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Editorial

Dear colleagues

Laboratory medicine is central to healthcare, and influences directly medical decisions regarding diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of the diseases. Our global community is continuously working to promote knowledge-sharing, innovation, and collaboration.

In this issue you can read the message of our President, Prof. Tomris Ozben, containing interesting information from the 5th EFLM Strategic Conference which was held in Prague on April 24–25, 2026. Moreover, Prof. Ozben underlines the importance of strong collaboration among laboratory medicine professionals and she is also inviting us to participate in the forthcoming IFCC Worldlab, which will be held in New Delhi on October 25–29, 2026, as well as to the EuroMedLab 2027, which will be held in London on May 16–20, 2027.

In this issue you can also read exciting news from the IFCC Visiting Lecturer Programme and the IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Programme, as well as from the IFCC Emerging Technologies Division, the IFCC Committee in Mobile Health and Bioengineering in Laboratory Medicine, the Committee on Artificial Intelligence in Laboratory Medicine, as well as and the Micro sampling Working Group and their valuable contributions to shaping the future of laboratory medicine in the digital era.

Furthermore, in the present issue you can meet the new members of the IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists, committed to fostering the next generation of laboratory medicine professionals and strengthening the global Young Scientists network.

The Japan Society of Clinical Chemistry share their news about awarded scientific work, while the Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine share with us important information about genetic diagnosis of fetal congenital anomalies.

In this issue I invite you to read about the UNIVARTS of Healthcare Excellence program and learn about previous best practices, KPIs and future opportunities.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome one Corporate Member and two Affiliate Members to our global community and we look forward to working together with them to enhance the scientific level of healthcare and promote the development of Laboratory Medicine globally.

Marilena Stamouli



Marilena Stamouli,
eNews Editor

The voice of IFCC

IFCC President's Message

May 2026

By **Tomris Ozben**

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

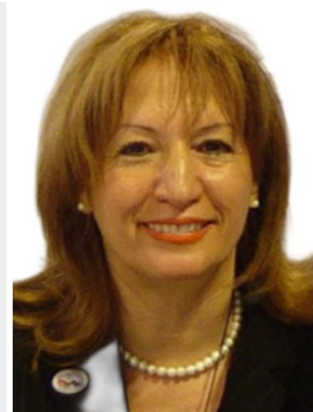
I hope this spring has brought renewed energy, fruitful collaborations, and positive momentum for the months ahead. I would like to share updates on several important meetings and activities held recently.

The XXVII IFCC EuroMedLab Congress, jointly organized with EFLM and hosted by the Association for Laboratory Medicine (ALM), will take place on 16–20 May 2027 at the London Excel Congress Centre. This congress represents an important milestone and is shaping up to be a major success, supported by strong collaboration and shared enthusiasm among all partners.

As you are aware, EuroMedLab congresses are renowned for their exceptional scientific quality. We greatly rely on your continued engagement to ensure the success of this upcoming edition. The Scientific Program Committee (SPC) and the International Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB) are developing a world-class, innovative, and well-balanced scientific program, including five plenary lectures, up to 24 symposia, and roundtable discussions. The SPC is working to bring together leading experts from IFCC, EFLM, ALM, and the wider scientific community, ensuring that the program reflects the most current and relevant topics in laboratory medicine.

The first SPC meeting was held online on Tuesday, 31 March 2026. During this meeting, the opening lecturer and four plenary speakers were selected from submitted proposals. The deadline for submission of symposia proposals from IFCC, EFLM, and ALM is 8 May 2026. Chairs and speakers are expected to be recognized leaders in their respective fields, with careful consideration given to geographical diversity, broad perspectives, and gender balance. During the second SPC meeting, 24 symposia will be selected, including five IFCC, three EFLM, and three ALM sessions.

The first Congress Organizing Committee (COC) meeting for the XXVII EuroMedLab Congress was held online on 7 April 2026, with participation from IFCC, EFLM, ALM, and MZ Events. Key aspects of congress planning were addressed, including abstract submission and registration timelines, the abstract management system, abstract publication journal, venue logistics, fiscal management, financial planning, sponsorship packages, registration and sponsorship fees, communication and promotion strategies, and hospitality arrangements for speakers and guests, and hotel management. Social events, including the opening ceremony and venues for two special dinners, were also discussed and decided. The proposed scientific program timeline and plenary speakers were approved. MZ Events will submit the program to the Conference Vetting System to ensure compliance with the MedTech Europe Ethical Code, enabling industry sponsorship.



Prof. Tomris Ozben
EuSpLM, Ph.D.

The third Congress Organizing Committee meeting for the XXVII IFCC WorldLab Congress was also held online on 7 April 2026, with representatives from IFCC, the Association of Clinical Biochemists of India (ACBI), the Asia-Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (APFCB), and MZ Events. Discussions covered all key aspects of the congress, which will take place in New Delhi from 25–29 October 2026, reaffirming our shared commitment to delivering a successful global event.

The congress is expected to attract a broad international audience, bringing together laboratory professionals, clinicians, and researchers worldwide. Visa arrangements have been carefully planned to facilitate participation. Approximately 2,000 delegates typically attend host society meetings, and attendance is expected to increase further with the involvement of three Indian IFCC-affiliated societies. Reduced registration fees have been introduced for participants from low- and lower-middle-income countries, including India, with the expectation of significantly increasing participation while maintaining financial balance. MZ Events will provide regular updates on registrations, sponsorships, and abstract submissions every two weeks. A preliminary budget has already been established.

The IFCC accreditation system, PROCEED, will be implemented for WorldLab 2026. Hotel accommodation will be managed by the local partner CHIME Travel through a booking platform integrated into the congress website, offering a convenient solution for delegates at no cost to the congress budget. Only a limited number of rooms will be reserved, allowing participants flexibility to arrange their own accommodation if preferred.

The scientific program is finalized and available on the congress website. All IFCC Regional Federations will contribute symposia, and WASPaLM will organize a session in line with its agreement with IFCC.

Three satellite meetings are planned:

- Task Force on Outcome Studies in Laboratory Medicine (TF-OSLM)
- Building Your First AI Model: A Practical Session
- New Developments and Opportunities for POCT, with a focus on developing countries

The congress will also host key IFCC events. The IFCC Council Meeting will bring together Presidents, National Representatives, and Corporate Members to discuss ongoing activities, future priorities, and emerging challenges in laboratory medicine. This will be followed by a meeting between the IFCC Executive Board and Corporate Members. The IFCC Young Scientists Forum is also in progress, with further updates to follow, including opportunities for scholarships and professional networking.

The 5th EFLM Strategic Conference was held in Prague on 24–25 April 2026. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the EFLM President, Tomáš Zima, for inviting me as the IFCC President to deliver the welcome address at the opening session and present a lecture entitled “Global Cooperation and Sharing Best Practices in Laboratory Medicine: The IFCC View.” I also extend my congratulations to Professor Zima and the Scientific Programme Committee for preparing an outstanding conference.

In my presentation, I outlined the IFCC perspective on global cooperation, emphasizing key areas such as knowledge exchange, standardization, education, and capacity building. I highlighted examples of IFCC initiatives that demonstrate how sharing expertise and best practices can enhance patient care, support professional development, and reduce variability in laboratory medicine across different healthcare settings.

Particular attention is given by IFCC to collaborative efforts in developing clinical guidelines, consensus documents, and recommendations that support harmonized laboratory practices and evidence-based decision-making. I also emphasized the growing importance of e-learning through digital platforms, webinars, and online resources, which are essential for expanding access to education and supporting continuous professional development worldwide, particularly in resource-limited settings.

In addition, increasing focus is being placed on digital transformation and artificial intelligence, which are rapidly emerging as key drivers of innovation in laboratory medicine, with significant potential to improve data management, diagnostics, and clinical decision support.

As a global federation, IFCC plays a central role in fostering collaboration across regions, disciplines, and professional communities to support high-quality laboratory services worldwide. International cooperation and the sharing of best practices are essential drivers of quality, harmonization, and innovation in laboratory medicine. Through its divisions, task forces, committees and working groups, IFCC promotes coordinated scientific activities, knowledge exchange, and strategic initiatives aimed at strengthening laboratory medicine worldwide. These collective efforts support scientific advancement, enhance education and training, and contribute to building a strong global professional network.

I concluded my presentation by highlighting future opportunities to further strengthen collaboration between international and regional organizations, including IFCC and EFLM, with the shared goal of advancing excellence, harmonization, and sustainability in laboratory medicine worldwide.

With my best regards,

IFCC President
Tomris Ozben

Delhi AI Impact Summit 2026: The Seven Chakras for Health Data, Global AI Governance and Opportunities for IFCC ETD Engagement

By the IFCC ETD EC: **Bernard Gouget, Damien Gruson, Swarup Shah, Serafeim Karathanos, Yan Liu, Sven Ebert**

In a context of increased international competition in AI, the stakes are scientific, strategic, economic, and societal. The AI Impact Summit held in New Delhi from 16 to 20 February 2026 (<https://impact.indiaai.gov.in>) marked an important step in the evolving global governance of AI. Bringing together heads of state, international organizations, scientists and technology leaders from more than one hundred countries, the summit demonstrated that AI has moved beyond the realm of technological innovation alone. It is increasingly becoming a strategic component of public policy, scientific cooperation and healthcare transformation. These gathering forms part of a series of international AI summits that have progressively expanded the scope of global discussions on AI. The first summit held at Bletchley Park (UK) in 2023 focused primarily on safety and risk management. The following meeting in Seoul (KR) in 2024 addressed governance frameworks and international coordination. The Paris summit (FR) in 2025 highlighted issues of technological sovereignty and global cooperation. The New Delhi summit, from vision to impact, represents the next stage in this evolution, shifting attention toward the real-world impact of artificial intelligence, particularly in sectors such as healthcare, science, environmental resilience and economic development. For India, AI functions as a strategic national tool to drive the democratization of technology, ensuring access, inclusion, and equity at scale. The strong presence of political leaders, including the Presidents of many countries, reflects a growing consensus: AI governance is now discussed at the highest institutional level, shaping the future of global technological infrastructure.

