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International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine



Communications and Publications Division (CPD) of the IFCC IFCC Office, Via C. Farini, 81 20159 Milano, Italy E-mail: enews@ifcc.org



enews

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Editorial



Dear colleagues,

It is a great pleasure and honor for me to address this editorial to you as the new IFCC eNews editor and Chair of the FCC eNews Working Group. It is a privilege to serve our community, and I am excited about the collaborative journey ahead. I wish to express my profound thanks to the IFCC Executive Board for selecting me for this prestigious position, and to the Greek Society of Clinical Chemistry-Clinical Biochemistry for their continuous support.

Laboratories play a pivotal role in patient-centered health care. Sharing our news, ideas and achievements contributes significantly to health care improvement. IFCC, our international society, underlines our important contribution on patient diagnosis, prognosis and treatment worldwide, and is continuously working for enhanced outcomes.

In this issue you can read the message of our President, Prof. Tomris Ozben, containing interesting news and information from meetings and conferences held all over the world. Prof. Ozben underlines the importance of meeting with all members and she is inviting us to register to the 2025 EuroMedLab Congress.

Professionals of Clinical Laboratory Dominican College of Bioanalysts and Société Française de Biologie Clinique, who held recently their Congresses, share with us a rich set of information about the people, the scientific programs and invited presentations. Moreover, Japan Society of Clinical Chemistry shares their news about scientific work awarded with the Outstanding Young Investigator Award.

In this issue I invite you to read articles about the UNIVARTS awarded teams, where collaboration between laboratories and clinicians ,leads to improved healthcare delivery and better outcomes for patients.

Furthermore, you can also read interesting news about the IFCC's New Accreditation Program for Continuing Education, about the experience from the IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Program and the IFCC Task Force-Young Scientists global platform initiative. News from the Committees, Working Groups and corporate members are also included in this issue.

Finally, I take this opportunity to remind you that Laboratories are invited to apply for the EFLM certificate "Green & Sustainable Laboratories". It is very important that Laboratories contribute significantly to waste reduction, efficient resource use and implementation of sustainable practices, while providing high-quality services to patients and physicians.

I hope you will enjoy this issue and I am looking forward to meeting you in Brussels.



Marilena Stamouli, eNews Editor

The voice of IFCC

IFCC President's Message

April 2025 By Tomris Ozben

Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

Warmest greetings to all of you. I hope this message finds you well and that you are enjoying the arrival of spring. As we eagerly anticipate the upcoming IFCC community gathering next month in Brussels, I look forward to seeing many of you at the 2025 EuroMedLab Congress. Please don't forget to register via the link, which is open to everyone.

The first EB virtual meeting of the year was held on March 10, with participation from EB members around the world. During this meeting, we discussed the latest key developments and initiatives within IFCC.

I am thrilled to announce an incredible milestone for IFCC that demonstrates our organization's excellence, continuous growth, and expanding impact. I am delighted to welcome the Mauritanian Society of Clinical Biology (SMBC) and the Brunei Darussalam Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists (BAMLS) as new full members, bringing our total number to **100**.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for choosing to join the IFCC community and for their contribution to advancing laboratory medicine worldwide. We are immensely proud of our ongoing progress and unwavering commitment to excellence.

I am pleased to share that I had the opportunity to attend the XXXI Congress of the Andalusian Society of Clinical Analysis and Laboratory Medicine (SANAC), held in Aguadulce (Roquetas de Mar, Almería, Spain) on March 13, 14, and 15, 2025. The central theme of the congress, "The Laboratory in Imported and Tropical Diseases. Global Health," underscored the increasing importance of the clinical laboratory in diagnosing and monitoring both imported diseases (infectious and non-infectious), as well as emerging and re-emerging diseases. This theme also emphasized the role of laboratories in the field of tropical, geographical and transcultural medicine.

I am also excited to announce that i participated in the 10th China Experimental Medicine Conference (CEMC), the 12th China IVD Industry Development Conference (CIIDC), the 22nd China Association of Clinical Laboratory Practice Expo (CACLP), and the 5th China IVD Supply Chain Expo (CISCE) in Hangzhou from March 21 to 24, 2025. This major gathering brought together leading experts, researchers, and industry influencers from around the world to discuss the latest advancements in laboratory medicine and in vitro diagnostics. The event featured over a hundred scientific and business sessions, workshops, and activities, offering an excellent platform for knowledge exchange, innovation, and collaboration among global professionals in the field. CACLP 2025 brought together over 1,300 exhibitors and 40,000 attendees, highlighting innovations ranging from Al-driven diagnostics to sustainable laboratory solutions. With IFCC's mission to drive excellence in clinical laboratory sciences and



Prof. Tomris Ozben EuSpLM, Ph.D.

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strengthen international cooperation, our perspectives on the global development of laboratory medicine, digital transformation, and quality standards were of great interest to the audience, including IVD industry leaders, clinical experts, and policy makers.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of another important event: the IFCC General Conference, taking place on May 16 and 17 in Bruges. This pivotal and unique event will provide an excellent platform for brilliant minds to share their experiences, including through engaging brainstorming sessions.

Thank you for your continuous support and dedication to the IFCC community.

With my best regards,

Prof. Dr. Tomris Ozben IFCC President

Introducing PROCEED[™]: IFCC's New Accreditation Program for Continuing Education

Oon behalf of the IFCC Accreditation Committee: **David Kinniburgh** (CA, Chair), **Nader Rifai** (US, member), **James O'Connor** (IE, member), **Sedef Yenice** (TR, member)

The International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) is proud to announce the launch of **PROCEEDTM** (Providing Continuing Education Excellence and Development), a pioneering accreditation program designed to grant Continuing Education (CE) credits for a broad range of IFCC educational events. This initiative represents a significant milestone in the IFCC's commitment to advancing education and professional development in the field of laboratory medicine.

A New Era for Continuing Education in Laboratory Medicine

Driven by the forward-thinking spirit of the IFCC Accreditation Committee (EB-AccC), PROCEED[™] represents a significant step forward in ensuring that the excellent IFCC educational offerings continue to meet rigorous quality benchmarks. By standardizing the process of awarding CE credits, the program reinforces IFCC's commitment to lifelong learning and continuous improvement in laboratory medicine. PROCEED[™] instills confidence in participants that the educational activities they attend are not only enriching but also recognized under a robust and transparent accreditation framework.

Comprehensive Accreditation for Diverse Educational Formats

Recognizing the evolving landscape of education, the PROCEEDTM accreditation program has been meticulously designed to grant CE credits for IFCC-endorsed educational events, ensuring compliance with accrediting organizations. The program introduces a comprehensive approach that includes:

- IFCC Worldlab Congresses: High-caliber international events that foster knowledge exchange and collaborative research.
- Distance Learning Initiatives: Online educational activities including "live webinars", online courses, and recorded webinars for the eAcademy platform and, courses available at https://eacademy.ifcc.org/eacademy and "Adaptive Learning Programme" that have become essential in today's interconnected world.

