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Editorial

Dear colleagues

I am sure you are back to work full of energy after your relaxing holidays and you are ready to plan your activities in the fall, winter, or even the spring.

The eNews are here to help you by presenting all the opportunities IFCC is offering to you. Our President Prof Tomris Ozben in her message is inviting you to participate in the National and regional congresses and she is presenting the regional ones. She explains that the general conference will take place in Bruges together with the Euromedlab, to be held in Brussels in the spring. In her message she invites you to benefit from the VLP and PEP IFCC programs.

Examples of these really successful programs are presented in this issue. Go through them and think of their importance in your own laboratorian's life.

Don't miss Dr Tan It Koon's obituary. You will learn about the life of a great scientist, very important for clinical biochemistry in Singapore and APFCB and an IFCC officer. Dr Tan It Koon was a great artist, as well, a man of great talent.

In this issue you can also learn about the winner of the 2024 Wallace H. Coulter Lectureship Award at ADLM congress, Chicago, Dr Patrick Bossuyt and his research on developing methods to evaluate diagnostic tests.

Univants again rewards very successful initiatives for people's health through laboratory results. Some of these initiatives are presented here.

You are cordially invited to Lima for the XXVII Congress of the Latin American Association of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine – ALAPAC/ML 2024 by the Peruvian President, Dr. Luis Figueroa Montes. You are also invited to participate in the hybrid conference on Mass Spectrometry to be held in Greece together with the national Greek Congress. It is organized by the IFCC Scientific Division and the Greek Society of Clinical Chemistry- Clinical Biochemistry. It is a unique opportunity to learn about the use of Mass Spectroscopy in clinical laboratories.

In this issue you can also go through the very interesting article about the French experience on the follow up of athletes and the doping detection during or between the games.

I hope you will enjoy this wonderful information and the benefits IFCC is offering to you.



Katherina Psarra, MSc,
PhD, eNews Editor

Katherina

The voice of IFCC

IFCC and Congress President's Welcome Message

September 2024

By Tomris Ozben

Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

I hope most of you had a relaxing nice holiday and you are back to work fresh. I'm delighted to share some important updates from the IFCC, as our activities continue without any break.

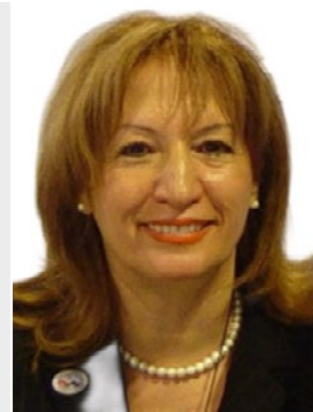
Starting from September, there will be two Regional and several National society meetings. They remain pivotal for laboratory professionals, serving as vital platforms for knowledge exchange, professional development and networking. I encourage active participation in these meetings. The IFCC provides auspices for congresses, conferences, IFCC Corporate Member webinars, and other scientific/educational events to support organizing committees in promoting their events and attracting professional participation.

IFCC Regional Federation, Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI) is organizing XXVI COLABIOCLI Congress and XXII International Congress of the National College of Bacteriology in Cartagena, Colombia from October 3 to 6, 2024. The slogan of the congress is **"Science and the Clinical Laboratory United for One Health"**, expressing commitment from the Clinical Laboratory, to work together to promote, prevent, detect and respond effectively to health challenges arising from the relationship between humans, animals and the environment. The IFCC Executive Board meeting will be held on October 5 and October 6, 2024 during the Congress. IFCC is also organizing three IFCC sponsored symposia during the Congress.

Another IFCC Regional Federation Congress will be organized by the Asia-Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (APFCB) in Sydney from 31 October–3 November 2024. The Congress will be held in the spectacularly located International Convention Centre in the heart of Sydney and just 8 km from the international airport. Sydney is a hub for medical research and innovation, with numerous research institutions and universities in the city.

I wish both Regional Federation congresses and all the National Society meetings successful organizations.

Moving to 2025, I would like to draw your attention to the 26th European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EuroMedLab). It will be hosted by the Royal Belgian Society of Laboratory Medicine (RBSLM) in conjunction with their 49th Annual Congress, set to take place in the vibrant heart and capital of Belgium, Brussels in May 18-22, 2025. The congress will deliver a world-wide forum for the free and open exchange of information on the science and technology of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine in the academic, clinical, and industrial settings. The Scientific Program Committee has prepared an outstanding, excellent scientific program. It will be shared with you very soon. I'm also thrilled to see an increasing number of IFCC corporate members showing a great interest in EuroMedLab Brussels. Their involvement underscores



Prof. Tomris Ozben
EuSpLM, Ph.D.

the growing collaboration between IFCC and the IVD industry, which is crucial for our collective progress. We look forward to welcoming you to Brussels. Several satellite meetings are also under preparation before or after the Congress.

<https://www.euromedlab2025brussels.org/>

According to the results of the survey conducted in March 2024, it emerged that the biennial IFCC General Conference should have been preferably organized in conjunction with the EuroMedLab Congress. As the last GC was organized in October 2022 in Brussels, the next IFCC General Conference (GC) is planned in a different city in Belgium. Bruges (Belgium) was selected as the venue of the General Conference to be held on May 16th and 17th, 2025 (Friday and Saturday) before the next EuroMedLab Congress. I emphasize again that the choice to select Bruges and plan the GC before the EuroMedLab Congress follows the results of the recently held survey, where it was indicated that the preferred choice to attend the GC is in conjunction with an IFCC Congress. Bruges is well connected to Brussels with frequent train connections directly even from the Brussels airport, therefore after the GC, it will be very easy to reach the EuroMedLab venue and attend the EuroMedLab Congress. We are expecting a great interest for the General Conference bringing together IFCC officers and IFCC Regional Federation, National Society and Corporate Member representatives to discuss the current status of laboratory medicine, challenges and innovations shaping its future.

Furthermore, I want to highlight the call for studies by the Task Force on Outcome Studies in Laboratory Medicine (TF-OSLM). This presents a valuable opportunity to contribute to impactful research in the field, with research funding available. TF-OSLM seeks proposals for studies evaluating the impact of laboratory testing on health outcomes, with an application deadline of October 1st, 2024. Don't miss the chance to submit your research proposal. Visit the Database of Outcome Studies in Laboratory Medicine for more information.

I am also delighted to announce that we have recently selected nine new recipients for the Professional Exchange Program (PEP). This highly regarded program provides a unique opportunity for emerging scientists in laboratory medicine to expand their expertise by visiting a host laboratory for up to three months. Whether learning a new technique (PSEP - Scientific Programme) or acquiring essential management skills (PMEP - Management Programme), the PEP is designed to foster both professional and personal growth. Over the past three years, 41 laboratory medicine professionals have benefited from this transformative experience, many of whom describe it as life-changing opportunity. We are confident that this year's recipients will continue this tradition of excellence and bring valuable insights back to their home institutions. The reports of the participants are always featured in the eNews.

I'm also proud to announce that the call for nominations for the IFCC Distinguished Awards for 2025 will soon be distributed. These prestigious awards recognize outstanding contributions in the field of laboratory medicine, and we encourage strong participation with distinguished nominations. We extend our sincere gratitude to our sponsors, whose support makes these awards possible. We look forward to celebrating the exceptional achievements of our colleagues in the coming year.

Finally, I am pleased to highlight the formation of two vital new committees within the IFCC: the Committee on Molecular Diagnostics in Infectious Diseases (C-MDID), focusing on tuberculosis diagnosis and antimicrobial resistance testing, and the Committee on Molecular Diagnostics in Oncology (C-MDO), dedicated to enhancing the accuracy of molecular diagnostic methods for circulating tumour cells and circulating tumour DNA in the diagnosis and management of malignant diseases. We are currently seeking nominations for 5 members, including 1 Chair and 4 Members, for each of these committees. If you are interested in these fields, please do not hesitate to contact your national representative for nomination: your participation in shaping

these important initiatives is invaluable.
Thank you for your continued dedication and contributions to the IFCC community.

With my best regards
Prof. Dr Tomris Ozben
IFCC President



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IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Programme: My experience at the Chemical Pathology Division, Stellenbosch University and National Health Laboratory Services (NHLS) Tygerberg Academic Laboratory, Tygerberg Hospital, Cape Town, South Africa.

By **Dr. Uchechukwu, Chisom Esther**, MBBS, Chemical Pathology Registrar, University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital, Enugu State, Nigeria.

I was fortunate to receive approval for my application to attend the IFCC sponsored PMP at the Chemical Pathology Division at Tygerberg Hospital in Cape Town, South Africa from May to July 2024. The main aim of my visit was to learn and acquire laboratory quality and management skills to help improve existing quality systems and build capacity at my base laboratory by translating the knowledge gained to the laboratory staff.

Tygerberg Academic Laboratory is an automated tertiary laboratory facility accredited to the International Organization for Standardization ISO 15189:2012 by the South Africa National Accreditation System (SANAS) since January 2009. It regularly hosts IFCC-sponsored candidates, thereby assisting health institutions in Africa to acquire and spread local leadership in implementing quality improvement programs towards achieving accreditation. Accreditation to ISO 15189 standard is a requirement for medical laboratory accreditation and recognized as global proof of competence and quality.