A distinctive element of the New Delhi summit was the introduction of a conceptual framework structured around seven thematic priorities, referred to as the “**Seven Chakras**” of the **AI Impact Summit**. These themes represent key areas for international cooperation in the development and governance of artificial intelligence. The seven domains include the development of human capital and AI skills, the strengthening of scientific research ecosystems, the democratization of access to AI resources and computing infrastructure, the use of artificial intelligence to improve resilience and efficiency of systems, the promotion of inclusion and social empowerment, the development of safe and trusted AI governance frameworks, and the application of AI for economic development and societal benefit. Together, these priorities reflect an ambition to shape artificial intelligence as a shared global capability, accessible beyond a limited group of technological powers and aligned with broader societal objectives such as sustainability, economic development and social inclusion.



These seven domains outline priority areas for global cooperation:

- **Human capital** – developing global AI skills and expertise
- **Science** – strengthening international research ecosystems
- **Democratizing AI resources** – ensuring access to computing infrastructure and datasets
- **Resilience, innovation and efficiency** – improving systems through AI-enabled technologies
- **Inclusion for social empowerment** – ensuring equitable access to AI benefits
- **Safe and trusted AI** – establishing governance, transparency and ethical standards
- **AI for economic development and social good**

Together, these themes reflect an ambition to shape artificial intelligence as a shared global capability rather than a technology controlled by a limited number of actors.

Across many discussions, a central message emerged clearly: artificial intelligence cannot develop effectively in healthcare, science, industry or public administration without access to large, diverse and high-quality datasets. Without appropriate governance frameworks, there is a risk that AI development becomes concentrated among a limited number of actors controlling data, infrastructures and technological standards. The objective increasingly shared by many countries is therefore to build strategic autonomy in data ecosystems, based on secure and responsible data sharing while respecting privacy protections and national regulatory frameworks. In healthcare, this issue becomes particularly critical. Clinical laboratories produce structured, validated biological data, which represent some of the most reliable sources of information for AI-driven diagnostic and predictive models. As AI systems increasingly integrate laboratory results, imaging data, genomic information and epidemiological surveillance, laboratory medicine becomes a cornerstone of trusted health data ecosystems.

Another key theme highlighted during the summit was the rapid expansion of connected health ecosystems, combining artificial intelligence with digital health platforms, wearable devices and remote monitoring technologies. These systems generate continuous streams of physiological and behavioral data. When integrated with laboratory results and clinical records, these datasets create new opportunities for early detection of disease patterns, predictive monitoring of chronic conditions, improved risk stratification, personalized therapeutic strategies. In this evolving landscape, laboratory medicine occupies a critical position. By providing high-quality biological data, ensuring analytical validation and maintaining internationally recognized standards, clinical laboratories help guarantee that AI-enabled healthcare systems remain scientifically reliable, clinically relevant and trustworthy for patients and healthcare professionals.

The summit also highlighted the strengthening convergence between France and India in the field of artificial intelligence and digital health. Following the Paris AI summit in 2025, cooperation between the two countries has expanded in areas such as biomedical research, digital health infrastructures and AI-driven healthcare innovation. This collaboration illustrates a complementary dynamic. India demonstrates remarkable capacity for large-scale digital deployment across diverse populations, while France contributes strong expertise in biomedical research, clinical validation and regulatory frameworks. Together, these strengths could help support the development of globally interoperable and scientifically validated AI health ecosystems.

With **IFCC WorldLab scheduled to take place in Delhi from October 25–29, 2026**, the global laboratory medicine community will convene at a pivotal moment for international discussions on AI and health data governance. Initiatives such as the Delhi AI Impact Summit illustrate how rapidly these issues are moving to the forefront of both scientific and policy agendas. In this context, Delhi WorldLab 2026 represents not only an opportunity to showcase advances in laboratory medicine, but also a platform to connect the biological sciences with broader international debates on AI, health data governance, and digital health ecosystems. Laboratory data constitute one of the most structured, standardized, and reliable sources of clinical information within modern healthcare systems. This positions laboratory medicine as a strategic pillar in the development of trustworthy and high-quality AI in health. From this perspective, the conceptual framework of the Seven Chakras for Health Data and Global AI Governance provides a useful lens to highlight key domains where the expertise of the IFCC-ETD could contribute to the evolving global dialogue. AI cannot develop sustainably, whether in healthcare, science, industry, or public policy, without access to large, diverse, and high-quality datasets. Without a clear governance framework, its development risks becoming dependent on a limited number of actors controlling data resources, computational infrastructures, and technical standards. In this context, our objective within the IFCC community is to promote a strategy based on the secure and responsible sharing of health data, while ensuring full respect for patient privacy and national or regional regulatory frameworks. Laboratory medicine is uniquely positioned to contribute to building a balanced and trustworthy data ecosystem for AI in health.

IFCC Visiting Lecturer Programme: my participation in SANAC-ML 2026 Congress on Extravascular Biomarkers

By Prof. Tomris Ozben, IFCC President

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the IFCC and to Prof. Sedef Yenice, Chair of the EMD Visiting Lecturer Programme, for supporting my participation as a Visiting Lecturer at the XXIII Congreso de la Sociedad Andaluza de Análisis Clínicos y Medicina del Laboratorio (SANAC), held on March 11–14, 2026, at Hotel Cádiz Bahía, Cádiz, Spain.

The Congress, entitled “Extravascular Biomarkers and the Clinical Laboratory,” was well organized and focused on a highly relevant and emerging topic in laboratory medicine. The scientific program was comprehensive and of high quality, attracting more than 400 participants and featuring over 200 poster presentations. In addition, several pre-conference courses were successfully conducted prior to the main event.

During the Congress, I had the opportunity to contribute with two presentations:

- **Workshop (Open Forum):** Projects, Future, and Challenges of the IFCC, involving interactive discussions with IVD industry representatives and laboratory professionals.
- **Closing Conference:** “Seminal Cell-Free DNA Assessment as a Novel Prostate Cancer Biomarker”. This lecture addressed the emerging role of seminal cell-free DNA as a promising biomarker in prostate cancer, highlighting recent advances and potential clinical applications.

The closing session was chaired by Dra. María Luisa Hortas Nieto, President of SANAC and Head of the Clinical Analysis and Laboratory Service at Hospital Universitario Costa del Sol, Marbella, Málaga. The Congress provided an excellent platform for scientific exchange, fostering collaboration between laboratory professionals, clinicians, and industry partners. It also offered valuable opportunities to discuss current challenges and future directions in the field of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine.



IFCC President, Prof Tomris Ozben



IFCC President, Prof Tomris Ozben; Dra Maria Luisa Hortas Nieto. SANAC President, Jefa de Servicio Facultativa Analisis y laboratorios. Hospital Universitario Costa del Sol, Marbella, Malaga, Spain.

IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Programme: my experience at the Norwegian Organization for Quality Improvement of Laboratory Examinations (Noklus) in Bergen, Norway

By: **Blanca Beumer Prieto**

Laboratory Medicine Department, La Paz University Hospital
Madrid, Spain

My Professional Scientific Exchange Programme (PSEP) stay at The Norwegian Organization for Quality Improvement of Laboratory Examinations (Noklus) in Bergen, Norway, has been the most enriching professional experience of my career so far. From the very first days after my arrival, I was warmly welcomed into an outstanding scientific and human environment that allowed me to grow far beyond my initial expectations.

The first phase of my stay focused on intensive training in the Noklus Patient Median (NOPAM) program, a pioneering patient-based external quality assessment system designed to dynamically monitor harmonization and standardization using patient medians derived from routine laboratory testing rather than conventional control materials. I learned in depth how the platform operates, the structure of the database, the statistical models behind the smoothing and trend analysis, and the wide possibilities for exploiting patient-derived data for continuous quality monitoring.

A particularly valuable aspect of the rotation was the opportunity to participate in strategic meetings with international EQA providers and independent laboratories interested in enrolling in NOPAM. These included discussions with representatives from EQALM, RCPAQAP, and colleagues from Sciensano in Belgium. Through these meetings, I learned the practical and scientific requirements for new participant enrolment, data standardization, and international harmonization workflows.

Scientifically, the most productive part of the stay has been the initiation of a collaborative research project comparing NOPAM patient-based data with traditional EQA schemes from SEMEDLAB (in Spain) and other EQA organisations. This work has already evolved into a manuscript in preparation and represents, in my opinion, one exciting future direction in laboratory quality assurance.