In support of these initiatives, the IFCC EB-AccC has developed and published a comprehensive guideline that offers clear and practical recommendations to ensure that all online accredited educational activities adhere to best practices in professional education. The guideline can be accessed at the IFCC Task Force on Global e-Learning/e-Academy (TF-GEL) webpage: https://ifcc.org/executive-board-and-council/eb-task-forces/taskforce-on-global-elearningeacademy/.

Official Recognition and Trademark Registration

To solidify the program's credibility, IFCC has successfully registered PROCEEDTM as an official trademark under the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO). This strategic move enhances credibility and ensures that all stakeholders can trust in the quality and consistency of the accreditation process.

Introducing PROCEED™



Why PROCEED Matters?

With the growing need for high-quality education and professional competency validation, PROCEED™ offers several key benefits:

- Standardization of CE Credits: Ensuring that educational activities meet global accreditation standards.
- Recognition for Professional Development: Allowing professionals to earn CE credits for career advancement and certification requirements.
- Global Accessibility: Offering accredited programs through in-person and digital learning platforms.
- Enhanced Career Opportunities: Strengthening the credentials of laboratory medicine professionals.

Future of PROCEED[™]

The IFCC EB-AccC is actively working to expand the scope of PROCEED[™], integrating it into more IFCC educational initiatives and forging collaborations with national societies, national accreditation authorities (NAA), and accrediting organizations. The program will continue to evolve, providing laboratory professionals with access to the highest quality continuing education opportunities while ensuring their professional development efforts receive well-deserved recognition.

For more information about PROCEED[™] and upcoming accredited distance learning events, visit the web pages of the IFCC EB-AccC and IFCC TF-GEL (<u>https://ifccfiles.com/2025/02/GUIDELINE-FOR-DISTANCE-LEARNING-_Final_Jan-31.pdf</u>).

Join us as we PROCEED[™] toward a future of excellence in laboratory medicine education!





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Welcome to Visit Snibe Booth: 218, Hall 11

IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Program (PSEP): my experience at Padua University Hospital, Italy

By **Meryem Rümeysa Yeşil**, MD, Resident, Medical Biochemistry Department, Health Sciences University, Bursa Yuksek Ihtisas Training and Research Hospital, Bursa

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to participate in the IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Program (PSEP) and to collaborate with the laboratory team at Padua University Hospital.

During this five-week training program, under the mentorship of Professor Andrea Padoan, I participated in two research projects focused on developing machine learning models using laboratory data. I was actively involved in all stages of the research, from data collection to analysis, and we are currently in the manuscript writing phase. These projects focused on developing new methodological approaches to assess the generalizability of machine learning models before clinical implementation and provided me with valuable insights into prominent models and their applicability in laboratory medicine.

In addition to the research projects, I had the opportunity to closely observe laboratory workflows and explore Padua University Hospital's extensive and advanced test panel. Working with international colleagues gave me the chance to share ideas and explore different approaches in laboratory medicine.

This exchange program not only enhanced my professional skills but also allowed me to experience Italian culture while sharing my own Turkish heritage.

I look forward to applying the knowledge and skills I have gained to enhance laboratory services at Bursa Yuksek Ihtisas Training and Research Hospital.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Professor Andrea Padoan and the entire team at Padua University Hospital for their mentorship and support. Additionally, I am excited about the prospect of continuing our scientific collaborations in the future.

I strongly encourage my colleagues worldwide to take advantage of this unique opportunity. This program is an invaluable experience for scientific growth, professional development, and fostering international collaborations.

Thanks to IFCC for making this experience possible and for your generous support!

IFCC PSEP Italy





(L-R): Ilaria Talli – Chiara Cosma – Andrea Padoan – Me – Elisa Pangrazzi



As a team in the meeting room at Padua University Hospital

IFCC: the people

IFCC Calls for Nominations

Participate in IFCC activities and give your contribution! Review the open positions and, if interested, contact your National or Corporate Representative. Currently, the following calls for nominations are open:

Communications and Publications Division (CPD)

 IFCC Working Group eJournal (<u>WG-eJIFCC</u>) Co-Chair and <u>eJIFCC</u> Co-Editor-in-Chief - <u>see here</u> the call for nominations Please send nominations for above CPD position to Silvia Colli Lanzi (<u>Colli-lanzi@ifcc.org</u>) by 30th April 2025



For any further information on nominations, please refer to your National or Corporate Representative - contacts are available <u>here</u>.

IFCC Webinars

^{Sponsored by} Siemens Healthineers Boston Children's Hospital

Live Series





IFCC Live Webinar on

Impact of Laboratory Medicine on the Environment and how it can be Mitigated by Clinical Laboratories



Dr. Tony Badrick

[Australia]

Chief Executive Officer, Quality

Assurance Programs

Recognizing the Contribution of laboratory Medicine to Environmental Toxicity and Climate Change

Prof. John Anetor

[Nigeria]

Clinical Chemist and Toxicologist

Strategies and Good Practices for Green and Sustainable Laboratories: Small Steps, Big Impacts



Prof. Güzin Aykal [Türkiye] Professor of clinical biochemistry laboratory medicine Abstract

Teaching sustainability in



Prof. Tuija Männisto [Finland] Professor of clinical chemistry

Date: 25 March, 2025 Time: 6 AM (Eastern Standard), 11 AM (Central European), 6 PM (China Standard)



On demand content soon available

IFCC: the Young Scientists

Meet a Young Scientist from the IFCC Task Force Young Scientists

Spotlight on: **Marina Jakšić**, IFCC Task Force-Young Scientists corresponding member from Montenegro, nominated by the Montenegrin Association of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (MACC)







Could you please introduce yourself?

My name is Marina Jakšić, and I am from Podgorica, Montenegro, a small European country located in the most picturesque region of the Balkan Peninsula, surrounded by breathtaking mountains, rivers and the stunning Adriatic Sea.

Could you share a bit about your background?

I am a medical doctor, specialized in clinical biochemistry. I have been working at the Department of Laboratory Diagnostics, Institute for Children's Diseases, Clinical Center of Montenegro, since 2022, and as a Teaching Associate for the Pathophysiology and Laboratory Medicine Course at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Montenegro, since 2011. My research interests include the pathogenesis of metabolic syndrome, childhood obesity, and obesity biomarkers.

What is your current role in the lab?

My regular tasks include working with samples from the youngest patients, followed by validation of the laboratory results. In addition to clinical laboratory responsibilities, I also conduct research and practical work with medical, pharmacy, and dental students in the Pathophysiology and Laboratory Medicine course. Both occupations are highly gratifying for me, and I enjoy working with patients as well as conducting scientific research and teaching.

Can you highlight some of the key activities that you had with the IFCC Task Force-Young Scientists?

Thanks to my role as the corresponding member of the IFCC TF-YS, I was able to participate in the TF-YS IFCC LiveMyLab Project - Global MedLab Week in 2023. I also participated in the IFCC TF-YS program by presenting a clinical case for the TFYS Q&A Educational Booklet.