I participated in the Leadership and Laboratory Management module presented at the Tygerberg center, Cape Town from the 6th to 10th May 2024. The course was developed to impart leadership skills, research, quality improvement skills and promote networking among young scientists and registrars from different academic institutions in South Africa and other countries.

In the laboratory, I rotated through the various sections, observed and participated in sample and data collection for different laboratory investigations, controlled quality system documentation, attended monthly EQA meetings, weekly academic update and journal club meetings, and reviewed the laboratory SOPs. I also attended regular audits with prompt root cause analysis, detection, correction of nonconformities and assisted with documentation of preventive process change measures which are key attributes of continual improvement. I also assisted the registrars and pathologists with authorization of routine and specialized chemical pathology tests.

I visited the private Pathcare Reference Laboratory in Cape Town, a fully automated laboratory with state-of-the-art facilities, the Red Cross Memorial Children Hospital, which specializes in laboratory investigations of inborn errors of metabolism, the Clinical Pharmacology Division of Stellenbosch University, where I learnt and gained a lot of knowledge on therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM) and the Pathology Research Facility at Stellenbosch University, where I observed and also carried out genomic DNA extraction for the first time.

I wrote a proposal and received ethics approval for a research project investigating the use of cardiac biomarkers at Tygerberg Academic Hospital. The research project was however halted following a cyberattack on the South Africa NHLS Information Technology system in June 2024. However, this project will be continued remotely once the IT system is fully restored.

Although the cyberattack delayed my project and affected some of my proposed rotations, I gained valuable experience as I assisted the chemical pathology staff with troubleshooting and manual test performance and communication of results.

I also networked with other international students during social and shopping outings and enjoyed a cool cable ride to the famous Table Mountain with a breathtaking view from the mountain top over Cape Town and Camps Bay. I went on the blue bus tour round the beautiful city of Cape town, visited the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens, World of Birds and Monkey Jungle, the Mariner's Wharf, Hout Bay Harbor and the Groot Constantia Winery, where I attended a wine making and tasting lesson.

I'm sincerely grateful to my Host, Professor AE Zemlin for the warm reception, ensuring I was comfortable throughout my stay and granting me unlimited access to the laboratory. I also appreciate my Supervisor, Dr EC Kruger and all the staff of the Division of Chemical Pathology, Department of Pathology, Stellenbosch University and National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS) Tygerberg Hospital, Cape Town, South Africa.

Thank you IFCC for this rare and golden opportunity given to me and by extension for learning and improving our Laboratory Management skills as we strive toward achieving accreditation.



Visit to the Famous Table Mountain



*Group Photo with Staff members at Chemical Pathology
Division at Tygerberg Hospital in Cape Town*



With Dr. M Hoffman at Pathcare Reference Lab



With my Host, Prof. AE Zemlin

IFCC-Abbott Visiting Lecturer Program (VLP) 2024 – 9th Annual Academic Sessions at College of Chemical Pathologists of Sri Lanka, 12th and 13th July 2024 Colombo, Sri Lanka

By **Dr. Thushari Vithanage**, Consultant Chemical Pathologist/Joint Secretary of the College of Chemical Pathologist of Sri Lanka Teaching Hospital, Rathnapura

This report aims to provide a concise overview of the College of Chemical Pathologists of Sri Lanka's experience with the IFCC- Abbott Visiting Lecturer Programme (VLP). The report highlights the college's gratitude for the program's support in providing two eminent speakers for their 9th Annual Academic Sessions, which was held on 12th and 13th July 2024 at Hotel Galadari, Colombo, Sri Lanka. It acknowledges the successful conference, the positive reception of the lectures delivered by Dr Farhan Ahmed and Dr Mehdi Mirzazadeh, the problem-solving achievements, networking opportunities, and the hope for continued support from the IFCC VLP in the future.

The College of Chemical Pathologists of Sri Lanka expresses deep gratitude to the IFCC Abbott Visiting Lecturer Programme for their support in providing two eminent speakers for their Annual Academic Sessions. Despite the adverse economic situation Sri Lanka is facing currently, the college is extremely grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with such renowned experts.

The conference organized by the college was a resounding success, attracting a wide range of professionals in the field of Chemical Pathology. There were 75 participants in the main academic program and 290 participants in the Medical Laboratory Science program.

The lectures delivered by Dr Farhan Ahmed and Dr Mehdi Mirzazadeh were exceptionally well received by the attendees. Their expertise, knowledge, and engaging presentation styles made a significant impact on the participants, providing them with valuable insights into the latest advancements in the field.

The VLP facilitated meaningful discussions and problem-solving sessions, allowing participants to address various challenges faced in the field of chemical pathology. Through interactive exchanges and collaborative efforts, participants were able to find practical solutions to the problems they encountered. The VLP played a vital role in fostering a collaborative environment that facilitated the sharing of experiences and expertise among professionals.

Also, the VLP provided an excellent platform for networking and establishing connections among the professionals in the field of chemical pathology. Participants had the opportunity to meet and engage with colleagues from different institutions and backgrounds. These networking interactions allowed for the exchange of ideas, best practices, and potential collaborations. The opportunity to build such connections was invaluable for enhancing professional growth and fostering future partnerships.

The College of Chemical Pathologists of Sri Lanka expresses its sincere hope for continued support from the IFCC Abbott Visiting Lecturer Programme in the future. The collaboration with IFCC VLP has been instrumental in the success of the annual sessions, and the college believes that further support would strengthen its ability to provide high-quality education and professional development opportunities in the field of Chemical Pathology. The college is eager to continue working with the IFCC VLP to promote excellence and advancement in the field.



Dr Farhan Ahmed during his presentation

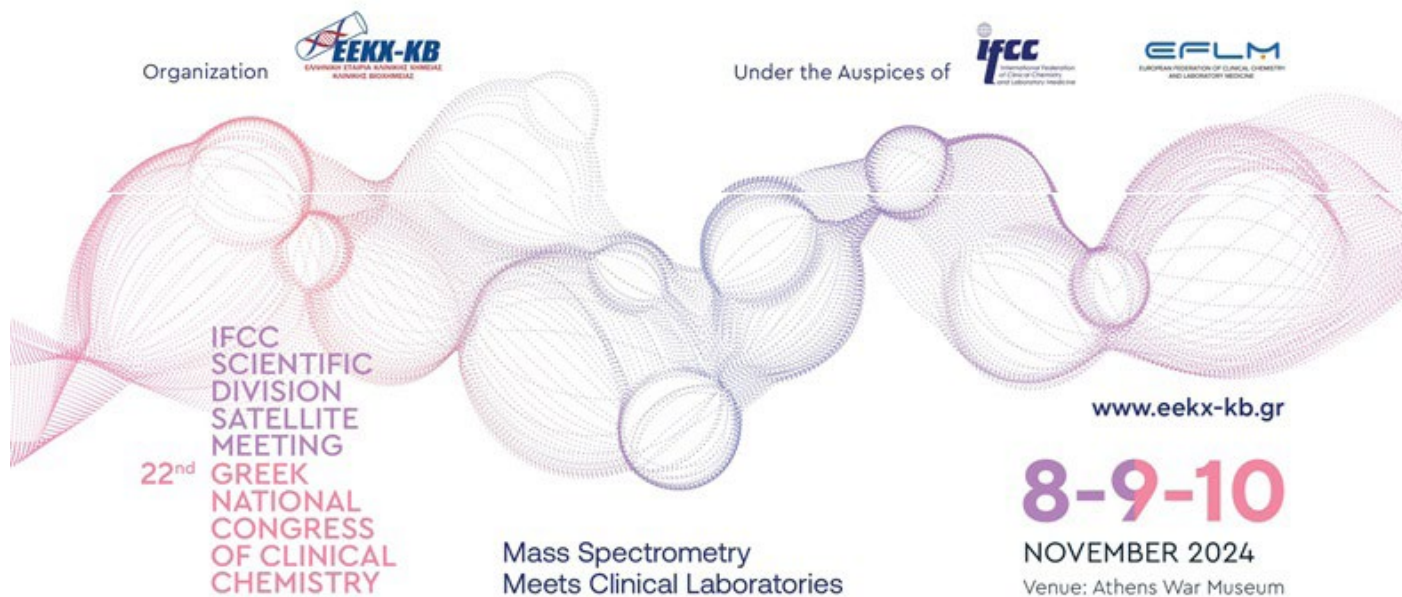





Dr Farhan Ahmed at the interactive sessions



Dr Mehdi Mirzazadeh on the stage

Mass Spectrometry Meets Clinical Laboratories



Organization   

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8-9-10
NOVEMBER 2024
Venue: Athens War Museum

On behalf of the IFCC Scientific Division and the Greek Society of Clinical Chemistry- Clinical Biochemistry, we have the pleasure of announcing a joint Clinical Mass Spectrometry congress for diagnostic purposes. The Congress Title of this event is “**Mass Spectrometry Meets Clinical Laboratories**”. The conference will be held as **hybrid** (physical presence and virtual) facilitating colleagues who cannot attend in person. This event aims to highlight that automated and robust mass spectrometry is becoming a valuable asset and feasible technology in medical laboratories, not only for small molecules but also for metabolite and protein/proteoform profile testing, to fulfil the clinical needs of essential precision medicine applications.