Beyond the scientific work, I had the privilege of experiencing the broader Noklus ecosystem. I attended the Noklus Winter Meeting, participated in team-building and social activities, joined a POCT educational session organized during the visit of an international scholarship trainee from Wales, and spent time with the laboratory advisors to better understand their field-based work supporting laboratories across Norway. I also participated in the preparation and shipment of EQA materials, which gave me valuable insight into the operational side of a large-scale EQA organization. A particularly meaningful moment was being invited as a speaker at the Noklus Fagmøte in Solstrand, where I presented insights on NOPAM to Norwegian laboratory medicine specialists and discussed differences between the Spanish and Norwegian healthcare and laboratory systems. This opportunity made me feel truly integrated into the scientific community.

I am deeply grateful to the IFCC for making this unforgettable experience possible, and to the entire Noklus team—especially Anne Elisabeth, Aasne and Sverre—for their generosity, trust, and inspiration. This exchange has created collaborations, friendships, and ideas that will undoubtedly shape my future career in laboratory medicine.

IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Programme: my experience at the Norwegian Organization for Quality Improvement of Laboratory Examinations (Noklus) in Bergen, Norway



Participating in the preparation and shipment of EQA materials together with Noklus colleagues.



Presenting at the Noklus Fagmøte in Solstrand, moderated by Dr. Sverre Sandberg.



The true Norwegian experience after the formal Fagmøte meeting: facing wind and rain together with Dr. Aasne K. Aarsand and Dr. Sverre Sandberg

AI Implementation Contest – ETD Recognition for Innovation

The [Committee on Artificial Intelligence in Laboratory Medicine \(C-AILM\)](#) of the IFCC Emerging Technologies Division (ETD) is pleased to announce an [AI Implementation Contest](#) designed to showcase real-world applications of AI in Clinical Laboratories.

Through this competition, we aim to enhance clinical laboratory professionals' understanding of AI implementation and to foster peer learning and exchange of practical experience, particularly around key technical considerations across the AI/ML implementation pipeline.

Submission should describe AI systems, either discriminative AI such as prediction models, or generative AI (large language models), implemented or currently being implemented in a clinical laboratory setting, whether developed in-house or provided externally (e.g. commercial AI products), and whether regulatory-approved or non-approved.

Participants are expected to provide detailed information on the system's intended use, validation or verification studies, performance metrics, workflow integration, and post-deployment quality control and monitoring strategies. Both published and unpublished applications are welcome.

The contest is open for global submission.
[Click here](#) for accessing the survey.



Deadline for replies is July 1, 2026.

Submissions will be evaluated by the C-AILM Committee based on their overall quality, including demonstration of a well-defined and logical use-case scenario, comprehensive validation or verification, and a thoughtful quality control (QC) plan with an appropriate monitoring strategy. Based on these criteria, first-, second-, and third-place winners, as well as honorable mentions, will be selected for the IFCC Emerging Technology Division Recognition for Innovation.

Awardees will also be invited to present their success stories and implementation experience at the IFCC Webinar, and their work will be featured through the IFCC communication channels including eNews and other official platforms, C-AILM website, and other social media platforms.

All submitted data will be treated as confidential and used solely for evaluation purposes. Judges' decisions are final and based on their independent and impartial assessment.

The Micro sampling Working Group joins the Emerging Technologies Division to advance the state of the art in micro sampling

By Sharon M. Geaghan Md, on behalf of the IFCC Working Group on Micro sampling (WG MISP)

New technologies are fueling a revolution in blood sampling for diagnostic testing. Novel medical devices, robotics, and artificial intelligence (AI) are radically transforming conventional approaches to blood collection toward patient-centric, potentially less painful, and remote-enabled technologies. Many of these innovations target capillary, rather than venous, blood sampling. Others facilitate miniaturization of conventional venous sampling, by minimizing sample volume; or by making phlebotomy more accessible and less reliant on a skilled labor force by automated, AI-enabled robotic phlebotomy. Innovation in patient care requires careful evaluation. If technology adoption is deemed to be safe and reliable, and meet the technical performance characteristics required for the application, identification, and amelioration of obstacles to implementation is key to success. The Microsampling Working Group (WG MISP) is charged with these responsibilities as a member of the Emerging Technologies Division of the IFCC.

A tsunami of interest in micro sampling

Some of the best examples of achieving success in advancing patient care are marked by commitment to collaboration rather than competition. To effect innovation in patient care, and specifically, provide meaningful stewardship to the global tsunami of interest in microsampling; partnering is key. The development of collegial partnerships is supported by Dr. Damien Gruson, Chair of the IFCC's Emerging Technology Division.

The WG MISP has partnered with three leading professional societies to create a vanguard to lead the advancement of the field of micro sampling. The UK-based Patient-Centric Sampling Interest Group (PCSIG) is a not-for-profit organization with the mission statement to develop and promote the use of patient centric sampling technologies for blood, plasma, urine, and other human matrices to better facilitate advancement of human healthcare and well-being. Neil Spooner, PCSIG founder, has agreed to be a WG MISP member.

Together, WG MISP and PCSIG offered two free EU-focused webinars [“A New Era in Clinical Diagnostics: The Power of Self Sampling”](#) on April 16 and 23, 2026 and included two IFCC Work Group members, Dr. Sharon Geaghan (Stanford University) and Vincent Molenaar (Doctoral Candidate, eHealth Learning Lab, University of Leiden, Netherlands; Global Market Manager Alternative Sampling, Greiner Bio-One). Additional speakers included patient advocate John Fabule (PICC United, a patient-led non-government organization focused on patient involvement in healthcare), and regulatory affairs expert Joseph Burt (Head of Diagnostics and General Medical Devices, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, UK); and panelists Tim Wooley (Chief Scientific Officer, Inuvi) and Dr. Rachel Carling (Chair, UK Metabolic Biochemistry Network). Together, an engaged audience, speakers and panelists identified obstacles to adoption of microsampling in the first online seminar, and brainstormed potential solutions in the second session. The proceedings will be summarized, and there is a commitment that they will be published and accessible.

Next up, “A New Era in Clinical Diagnostics, The Power of Self Sampling,” will be offered by PCSIG, this time with both ADLM and IFCC WG MISP on April 30 and May 7, 2026, for a North American audience with the same collaborative workshop approach and two-part design.

Looking ahead, a collaboration with the North American-based, global Association for Diagnostics & Laboratory Medicine (ADLM) will offer a panel-led, audience discussion session “Patient centric sampling for clinical diagnostics: Overcoming barriers to routine adoption” on Wednesday, July 29, 2026 at the ADLM 2026 Annual Scientific Meeting & Clinical Lab Expo in Anaheim, California

including IFCC WG MISP members Drs. Brad Collier (moderator), Amy Pyle-Ebola (USA) and Sharon Geaghan. Additional speakers include Dr. Agnes Lenagh from PCSIG and Dr. Álvaro González, also a distinguished IFCC speaker, from the Clínica Universidad de Navarra, Pamplona Spain.

Project- COMFORT is comprised of 54 public and private organizations committed to co-creating and testing logistics, infrastructure, and tools to make (Patient centric micro-sampling (PCmS) a core healthcare tool. The vision is for PCmS to become a widely accepted, available alternative to venous blood draw throughout the EU. Project support is the Innovative Health Initiative Joint Undertaking (IHI JU) grant, and from the EU's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme and additional support from COCIR, EFPIA, Europe Bio, MedTech Europe, Vaccines Europe and JLL and Miebach Consulting.

Young scientist Marlene Thaitumu, Marie-Curie Sklowdoska Human Doctoral Network Fellow at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece), whose work in this field is supported by the EU-based Project Comfort, has joined the WG MISP. We aim to seek knowledge - sharing and collaboration with the Project Comfort scientists in our future educational offerings.