Did you participate in an exchange program in your career?

As a doctoral (PhD) candidate in the Central European Exchange Program for University Studies (CEEPUS), I participated in study visits at Transylvania University in Brasov, Romania in October 2011 and at the University of Medicine in Warsaw, Poland in July 2013.

How can YS from your national society get additional information about the activities of the association and activities with the TF-YS?

I am delighted to share IFCC TF-YS work with my colleagues. I work closely with the president of the national association (MACC) on a regular basis, and she forwards all IFCC TF-YS activities to all our colleagues.

IFCC FORUM for Young Scientists 4° Edition Brussels, May 2025

The IFCC along with its Task Force for Young Scientists (TF-YS) invites you to register to the 4th Edition of the "IFCC FORUM for Young Scientists" that will be held in Brussels ahead of the EuroMedLab main congress.

At the FORUM the YS will have opportunities for training and improve communication and networking. The scientific program of the FORUM, currently in preparation, will provide to the young scientists an excellent opportunity for an open discussion platform about scientific and personal experiences, exchange of ideas among colleagues and best practices. Selected Young Scientists will present and discuss their activities in laboratory medicine and benefit from career skills development.

Young Scientists (YS) are the future of laboratory medicine! Future leaders need to be trained and encouraged to succeed in their role, ideally with the support of experienced leaders. Participate in the FORUM to make this feasible!



Registration will open soon, stay tuned!

IFCC Satellite Meeting on Mass Spectrometry: joint activity with the IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists

By **Santiago Fares**, Taie, Argentina (CUBRA), IFCC TF-YS chair, **Marie Lenski**, France (SFBC), IFCC-TF-YS member

It is our pleasure to welcome you to this satellite meeting on Mass Spectrometry in Laboratory Medicine, that will be held in conjunction with EuroMedLab 2025 in Brussels. On May 22nd, 2025, from 13:00 to 18:00, in the congress venue of Brussels Expo, this half-day event brings together seven internationally renowned speakers to explore the role, methodologies, and applications of mass spectrometry in laboratory medicine.

Mass spectrometry transforms clinical diagnostics, offering unparalleled precision in biomarker detection, therapeutic drug monitoring, and disease characterization. However, implementing this technology in a clinical laboratory requires a clear understanding of its principles, capabilities, and technical considerations. Throughout this symposium, we will discuss how mass spectrometry is revolutionizing medical diagnostics, examining its fundamental principles, instrumentation, and workflow considerations, and we will present applications that demonstrate its impact on patient care.

This professional symposium, supported by IFCC, involves the participation of Young Scientists of the IFCC TF-YS. The program was designed to impact professionals in Laboratory Medicine, including young scientists.

To register please click here: <u>https://ems.mzevents.it/start/2397/eng</u> We are looking forward to engaging discussions and valuable exchanges throughout the sessions. Welcome, and enjoy the symposium!



rog	ramme	22 nd May
		2025
3.00-13.45	Session 1: Enhancing Clinical Diagnostics: T Spectrometry Chair: M. Lenski, C. Le Goff	he Role of Mass
	Improvement of clinical diagnostics by mass sp M. Herrmann	ectrometry: why and how
13.45-15.15	Session 2: Technical aspects and methodole Chair : K. Makris, M. Van der Helm	ogy
13.45-14.15	Clinical Mass Spectrometry: Principles And Tec J. Sidibe	hnical Aspects
14.15-14.45	Choosing The right Method For The right Analy Methods In Clinical Mass Spectrometry G. Rodriguez-Blanco	rte – An Overview On
14.45-15.15	Role Of Mass Spectrometry In The Standardisation Of Protein Biomarker Measurements L. Luckau	
15.15-16.00	Coffee break and Sponsors' session	
16.00-16.30	Session 3: Applications of mass spectrome Chair : S. Fares Taies, M. Antunovic	try
16.00-16.30	Toxicology Abuse And Therapeutic Drug Monit J. Adler	oring In Clinical Routine
16.30-17.00	Mass Spectrometry In Endocrinology, Beyond S C. LeGoff	Steroids
17.00-17.30	Shaping The Future Of Laboratory Medicine W sed Omics Technologies A. Kvasnicka	ith Mass Spectrometry-Ba-
7.30-18.00	Closing words	

TF-YS Clinical Case Discussions – 2025 Edition

By the IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists (TF-YS)

Case-based learning is a powerful educational approach that enhances clinical reasoning and knowledge retention. Case reports play a crucial role in medical literature by documenting unique clinical cases, diagnostic challenges, innovative treatments, and rare conditions. Young scientists, including early-career clinicians and researchers, are often at the forefront of these discoveries. The TF-YS Clinical Case Discussion was initiated by Dr. Udara Senarathne (IFCC TF-YS Member, Sri Lanka) with the aim of creating a global platform for the young scientists to exchange knowledge and collaborate. This initiative was launched in November 2023 as an interactive online webinar, drawing participation from a diverse group of early-career professionals. To maximize accessibility and engagement, all YS Clinical Case Discussions were recorded and are available for streaming on the TF-YS YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/@IFCC_TF-YS.

Young scientists' online clinical case discussions gained greater visibility in 2024 with the opportunity to publish their cases in the eJIFCC. This was initiated with the patronage of eJIFCC Co-Editors-in-Chief Dr. Harjit Pal Bhattoa and Dr. Kannan Vaidyanathan, to support early-career development by providing a publication platform, fostering effective scientific communication, and recognizing young scientists' professional contributions. The first YS Clinical Case featured in the eJIFCC was Retrospectively Diagnosed Familial Hypocalciuric Hypercalcaemia Following Total Parathyroidectomy in an Asymptomatic Patient by Dr. Rucita Severaj. This initiative continues to offer young scientists a valuable opportunity to share their work with a global audience.

The 2025 edition of the YS Clinical Case Discussions is set to begin on February 25, featuring presentations by Dr. Zeenath Thowfeek on Navigating the Challenge: Selecting the Optimal Assay for Serum Albumin Measurement and A/Prof. Ximena Alvite on Hypercalcaemia Associated with Foreign-Body Granuloma. This monthly webinar series will continue to provide a platform for young scientists worldwide to discuss intriguing clinical cases, share insights, and enhance collaborative learning. To further expand its reach and engagement, a Q&A booklet based on YS Clinical Cases will be compiled in 2025, offering a valuable educational resource for a broader audience.

For more information on submission for YS Clinical Case Discussions, eJIFCC YS Clinical Case Report publications, and the Q and A booklet please send an email to <u>ifcc.ystf@gmail.com</u>.



Contribute to IFCC eNews

Reducing unnecessary admissions associated with pediatric mononucleosis via implementation of EBV IgM testing in the emergency department

Respiratory symptoms are increasingly prominent presentations to hospitals, with vulnerable populations, such as the elderly and pediatric patients, at particular risk of adverse outcomes and increased length of stay. Differentiation between respiratory symptoms is a crucial step in triage, patient management, and ensuring appropriate use of resources.