The objectives of the organizers of the congress are to inform laboratory professionals, trainees and clinicians about the strengths and challenges of mass spectrometry in medical laboratories with special emphasis on standardization and quality of test results. In addition to traditional laboratory-developed applications, new commercial applications and technology developments will be discussed.

The Scientific and Organizing Committees of the IFCC SD and the GSCC-CB created a comprehensive scientific program that is focused on Clinical Mass Spectrometry. It encompasses basic, intermediate and advanced applications. Experts and end-users will share their knowledge and experiences with special focus on the latest developments mass spectrometry for medical testing. This interactive meeting will allow participants to contribute with their ideas and help shape the future of clinical testing using mass spectrometry. The conference will provide the opportunity to network with experts and end-users in the field, and to develop new and advance existing knowledge and skills.

This event is scheduled to take place in Athens, Greece, from November 8 - 10, 2024, and is hosted by the GSCC-CB. The registration is open: [Mass Spectrometry Meets Clinical Laboratories \(https://eekx-kb.gr/22pskx/\)](https://eekx-kb.gr/22pskx/)

Christa Cobbaert, IFCC SD Chair

*Hubert Vesper, Member IFCC SD
Konstantinos Makris, Vice-Chair IFCC SD*

Milan, June 10, 2024

**To: Presidents and IFCC/EFLM National Representatives of
European National Societies of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine**

EUROMEDLAB 2027 – INVITATION TO BID

Dear Colleagues,

As you are aware, the EUROMEDLAB conference is the premier event in European laboratory medicine, held every two years. Last year's conference was successfully held in Rome, Italy.

IFCC and EFLM are now pleased to invite formal bids from European National Societies to host the EUROMEDLAB 2027. The selection of the host city for EUROMEDLAB 2027 will be made by the respective IFCC and EFLM Executive Boards (Please see "Guidelines Rev.17." document in attachment).

All applications should be submitted using the enclosed form B, and must be received by **September 30, 2024** at following email addresses: ifcc@ifcc.org and eflm@eflm.eu.

We look forward to receiving your bids for the 2027 EUROMEDLAB Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine!

With best wishes,



Tomris Ozben
President, IFCC



Mario Plebani
President, EFLM



Päivi Laitinen
Chair, Congresses and Conferences Division, IFCC



Daria Pasalic
Chair, Education and Training Committee, EFLM

Call For Outcome Study Proposals

Research Funding Available



The IFCC Task Force on Outcome Studies in Laboratory Medicine (TF-OSLM) is seeking research proposals for studies evaluating the **impact of laboratory testing on healthcare outcomes**.

Submit your proposals to contribute to this vital field and help enhance healthcare through innovative laboratory research.

It is crucial to demonstrate that the study links the laboratory testing to patient management, and improvements/changes in clinical outcomes.

Please refer to <https://doi.org/10.1093/clinchem/hvad132> for details.

Timeline Release date: June 25, 2024

Application deadline: October 1, 2024 @ 11:59 PM EST

Award notification: December 20, 2024

Application process

- Applications and supporting documents (in PDF format) must be submitted via the Application form link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeG7A0TQoPjyK8GBSfO_tXgErYSrdY5fGRtMKRbdZGWvHXdEA/viewform?pli=1
- For any questions, please email the IFCC Office (smeralda.skenderaj@ifcc.org).

For further information about the TF activities, please visit:

<https://ifcc.org/executive-board-and-council/eb-task-forces/task-force-on-outcome-studies-in-laboratory-medicine-tf-oslm/>

IFCC: the people

Obituary – Dr. Tan It Koon, Clinical Biochemist, Artist, Pianist, Renaissance Man

By Joseph Lopez



Dr Tan It Koon, the founding President of the Singapore Association of Clinical Biochemists (SACB) and the APFCB, passed away on May 1st this year. Dr Tan was a pioneer clinical biochemist who loomed large in the Asia-Pacific region. During his lifetime, he served our profession with distinction and received acclaim as an artist, calligrapher and concert pianist.

Dr Tan graduated from the University of Singapore (now the National University of Singapore) with a First Class BSc Honours degree. He spent his entire professional life at the Department of Pathology of the Singapore General Hospital, where, as its Head, he managed its laboratory services, conducted training and undertook research. Dr Tan completed his PhD in Biochemistry in 1970, while working at the department and subsequently undertook post-doctoral studies in the United Kingdom and in the United States. In addition, he obtained professional qualifications in clinical biochemistry, these being the Mastership in Clinical Biochemistry (MCB), the Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists UK (FRCPath) and the Fellowship of the American Academy of Clinical Biochemistry (FACB).

In early 1991, at the request of the Singapore Government, he established a national reference laboratory for the investigation and diagnosis of inherited metabolic disorders. The results of the 13-year study in this area were shared at congresses and in publications. Later, at the request of the Deputy Prime Minister of his country, he authored a position paper on the value of Biotechnology in Singapore and organised an international Symposium on Biotechnology. These activities resulted in the establishment of the first Institute for Molecular and Cellular Biology (IMCB) in Singapore.

Dr Tan became a clinical biochemist just as the field was emerging as a profession in its own right. This led him to initiate the formation of the SACB, which he served as President for several years. With colleagues from Australia, he founded the APFCB, of which he was elected the first President. Together, they pioneered the APFCB congresses, with the first two held in Singapore, in 1979 and 1982. In his capacity as an APFCB office holder for many years, Dr Tan was also actively involved in the organisation of several subsequent congresses. He started the APFCB News in 1983 and was its editor for many years.

Dr Tan was the first Asian to be elected to the IFCC Executive Board. As a WHO consultant and member of its various Expert Committees, he conducted educational training courses for clinical

laboratory staff in the Asia-Pacific region. As a member of the Asian-Pacific Scientific Advisory Board of Becton Dickinson for over 10 years, he was involved in the publication of the BD Analyte Notes and the conduct of courses on pre- and non- analytical errors. He published more than 150 articles in local and international peer-reviewed journals, he was a speaker or session chairman at various national and international conferences, and he served on the editorial board of several journals and books. Dr Tan's innate talent in art and music became manifested in early childhood. His musical studies commenced under Singapore's most well known music teachers, just before entering primary school. He was fortunate to be tutored throughout his secondary school and beyond by Singapore's first generation of artists who were recipients of the prestigious National Cultural Medallion Awards. Dr Tan gave his first public piano recital at the Victoria Memorial Hall, in Singapore, in 1957 and subsequently won top prizes for piano performances in 1959 and in the early 1960s. He was the winner of the Yamaha Singapore-Malaysia Music Composition Competition in mid-1970, where his winning composition was performed by the National Theatre Choir with him on the piano.

Dr Tan was an accomplished artist. His paintings during high school days won top awards at art exhibitions. He was invited to participate in the annual National Day art exhibitions organised by the Singapore Ministry of Culture from 1970. His more recent paintings accompanied with description, from the past decade and earlier, have appeared in the APFCB News and Clinical Chemistry. His outstanding achievements in the arts resulted in him being appointed by the Singapore Cabinet to the top management of the National Theatre Trust, a body dedicated to the promotion of cultural development and the performing arts.

Dr Tan spoke several Chinese dialects and languages. Even while he was busy working full-time in clinical biochemistry, his involvement with music, painting and calligraphy never ceased. He gave piano recitals at public concerts and private musical soirees. Even in his latter years, he painted and practised his calligraphy and piano, often well into the night. In recent decades, his art works have been exhibited annually in Singapore and abroad. Dr Tan served as the President of the Southeast Asian Art Association and chaired its art exhibition organising committee for a number of years. He adjudicated the annual national level calligraphy competition for schools and tertiary institutions and was appointed adviser for promotion of cultural heritage and art at the Ngee Ann Corporation and Chaozhou Clan Association more than a decade ago. More recently, Dr Tan's profile and artworks earned him a chapter in each of four art books published in China featuring distinguished ethnic Chinese artists.

Dr Tan's immense contributions to the sciences and arts resulted in him being presented with two National Day Awards by the Government of Singapore and appointment to the Boards of the Cultural Foundation and Science Council of Singapore. Recognition by his peers in laboratory medicine came by way of international awards, including the inaugural APFCB Distinguished Service Award.