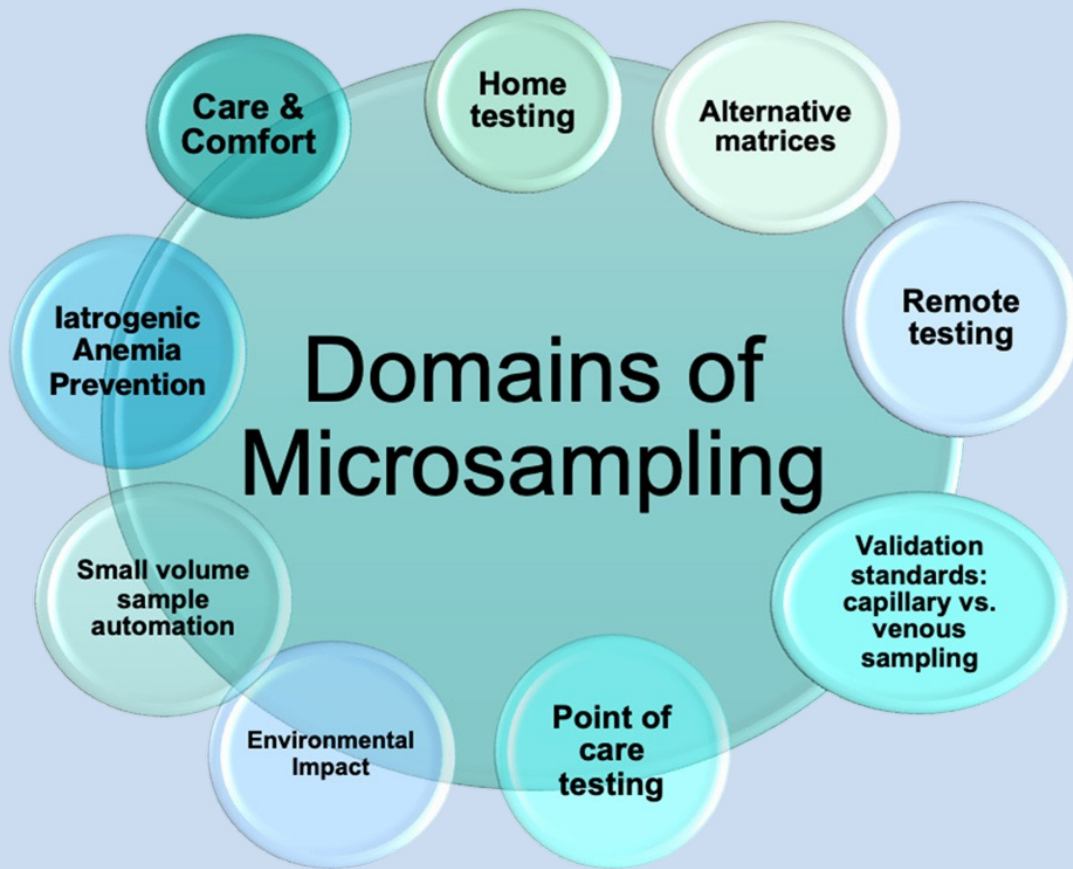
Microsampling Working Group Membership

The WG MISP has diverse members and consultants which include a bioengineer, scientists working with paper-based diagnostics, such as newborn screening experts (Drs. De Hora, Webster, Greaves), a patient advocate (rotating), an infectious disease testing expert (Dr. Norman Moore), experts in pediatric testing (Dr. Amy Pyle-Ebola, Yanchun Lin), experts in patients with cognitive/ learning disabilities (Dr. Perkins) and several investigators who are deeply focused on how capillary blood results compare to venous for given analyte(s), such as Drs. Stove, Collier, Perkins and Vincent Molenaar and Marlene Thaitumu. Three of our members are Young Scientists, which reflects the innovative work that is being done in this field of discovery. Additionally, many decisions involve conferring with our colleagues in clinical medicine who must weigh in as to “how good is good enough” for this technology to support robust clinical decision-making. These consultations will inform us as to what performance characteristics are expected and required.

Sharon Geaghan	Chair	USA
Brad Collier	Corporate Member	USA
Mark De Hora	Member	New Zealand
Yanchun Lin T	Member	USA
Vincent Molenaar T	Member	Netherlands
Norman Moore	Corporate Member	USA
Karen Perkins	Member	United Kingdom
Amy Pyle-Ebola	Member	USA
Neil Spooner	Member	United Kingdom
Christophe Stove	Member	Belgium
Marlene Thaitumu T	Member	Greece
Diane Webster	Member	New Zealand
Ronda Greaves	Consultant	Australia

IFCC Micro sampling Working Group: members and country of representation (T- young scientist)

IFCC's partnerships with industry are well-established and exemplary. To this aim, we welcome corporate corresponding members to help and engage with our Working Group. Corresponding members include sample collection devices and sample tube innovators, and representatives for analytic testing platforms, therapeutic drug monitoring, infectious disease and point of care testing realms.



Microsampling interfaces with a wide variety of areas in diagnostic testing

The WG MISP mission is to advance knowledge about micro sampling, evaluate and identify limitations of the technologies, address obstacles to implementation of new technologies, and find solutions to those obstacles. Progress to date on lower-cost and paper-based technologies offers hope on the horizon: faster, less expensive, and portable testing may become available in resource-limited settings. This could serve to address critical health needs and democratize diagnostic testing. These efforts will contribute to achieving quality results in microsampling for patients worldwide.

Comments or questions please send to sgeag@stanford.edu.



IfCC
WorldLab



OCTOBER 25-29, 2026 | NEW DELHI, INDIA



IFCC WORLDFAB NEW DELHI 2026

27TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE
52ND CONGRESS OF ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTS OF INDIA

25-29 OCTOBER 2026

INDIA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION & EXPO CENTRE

**ABSTRACTS SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS APPROACHING.
DO NOT LOSE THIS CHANCE. SEND YOUR ABSTRACT NOW!**

www.ifccnewdelhi2026.org

15 MAY 2026 Deadline for abstract submission
15 JULY 2026 Deadline for reduced registration fees

Organising Secretariat
MZ Events
info@ifccnewdelhi2026.org



IFCC: the people

IFCC C-MHBLM Member Focus: Learn, Share, Connect: Laila Abdel-Wareth, a Strategic Connector Driving Innovation in eHealth and Lab Medicine

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

In the rapidly evolving world of healthcare and digital diagnostics, leadership increasingly depends on the ability to combine scientific excellence, international collaboration and strategic vision. Dr. Laila Abdel-Wareth embodies this combination. Through her research, executive leadership and global engagement, she has emerged as a key figure linking the innovation ecosystem of the United Arab Emirates with international scientific networks in laboratory medicine. Today, Dr. Abdel-Wareth serves as Chief Executive Officer of the National Reference Laboratory (NRL) and the Diagnostic Cluster of M42 in Abu Dhabi, overseeing one of the region's most advanced diagnostic infrastructures. Her leadership contributes to positioning the UAE as a major hub for precision diagnostics, digital health, and advanced laboratory medicine. Beyond her institutional responsibilities, she plays an active role within the IFCC C-MHBLM, contributing to global initiatives focused on integrating mobile technologies, connected devices, and patient-generated health data into clinical laboratory practice. Her unique combination of scientific credibility, leadership, and international networking makes her a particularly valuable contributor to the committee's mission of shaping the future of laboratory medicine in the digital era.

The United Arab Emirates has rapidly become one of the most dynamic healthcare markets in the world. With major investments in biomedical research, advanced hospital infrastructure, and health technologies, the country is emerging as a global platform for innovation and collaboration. Major events such as Arab Health and the growing ecosystem of international health congresses in Dubai and Abu Dhabi illustrate this ambition. These gatherings bring together healthcare leaders, laboratory medicine specialists, policymakers, med-tech innovators, and investors from across the world to discuss the future of healthcare. Within this environment, Dr. Abdel-Wareth has distinguished herself not only as a leading scientific expert at the crossroads of global healthcare innovation but also as a highly respected organizer and facilitator of international collaboration. Through her active participation in major congresses and professional forums across the UAE and internationally, she contributes to strengthening connections between global laboratory medicine experts and AFCB regional healthcare leaders. Her ability to mobilize networks and bring together diverse stakeholders, from clinicians and laboratory scientists to industry innovators and health authorities, has made her an influential voice in discussions on digital diagnostics and the transformation of laboratory.

At the heart of Dr. Abdel-Wareth's influence lies a distinguished body of scientific work and publications. Over the course of her career she has contributed to a large body of peer-reviewed publications spanning clinical chemistry, infectious diseases, endocrinology, epidemiology and laboratory diagnostics. Her research includes studies on vitamin D metabolism, cardiometabolic risk factors, laboratory automation, infectious diseases and public health in the Middle East, as well as collaborative international projects addressing global health challenges. More recently, her work



has focused on topics at the intersection of laboratory medicine and digital health, including the integration of mobile device data into laboratory workflows and the evolving role of wearable technologies in healthcare. These contributions align closely with the mission of the IFCC C-MHBLM, which explores how mobile health technologies can transform diagnostics and patient care. Her scientific contributions reinforce her credibility within the international lab medicine community while strengthening the bridge between research, clinical practice, and technological innovation.

Learn, Share, Connect has become her professional signature. Dr. Abdel-Wareth's impact can be understood through three complementary strengths that define her leadership.

Learn-Anticipating the future of laboratory medicine: Through her engagement with international scientific networks and the IFCC C-MHBLM, she contributes to identifying emerging technologies that will shape the future of diagnostics, including artificial intelligence, mobile health platforms and data-driven laboratory medicine.

Share-Advancing scientific knowledge: Her extensive publication record and participation in international conferences demonstrate a strong commitment to the dissemination of scientific knowledge. By sharing research findings and best practices, she contributes to strengthening the global standards of clinical laboratory science.

Connect-Building powerful global networks: Perhaps her most distinctive contribution lies in her ability to connect people and ideas. By linking the vibrant healthcare ecosystem of the UAE with international scientific communities, including the IFCC and the regional network of the AFCB, she facilitates collaboration that accelerates innovation in laboratory medicine. Her presence at major international events in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and beyond further strengthens these connections, turning the region into a meeting point where global expertise converges.

With decades of experience in clinical leadership, research and healthcare innovation, Dr. Laila Abdel-Wareth represents a new generation of scientific leaders capable of bridging disciplines, regions and technologies. Her role within the IFCC C-MHBLM highlights the growing importance of integrating digital health solutions into laboratory diagnostics. At the same time, her leadership within the UAE's advanced healthcare ecosystem positions her as a key connector between regional innovation and global scientific initiatives. By combining scientific excellence, visionary leadership, and exceptional international networking, Dr. Abdel-Wareth is helping shape the future of laboratory medicine. As digital health, precision diagnostics, and global collaboration continue to redefine healthcare, her work highlights the critical role of leaders who can connect regions, disciplines, and innovation ecosystems, driving progress toward more integrated, data-driven, and patient-centered healthcare worldwide.