With an abundance of caution, all pediatric patients who present to the Emergency Clinical County Hospital Targu Mures in Romania with symptoms of pharyngitis, tonsillitis, or respiratory viral infections are admitted for supplementary testing for viral infections such as RSV and Influenza.



Pictured (from left to right): Dobreanu Minodora, Lucia Mezei, Florina Floristeanu, Karoly Vecsei, Oana Roxana Oprea

Patients who are considered stable are subsequently discharged home. Patients who are unstable are transferred to the Infectious Disease Clinic. This is especially applicable to patients with a clinical suspicion of mononucleosis, who subsequently require confirmatory testing for EBV, which takes 2 days on average, for results. Notably, the Infectious Disease Clinic operates in a separate hospital, requiring patient transport via ambulance.

Recognizing that additional admissions and transfers can increase length of stay, increase resource utilization and increase of parental anxiety, an integrated clinical care team,

including representatives from laboratory medicine, clinical departments, and administrators, incorporated EBV IgM into the emergency panel testing for the Pediatric ED. This new pathway enabled earlier rule-out of mononucleosis and when appropriate, earlier discharge resulting in a 2% reduction (n=20) in Infectious Disease Clinic referrals and a corresponding 2% decrease (n=26) in Pediatric Ward admissions over 10 months. Notably, diagnostic wait-times for children with mononucleosis suspicion post-examination decreased from 3.42 hours to 2.17 hours.

For their patient-centrered outcomes, this integrated clinical care team received recognition of achievement associated with the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award program. Congratulations to Oana Roxana Oprea, Medical Doctor, Clinical Laboratory, Karoly Vecsei, Medical Doctor, Pediatrics, Florina Floristeanu, Coordinating Doctor, Medical Statistical Assessment Services, Lucia Mezei, Head of Service, Financial Accounting, Dobreanu Minodora, Medical Doctor, Head of Clinical Laboratory.

To learn more about this and other integrated clinical care initiatives, please visit www.UnivantsHCE.com

Establishment of a monomer prolactin detection method and specific reference interval to enhance the ability to identify macroprolactinemia

Ensuring high-quality testing and results is a fundamental goal of clinical laboratories. Hyperprolactinemia, a clinical condition characterized by chronically elevated serum prolactin, is an area of scientific interest. While not life-threatening, hyperprolactinemia does require prompt detection and treatment, to ensure patient quality of life. A key consideration, when testing for hyperprolactinemia, is the presence of macroprolactin, a non-bioactive isoform of prolactin that interferes with immunological assays, used in the detection of prolactin, leading to erroneous diagnoses of hyperprolactinemia, as well as to potentially unnecessary examinations and/or treatments.



Pictured (from left to right): Hong Ying, ZhaoYun Zhang, Guan Ming, Yao Zhao, Yao Hu

The Endocrinology Department of Huashan Hospital serves a large number of patients with suspected or diagnosed pituitary disease, including hyperprolactinemia. Case discussions with the Huashan Laboratory Department helped identify clinical needs related to macroprolactin detection. This resulted to the establishment of a macroprolactinemia screening initiative, which involved standardized laboratory procedure of polyethylene glycol precipitation. On the basis of chemiluminescence immunoassay, a prolactin monomer detection method was constructed with established reference intervals. The method was validated and verified through clinical samples for identification of macroprolactinemia.

Following clinical implementation, 21.7% (3,238 out of 14,950) of patients who were tested for prolactin from 2021 to 2023, have been diagnosed with macroprolactinemia, which in turn helps mitigate misclassifications and unnecessary treatment for hyperprolactinemia. "Compared with the original imaging method, monomeric prolactin detection helps clinicians make a clear diagnosis earlier. Feedback from surveyed clinicians indicates that 88.9% of doctors feel that monomeric prolactinemia helps confirm the diagnosis" shares Ye Hongying, Chief Physician of the Endocrinology Department of Huashan Hospital.

For their collaborative efforts, an integrated clinical care team led by Ming Guan, Director, Department of Laboratory Medicine, Yao Hu, Technician, Department of Laboratory Medicine, Hongying Ye, Professor, Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Zhaoyun Zhang, Professor, Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, and Yao Zhao, Professor, Department of Neurosurgery, were awarded from the Recognition of Achievement through the 2024 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award program.

To learn more about this best practice and others, please visit <u>www.UnivantsHCE.com</u>.

The Women and Heart Program – Empowering women's health through early identification and prevention of coronary risk

Wellness and disease prevention have never been more important. According to the World Health Organization, deaths from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) now outnumber deaths related to infectious diseases globally. Importantly, cardiovascular diseases (CVD) account for most NCD deaths worldwide. In Croatia, a similar trend is noted, with CVD accounting for more than 40% of all deaths in 2020. Notably, 58% of these deaths were women, indicating that CVD screening and prevention in women could have a significant impact on wellness and mortality.



Pictured (from left to right): Goran Krstačić, Andrea Snagić, Sonja-Franc, Ante-Miljak

Recognizing this need, an integrated clinical care team led by Dr. Goran Krstačić, Director of Institute for Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation, initiated a new clinical screening program for women aged 45 years or older. The "Women and Heart" program utilizes a panel of biomarkers, including high-sensitivity troponin I (hs-Tnl), and additional clinical data to identify future cardiovascular risk in apparently healthy women. Those considered moderate to high risk are subsequently triaged to follow-up and preventative care, where appropriate.

Within the first year (2021) of the Women and Heart program, more than 1000 healthy women

were screened. Screening subsequently enabled early identification and connection to care for 10.9% of women who were screened and ultimately deemed moderate to high risk of future cardiovascular disease. "As a family doctor, monitoring the health status of patients is my major focus. The ability to use hs-Tnl in my clinical routine practice has allowed me to identify cardiovascular risk earlier, enabling confident mitigation and potential treatment" shares Jasna Stilinovic, MD, Family Medicine Specialist.

Thanks in part to the outcomes demonstrated through the Women and Heart program, CVD screening using hs-Tnl has subsequently been adopted into routine care for both men and women and is now reimbursed through the Croatian National Insurance House.

For their outcomes, this integrated clinical care team received Recognition of Achievement from the 2024 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award program. Congratulations to Andrea Snagić, Head of the Department of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine, Goran Krstačić, Director of Institute for Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation, Ante Miljak, Clinical Care Coordinator, Nephrology, Sonja Frančula-Zaninović, Cardiologist.

To learn more about this best practice and others, please visit <u>www.UnivantsHCE.com</u>.

