (CSCB)

The Cameroon Society of Clinical Biology (CSCB) proudly announces its official membership in the IFCC, marking a significant milestone for laboratory medicine in Central Africa.

The Cameroonian Society of Clinical Biology (SCBC) is the national professional organization bringing together medical and pharmacist biologists practicing in Cameroon. Under the presidency of Professor Ama Moor, the Society has 126 active members committed to advancing medical biology in the service of public health.

The CSCB is dedicated to elevating standards in clinical biology through three core pillars: standardization, education, and advocacy. By harmonizing laboratory practices and strengthening quality assurance systems, the Society works to ensure that diagnostic services meet international benchmarks and positively impact health outcomes nationwide.

Its key activities include organizing scientific symposia, national conferences, scientific days, and capacity-building sessions for medical biologists. These events provide essential platforms for professional exchange, knowledge sharing, and reflection on the current and future challenges of medical biology in Cameroon.

The Society is supported by specialized scientific sub-committees in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; Hematology and Immunology; Parasitology and Mycology; Bacteriology and Virology; and Quality Management, all contributing to scientific advancement and best practices.

A recent highlight was the successful organization of the 3rd Cameroon Clinical Biology Days (JCBC) in September 2025, which brought together experts to discuss innovations and the modernization of diagnostic tools.

L-R : Prof Nda Meffo (Professor of Biochemistry), Prof. Ama Moor (Professor of Biochemisty, President of CSBC), Dr Kouinche Adelaide (past President of CSBC), Prof Ngaba Guy (Professor of Biochemistry)

General Assembly of the CSBC – February 2026

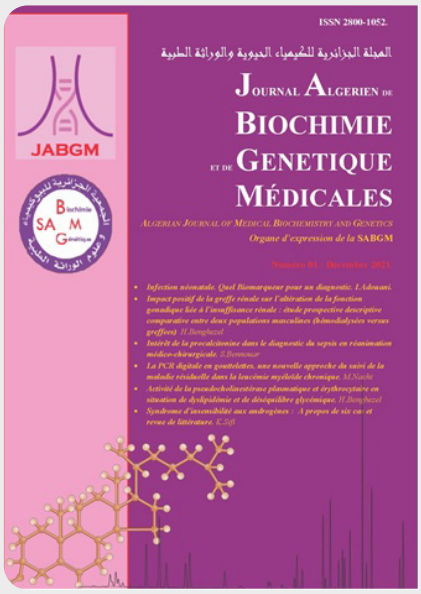
Algerian Society of Biochemistry and Medical Genetics (SABGM)

By: **Prof. Belaid Ait Abdelkader**
Vice-President, SABGM

Founded in 2015, the Algerian Society of Biochemistry and Medical Genetics (SABGM) brings together clinicians, researchers, and laboratory professionals to advance scientific excellence and innovation in medical diagnostics. Its mission is to promote research, education, and interdisciplinary collaboration in biochemistry and medical genetics, while representing Algerian expertise internationally.

The society organizes an annual national congress, with the 9th edition held from October 30 to November 1, 2025, along with thematic days focused on key topics in the field. It also offers training programs for laboratory professionals and hospital-university members, aimed at enhancing both practical and academic skills. Since its creation, several executive boards have led the society; the latest, elected in 2024, I have the honor of chairing. SABGM has been affiliated with the IFCC since 2025.

The society also publishes the Algerian Journal of Biochemistry and Medical Genetics, contributing to knowledge dissemination and continuous professional development. As president, I am proud to highlight SABGM's ongoing commitment to supporting research, fostering national and international collaborations, and promoting scientific innovation for the benefit of healthcare in Algeria.



Front page of the first issue of the society's journal, JABGM

Members of the executive board at the closing of the 9th International Congress of Biochemistry and Medical Genetics.

News from the website

DIAGNÓSTICO *IN VITRO*

La IFCC se complace una vez más publicar la edición Nro. 32 de la Revista Científica Diagnóstico in Vitro.

Con el objetivo de difundir y promover las actividades científicas, relacionada con nuestra profesión y modestamente, generar un lugar de reflexión es que se ha trabajado en el número que les presento, no sin antes agradecer la enorme colaboración del Comité de Redacción y especialmente el Consejo Editorial de inestimable eficacia y celeridad que hace de la edición una tarea muy placentera.
Por supuesto un profundo agradecimiento a los autores que confiaron en esta revista para compartir sus actividades, y a los Directivos y secretaria de IFCC por cedernos este espacio y hacer que nuestro trabajo se concrete.
Este número es el último editado por el Dr. Girardi, past chair of the WG-IANT. Lea su editorial: “Un ciclo que concluye, un camino que continúa. Seis años de trabajo compartido y una nueva etapa para el WG-IANT de la IFCC”.

The IFCC is pleased to publish Issue No. 32 of the scientific journal of In Vitro Diagnostics (DiV).
With the aim of disseminating and promoting scientific activities related to our profession, and of modestly creating a space for reflection, we have worked diligently on this issue. We would like to express our sincere gratitude for the invaluable collaboration of the Editorial Committee and, in particular, the Editorial Board, whose efficiency and dedication make the editing process a truly enjoyable task.

We also extend our deepest thanks to the authors who entrusted this journal with sharing their work, as well as to the IFCC for providing us with this platform and enabling our efforts to come to fruition.
This issue is the last one edited by Dr Girardi, past Chair of the WG-IANT. Read his editorial: “Un ciclo que concluye, un camino que continúa. Seis años de trabajo compartido y una nueva etapa para el WG-IANT de la IFCC”

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
Apr 4, 2026	International Symposium on Laboratory Medicine	SNIBE, Islamabad, PK
Apr 12, 2026	International Symposium on Laboratory Medicine	SNIBE, Shenzen, P.R. China
Apr 16, 2026	Vietnam Chenical Pathology Course XVI	Roche, Webinar, Ho Chi Minh City, VN
May 17, 2026	International Symposium on Laboratory Medicine	SNIBE, Shenzen, P.R. China

Other events with IFCC auspices

Click here

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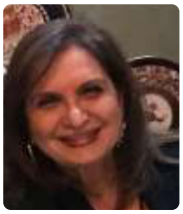

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Publisher
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The Communications and Publications Division publishes ten editions of the e-News per year, including two double issues.

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The eNews is distributed to all IFCC members registered on-line to receive it and to all IFCC sponsors.

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