IFCC: the Young Scientists

Introducing the IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists

By: **Dr. Marie Lenski**
IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists Chair
Laboratory of Toxicology
Hospital of Lille
Lille, France

The IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists (TF-YS) is composed of a Chair and five core members representing different geographical regions, supported by a broader network of corresponding members nominated by IFCC Full and Corporate Members. Four of the core members are continuing their appointments, including the new chair Marie Lenski:



Dr Marie Lenski

Dr Marie Lenski is a young specialist in laboratory medicine working in the Toxicology Laboratory in Lille, France. She has been an active member of the IFCC TF-YS since 2015 (EuroMedLab Paris). From 2023 to 2025, she served as a core member of TF-YS, having previously been the French corresponding member for the Société Française de Biologie Clinique (SFBC). She contributes to, leads, and promotes various TF-YS activities, including LabSurfing, digital competencies projects, surveys among Young Scientists, webinars, Global Med Lab Week, the Young Scientists Forum, and Poster Tours for Young Scientists during international congresses.

Dr. Sean Campbell is a clinical biochemist at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, Canada. He has been an active IFCC member and member of the TF-YS since 2022, nominated by the then American Association of Clinical Chemistry (now the Association for Diagnostics & Laboratory Medicine). He has served as a core member of the committee since his nomination. His work within the IFCC TF-YS, as well as his roles in ADLM, focuses on mentorship. He has published articles and delivered talks on the topic for IFCC and has made mentorship a central theme in the Young Scientist Forums he has helped organize.



Sean Campbell



Udara Senarathne

Dr Udara Senarathne is a board-certified Chemical Pathologist and Senior Lecturer in Biochemistry at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka. She has served as a core member of the IFCC TF-YS since 2023 and as a Case Report Handling Editor for eJIFCC since 2025. With an academic and research background in clinical biochemistry, she contributes to collaborative research initiatives. She is passionate about empowering young scientists in scientific communication and actively promotes global engagement and knowledge sharing. She initiated the IFCC Young Scientists Clinical Case Discussion Webinar Series, supporting learning and collaboration among early-career laboratory professionals worldwide.



Dr. Dipuo Dephney Motshwari

Dr. Dipuo Dephney Motshwar is a Senior Scientist at the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC), South Africa. She serves as the Chairperson of the African Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (AFCC) Young Scientist Forum, a position she has held since 2024. In this role, she leads initiatives focused on knowledge sharing, skills development, capacity building, and collaboration among early-career scientists across Africa. She was recently nominated as a core member of the IFCC TF-YS. She is committed to contributing to the Task Force's efforts to empower young scientists through leadership development, knowledge exchange, and peer mentoring.

And this year the TF-YS is pleased to announce the appointment of two new members:

Dr. Kamil Taha Uçar is an Associate Professor of Medical Biochemistry at the University of Health Sciences in Istanbul. After contributing as a corresponding member since 2021, he is honored to join the IFCC TF-YS as a core member. Kamil currently chairs the Turkish Biochemical Society (TBS) Young Specialists and Residents Group and continues to be active within various EFLM committees and working groups. He is particularly interested in finding creative ways to promote the profession—such as through songs and videos for Global Med Lab Week and European Laboratory Day—to help make scientific communication more engaging and accessible for the next generation of laboratory professionals.



Dr. Kamil Taha Uçar



Dr. Francisco Josué Carrillo-Ballesteros

Dr. Francisco Josué Carrillo-Ballesteros is an Associate Professor affiliated with the Department of Pharmacology at University of Guadalajara, Mexico. He is an early-career scientist with a strong academic and research background in Biomedical Sciences and Neuropharmacology. Since 2021, he has been collaborating with the Young Scientists Group of COLABIOCLI, and he currently serves as Chair of the Young Scientists Working Group of the Mexican Society of Clinical Laboratory Sciences (CMCLabC). In addition to his scientific work, he is committed to science communication and professional development, promoting the role of laboratory medicine in healthcare, raising awareness about disease prevention, and contributing to the dissemination of scientific knowledge through digital platforms and educational initiatives.

The TF-YS aims to provide meaningful opportunities for young scientists by supporting their education, professional activities, and access to international networks. It seeks to stimulate and strengthen the involvement of early-career professionals within IFCC while actively contributing to their career development and long-term engagement in laboratory medicine. A key priority of the Task Force is to connect young scientists across IFCC Full and Corporate Members by fostering both formal and informal networks through modern communication tools. Through these interactions, TF-YS encourages the exchange of experience, knowledge, and best practices in laboratory medicine at a global level.

The new TF-YS core members are highly motivated to continue ongoing activities and look forward to developing impactful initiatives to further support young scientists worldwide. The TF-YS would like to acknowledge IFCC's continued commitment to fostering the next generation of laboratory medicine professionals and strengthening the global Young Scientists network. Finally, TF-YS warmly thanks Dr. Santiago Fares Taie for his two terms as Chair, his outstanding commitment, and his impactful work in building the strong and connected global community of young scientists in laboratory medicine that exists today.

Voices of our Corporate Members

IFCC Launches Revised Corporate Member and Task Force of Corporate Member Webpages

There are 59 corporate members associated with the IFCC, spanning geographies and focuses. Within each corporate member are dedicated professionals who are passionate about the mission of IFCC and laboratory medicine. Many of these individuals serve as corporate member division leads, members of committees and/or working groups, providing both scientific and business inputs. Thus, corporate members are an integral part of IFCC's global community, contributing expertise, innovation, and resources that support IFCC's scientific, and educational mission.

For those interested in learning more about corporate members and membership and/or for ways to get involved as a corporate member, we invite you to visit newly revised versions of two key webpages dedicated to corporate engagement: the [Corporate Members](#) page and the [Task Force on Corporate Members](#) page. The revised webpages have been designed to better highlight the activities and opportunities for corporate members, while also making it easier for stakeholders to understand how corporate members engage with IFCC and contribute to its work.

A Clearer View of Corporate Membership

The newly revised Corporate Members webpage provides a refreshed version of the content. Webpage visitors can now more easily identify current corporate members, understand the scope and diversity of participating organizations, and appreciate the breadth of collaboration that exists across the diagnostics and laboratory medicine. Also new is the 'Contact Us' Section, in which inquiries and/or feedback to Corporate Members in relation to the IFCC can be shared.

Further, the revised Task Force on Corporate Members webpage provides enhanced page navigation through a new 'left-sided navigation pane'. This is supported by new and revised content, including relevant news articles, timelines, value proposition, membership outlines and more. Together, these revised webpages support IFCC's strategic vision, including global engagement. The updates also align with digital modernization efforts, ensuring that IFCC's online presence remains current, user-friendly, and reflective of IFCC's evolving activities. For those interested in revising their IFCC webpage, please contact your IFCC representative and/or reach out to the Communications and Publications Division. We also invite corporate members and other stakeholders to explore the updated pages and learn more about the opportunities for collaboration and engagement with corporate members.



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Laboratory Medicine as a Driver of Healthcare Value

The importance of measuring improvements outside the lab

Laboratory medicine is an integral component to modern healthcare. From screening and diagnosis to treatment monitoring and disease prevention, laboratory data inform a great many clinical decisions. Yet, despite its criticality, the value of laboratory medicine has traditionally been assessed almost entirely within the confines of the laboratory itself—turnaround times, analytical quality, accreditation status, and cost per test. Operational excellence within the laboratory is a prerequisite for quality care, but it is not the ultimate goal. Faster turnaround times or improved analytical precision, while critical, only have meaning if they translate into better decisions and better outcomes for patients. Thus, the real question we should be asking is ‘how does laboratory medicine improve patient care outside the lab’.

Answering this question requires laboratories to link their contributions to broader clinical and organizational key performance indicators (KPIs). These include metrics such as decreased mortality rates, mitigated healthcare costs, reduced hospital length of stay, improved confidence, mitigated readmissions, and more.

The UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence program has emerged as a powerful and global platform for showcasing this broader impact, while providing a framework for those interested in pursuing similar initiatives. UNIVANTS was created to recognize, celebrate and amplify best practice in healthcare that are facilitated by cross disciplinary collaborative efforts in association with laboratory medicine. The program is a global, prestigious award program that is run in partnership with Abbott, IFCC, ADLM, Modern Healthcare, National Association for Healthcare Quality (NAHQ), European Health Management Association (EHMA), Institute of Health Economics (IHE), Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS).

Central to UNIVANTS is the idea that laboratory medicine creates value when it enables change. This can include enhanced diagnostic pathways, earlier disease detection, enhanced resource utilization, improved clinical decision-making, and more. Importantly, UNIVANTS emphasizes outcome-based evidence quantified through real-world data associated with their initiatives. A key element includes quantification of KPIs across key stakeholders, patients, clinicians, hospitals/administrators, and payors. Importantly, each stakeholder has a distinct definition of value, and laboratory medicine often contributes to all of them simultaneously. Interested in learning more about what these KPIs look like, visit www.UnivantsHCE.com to learn about previous best practices, KPIs and future opportunities.



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News from Regional Federations and Member Societies

Remarks by Dr. Maria Santamaría-Gonzalez on the occasion of the Conference on Genetic Diagnosis of Fetal Congenital Anomalies held as part of the SEMEDLAB Academy on March 5, 2026.



Laboratory Medicine is much more than a tool for diagnosing Down Syndrome: it anticipates possible complications and monitors nutritional status and immune system function.