Maximizing efficiency in the lab to save more lives through organ donation

The life-saving nature of organ donation cannot be underestimated. The ability to maximize the gift of life is directly connected to the availability of timely and safe organs. In the United Sates, Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs) are responsible for recovering life-saving organs from deceased donors to enable transplantation. One function of OPOs is determining organ viability, including infectious disease screening to prevent the introduction, transmission, or spread of communicable diseases to organ recipients. Infectious disease screening can vary depending on tissue type. For



Pictured (from left to right): Reid Freeman, Selena Warden, Sean Forquer, Cristina Solomon, Doug Butler

example, when testing is done on pre-mortem blood samples, the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) only requires that the test methods used be FDA licensed, approved, or cleared. However, for tissue and eye donation the FDA mandates specific tests to be used from specific vendors, some of which can take up to 12 hours, if repeat testing is needed. In light of this, and for operational efficiencies, many OPOs combine organ testing with the mandated eye and tissue testing. A drawback of this process is that it is not conducive for time sensitive cases in which transplantation must be expedited. including, heart, liver, and lung transplants. With the goal of maximizing organ donations through expedited infectious disease screening,

Southwest Transplant Alliance established a new clinical care pathway that separates organ donor testing from tissue and eye testing. This new process supports timely and expedited organ matching to enable faster transplantation and life-saving care.

Through implementation of a different testing cadences and methodologies, coupled with organizational education on procedures for expedited transplantation, Southwest Transplant Alliance has enhanced resource utilization, including reducing technologist hands-on time from several hours (7.67 hours) per donor, to <1 min, enabling \$177.02 in absolute mitigated costs (from \$211.02 to \$34.28) per panel per donor, attributed to reduced costs of the tests, as well as associated costs for personnel, equipment, and facilities.

For their clinical efforts Selena Warden, Director, Laboratory Services, Doug Butler, Chief Operating Officer, Sean Forquer, Director, Recovery Services, Reid Freeman, Director, Clinical Excellence, and Cristina Solomon, Vice President, Clinical Operations received recognition of Achievement in association with the 2024 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award program. Congratulations to this integrated clinical care team!

To learn more about this initiative and others, please visit <u>www.UnivantsHCE.com</u>.



UNIFY FOR SOMETHING GREATER



The **UNIVANTS** of Healthcare Excellence Award program celebrates teams who have achieved measurably better outcomes in healthcare.

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News from Regional Federations and Member Societies



Saudi Society for Clinical Chemistry (SSCC) ۱ الجمعية السعودية للكيمياء السريرية



Saudi Society for Clinical Chemistry (SSCC) New Board of Directors

By **Dr Anwar Borai**, IFCC National Representative, Saudi Society for Clinical Chemistry (SSCC), King Khalid National Guard Hospital, Jeddah - Saudi Arabia

The Saudi Society for Clinical Chemistry (SSCC) is a premier professional association committed to promoting clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The society operates under the supervision of the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties (SCFHS) and maintains headquarters in both Riyadh and Jeddah. Founded in November 2014 with a mission to support excellence, the SSCC plays a crucial role in promoting scientific research, education, and professional development among health professionals, researchers, and laboratory scientists.

Mission and Vision

SSCC's vision is to improve quality and standards in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine in terms of education, research, and community service. Through the assembling of professionals within the field, SSCC desires to establish an arena for learning, innovation, and the promotion of best practices in clinical chemistry.

Membership and Community Engagement

SSCC offers membership opportunities for professionals in the field, providing access to resources, events, and a platform for networking and professional growth. The society actively engages with its members and the public through various channels, including social media platforms like X/Twitter (@sa_sscc), LinkedIn (<u>https://www.linkedin.com/company/saudi-society-for-clinical-chemistry/</u>), and its official website (<u>www.sscc.med.sa</u>), where it shares updates and information related to clinical chemistry.

Through its comprehensive initiatives and dedication to excellence, the Saudi Society for Clinical Chemistry continues to play a pivotal role in advancing the region's clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine.

Key Objectives

Encouraging Education and Training: SSCC is dedicated to offering ongoing education and training to laboratory professionals. Through workshops, seminars, and conferences, the society keeps its members abreast of the newest developments in clinical chemistry and laboratory methods.

Promoting Scientific Research: SSCC promotes research projects that advance the knowledge and practice of clinical chemistry in healthcare. Through the promotion of an innovative culture, the society facilitates discoveries that can revolutionize diagnostic and therapeutic strategies.

Establishing Guidelines and Standards: SSCC is active in creating and distributing guidelines and standards for laboratory procedures. These initiatives ensure consistency in that all laboratories within Saudi Arabia maintain the highest level of quality and precision.

Encouraging Collaboration: The society acts as a center for cooperation between healthcare professionals, researchers, and industry partners. By enabling collaborations, the SSCC encourages clinical chemistry to be integrated with multidisciplinary healthcare teams.

<u>Advocacy for the Profession:</u> SSCC supports recognition of clinical chemistry as a fundamental part of health care. As part of its advocacy efforts, the society is working towards upholding the professionalism of laboratory workers and making visible their impact in patient care.

SSCC Scientific Working Groups

The Saudi Society for Clinical Chemistry (SSCC) has established several specialized scientific working groups to address key areas within laboratory medicine and clinical chemistry. These groups include:

<u>Pre-analytical Working Group (PAWG)</u>: Focuses on standardizing and improving processes like sample collection and handling to ensure accurate test results.

<u>Saudi Point of Care Association (SPOCTA):</u> Advances point-of-care testing (POCT) to enable rapid diagnostics and improve patient outcomes.

<u>Saudi Scientific Group for Forensic Toxicology (SSWGTOX):</u> Promotes research and practice in forensic toxicology, addressing issues like drug abuse and poisoning.

<u>Low Carb Society (LCS)</u>: Explores the role of low-carbohydrate diets in metabolic health and disease management, bridging laboratory science and nutrition.

These working groups enhance the SSCC's mission by fostering innovation, collaboration, and excellence in specialized areas of laboratory medicine.

Activities and Initiatives

Annual Conferences: SSCC organizes an annual conference that gathers top experts in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine. Attendees can look forward to engaging keynote speeches, insightful scientific presentations, and lively panel discussions that tackle the latest trends and challenges in the field.

<u>Workshops and Training Programs:</u> The society offers hands-on workshops and training sessions designed to boost the technical skills of laboratory professionals. These programs dive into essential topics like molecular diagnostics, quality control, and effective laboratory management.

<u>Research Grants and Awards</u>: SSCC is dedicated to fostering innovative research in clinical chemistry by providing grants and awards. These initiatives aim to inspire young scientists and researchers to embark on groundbreaking projects in the field.

<u>Publications and Resources</u>: The society publishes a variety of materials, including journals, newsletters, and guidelines, to share knowledge and keep its members updated on the latest advancements in clinical chemistry.

<u>Collaboration with International Organizations:</u> SSCC works alongside international societies and organizations to exchange knowledge, embrace global best practices, and contribute to the progress of clinical chemistry on a worldwide scale. Collaboration with other known international organizations such as the IFCC, AFCB, and ASCP is an example of supporting the profession of laboratory science not only within but also outside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Hosting the recent IFCC Worldlab Meeting 2024 is good evidence of such support.