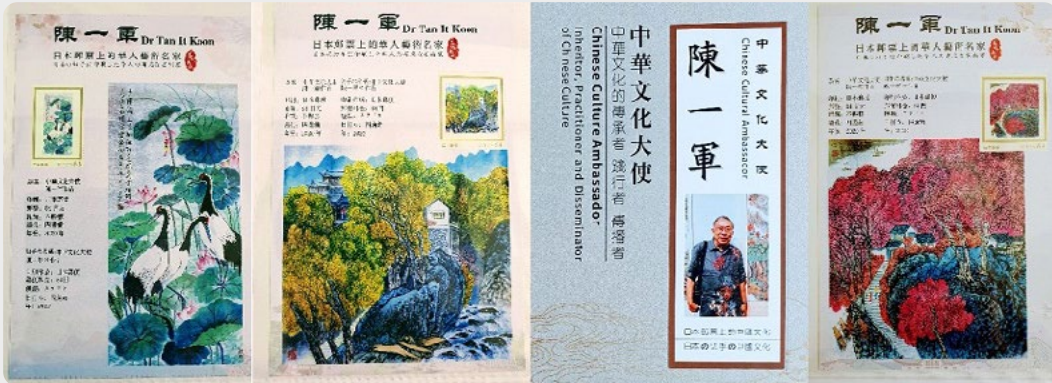
The European Renaissance from the 14th century to the 17th century was an intense period of cultural, artistic, political and economic flourish. Some of the greatest thinkers, authors, statesmen, scientists and artists in human history emerged during this era. The Renaissance Man, an ideal which evolved from that time, recognised that the human kind had limitless capacities for development in multiple spheres of endeavour. The foremost embodiment of the Renaissance Man was perhaps Leonardo da Vinci, whose extraordinary gifts were manifest in the fields of art, science, music, invention and writing.

Dr Tan It Koon was a rare and exceptionally talented person. Requiescat in pace, Renaissance Man.

(The writer is a founding member of the Malaysian ACB, a past President of the APFCB and a past member of the IFCC Executive Board who knew Dr Tan from the mid-1970s. We remained in touch until recently.)

Three samples of Dr Tan It Koon's work in the arts:

1. Postage stamps produced jointly by China and Japan to commemorate the 42nd Anniversary of Sino-Japan Peace, Cultural and Art Exchange Agreement which featured a number of Dr Tan's artworks.

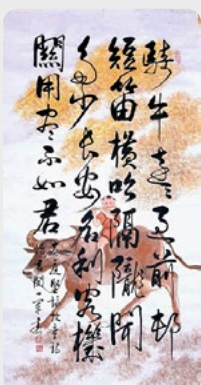


2. A piano recital by Dr Tan



3. An example of Dr Tan's art and calligraphy with explanation

A 5-ft long ink-colour Chinese brush painting combined with calligraphy by Dr Tan: ***"An Ox with a Young Cowherd Playing the Piccolo* "**. The inspiration for this painting came from the Song Dynasty poet (1045-1105) Huang Tingjian's "Poem of A Young Cowherd" that consisted of four sentences, each with seven words. It may be interpreted as follows: "A young cowherd riding on an ox passes a distant village. Sound of his piccolo playing could be heard drifting across the farm fields. Many famous and wealth-seeking people in the capital city of Changan spend too much time and effort in plotting schemes to bring them fame and fortune. How can they be compared with the cowherd who is so carefree and void of worry and stress? The poem in the artwork was written in the Running Script.



Patrick Bossuyt, PhD, winner of the 2024 Wallace H. Coulter Lectureship Award at ADLM congress, Chicago, USA

The case for putting lab testing to the ultimate test — clinical trials

Highlight from ADLM

Modern medicine cannot operate without diagnostic tests, which are intended to improve patients' health and enhance healthcare efficiency without compromising outcomes. Yet demonstrating that tests are delivering on these goals is no easy task. In the ADLM (former AACC) congress opening plenary lecture, **Patrick Bossuyt, PhD, winner of the 2024 Wallace H. Coulter Lectureship Award**, made a compelling case for why we need strong clinical trials of laboratory tests.

The IFCC congratulates dr Patrick Bossuyt for this important and so very well-deserved Award. Among his many roles, dr Patrick Bossuyt was a former member of the IFCC Working Group on Harmonization of Autoimmune Tests (WG-HAT)

Bossuyt is a professor of clinical epidemiology at the University of Amsterdam whose research focuses on developing methods to evaluate diagnostic tests. He noted that clinical trials are already widely accepted as the standard for assessing the safety and efficacy of new pharmaceuticals and other interventions in clinical medicine, such as surgical strategies. However, laboratory medicine has lagged with respect to adopting a clinical-trial-style approach toward assessing diagnostic value.

Bossuyt explained that diagnostic-accuracy studies should aim to evaluate the degree to which medical tests correctly classify study participants as having a target condition. This type of investigation is difficult to do and requires precise scientific protocols. Researchers must carefully consider the challenges, which include figuring out how to recruit participants, define eligibility criteria, develop appropriate controls, and handle missing data.

Unfortunately, this work is not always done, and the ramifications can be significant. Bossuyt pointed out that study-design shortcomings may be partially to blame for the relative lack of successful new biomarkers and clinical tests.

To address this lack of rigor, Bossuyt led the effort to develop Standards for Reporting Diagnostic Accuracy Studies (STARD), which has identified 30 items that should be included when reporting on diagnostic tests to aid in evaluating study completeness and transparency. Importantly, he recommended considering these items as early as possible during a study's design phase.

The first version of STARD, which was published in 2003, helped raise awareness about the importance of strong study designs, protocols, and analysis plans for diagnostic test evaluations. STARD has caught the eye of regulatory bodies, journal editorial boards, and clinical researchers around the world. Notably, since its update in 2015, the STARD guidelines have been cited over 1,000 times.

During his talk, Bossuyt shared some of his professional background and career path. He has authored more than 1,000 articles and continues to be incredibly prolific. He has also trained more than 100 doctoral students.

Bossuyt made it clear that rigorous clinical trials should be applied to medical tests. His talk was a call to action for laboratory medicine professionals to rethink how diagnostic tests are evaluated and ultimately improve the evidence base for tests used in medical decision-making.

* Source: Based on CLN Daily Report from Gabrielle N. Winston-McPherson, PhD

Patrick Bossuyt, PhD, winner of the 2024 Wallace H. Coulter Lectureship Award at ADLM congress

d.d. 29th July 2024



Patrick Bossuyt, PhD, winner of the 2024 Wallace H. Coulter Lectureship Award at ADLM congress, Chicago, USA The case for putting lab testing to the ultimate test – clinical trials



On behalf of the IFCC SD Committee on Bone Metabolism (C-BM) you are kindly invited to participate in their survey.

The aim of this survey is to assess the use of PTH, vitamin D and bone markers in clinical practice worldwide.

No individual responses will be presented, and the privacy of individual respondents will be respected. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Prof. Etienne Cavalier (Etienne.Cavalier@chuliege.be)

The deadline for completion is September 30th, 2024.

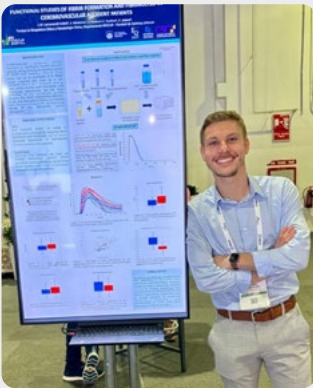
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2WFFLRZ>

We value your input!

IFCC: the Young Scientists

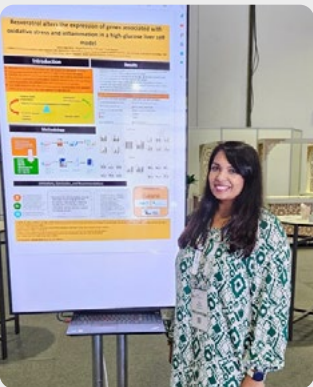
IFCC Worldlab 2024 – Dubai through Young Scientists' Eyes - Part 3

Task Force for Young Scientists (compiled by **Udara Senarathne**, Sri Lanka)



José Larramendi
Maciel Hospital - Uruguay

After finishing my bachelor's degree, I was somewhat disoriented about my next steps. Being in this state I realized that the Forum for Young Scientists and the IFCC WorldLab would be the perfect opportunity to meet professionals and fellow young scientists from all around the world who could share their experiences and help me to find my way. After attending both events thanks to the Travel Scholarship Programme I can say that the experience was a turning point in my professional and personal development. The atmosphere, the presentations, and especially the people gave me the ideas and the motivation to continue engaging in this beautiful profession. I truly have no words to describe how thankful I am to everyone involved in this chapter of my life.



Shanel Raghubeer
Cape Peninsula University of Technology - South Africa

Attending the IFCC WorldLab 2024 in Dubai was an extraordinary and enriching experience, providing invaluable opportunities for professional growth and cultural exploration. The conference featured inspiring plenary talks and innovative sessions that showcased cutting-edge advancements in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine. The presentation of my poster was a highlight of my trip. The Young Scientist Forum was very rewarding, facilitating meaningful connections with peers from around the world who share similar research interests and career goals. This initiative underscored the importance of global scientific cooperation and mentorship, creating a vibrant community of emerging scientists. Networking with both young and established researchers enriched my understanding of the diverse scientific landscape and opened avenues for future collaborations. The knowledge gained, connections made, and inspiration drawn from this event will shape my future endeavours in clinical chemistry, leaving a lasting impact on my career and growth as a young scientist.