- The Clinical Laboratory plays a fundamental role in the screening, diagnosis, and understanding of fetal chromosomal abnormalities, as it provides biological information that complements imaging tests such as ultrasound.
- Down Syndrome is not only a chromosomal alteration caused by the presence of an extra copy of chromosome 21; it can also be associated with health problems that require medical monitoring from birth.
- Advances in diagnosis, medical care, and monitoring have significantly improved the life expectancy and quality of life of people with Down Syndrome in recent decades.

The study of fetal chromosomal abnormalities such as Down Syndrome, Edwards Syndrome, and Patau Syndrome has advanced enormously in recent decades. Advances in laboratory and ultrasound technology allow for a much earlier and more precise sequential approach to these anomalies. Technological progress has been accompanied by improvements in genetic counseling, an essential part of the process to help families understand genetic information and make informed decisions.

The Clinical Laboratory plays a fundamental role in the screening, diagnosis, and understanding of fetal chromosomal abnormalities, as it provides biological information that complements imaging tests such as ultrasound. The information provided by the laboratory allows for the analysis of the fetal chromosomes and genes to detect alterations such as Down syndrome and other chromosomal or genetic abnormalities. Based on the results, it is possible to detect this chromosomal alteration with great precision; in addition to explaining the origin of the alteration, guiding clinical management, and answering parents' questions.

As reported by Dr. María Santamaría González, president of the Genetics Commission of the Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEMEDLAB), in some cases congenital abnormalities are due to genetic factors, such as genetic variants or chromosomal abnormalities, and in others to environmental factors such as infections or exposure to certain substances during pregnancy. However, as the doctor states, "in many cases a specific cause is not identified." According to Dr. Santamaría-González, **it is estimated that between 3% and 6% of fetuses have some congenital anomaly during the prenatal period**, "which can range from a mild disorder without significant consequences to being a cause of intrauterine or neonatal death, and around a quarter of congenital anomalies have an identifiable genetic cause."

When a possible fetal anomaly appears on an ultrasound, the Clinical Laboratory helps to find the biological cause. According to the president of the SEMEDLAB Genetics Commission, starting with a prenatal sample obtained through chorionic villus sampling or amniocentesis, “different techniques are applied sequentially to analyze the fetal chromosomes and genes, detecting alterations such as Down syndrome and other chromosomal or genetic abnormalities.” This information, as Dr. Santamaría-González emphasizes, is crucial “because it allows for establishing an etiological diagnosis during pregnancy, guiding pregnancy monitoring, optimizing perinatal management, and improving the neonatal prognosis.”

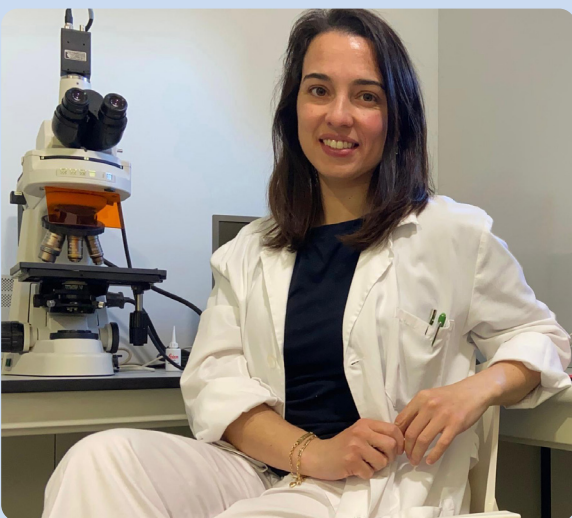
The Laboratory: Key to the Diagnosis and Monitoring of Down Syndrome

The work of the Clinical Laboratory specialist is fundamental in addressing Down syndrome, a congenital chromosomal abnormality (aneuploidy) caused by the presence of an extra copy of chromosome 21. The Laboratory offers maternal blood screening tests, such as cell-free fetal DNA analysis, which estimate the risk during pregnancy. “When confirmation is necessary, more specific genetic studies are performed that directly analyze the fetal’ chromosomes,” explains Dr. Santamaría-González.

Likewise, the laboratory helps confirm the diagnosis after birth, characterizing the type of chromosomal alteration (complete trisomy, mosaicism, or translocation). “This information is important because it can have implications for clinical follow-up and for the risk in future pregnancies,” the specialist emphasizes.

Down syndrome is not only a chromosomal abnormality; it can also be associated with health problems that require medical monitoring from birth. In this context, the Clinical Laboratory performs the necessary tests to anticipate and manage these potential complications; from genetic studies that confirm the diagnosis and the type of chromosomal abnormality, to hormonal analyses to detect fairly common thyroid disorders. “Hematological analyses are also performed to identify blood disorders that may appear more frequently in childhood, and metabolic and immunological studies that help monitor nutritional status and immune system function,” states Dr. Santamaría-González.

Today, as Dr. Santamaría-González states, advances in diagnosis, medical care, and follow-up have significantly improved the life expectancy and quality of life of people with Down syndrome in recent decades. “Therefore, the laboratory not only helps to diagnose this aneuploidy, but also to anticipate and control possible complications, which allows for more personalized care,” summarizes Dr. Santamaría-González.



Dr M Santamaria-González, President of the Genetics Commission of the Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEMEDLAB).

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. Yoshifumi Morita, 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. Morita 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.

Yoshifumi Morita, Ph.D. (Department of Clinical Laboratory, The University of Tokyo Hospital) is the winner of 2025 JSCC Outstanding Young Investigator Award, entitled “Comparison of urinary prostaglandin E metabolite (PGE-MUM) assays and clinical utility: correlation between chemiluminescent enzyme immunoassay and LC-MS/MS”. In this work, Dr. Morita focused on patients with diabetic nephropathy and investigated urinary PGE-MUM as a biomarker that may reflect renal inflammation and disease progression. Urinary PGE-MUM has attracted attention as a potential biomarker of kidney injury; however, the analytical relationship between chemiluminescent enzyme immunoassay (CLEIA), which is already used in routine clinical practice, and liquid chromatography–tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS), which is regarded as a reference method, had not been fully characterized. Therefore, he and his colleagues systematically examined the correlation and clinical performance of PGE-MUM measurements obtained by these two methods, together with their associations with clinical parameters such as renal function and albuminuria.

He first established an LC-MS/MS–based assay for urinary tetranor-PGEM, a major metabolite of prostaglandin E that reflects systemic PGE production. Building on this prior work, he designed the present study to compare LC-MS/MS measurements with those obtained by a CLEIA-based assay, which has recently been reimbursed in Japan as an aid for assessing disease activity in ulcerative colitis. He analyzed 143 residual urine samples collected after routine clinical testing, including control subjects and patients across stages 1 to 4 of diabetic nephropathy. Using these samples, he evaluated the analytical correlation between the two assays and investigated how urinary PGE-MUM levels relate to nephropathy stage and other clinical factors.

He demonstrated a strong correlation between CLEIA and LC-MS/MS measurements and showed that urinary PGE-MUM levels increase with the progression of diabetic nephropathy and are significantly higher in patients with early-stage nephropathy than in control subjects, even when conventional biomarkers such as microalbuminuria and L-type fatty acid-binding protein did not differ. Through this work, he has highlighted urinary PGE-MUM as a promising biomarker that may capture inflammatory processes in diabetic nephropathy that are not fully reflected by existing markers. His findings support the potential clinical utility of CLEIA-based PGE-MUM measurement as a practical tool for routine laboratories and underscore the importance of integrating robust analytical validation with pathophysiological insight to improve the assessment of kidney disease.



Yoshifumi Morita, Ph.D.
(Department of Clinical Laboratory, The University of Tokyo Hospital), winner of 2025 JSCC Outstanding Young Investigator Award

Strategic Conference EFLM 2026, Prague (CZ): towards a coordinated, data-driven and globally integrated laboratory medicine ecosystem

By **Bernard Gouget**, Labac EFLM representative, IFCC ETD-EC, chair IFCC TF History, **Tomris Ozben**, IFCC President, EFLM Past-President, **Damien Gruson**, EFLM President Elect, Chair IFCC ETD

The 2026 Strategic Conference (24-25 April) of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM), held under the presidency of Tomas Zima and attended by its full Executive Board, brought together more than 400 participants from 47 countries. This broad East-West representation reflects not only the diversity of laboratory medicine practices across Europe, but also a shared commitment to harmonization, innovation, and clinical integration.

As a key regional entity within the global framework of laboratory medicine, EFLM plays a pivotal role within the IFCC ecosystem. The presence of Tomris Özben, IFCC President and representatives of all six IFCC regional federations, each structurally represented within the IFCC Executive Board, highlighted a decisive evolution toward interregional coordination and strategic alignment, enabling the development of joint initiatives at a global scale. Contributions from the Federation of European Biochemical Societies further reinforced the translational continuum between biomedical research and clinical laboratory practice.

The inaugural lecture delivered by Mario Plebani set a compelling conceptual framework, positioning laboratory medicine within a value-based healthcare paradigm. Beyond analytical excellence, the discipline must now demonstrate measurable clinical impact, contributing directly to patient outcomes and healthcare sustainability. This evolution reflects a broader transformation: laboratory medicine is no longer confined to diagnostic support, but emerges as a central, integrative discipline within clinical decision-making pathways.

Harmonization and interoperability are the foundations for digital transformation. This session, featuring Sverre Sandberg, Martina Zaninotto, Christa Cobbaert, and Amy Saenger, highlighted the complexity of achieving consistency across the total testing process. The discussions underscored the critical role of metrological traceability, standardization frameworks, and coordinated governance. Round table contributions from Khosrow Adeli and Mauro Panteghini extended this perspective to the integration of big data and harmonized reference systems, emphasizing that interoperability is a prerequisite for the safe and effective deployment of artificial intelligence.