Saudi Society for Clinical Chemistry (SSCC) New Board of Directors

A NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2025-2029)

As of February 21, 2025, SSCC announced its New Board of Directors for the 2025-2029 term. Below is the list of the new board members:



SSCC would like to take this opportunity to express its appreciation for the unwavering dedication, leadership, and hard work of Dr. Samia Sobki during her term as SSCC President. Her commitment has significantly contributed to the growth and success of the society, where numerous goals were achieved successfully during her term from 2019 to 2025 together with the old board of directors.

Future Directions

As the healthcare landscape evolves, SSCC is steadfast in its mission to push the boundaries of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine. The society is gearing up to broaden its educational offerings, bolster its research efforts, and deepen its partnerships with local, regional, and international collaborators. By harnessing cutting-edge technologies like artificial intelligence and precision medicine, SSCC is setting its sights on making Saudi Arabia a frontrunner in the realm of clinical chemistry.

In conclusion, the Saudi Society for Clinical Chemistry is a driving force behind the advancement of laboratory medicine in Saudi Arabia through its dedication to education, research, and collaboration with other health organizations, both national and international. With its specialized working groups, SSCC continues to address diverse and critical aspects of laboratory science, further solidifying its role as a cornerstone of healthcare innovation in the country. As the society continues to grow and innovate, its impact on Saudi healthcare will undoubtedly be felt to achieve Vision 2030 of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

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Société Française de Biologie Clinique (SFBC) – Scientific Symposium 2025: Rethinking Practices Through Technology And Collaboration

By **Marie Lenski**, French Young Scientist, EFLM national representative, IFCC-TF-YS member **Katell Peoc'H**, SFBC President

The SFBC Scientific Symposium 2025, held on March 14, 2025, in Lyon, provided a platform for experts to discuss the future of clinical biology through technological advancements and collaboration. The event covered key topics, such as omics technologies, Rationalizing Medical Prescriptions and Resources, automation, and AI, highlighting their impact on laboratory practices and patient care.

The symposium was inaugurated by Prof. Katell Peoc'h, SFBC President, who reaffirmed the society's commitment to innovation, training, and international cooperation in laboratory medicine. She emphasized the importance of adapting to new technologies while preserving the core values of clinical biology. This theme was echoed in the keynote speech by Prof. Mario Plebani, President of EFLM, who introduced value-based laboratory medicine. He stressed that analytical performance should not be assessed in isolation but linked to clinical outcomes, ensuring that laboratory data directly benefits patient management.

Session 1: The Era of Omics – Transforming Diagnostics

The symposium's first session delved into the transformative impact of omics technologies on diagnostic medicine. Dr. P.J. Lamy (Imagenome, Inovie, Montpellier) illustrated how genomics has revolutionized oncology, moving from a location-based to a molecular-based classification of cancers. With the advent of Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS), tumors can now be profiled in unprecedented detail, allowing for highly targeted therapies. However, while over 50% of patients may have treatable genomic alterations, the cost and accessibility of sequencing remain major hurdles. The discussion transitioned into proteomics, as Pr. S. Lehmann (CHU Montpellier) highlighted the role of mass spectrometry (MS) and immunodetection in clinical research. Advances in ultra-sensitive detection techniques have enhanced our ability to identify biomarkers with greater precision. Meanwhile, Dr. A. Le Gouellec (UGA, CHUGA) and Dr. M. Lenski (CHU Lille) introduced the concept of metabolomics, a field poised to refine early disease detection and enable personalized medicine. Although promising, standardization and data interpretation remain significant challenges in implementing metabolomics at a clinical level.

Session 2: Rationalizing Medical Prescriptions and Resource Allocation

The conversation then shifted to responsible test prescription and efficient resource management. Dr. L. Mouly (CH Villefranche-sur-Saône) emphasized that laboratory tests influence 70% of medical decisions, yet up to 30% of tests may be unnecessary. Reducing over-prescription could significantly improve diagnostic accuracy, minimize patient discomfort, and optimize healthcare expenditure. A concrete example was provided by Dr. C. Lauro (CHU Bordeaux), who discussed rationalizing thyroid function testing. She showcased the integration of computerized physician order entry (CPOE) and algorithm-driven prescriptions, ensuring that TSH testing follows standardized clinical guidelines. This approach not only reduces redundant testing but also enhances the accuracy of thyroid disorder diagnoses. This session concluded with Prof. A.M. Simundic (Greiner) addressing a frequently overlooked issue: hospital-acquired anemia caused by excessive blood sampling. Solutions such as low-volume blood collection techniques and regulatory frameworks in accordance with ISO 15189:2022 were proposed to mitigate this preventable risk. This session also featured a panel discussion on automation and workforce challenges in laboratory medicine, moderated by Prof. K. Peoc'h, Dr. E. Lebredonchel (AP-HP Bichat), Prof. V. Sapin (CHU Clermont-Ferrand), and M. Meneghini Nogueira (Siemens). The discussion addressed the growing scarcity of medical professionals and how automation can enhance efficiency without compromising clinical expertise. While technological advancements streamline repetitive tasks, panelists stressed the importance

of maintaining a strong connection between laboratory professionals and clinicians. Strategies for attracting young professionals to the field, improving training, and ensuring mentorship for new generations of biologists were explored.

Session 3: Automation, AI, and the Future of Laboratory Medicine

With the increasing digitalization of healthcare, artificial intelligence (AI) is emerging as a key tool in laboratory diagnostics. Prof. G. Assié, Prof. B. Macq (UCL Louvain), and D. Pellegrin (Roche) explored AI-driven decision-support algorithms. Such models have the potential to enhance screening strategies, for example for cancer, helping identify high-risk patients who might otherwise go undetected. However, integrating AI into laboratory workflows comes with challenges. Concerns regarding data privacy, ethical considerations, and the interpretability of AI-generated results remain significant obstacles. The session concluded with a discussion on ensuring AI remains a tool to support clinicians rather than replace them, emphasizing the need for clear regulatory frameworks and clinical validation of AI models.

Session 4: The Role of POCT in Ambulatory Care

As healthcare systems face increasing pressure, Point-of-Care Testing (POCT) is gaining traction as a way to improve access to diagnostics outside hospital settings. Prof. P. Frappé (CMG, Saint-Etienne), Dr. M. Vaubourdolle (AP-HP Saint-Antoine), and Dr. M. Rossier (ICH, Sion) examined the benefits and limitations of POCT in primary care. While POCT offers faster diagnostic results and greater convenience for patients, its higher costs, variability in test reliability, and the need for specialized training remain obstacles to widespread adoption.

The symposium concluded with reflections from Prof. Peoc'h and Prof. Sapin, who praised the engaging discussions and the strong participation of specialists in laboratory medicine. They reaffirmed SFBC's commitment to advancing clinical laboratory medicine through collaboration, innovation, and education. The event also set the stage for future initiatives, including webinars and joint symposia with international partners.