Jamal Amri

Tehran University of Medical Sciences - Iran

Attending the IFCC YS Forum, Dubai 2024 and meeting professors and young scientists from different countries was a unique experience for me. This opportunity allowed me to update my knowledge in the field of clinical biochemistry and get to know the latest scientific achievements of researchers in different panels and discuss with young scientists with the understanding of cooperation for the future. Besides the panels, the presence of unique workshops and companies providing services in the laboratory field also added to the quality of the congress. Getting to know the university system of the United Arab Emirates in Sharjah was also interesting for me. On behalf of my country, I would like to thank the IFCC YS Forum for inviting me and the travel scholarship to participate in this important event, and I hope that more young scientists from my country can participate in these congresses in the future and take advantage of the unique opportunity provided to them.



Sathya Selvarajan

MGM HEALTHCARE CHENNAI, Tamil Nadu – India

The Young Scientists Forum at IFCC WorldLab Congress Dubai 2024 provided an excellent platform to network with peers globally and exchange ideas on research and subject matters. I actively participated in dynamic networking sessions and presented my research at the Poster Tour, where I was honored to receive an award for the best poster. I am truly grateful for the encouragement, recognition, and suggestions provided by the forum. This experience highlighted the importance of emerging trends and leadership skills in clinical biochemistry, and the insights and connections I gained will significantly influence my future work and career development.



Nano Mikaia

Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University – Georgia

I am a PhD student in biology and genetics at the Molecular Laboratory Specialist at LTD ‘Vistamedi’. I want to share my experience with the IFCC Forum for Young Scientists, 3rd edition, Dubai. Our research, “Implementation of Molecular Markers Targeting Thrombosis-Related Conditions in the Real Clinical Practice,” has been selected to present during the Young Scientists Poster Tour. First, I would like to thank IFCC and the YS forum for choosing and giving such a great opportunity to introduce research, for giving opportunities to colleagues from around the world to improve our professional capabilities, and for supporting, encouraging, and helping young scientists reach scientific goals. I had the opportunity to interact with other young scientists from around the world and get acquainted with their works. I'm very proud that I was part of this.



Rajan Paudel

Nepal Association for Medical Laboratory Sciences (NAMLS) - Nepal

Having been awarded the IFCC Travel Scholarship, I was able to participate in the Third IFCC Forum for Young Scientists as well as IFCC WorldLab 2024 - Dubai, UAE. I had the honor of presenting my research findings at the IFCC WorldLab 2024 Young Scientists Poster Tour. I was motivated to seek out more expertise in our profession by this platform. In addition, the occasion offered me a fantastic chance to network with both seasoned professionals and aspiring scientists, as well as to gain valuable insights and feedback. These interactions have broadened my view of the world via the lens of laboratory medicine. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the IFCC for providing me with the "IFCC Travel Scholarship" so that I could attend the XXVI International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine and the IFCC Forum for Young Scientists in Dubai (UAE) from May 26 to 30, 2024, and for making such a worthwhile and educational event. This event has been a major turning point in my laboratory medicine career and future aspirations.



Genzane Muçaj Kurti

Clinic of Medical Biochemistry, University Clinical Center of Kosovo - Republic of Kosovo

My attendance at the 26th International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine and the FORUM for Young Scientists 3rd edition in Dubai proved transformative for both me and the Kosova Association of Clinical Chemistry (KACC). Witnessing the latest advancements in laboratory medicine firsthand, I returned not just with knowledge, but with a renewed vigor to elevate our national standards. The Young Scientists' Forum provided invaluable networking opportunities and exposure to global best practices. This experience ignited a spark in our younger KACC members, fostering a collaborative environment where fresh ideas are not just welcomed but actively encouraged. As a direct result, the KACC is undergoing a revitalization. We're focusing on expanding our educational programs, fostering research collaborations, and advocating for policy changes that prioritize laboratory quality in Kosovo. It's an exciting time, as we strive to build a vibrant community of laboratory professionals dedicated to delivering exceptional patient care. The IFCC events in Dubai served as a catalyst for change, reminding us of the global landscape we're part of, and the potential we have, to make significant contributions to healthcare in Kosovo. It's not just about keeping pace with the world, but about actively shaping our future, and that's exactly what the KACC is committed to doing.

Contribute to IFCC eNews

GetCheckedOnline: Better access to testing for sexually-transmitted and blood-borne infections

Sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections (STBBI) can compromise quality of life, sexual and reproductive health, and the health and well-being of newborns. STBBIs can also indirectly expedite sexual transmission of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and can cause some cancers. Fortunately, many STBBIs are curable or manageable, with appropriate treatment. A key step in treatment and to help mitigate downstream transmission, is early diagnosis, and partner notification.

Many barriers can exist related to STBBI screening and treatment, including access to services and care, wait times, concerns around confidentiality, stigma, and fear of judgement or discrimination. These barriers, coupled with the increasing rates of STBBIs in the last decade, reinforce this as a public health issue globally and further emphasize the need for targeted initiatives for STBBI diagnosis and treatment.



Pictured from left to right: Garth Graham, Devon Haag, Mark Gilbert, Meghan McLennan, Susie van der Valk

Sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections (STBBI) can compromise quality of life, sexual and reproductive health, and the health and well-being of newborns. STBBIs can also indirectly expedite sexual transmission of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and can cause some cancers. Fortunately, many STBBIs are curable or manageable, with appropriate treatment. A key step in treatment and to help mitigate downstream transmission, is early diagnosis, and partner notification.

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to services and care, wait times, concerns around confidentiality, stigma, and fear of judgement or discrimination. These barriers, coupled with the increasing rates of STBBIs in the last decade, reinforce this as a public health issue globally and further emphasize the need for targeted initiatives for STBBI diagnosis and treatment. This low-barrier service is free and confidential, enabling increased engagement, reflected in a 2022 survey indicating that 87% of people testing through GetCheckedOnline (GCO) report that they test earlier and more often than they would if they were testing through a regular clinic or healthcare provider, with 11% reporting they would not have tested if GCO had not been available. Importantly, survey results also indicate the program is reaching equity seeking populations, with 13% of GCO testers identified as Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit or Metis) and 14% identified as transgender. Use of GCO was also significantly higher among people of color (vs. white), gender minority (vs. men), transgender (vs. cisgender) and sexual minority (vs. heterosexual) participants. In an additional 2022 survey >50% of regular GCO users indicated a sexual identity other than heterosexual, including gay, bisexual, queer and pansexual.

“For clients looking for routine testing, GetCheckedOnline is a fantastic tool. Many clients are experienced testers and do not require the services of a physician or nurse. This frees up valuable and often scarce clinician resources to focus on clients with significant STI needs, such as those who are symptomatic or looking for preventative STI care such as HIV PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) initiation.” - *Natalie Holgerson, Clinical Nursing Supervisor, Provincial STBBI Clinic Clinical Prevention Services Department British Columbia Centre for Disease Control*

For their commitment to healthcare excellence and the remarkable outcomes associated with GCO,

GetCheckOnline: Better access to testing for sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections

the team behind GetCheckedOnline received 2024 Top Honors from the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award program. Congratulations to Devon Haag, *Manager, Digital Public Health Services, BC Centre for Disease Control*, Meghan McLennan, *Manager, Laboratory Operations, BC Centre for Disease Control Public Health Laboratory*, Garth Graham, *Director, Government Contracts Management BC, LifeLabs*, Mark Gilbert, *Public Health Physician, Clinical Prevention Services, BC Centre for Disease Control*, Susie van der Valk, *Manager, Specialized Provincial & Ancillary Solutions, Provincial Health Services Authority*.

IFCC Webinars

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2024



IFCC Live Webinar on
Minimum quality specifications based on the state of the art



Moderator



Dr. Raul Girardi
[Argentina]
Chemist
Professor National University
of La Plata

State of the art



Dr. Jorge Morancho Zaragoza
[Spain]
Technical Manager
Asociación Española del
Laboratorio Clínico

Algorithm for obtaining
consensual minimum
quality specifications



Dr. Angel Manuel Salas Garcia
[Spain]
Board Member
Fundació pel Control de Qualitat
dels Laboratoris Clínics
(FPCQLC)

State of the Art Charts



Dr. Enrique Prada de Medio
[Spain]
Director of Transversal
Processes
Integrated Care of Cuenca

Date: September 4th, 2024

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



Early detection of metabolic-dysfunction associated steatotic liver disease using FIB-4

Chronic diseases continue to plague populations around the globe, with obesity and metabolic diseases no exception. These public health threats cannot be understated, and can lead to significant morbidity and mortality, including decreased quality of life, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, osteoarthritis, cancer and liver disease. Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD), steatotic liver disease caused by factors other than excessive alcohol use, occurs most often in the presence of metabolic disorders such as obesity and diabetes, and is the most common chronic liver disease, affecting more than 30% of the global population.

Despite significant global prevalence, MASLD is considered a silent epidemic, as signs and symptoms typically do not manifest until the disease progresses to non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), cirrhosis, hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), and/or end-stage liver disease (ESLD). Consequently, early identification through targeted screening of high-risk individuals can minimize morbidity and mortality. In recent years, the Fibrosis-4 scoring system has emerged as an accessible and useful tool for screening programs, in part because it is non-invasive compared to biopsies, accessible in resource constrained environments and valuable in primary care. FIB-4 grades liver fibrosis using age, ALT, AST and platelet count to help direct next steps, if needed.