The second symposium underscored the rapid transformation of laboratory medicine into a truly data-driven discipline, propelled by advances in multi-omics, artificial intelligence, and cutting-edge analytical technologies. Contributions from Pieter Vermeersch and David Friedecky demonstrated how the integration of high-dimensional biological data is redefining precision medicine and enabling more refined patient stratification. Joanne Cadamuro positioned this shift within the broader Industry 5.0 paradigm, while Andrea Padoan highlighted the critical need for robust governance and regulatory alignment. Ema Popova and Umar Ansari further emphasized the transformative power of AI in enhancing clinical decision-making and fostering patient empowerment. Collectively, these developments signal a decisive shift toward predictive, personalized medicine driven by data and intelligent technologies.

The contribution of Bernard Gouget highlighted the strategic role of data infrastructures in the evolution of laboratory medicine from data aggregation to predictive intelligence. Health data platforms and data centers are emerging as foundational pillars of this transformation. As he aptly stated: "Without data centers, there is no predictive medicine, no digital twin, and no large-scale clinical AI". Data centers, combining physical infrastructure, high-performance computing, storage systems, and advanced software environments, enable the continuous integration and processing of heterogeneous data streams, including genomics, biomarkers, imaging, physiological signals, and behavioral data generated by wearables and connected devices. These infrastructures support three critical functions: the secure storage of health data, the training and validation of AI models, and the protection and governance of sensitive information. By enabling the integration of multimodal data, large-scale population analytics, and early detection of disease patterns, data

centers are driving a paradigm shift from reactive diagnosis to predictive and preventive medicine. In this context, they are becoming as essential to healthcare systems as laboratories and hospitals themselves.

Collaboration with clinicians was highlighted as a key driver in reshaping healthcare pathways through integrative diagnostic medicine. Contributions from Michael Neumaier and Stephan Schönberg demonstrated how closer alignment between laboratory medicine, imaging, and clinical disciplines enables more comprehensive, patient-centered diagnostic strategies. This integrative approach supports earlier detection, improved risk stratification, and more efficient clinical decision-making across care pathways. In this context, Peter Seferović emphasized the importance of a holistic approach to the diagnosis of heart failure, where laboratory methods play a central role alongside clinical evaluation and imaging. Biomarkers and advanced laboratory testing are essential not only for diagnosis, but also for disease monitoring, prognosis, and therapeutic guidance, reinforcing the pivotal role of laboratory medicine within multidisciplinary care. The concept of integrated diagnostics, articulated by Cyran Clemens, reflects a transition from fragmented diagnostic processes to coordinated, patient-centered pathways that combine laboratory, imaging, and clinical data. This vision aligns closely with that of the BioMed Alliance, represented by Elizabeth Macintyre, which promotes interdisciplinary collaboration across medical specialties and scientific societies. Together, these approaches support a model of orchestrated care, where diagnostic information is integrated, contextualized, and transformed into actionable insights.

Discussions on collaboration with the IVD industry and European stakeholders highlighted a central message: innovation in laboratory medicine can only advance through strong, structured, and ethically grounded partnerships. Exchanges with IVD companies and MedTech Europe underscored both the opportunities and the challenges of integrating innovation into clinical practice, ranging from regulatory constraints under the IVDR to the need for interoperability, data quality, equitable access, and alignment with clinical needs. These insights reaffirm that building functional and transparent relationships with the IVD sector is not optional, but essential to accelerate meaningful innovation while safeguarding public health interests. At the European level, EFLM continues to play a key role by engaging with institutions and stakeholders, contributing to strategic discussions on digital health, AI governance, and quality standards. This positioning strengthens its role as a trusted scientific partner in shaping the future of healthcare. Moving forward, the challenge is clear: to transform dialogue into sustained collaboration, and innovation into tangible impact for patients.

The active participation of IFCC regional federations, represented by Praveen Sharma (APFCB), Shannon Haymond (NAFCC), Gizachew Tadesse Akalu (AFCC), and Vélez de la Vega (COLABIOCLI) enabled the identification of key priority areas for collaboration. These include education and training, through the development of harmonized curricula and digital learning platforms; quality assurance, with the implementation of standardized quality systems and accreditation frameworks; harmonization, by aligning analytical practices and reference systems; and capacity building, through mentoring and knowledge transfer to support emerging regions. Tomris Ozben recalled that the integration of these federations within IFCC governance provides a strong foundation for coordinated global initiatives, promoting consistency while respecting regional diversity. In this context, Tricia Ravalico highlighted that more than 100 integrated clinical care teams across over 32 countries have been recognized to date through the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Awards, illustrating the tangible impact of collaborative, multidisciplinary approaches on patient care.

A critical dimension for the future of laboratory medicine lies in the active engagement of young scientists and emerging leaders, whose contributions were strongly represented during the conference. Tara Rolic, Jacob Adler, Nataliia Kozopas, Leija Alic, and A. Kvasnička exemplified the dynamism, expertise, and forward-thinking mindset of the next generation. Their involvement reflects the growing importance of empowering early-career professionals as key actors in innovation, digital transformation, and interdisciplinary collaboration. This commitment is further supported by structured initiatives such as the EFLM Academy, which provides a platform for education, networking, and professional development, fostering a strong and connected European community of laboratory specialists. Complementing this, the EFLM Syllabus defines a harmonized framework of knowledge and competencies, contributing to the standardization of training and

supporting excellence across countries. Investing in young professionals through these initiatives is essential to ensure the sustainability, adaptability, and continued advancement of laboratory medicine in an increasingly complex and data-driven healthcare environment.

A central message of the EFLM Strategic Conference was the emergence of a new paradigm for laboratory medicine: a distributed, interconnected, and intelligent network that seamlessly integrates central laboratories, satellite units, point-of-care testing, and wearable technologies. Damien Gruson articulated this forward-looking vision by positioning the laboratory of the future as a true hub of clinical intelligence, where continuous data streams, artificial intelligence, and human expertise converge to generate real-time, actionable insights. In this model, laboratory medicine evolves beyond its traditional boundaries to become a core driver of clinical pathways and health system transformation. This vision paves the way for a healthcare model that is predictive, preventive, decentralized, and deeply patient-centered enhancing accessibility, reducing inequalities, and enabling more proactive and personalized care. Looking ahead, the challenge will not only be to deploy these technologies, but to orchestrate them within a coherent, ethical, and sustainable framework that fully unlocks their potential for patients and healthcare systems alike. In his concluding remarks, Tomas Zima outlined a forward-looking strategic vision for the future of laboratory medicine, grounded in adaptability, integration, and global collaboration. He emphasized that the next phase of development will require strengthening the clinical integration of laboratory medicine within care pathways, accelerating digital transformation, and expanding strategic partnerships—particularly within the IFCC framework. A key priority of this strategic direction is to reinforce EFLM's engagement with European institutions and stakeholders, ensuring that laboratory medicine actively contributes to shaping health policies, regulatory frameworks, and innovation agendas at the European level. Looking ahead, the EFLM strategic plan is structured around several core ambitions: advancing integrated diagnostics and data-driven medicine, promoting global harmonization and quality standards, strengthening education and professional development, and ensuring equitable access to innovation across regions.

The EFLM Strategic Conference 2026 therefore represents not just a milestone, but a launchpad for coordinated action, marking a transition toward a more connected, intelligent, and patient-centered model of laboratory medicine. By aligning scientific excellence, technological innovation, and strategic collaboration, EFLM, acting as a key IFCC region, is positioned to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of healthcare systems. This future will be defined by integration, prediction, and coordination, with a clear objective: to enhance patient outcomes while ensuring the sustainability and resilience of healthcare worldwide.



EFLM members take part in a “stand-up/sit-down” game led by Prof. Damien Gruson, depending on his questions.



Prof. Tomris Ozben, IFCC President, EFLM Past-President.



EFLM personalities: EFLM Presidents present at the Conference.

IFCC welcomes new Members



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

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Dr. Ola Elgaddar
[Egypt]
Alexandria University

Date: 29 April 2026

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



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Association for Medical Updates (AMU – India): Advancing Knowledge, Uniting Medicine

The Association for Medical Updates (AMU) is an emerging multidisciplinary platform dedicated to strengthening the medical community through knowledge-sharing, innovation, and collaboration. Founded on the belief that modern healthcare demands integration across specialties, AMU brings together professionals from diverse medical fields to exchange ideas, discuss advancements, and promote evidence-based practice.

At its core, AMU is driven by a clear vision: to actively disseminate the latest innovations and scientific developments shaping contemporary medicine. In an era where medical science evolves rapidly, the association emphasizes the importance of continuous learning to enhance patient care and professional competence. Through academic initiatives, scientific meetings, and collaborative forums, AMU strives to bridge the gap between research and clinical practice.

The mission of AMU reflects the dynamic nature of healthcare—ensuring that recent advancements are accessible across all specialties and to professionals at every level. By breaking traditional silos, the association fosters interdisciplinary dialogue, enabling a more holistic and patient-centered approach to medicine.

Guided by values of integrity, accountability, and cooperation, AMU promotes a culture of inclusivity and innovation. It encourages open-minded thinking, teamwork, and the pursuit of excellence, empowering members to achieve their highest potential.