Inauguration of the SFBC Symposium 2025 by Prof. K. Peoc'h (SFBC President, AP-HP Bichat) : Rethinking Practices Through Technology And Collaboration.



Keynote speech by Prof. Mario Plebani, EFLM President, on value-based laboratory medicine.

Société Française de Biologie Clinique (SFBC) -Scientific Symposium 2025



Panel discussion on automation and workforce challenges in laboratory medicine, moderated by Prof. K. Peoc'h (SFBC President, AP-HP Bichat), Dr. E. Lebredonchel (AP-HP Bichat), Prof. V. Sapin (CHU Clermont-Ferrand, FIFBCML President), and M. Meneghini Nogueira (Siemens).

IFCC Webinars

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IFCC webinar



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The EFLM programme "Green & Sustainable Laboratories"

By Tomris Ozben, Chair of the EFLM Committee "Green & Sustainable Laboratories"

Laboratory Medicine should contribute to a sustainable healthcare system and environment-friendly laboratories ensuring that resources are used efficiently from ecological, social, and economical perspectives, while providing high-quality services to patients and physicians.

EFLM is leading the Laboratory Medicine community for the shift to carbon neutrality in line with the European Green Deal (EGD) Investment Plan, also known as the Sustainable Europe Investment Plan, which is aimed at making Europe the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050.

The <u>EFLM Committee "Green & Sustainable Laboratories"</u> is working to transform clinical laboratories into a safe and sustainable spaces by decreasing their deleterious environmental impact and implementing efficient actions in laboratories, and taking steps to minimize energy, water, and hazardous chemical use, as well as waste generation without compromising the quality of healthcare.

Laboratories are invited to apply for the EFLM certificate "Green & Sustainable Laboratories". This possibility is open to any public or private laboratory of the following disciplines: Clinical Chemistry, Hematology, Microbiology, Transfusion Services, Immunology, Pathology and Cytology.

Those interested to apply should identify a contact person inside their own institution who will be responsible for entering the replies for all the laboratories to certify. The application consists in a check-list to fill, which is composed of 4 main sections: Chemicals, Energy, Waste and Water. For more information you can visit the dedicated website at https://greenlabs.eflm.eu/

"International Biomedical Laboratory Science Day of IFBLS" reported by the EFLM C-GSL Chair, Tomris Ozben

The International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science established Biomedical Laboratory Day (BLS Day) in 1996 at the IFBLS World Congress in Oslo, Norway to promote and celebrate the key role of Biomedical Laboratory personnel in diagnostic and preventive health care systems.

https://www.ifbls.org/index.php/about-ifbls/international-biomedical-laboratory-science-day

This year's theme is: Biomedical Laboratory Scientists Promoting Sustainability in Clinical Diagnostics.

The Danish Association of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists has prepared four podcasts using the EFLM GSL guidelines prepared on four important topics: Hazardous chemicals, waste, energy and water. They will share it with the members on April 15th.

The four podcasts will be also inserted into the EFLM Green and Sustainable website after April 15th, 2025.

News from Japan Society of Clinical Chemistry (JSCC): 2024 JSCC Outstanding Young Investigator Award.

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

The Japan Society of Clinical Chemistry (JSCC) Outstanding Young Investigator Award is awarded to individuals who have contributed outstanding academic research in clinical chemistry. In 2024, Akiko Sakurai, M.S., won the JSCC Outstanding Young Investigator Award. During the 64th Annual Meeting of the JSCC in Tochigi, Japan, held August 30 to September 1, 2024, award winner Ms. Sakurai was congratulated by Dr. Takashi Miida, President of JSCC for her outstanding work in clinical chemistry. JSCC proudly introduces the 2024 JSCC Outstanding Young Investigator Award winner in this issue and distributes her outstanding work.

Akiko Sakurai, M.S. (Health Science Course, Faculty of Health Sciences, Hokkaido University) is the winner of 2024 JSCC Outstanding Young Investigator Award, entitled "Effects of kaempferol on mitochondria".

Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD), formerly known as Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), is a chronic liver disease increasingly getting international attention. The prevalence of NAFLD is currently rapidly increasing worldwide. Factors such as oxidative stress and mitochondrial dysfunction, in addition to fatty liver, contribute to non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) manifestation. Patients with NASH have a poor prognosis. Moreover, there are currently no approved drugs for NAFLD/ MASLD. Therefore, the development of a preventive/therapeutic method for NAFLD/MASLD is expected. Since mitochondrial dysfunction occurs in NAFLD patients, Ms. Sakurai and her colleagues aimed to explore preventive/therapeutic methods for MASLD by targeting the improvement or recovery of mitochondrial function. They focused on the flavonoid Kaempferol (KMP), which is one of the polyphenols that have anti-inflammatory and antioxidant effects. KMP is widely found in plants, vegetables and fruits such as kale, spinach, tea leaves and blueberries. KMP has been reported to improve fatty liver in both *in vitro* and *in vivo* experiments in fatty liver models and NAFLD models. However, there have been no reports on the effects of KMP in NAFLD/MASLD focusing on the mechanism of mitochondrial function improvement. Hence, Ms. Sakurai and her colleagues investigated the effect of kaempferol on mitochondrial function using cultured human derived hepatic cells C3A.

The study demonstrated that KMP enhances the gene expression of carnitine palmitoyltransferase 1A (CPT1A), enhances mitochondrial respiratory function, including ATP production, and improves metabolism of cardiolipin (CL), a phospholipid localized in the inner membrane of mitochondria, contributing to β -oxidation activation in mitochondria. In particular, the effect of KMP on reducing the MLCL/CL ratio, which represents the balance between the biosynthesis of CL and monolyso-cardiolipin (MLCL), the lyso form of CL in fatty liver model cells, suggests that MLCL/CL ratio could be a concept for new anti-MASLD therapy (Sakurai A et al. *Nutrients* 16:508, 2024). Ms Sakurai hopes that KMP will contribute to the development of preventive/therapeutic drugs for MASLD in the future.



Akiko Sakurai, M.S., winner of 2024 JSCC Outstanding Young Investigator Award.

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May 22nd

EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATIONS IN PEDIATRIC LABORATORY MEDICINE

May 18th 8:30- 3:00 pm

Venue Auditorium Joseph Maisin, Saint-Luc Clinique Universitaire, Brussels

INDIRECT REFERENCE INTERVAL METHODS: EDUCATIONAL COURSE & HANDS-ON WORKSHOP

May 18th 8:15 - 16:30 Venue Radisson Collection Hotel, Grand Place Brussels

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Inside the Atomium

SFBC)





IFCC Satellite Symposium On Mass Spectrometry **CONGRESS VENUE**

BRUSSELS EXPO Place de Belgique 1 1020 Brussels, Belgium

XXI National Congress of Professionals of Clinical Laboratory Dominican College of Bioanalysts, Codobio.

https://codobio.com.do/congreso/

By **Zoila-Rita Garcia**, MSc, President Scientific Committee, and IFCC National Representative and Rosa Sierra-Amor, PhD Member WG eNews, and Nominations Committee, IFCC.