Appreciating the value of FIB-4 and the increased levels of diabetes and obesity in Malaysia, Premier Integrated Labs Sdn Bhd implemented FIB-4 screening in July 2022 to help enable early liver disease identification in primary care, enable appropriate triage and intervention, and reduce overall disease burden. Since implementation >39,000 patients have been screened, enabling identification of 5,662 patients with 'moderate or high risk' of MASLD. These patients can now receive early treatment to help minimize disease. Conversely, 33,358 patients were classified as 'low risk' and as such, did not require further referral, thus saving resources. Ultimately, FIB-4-guided early follow-up and intervention, patient outcomes have improved, including increased patient wellness, mitigated hospital stays and reduced absenteeism. Impressively, FIB-4 has also enhanced clinical decision-making, reaching 74% utilization amongst primary care physicians.



Pictured from left to right: Leslie Charles Lai Chin Loy, Mun Yee Evonne Kong, Hareeff Muhammed, Yoke Lee Low.

This impressive initiative and important outcomes have not only improved care and outcomes but saved precious healthcare budget. For their important role in this integrated clinical care initiative, Yoke Lee Low, *Biochemist, Department of Pathology, Premier Integrated Labs*, Hareeff Muhammed, *Chief Executive Officer, Premier Integrated Labs*, Leslie Charles Lai Chin Loy, *Consultant, Chemical Pathologist, and Metabolic Medicine Specialist, Premier Integrated Labs*, Mun Yee, *Senior Manager, Medical Affairs and Quality, Premier Integrated Labs* have received *Top Recognition* associated with the 2024 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award

program. Congratulations!

To learn more about this initiative, the UNIVANTS programs and/or to apply, please visit www.UnivantsHCE.com

Improved management of patients with high LDL-C through electronic health record-directed algorithms for guideline-concordant high-intensity statin prescribing

The development of fatty deposits in your blood vessels is silent, with no symptoms of hypercholesterolemia until a potentially catastrophic event such as a heart attack or stroke. Hypercholesterolemia accounts for a third of ischemic heart disease, an estimated 2.6 million deaths (4.5% of total) and 29.7 million DALYS (Disability-adjusted life year) globally. Laboratory medicine. Measurement of low density lipoproteins cholesterol (LDL-C) is the only way to detect hypercholesterolemia and is increasingly important with a global hypercholesterolemia prevalence of 39% in adults.

Available treatment for elevated cholesterol include lifestyle changes and medications, such as statins. Statins are highly effective at reducing LDL-C, safe for most people, and are the recommended treatment for hypercholesterolemia. Despite their effectiveness, high-intensity statins are underutilized among adults with LDL-C \geq 190 mg/dL. Consequently, as part of the SureNet program, Kaiser Permanente Southern California conceived and initiated the Statin Start program. The program aims to identify undiagnosed and untreated hypercholesterolemia (LDL-C \geq 190 mg/dL) and enable treatment and follow-up. Using electronic surveillance to identify patients with gaps in care, high-intensity statin orders and lipid panel testing are automatically generated for primary care provider approval. To help ensure approval and minimize care provider burden, care managers alert a patient's primary care provider of pending orders for their approval. Patients are then notified of their new prescription and follow-up laboratory requisition.



Pictured from left to right: Kristi Reynolds, Matthew Mefford, Michael Kanter, Ronald Scott, Tracey Imley

Through this multi-disciplinary collaboration, there was a 6% improvement (from 21.5% to 27.5%) in high-intensity statin prescription orders for patients with LDL-C at or above 190 mg/dL, corresponding to 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 190 mg/dL. Impressively, clinicians also find this program beneficial to their workload. "The KPSC SureNet program reduces the clinician burden associated with identifying and correcting missed diagnosis of hyperlipidemia and missing medications and lab orders, enabling clinicians to focus on high-quality patient care. In addition,

the program eliminated a missed diagnosis of hyperlipidemia in patients with an LDL at or above 190 mg/dL." Michael Kanter, *Chair of the Department of Clinical Science; Professor, Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine, Associate Investigator, Kaiser Permanente Southern California Department of Research & Evaluation*

For their commitment to patient care and measurably better healthcare, the Kaiser Permanente SureNet, Statin Start program team have been awarded the Top 2024 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award. Congratulations to Matthew Mefford, *Research Scientist, Department of Research & Evaluation*, Michael Kanter, *Chair of the Department of Clinical Science; Professor, Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine Associate Investigator, Kaiser Permanente Southern California Department of Research & Evaluation*, Ronald Scott, *Family Medicine; Cholesterol and Cardiovascular Risk National Clinical Lead, KPSC Co-Lead, Southern California Permanente Medical Group*, Kristi Reynolds, *Director, Epidemiologic Research, Department of Research & Evaluation Professor, Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine*, Tracy Imley, *Regional Assistant Medical Director, Quality, Clinical Analysis, and Value Demonstration*.

To learn more about this best practice and others, and/or to apply for the 2025 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence awards, please visit www.UnivantsHCE.com.



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Lima: a must-see destination for the XXVII Congress of the Latin American Association of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine – ALAPAC/ML 2024

by **Dr. Luis Figueroa Montes**, President of AMPPC and ALAPAC Peru

Lima, the capital of Peru, is a city rich in history and culture, with a vibrant mix of tradition and modernity. This metropolis is not only the economic and political center of the country, but also an epicenter for education and innovation in health in Latin America. In this context, Lima is presented as the perfect place to host the XXVII Congress of the Latin American Association of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (ALAPAC/ML), an event that promises to mark a turning point in the transformation of laboratory medicine in the region.



Coastline in the city of Lima

ALAPAC/ML was founded in Lima on September 23, 1976 by delegations from Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela and Peru, in response to the need of the sister countries of Latin America to defend the prestige of the specialty in Clinical Pathology, covering all areas of its work. Since then, the association has become the guiding authority for the thinking of clinical pathologists in the region. Below, I share the main details of this outstanding academic event.

It is important to highlight that our congress will have the academic sponsorship of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC), the World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (WASPALM), the Latin American Association of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (ALAPAC/ML) and the Peruvian Medical Association of Clinical Pathology (AMPPC).



ALAPAC Founding Act on September 23, 1976

The entire congress will have lectures that will be given by national and international speakers, experts in their clinical fields, strengthening the links between participants and expanding their network of contacts.

Pre-Congress Courses: October 9, 2024

The congress will begin with three pre-congress courses, one day dedicated to intensive workshops on analytical quality control and microbiology. We will cover topics such as the establishment of recommended analytical quality control practices and the importance of harmonizing the pre-analytical phase. In microbiology, key aspects of mycology and an antimicrobial optimization program will be addressed.

Day 1 of the Congress: October 10, 2024

The first day of the academic program will focus on various disciplines: transfusion medicine, clinical laboratory management, mycology, genomics, histocompatibility and biochemistry, with conferences in three rooms simultaneously at the event facilities.

In addition, we will have a technological exhibition that will bring together more than 25 companies from the diagnostic industry on two levels, where the latest advances and innovations in laboratory medicine, as well as services focused on quality control, among others will be presented.

The academic activity will culminate with the first plenary session of the congress, entitled “First Latin American Consensus for the Timely Diagnosis of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD): The Correct Renal Profile”, which will bring together the presidents of the medical societies of clinical pathology from all over Latin America. To close this great day, we will have an emotional opening ceremony with the presence of distinguished national and international authorities, followed by a cocktail to fraternize and expand our network of contacts.



Roundtable held at the Brazilian Congress of Clinical Pathology in 2023

Day 2 of the Congress: October 11, 2024

The second day will be dedicated to artificial intelligence, immunology, molecular biology, omics, microbiology and emerging challenges in antimicrobial resistance, cytometry and hematology.

We will also have a block of guest lectures by the Visiting Speakers Program (VLP) of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry -IFCC-Abbott. As a full member of the IFCC, our society benefits from this great benefit.

Three lectures will be given, led by the president of the IFCC, Professor Tomris Ozben from Turkey

(who will be present during all days of the congress), Professor Juan Gallardo from Mexico and Fabrio Brazao from Brazil.

In parallel, the conferences of the medical societies of Clinical Pathology of the countries of the region representing ALAPAC will be held: Bolivia, Brazil, Peru, Uruguay and Mexico. The academic activities will end with the second plenary session of the congress, entitled “Integrated diagnosis: evidence-based therapy guide in oncology, from tumor markers to immunohistochemistry, liquid biopsy and imaging”, given by Professor Tomris Ozben from Turkey. Professor Tomris leads the most important academic institution in the world, for its contribution and impact on Laboratory Medicine.



Prof. Tomris Ozben

As part of our social activities, the day will conclude with a fellowship party entitled “Latin American Reunion in Clinical Pathology”.