A key highlight of AMU's activities is its annual national conference, which attracts hundreds of delegates from across the country, serving as a vibrant platform for scientific exchange and professional networking.

With a forward-looking approach, AMU continues to act as a catalyst for transformative change—uniting the medical fraternity and shaping the future of healthcare through shared knowledge and collective progress.

Official website - www.amuindia.org

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Dr Ashish Sharma President AMU



Inaugural Dignitaries National Congress 2024



Organising team National Congress 2023

Mexican Federation of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (FEMPAC/ML) Advancing Laboratory Medicine in Mexico and Latin America



The **Mexican Federation of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (FEMPAC/ML)** is a leading scientific organization representing laboratory medicine in Mexico, with a distinguished history dating back to 1946, when it was founded as the Mexican Association of Laboratory Physicians. It later evolved into the Mexican Association of Clinical Pathology (AMPC) and today operates as a federative body aligned with modern scientific and professional standards.

FEMPAC/ML is composed of **six regional associations**, bringing together highly qualified professionals, including clinical chemists and scientists with postgraduate training, all committed to advancing excellence in laboratory medicine.

In January 2026, the Federation held the **official inauguration of its National Board and affiliated societies**, in a ceremony attended by prominent academic, regulatory, and professional leaders. The event underscored the essential role of laboratory medicine in modern healthcare systems. The Federation's core activities focus on continuing education, research, quality standards, laboratory accreditation, and professional recertification, as well as the organization of scientific meetings and dissemination of knowledge.

Looking ahead, FEMPAC/ML will host a major international event in **Chihuahua, Mexico, from October 28–31, 2026**, bringing together **the 56th National Congress of Clinical Pathology**, the **28th Latin American Congress of Clinical Pathology**, and the **43rd State Congress of Clinical Chemistry**.

Through its strategic initiatives, FEMPAC/ML continues to strengthen the role of laboratory medicine as a cornerstone of patient care and clinical decision-making across the region.



The presidium in the highest academic house of the country on the occasion of the inauguration of the National Board of FEMPAC/ML and five of its six affiliated societies, was made up of Acad. Dr. José Ángel Córdova Villalobos, President of the Mexican Academy of Surgery; Acad. Dr. Raúl Carrillo Esper, President of the National Academy of Medicine; Acad. Dr. Jorge Manuel Sánchez González, President-Elect of FEMPAC/ML; Acad. Dr. Juan Miguel Abdo Francis, President of the National Regulatory Committee of General Medicine; Acad. Dr. Francisco Ochoa Carrillo, President of the Mexican National Academy of Bioethics; Acad. Dr. José Ignacio Santos Preciado, President of the National Normative Committee of Medical Specialty Councils; Acad. Gen. Bgda. M.C. Héctor Faustino Noyola Villalobos, Vice President of the Mexican Academy of Surgery; Acad. Dr. Javier Dávila Torres, Director General of Technical and Scientific Cooperation of the Ministry of Economy of Mexico; Dr. René Núñez Bautista, Director of the Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences of the Autonomous University of Chihuahua; Dr. Martín López Rodríguez, President of the Latin American Association of Clinical Pathology; Dr. Guillermo Santoscoy Ascencio, Outgoing President of FEMPAC/ML; Dr. Jorge Horacio Portillo Galo Secretary Treasurer of FEMPAC/ML and the President of the National Academy of Medical Education and Continuing Professional Development. In the second row are the executive boards of the six regional societies comprising FEMPAC/ML.



International Symposium of Clinical Laboratory Professionals: "Prospective, Positioning and Future". For FEMPAC/ML multidisciplinary participation is very important, the following national and foreign institutions participated: College of Clinical Pathologists of the Center of the Republic (CPCCR); International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC, Canada and México); Latin American Association of Clinical Pathology (ALAPAC, Peru); Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI, Bolivia), WASPSLMML, Uruguay; Mexican Federation of Clinical Pathology (FEMPAC/ML); Mexican Council for the Certification of Professionals in Chemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences (COMECEF); Mexican College of Clinical Laboratory Sciences (CMCLabC); National Federation of Clinical Chemists (CONAQUIC); National Federation of Professional Colleges of Clinical Chemistry, A.C. (FENACQC); University of Guadalajara; Autonomous University of Guanajuato; National College of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (CONQUILAB); National Academy of Medical Education and Continuing Professional Development (ACANAMED).

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Moderator



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University of Pretoria

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and Quality Assurance
in POCT



Prof. Lena Jafri
[Pakistan]
Aga Khan University, Karachi

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integration in POCT



Prof. Adil Khan
[USA]
Temple University

Challenges of
implementation of
POCT in developing
countries



Prof. Rivak Punchoo
[South Africa]
University of Cape Town

Date: April 15th, 2026

Time: 8 AM (Eastern Standard), 2 PM (Central European), 8 PM (China Standard)



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IFCC's Calendar of Congresses, Conferences & Events

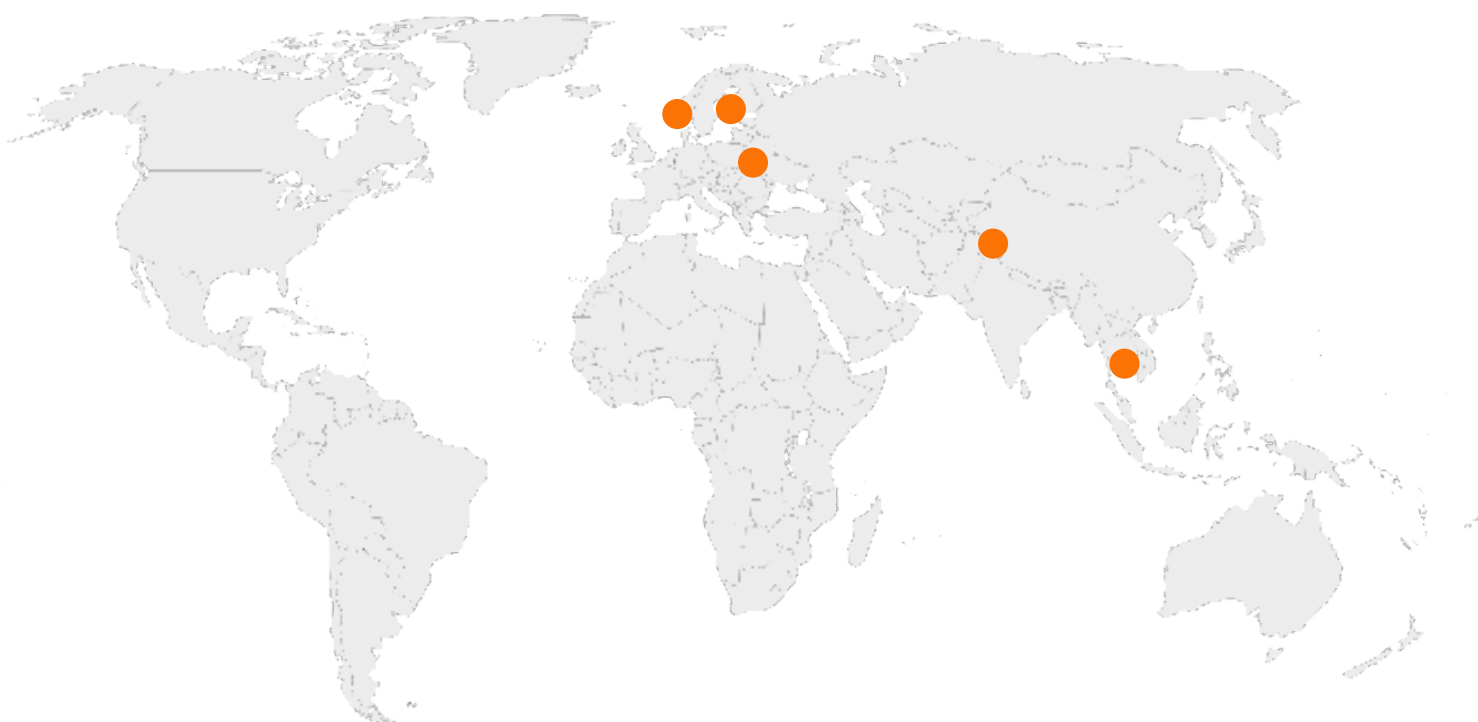
IFCC and Regional Federation Events			
Date		Title	Place
May 11 - 12, 2026		1ST IFCC ROME FORUM Jointly organised by ETD and EMD	Rome, IT
Jul 16 - 17, 2026		AFCC 2026 NAIROBI	Nairobi, KE
Oct 7 - 11, 2026		XXVII COLABIOCLI 2026	Santa Cruz, BO
Oct 25 - 30, 2026		XXVII IFCC WORLTLAB 2026	New Delhi, IN
May 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 WORLTLAB 2028 - Date to be announced	Buenos Aires, AR

Corporate Member Events with IFCC Auspices

Date	Title	Place
Oct 1, 2025 - Jul 31, 2026	Diplomado international in Analytical Quality Management	Quality consulting, online event
Feb 23 - Jun 26, 2026	Flow Cytometry for Malignant Hematological Disorders	Quality consulting, online event
May 17, 2026	International Symposium on Laboratory Medicine	SNIBE, Shenzhen, P.R. China
Apr 22, 2026	International Symposium on Laboratory Medicine	SNIBE, Almaty, Kazakhstan
May 23, 2026	International Symposium on Laboratory Medicine	SNIBE, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

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