Dominican Republic, a Full member society of IFCC held recently their XXI National Congress. This great event took place at the Convention Center of the Dominican Fiesta Hotel, in Sto Domingo, Dominican Republic from November 28, 29 and 30, 2024, and was organized by the Dominican College of Bioanalysts (CODOBIO) through the Organizing Committee chosen for this purpose.

The congress was presided over by María Esther Santos Mojica, MSc, president of the board of directors, CODOBIO, and the President of the Congress Organizing Committee, Concepción Georgina Espinal, MSc.

<u>The Scientific Committee</u> was formed as follows: Mtra. Zoila Rita García, Mtra. Flérida González, Licda. Mirtha Peña, Mtra. Marcia López Ortiz, y Licda Vidalina Delgado.

<u>Subcommittee of Research Papers:</u> Mtra. Mercedes Adelina Ventura y Mtra. Luisa M. Castillo. <u>Subcommittee of Research Posters presentations:</u> Mtra. Justina Rodríguez, Mtra. Magalys Álvarez y Licda. Angelita Ángeles Collado.

Subcommittee for the Evaluation of Research Papers: Mtra. Loida M. González, Mtra. Justina Rodríguez.

The XXI Congress was endorsed by the following organizations:



Under the slogan of: *Technology and Innovation. Transforming Health for a Better Future* and with its thematic axes: Knowledge Management, New Technologies and Methods, Environment, Research, Artificial Intelligence, Quality Management, Health Services and a Union Round Table, the congress included 98 academic interventions distributed in 37 conferences, 5 Symposia, 4 panels, 2 talks and a round table, and 18 participating countries. Moreover, it included attendance of 1200 bioanalysts from all over the country, 35 international exhibitors from 17 countries and 55 national exhibitors.

In this congress on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 45 conferences, 5 symposia, 4 panels, 2 discussions, 1 round table and an intra-congress course were presented, in 4 available meeting rooms. The research works in free and poster mode were presented in the Gran Salón Apolo.

XXI National Congress of Professionals of Clinical Laboratory Dominican College of Bioanalysts, Codobio.



On behalf of the Organizing Committee and the Scientific Committee, its president Mtra. Zoila Rita García together with the Poster and Free Work Evaluation Sub-Committee awarded the first prize for Free Work to: Analytical Verification and Application in the Clinical Laboratory of a Method for Quantification of Lead in Blood by

Laboratory of a Methoa for Quantification of Lead in Blood by Atomic Absorption with Electrothermal Atomization. Author: Jonathan Miguel Zapata from REFERENCIA Laboratorio Clínica. St. Dominic, DR



On the opening ceremony of the congress, an Inaugural Conference was given by Dr. Álvaro Justiniano Grosz, President of the Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI) Bolivia, titled "Between Technology and Knowledge, Inclusion of the Clinical Laboratory Professional in the Diagnostic Process". Dr. Álvaro Justiniano Grosz was accompanied by the president Mtra Ma. Esther Santos Mojica, and authorities of the organizing committee.

Pre and Intra congress courses on Automation of Urine analysis, Preventive Medicine applied to blood bank, the Critical Role of Viral testing in blood bank, New Technologies for the screening of Secure Blood and Leadership for Laboratory Professionals, were offered, the latest introduced by Prof. Monserrat Blanes, a lecturer of the VLP IFCC Abbott Program.

Moreover, in the scientific program, a Symposium on Accreditation Management Process of Clinical Laboratories in the Dominican Republic was included, targeting to reinforce accreditation process. Topics were presented on:

- Accreditation Background in Dominican Republic, by Dr. Maritza Flores Cuevas. UASD/DR.
- Dominican Accreditation Body (ODAC) and its Function as an Accrediting Body, by Licda. Genesis Vázquez. ODAC/D.R.
- The new ISO 15189: 2022, by Mtra. Mariolga Roques Ortiz. UASD/DR



The prize for the best poster work was awarded to Epidemiology of Respiratory Pathogens in a Hospital of Santo Domingo. Author: Anel Guzmán Marte of the Plaza de la Salud General Hospital. Sto. Domingo, DR.

XXI National Congress of Professionals of Clinical Laboratory Dominican College of Bioanalysts, Codobio.

A Conference on "The Experience of the Accreditation Management Working Group on ISO:15189" by Dr. Rosa Sierra-Amor, Coordinator of the COLABIOCLI Working Group on Accreditation Management, and a COLABIOCLI VLP lecturer, were also presented.



The Closing ceremony of the XXI National Congress of Professionals of Clinical Laboratory, of the Dominican College of Bioanalysts, CODOBIO, was a very enthusiastic party full of joy and entertainment. We are looking forward to the next CODOBIO Congress in Dominican Republic.

IFCC's Calendar of Congresses, Conferences & Events

IFCC and Regional Federation Events			
Date		Title	Place
May 18 - 22, 2025	BRUSSELS 2025 May 18-22, 2025	XXVI IFCC-EFLM EUROMEDLAB 2025	Brussels, BE
Oct 25 - 30, 2026	International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine	XXVII IFCC WORLDLAB 2026	New Delhi, IN
Oct 7 - 11, 2026	COLABIOCLI	COLABIOCLI 2026 SANTA CRUZ	Santa Cruz, BO
Oct 10 - 13, 2027	International Federation and Laboratory Medicine	APFCB 2027 KUALA LUMPUR	Kuala Lumpur, MY

Corporate Member Events with IFCC Auspices			
Date	Title	Place	
Jan 15 - May 31, 2025	Validation and Verification of Qualitative and Quantitative Methods	Quality Consulting, online events	
Apr 13, 2025	International Symposium on Laboratory Medicine SNIBE	Kunming, CN	
Apr 17, 2025	DiagHub: Clinical Chemistry: 1.ISO15189 Accreditation: The Quality Management of Biochemical Laboratory ; 2. The Traceability of Quantity Values for Biochemical Detection Items Zybio	Webinar	
Apr 24, 2025	International Symposium on Laboratory Medicine SNIBE	Bab Ezzour, DZ	
Apr 29, 2025	Foro Qualityps: Why is it important to use a standardized method to measure creatinine during sleep?	Quality Consulting, online events	





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T. BADRICK Asia-Pacific Fed for Clin Biochem and Lab Med (APFCB)



M. PLEBANI European Fed of Clin Chem and Lab Medicine (EFLM)



E. FREGGIARO Latin-American Confederation of Clin Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI)



S. HAYMOND North American Fed of Clin Chem and Lab Med (NAFCC)

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D. GRUSON (BE) Emerging Technologies Division Chair



P. LAITINEN (FI) Congresses and Conferences Committee Chair





(L-R) Paola Bramati, Silvia Cardinale, Elisa Fossati, Silvia Colli-Lanzi, Smeralda Skenderaj, Alison Vianello

IFCC Membership

Full members

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