Day 3 of the Congress: October 12, 2024

On this last day, we will continue with the conferences of the medical societies of Clinical Pathology of the countries of the region representing ALAPAC: Chile and Ecuador.

This day will focus on sessions centered on pre-analytical management, ethics in laboratory medicine, and presentations by residents from various countries, with a strong emphasis on quality and precision in laboratory practice, reflecting the importance of these values in the continuous improvement of health services.

A traditional meeting of Clinical Pathology residents from the different member countries of ALAPAC/ML will be held, where free topics will be addressed from their respective societies. In addition, the Brazilian society will organize a special forum with three conferences.

Another crucial topic will be the approach to ethical and deontological issues. Our Peruvian society, together with the Mexican society, will present a round table on the “Dichotomy in Clinical Pathology.”

I would like to highlight the incorporation of Colombia to ALAPAC/ML, led by Dr. Ludwig Albornoz, who will also present the conference “Sources of Imprecision in Precision Pathology.” Another notable participation will be that of colleague José Jara with his conference “The clinical pathologist in the resolution of clinical cases with discrepant laboratory results.”

The congress will conclude with a plenary session by Dr. Mario Plebani, a world leader in quality in laboratory medicine, entitled “The Unfinished Journey towards Quality in Laboratory Medicine.”



Prof. Mario Plebani

The development of scientific research in Clinical Pathology will allow the participation of attendees at the congress with their scientific contributions, highlighting the contribution of our profession. Finally, the closing ceremony will be held, where the best research papers and clinical cases presented will be awarded.

ALAPAC 2024 will not only be a platform for the exchange of knowledge in Laboratory Medicine, but also an opportunity to experience Lima in all its splendid diversity. The city, with its unique combination of history, culture and gastronomy, promises to offer attendees an unforgettable experience. There is no better place to combine professional advancement with the exploration of one of the most captivating metropolises in South America.



AMPPC Board of Directors 2022-2024

We look forward to seeing you in Lima for an event that will undoubtedly be memorable!

For more information about the congress, please visit our website: <https://congresoalapac2024.com/>

News from Regional Federations and Member Societies

IFCC Expert Insights on Quality Improvement in Laboratory Medicine and Patients' Safety

Mont Saint-Anne, Quebec, Canada – 16-19 June 2024

organized by the Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists (CSCC) and the Quebec Society of Clinical Biology (Société Québécoise de Biologie Clinique, SQBC).

By **Dr. Paul M. Yip**, CSCC President, Associate Professor and Division Head of Biochemistry, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

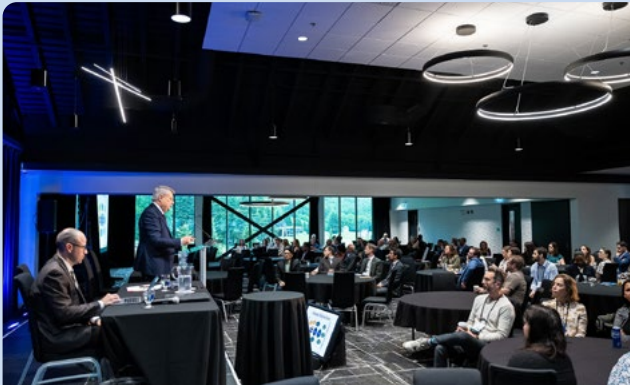
I am deeply grateful to the IFCC-Abbott VLP and the programme chair, Prof. Sedef Yenice for the generous support that made possible the special symposium featuring members of the IFCC Working Group on Laboratory Errors and Patient Safety (WG-LEPS). The backdrop to this event was the Joint Conference of the CSCC and SQBC with an overarching theme of Sustainability in the LAB and was attended by over 300 delegates. The VLP included a plenary session that provided cutting-edge advancements in laboratory quality improvement and diverse perspectives drawing on the experiences of experts from countries across the globe.

The conference had the distinct honor of **Prof. Mario Plebani**, Italy, founding Chair of WG-LEPS and EFLM President to set the stage for the symposium with an overview of “The Saga of Quality Indicators” from the start of his own QI journey to the current state of the art almost thirty years later. **Prof. Pieter Vermeersch**, Belgium, Chair of the EFLM Post-Analytical WG began the main presentations on the topic of “When patients’ safety depends on our capacity to record and report laboratory errors”. He articulated the challenges of non-conformities in the pre-analytical phase and efforts towards standardized coding to improve the interoperability of laboratory test results as more health data is exchanged. **Dr. Wilson Shcolnik**, representative of the Brazilian Society of Clinical Laboratory-Laboratory Medicine spoke on “Sharing the insight on the Brazilian program of Quality Indicators Comparison”, which highlighted the role of laboratory accreditation in the adherence to monitoring quality indicators and its impact. **Dr. Sohini Sengupta**, India, WG-LEPS and IFCC POCT Committee member presented on “Implementing the WG-LEPS guidelines to the national level, the Indian experience”. Her stimulating talk illustrated the immense scale of the country’s size and how the growth of laboratory accreditation highlighted the need for systematic application of quality indicators in order to reduce errors. The session concluded with an engaging panel discussion moderated by **Dr. Vincent De Guire**, Canada, President of the Quality Improvement Committee of the SQBC, Chair of the Quality Improvement through Quality Indicators Special Interest Group of the CSCC and incoming Chair of WG-LEPS.

In addition, the IFCC-Abbott VLP enabled a conference workshop, *Advancing POCT Quality: Discussion on the Value and Strategies of Integrating Canadian POCT Quality Indicators in the IFCC QIs Comparison Program*. Members of the WG-LEPS joined roughly 30 delegates to elevate the work of CSCC and SQBC into the global model for quality indicators (MQI). The timing of the VLP sessions could not have been better as the conference was held in parallel with the third major consensus group meeting of the WG-LEPS, co-chaired by **Prof. Mario Plebani** and **Dr. Vincent De Guire**. As the group worked to substantially update the MQI (last time in 2016), the gathering of experts also gave a joyful and heartfelt farewell to Mario Plebani, who concluded his term as Chair of the working group.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the collaboration of my colleagues in organizing this event: **Dr. Michaël Lehoux**, SQBC President, **Dr. Julie Shaw**, IFCC C-POCT member and Chair of the POCT Special Interest Group of the CSCC, and the entire conference planning committee.

*IFCC Expert Insights on Quality improvement
in Laboratory Medicine and Patients' Safety*



Mario Plebani delivers an overview of quality indicators



VLP speakers: W. Shcolnik, P. Vermeersch, S. Sengupta



Discussion panel with members of the WG-LEPS



V. De Guire, P. Lyons (CSCC Office), S. Sengupta, A. von Meyer

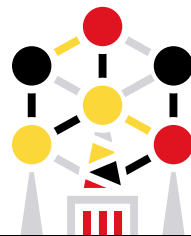
26th IFCC-EFLM EUROMEDLAB
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SFBC – Société Française de Biologie Clinique : Webinar “Faster, Higher, Stronger – Together” : When laboratory medicine meets Olympic games

by **Marie Lenski, Annabelle Dupont, Laurie Gheddar and Xavier Bigard**, (SFBC, Société Française de Biologie Clinique)

France was hosting summer Olympic games from July 26th to August 11th, 2024, as well as Paralympic games from August 28th to September 8th, 2024. The Olympic motto is “Faster, Higher, Stronger – Together”. Sport-laboratory medicine can provide valuable contributions to the monitoring of athletes to improve performance and to preserve their health, to the diagnosis of athletic injuries, or to the screening of doping behavior to identify cheating athletes. It is a relatively innovative branch of laboratory science, which is in the spotlight at the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. In this context, the French national society of laboratory medicine SFBC, Société Française de Biologie Clinique, organized a webinar on July 10th, 2024. This webinar, moderated by Dr Marie Lenski (France), a young scientist working in the laboratory of toxicology at Lille University Hospital, has covered challenges of sport-laboratory medicine from several facets, including performance improvement, monitoring of doping behavior, and the importance of the athlete biological passport. This webinar comprised of three presentations and was followed by a panel discussion at the end.

IFCC Live Webinar on
“Faster, Higher, Stronger – Together”: When Laboratory Medicine meets Olympic Games

Moderator
Biological indicators of interest in monitoring athletes and interpreting their variations to improve performance and to preserve their health

Dr. Marie Lenski [France]
Young Scientist, Specialist in laboratory medicine
Laboratory of Toxicology, Lille University Hospital

Prof. Annabelle Dupont [France]
Specialist in laboratory medicine
Laboratory of Haemostasis and transfusion, Lille University Hospital

Doping behaviour and its monitoring in hair and nail clippings

Dr. Laurie Ghindar [France]
PhD
Institute of Legal Medicine, Strasbourg

The Athlete Biological Passport (ABP), Biology in the fight against doping

Prof. Xavier Bigard [France]
MD, PhD
Medical director Union Cycliste Internationale

Date: July 10th, 2024
Time: 8 AM (Eastern Daylight), 2 PM (Central European), 8 PM (China Standard)

IFCC
International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine

- *Biological indicators of interest in monitoring athletes and interpreting their variations to improve performance and to preserve their health*

The biological monitoring of athletes has the overall objective to preserve the health of athletes and to help to personalize the level of athletes training. Thus, the implementation of biological analyses in this context must help to detect 1) possible contraindications present before sports practice, 2) pathologies inherent to sports practice or a state of overtraining and, 3) the use of harmful and/ or illegal products for the athlete. Prof. Annabelle Dupont, specialist in laboratory medicine at the hematology institute at Lille University Hospital (France), discussed the main biological analyses relevant in this context. In majority, these biological analyses are in the field of hematology,

biochemistry and endocrinology. Prof. Dupont also described the indications and limits of these biological analyses, the interpretation of results and the impact of an intense physical exercise on these results, as well as the specificity of pre-analytical conditions in respect to athletes.

- *Doping behaviour and its monitoring in hair and nail clippings*

The pursuit of performance and success is very prominent in our society and affects the general population, including the world of sports. Therefore, many products are misused by top athletes, as well as by amateurs, to improve their physical and/or mental performances. The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has therefore banned their use in competition and/or out-of-competition. In WADA-accredited anti-doping laboratories, the usual testing matrices are urine and blood. In case of an adverse analytical finding, the athlete must demonstrate his/ her innocence. Dr Laurie Gheddar, young scientist in forensic sciences from Strasbourg (France), gave an outlook on additional and alternative analyses, such as hair and/ or nail clippings investigations. Hair has several advantages, such as the possibility of establishing a consumption profile or differentiating between a single intake and repeated consumption. However, this matrix has some limitations, such as the impossibility of differentiating exposure routes. The limitations and advantages of keratinous matrices should be considered when interpreting the results and was discussed by Dr Gheddar based on authentic cases.

- *The Athlete Biological Passport (ABP), Biology in the fight against doping*

The term "Athlete Biological Passport" (ABP) is defined as a specific process to establish the longitudinal profiles of selected biological variables, markers of the misuse of prohibited substances and prohibited methods. Prof. Xavier Bigard, French sports physician and Medical Director of the International Cycling Federation, provided a high-level overview of the ABP that can be used to flag Athletes requiring further attention through intelligent and timely interpretation of Passport data which can lead to an Anti-Doping Rule Violation (ADRV). The ABP can notably be used as a complement to current Analytical Testing Procedures implemented in and out of competition to further refine and strengthen the anti-doping strategies used to directly detect the use of agents affecting erythropoiesis, homologous blood transfusion, endogenous steroids administered exogenously, hGH isoforms, etc. Examining changes in biological markers of doping over time, a passport (i.e. ABP) can be used to establish the use of a particular prohibited substance or prohibited method without necessarily relying on traditional analytical approaches for their direct detection. Then, the ABP is a powerful and necessary tool to complement traditional analytical testing.

The webinar was attended by 300 participants and received positive feedback from the audience. The on-demand content of this webinar is available following the link:

<https://eacademy.ifcc.org/eacademy/>

Many thanks to Prof. Dupont, Dr. Gheddar and Prof. Bigard for their interesting and awesome presentations that provided such valuable information on the topic we discussed. Many thanks also to the IFCC and organizers for offering this tool for the eLearning, and SFBC for its support.

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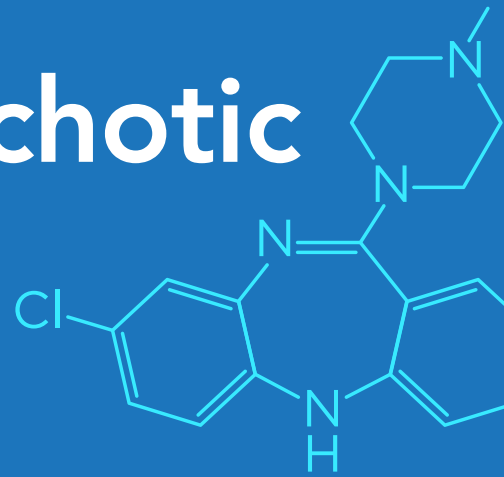
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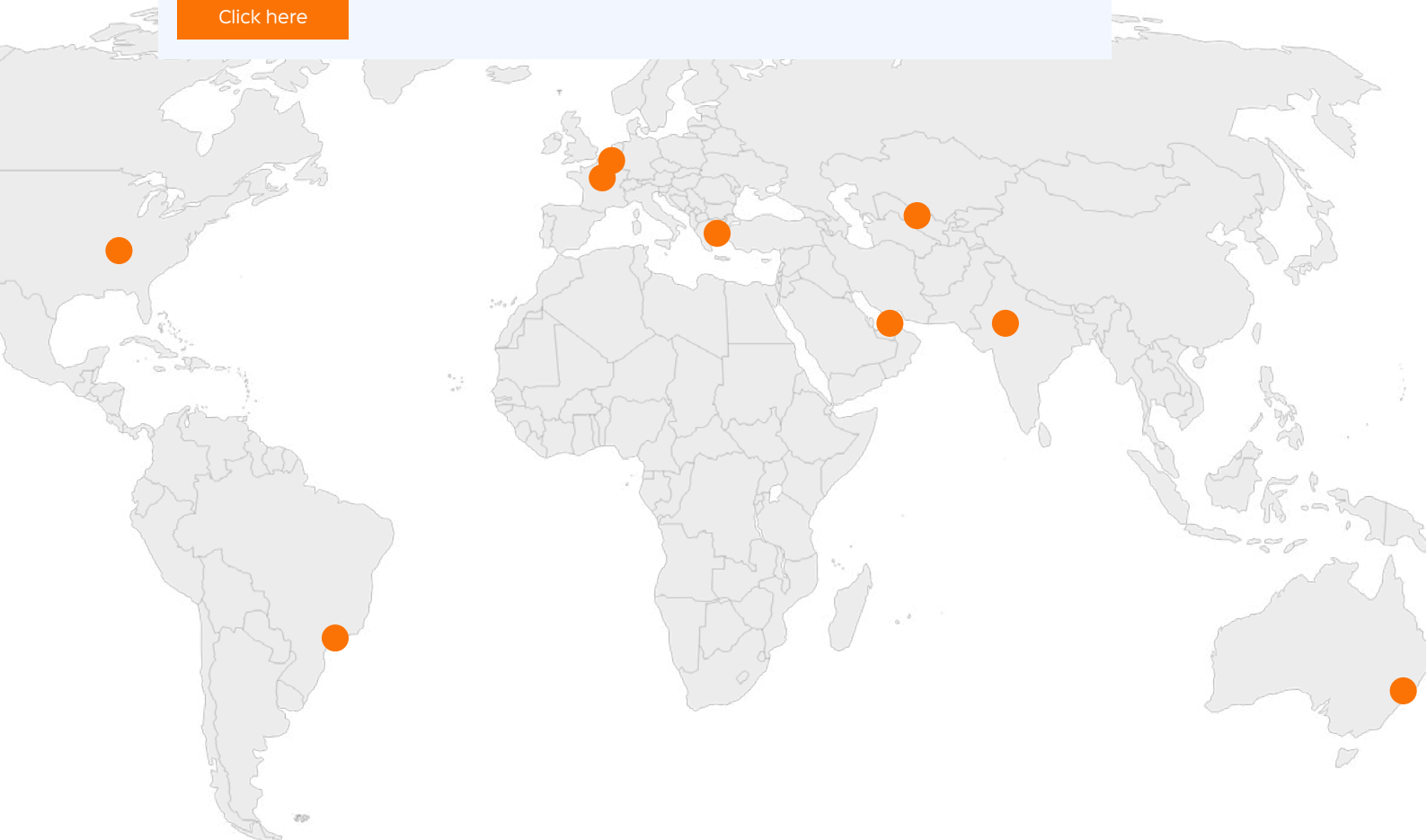
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Date		Title	Place
Oct 3 - 6, 2024		XXVI COLABIOCLI 2024	Cartagena, CO
Oct 31 - Nov 3, 2024		APFCB 2024 Sydney	Sidney, AU
Nov 8-10, 2024		IFCC SD satellite symposium on Mass Spectrometry in the Clinical Laboratory	Athens, GR
May 18 - 22, 2025		XXVI IFCC-EFLM EUROMEDLAB 2025	Brussels, BE
Oct 25 - 30, 2026		XXVII IFCC WORLDLAB 2026	New Dehli, IN
Oct 10 - 13, 2027		APFCB 2027 KUALA LUMPUR	Kuala Lumpur, MY
Date to be selected		XXVII IFCC-EFLM EUROMEDLAB 2027	Venue to be selected
Date to be selected		XXVII IFCC WORLDLAB 2028	Venue to be selected
Date to be selected		XXVII IFCC-EFLM EUROMEDLAB 2029	Venue to be selected
Date to be selected		XXVII IFCC WORLDLAB 2030	Venue to be selected

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Sep 14, 2024	Inter-QCTopics International seminars on Quality Control : Laboratory screening for infectious agents in blood services: methods and quality control	Quality consulting online event, BR
Nov 16, 2024	Inter-QCTopics International seminars on Quality Control: Patient blood management – what is the role of the laboratory according to ISO 15189?	Quality consulting online event, HR

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