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International Federation of Clinical Chemistry
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In this issue

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Editorial

Marilena Stamouli,
eNews Editor

Dear colleagues,

Frequent communication helps us build relationships by sharing our experiences, ideas, work and achievements. As we welcome the new season, we are pleased to share exciting news from the Medical Laboratory community worldwide.

In this issue, you can read the message of our President, Prof. Tomris Ozben, about the forthcoming EuroMedLab Congress in Brussels, which is expected to be one of the most impactful and most attended ones, with a rich and exciting scientific program, as well as with a very interesting exhibition from leading companies in the industry.

We also invite you to read about how to apply for the UNIVANTS Healthcare Excellence Award for best practice in healthcare, given for distinguished cross-disciplinary collaborative efforts in association with laboratory medicine. Moreover, we invite you to read about the Global Medlab Week 2025 podcast and video winners, who created awareness of the significant contribution of Medical Laboratory Professionals in public health and patient care, with their outstanding work.

Member societies from all over the world, share with us information about their congresses and workshops, which confirm once again that Medical Laboratory Professionals are working on cutting edge subjects about technology, innovation, education and quality, artificial intelligence, emerging diseases, as well as scientific, clinical, managerial and organizational challenges.

Interesting news from the IFCC Task Forces on Laboratory Medicine Practice Guidelines, the IFCC Emerging Technology Division's Vision for Transformative Laboratory Medicine, the IFCC Committee on Clinical Applications of Cardiac Bio-Markers, the IFCC Task Force-Young Scientists, as well as from the European Federation of Laboratory Medicine (EFLM), are also included in this issue. This issue also includes information about an exciting consensus paper, updating knowledge on the role of bone turnover markers in the diagnosis and management of osteoporosis.

I would like to remind you that the IFCC Executive Board call for nominations for Executive Board Members is open until the end of June. IFCC Full Member Societies can consider appropriate candidates for the various positions on the EB.

We invite you to join us in the EuroMedLab Congress in Brussels, as we will collectively chart the course for the future of Laboratory Medicine, and seize this opportunity to forge new friendships and collaborations, to reconnect with old colleagues, as well as to exchange scientific knowledge and professional growth.

Marilena Stamouli

The voice of IFCC

IFCC President's Message

May 2025
By Tomris Ozben

Prof. Tomris Ozben
EuSpLM, Ph.D.

Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

As we approach the much-anticipated IFCC-EFLM EuroMedLab 2025 in Brussels, it is my great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to this exceptional congress organized by the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) and the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) and hosted by the Royal Belgian Society of Laboratory Medicine (RBSLM), in collaboration with MZ Events, our professional congress organizer.

Continuing a longstanding tradition of excellence, this year's congress takes place in the vibrant heart of Europe—Brussels, the capital of Belgium. A city steeped in history, rich in diversity, and driven by innovation, Brussels offers the ideal backdrop for scientific exchange, professional networking, and meaningful dialogue.

I am especially delighted to share that EuroMedLab Brussels 2025 is already breaking records! We have received an unprecedented 2,959 scientific abstract submissions from researchers and professionals around the world. In addition, a record number of IVD industry companies and IFCC Corporate Members are participating in the exhibition—clear signs of the growing vitality, relevance, and global success of our community. This promises this year's congress to be one of the most impactful and best-attended EuroMedLab Congress to date.

The congress promises a rich and dynamic scientific program, featuring plenary lectures, symposia, educational workshops and interactive sessions that will address the most pressing and emerging topics in laboratory medicine. We are honored to welcome renowned speakers from around the world. There will be several satellite meetings organized before the congress on hot topics. The fourth edition of the IFCC Young Scientists Forum will be held offering early-career scientists a valuable platform to exchange ideas, share experiences, and explore opportunities for professional growth, while also gaining key insights for career development.

The scientific program of EuroMedLab 2025 perfectly embodies IFCC's mission and future vision: to strengthen the role of laboratory medicine as a cornerstone of global health. Together, we will explore key topics such as artificial intelligence in diagnostics, test standardization, precision medicine, digital health, environmental sustainability, biomarkers, cutting-edge diagnostics, and technological innovations in laboratory medicine, and the value of clinical data. These themes not only reflect the current challenges we face, but also illuminate the path ahead—toward a laboratory medicine that is more integrated, personalized, digital, and patient-centered.

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In addition to the excellent scientific program, EuroMedLab 2025 will also feature an exhibition showcasing the latest products and services from leading companies in the industry. This exhibition will provide an opportunity for attendees to learn about new technologies, products, and services that can enhance their laboratory operations.

I am confident that these days of scientific exchange will offer a unique opportunity to deepen our expertise, inspire innovation, and foster meaningful collaborations across borders and disciplines.

Furthermore, IFCC is proud to support financially **53 Young Scientists** from IFCC member countries through providing travel, accommodation and registration fee scholarships in attending both the Congress and the IFCC Forum—an initiative that underscores our commitment to the future of laboratory medicine.

In a significant step toward greater inclusivity, we are introducing simultaneous English–Spanish translation throughout the congress for the first time. This initiative is aimed at breaking language barriers and promoting a truly global exchange of ideas.

Before Brussels, **IFCC General Conference** will be held in **Bruges** with the theme *"Connecting Science, Health, and Innovation: The Future Flows Like Water."* This theme reminds us that connecting science means building bridges across disciplines, linking data to decisions, and turning innovation into meaningful impact. Like water—fluid, adaptable, and powerful—our community must continue to evolve to meet the needs of an ever-changing healthcare landscape. It will be a powerful opportunity to reflect, connect, and shape our shared future.

We celebrated the IFCC Global Med Lab Week (GMLW) from April 21-27, 2025. This year's theme, **"Labs Save Lives"** underscores the vital impact of laboratory professionals and highlights the essential role they play in healthcare, often behind the scenes, but always at the forefront of patient care and medical innovations. Together, we will raise global awareness and highlight the significance of our work. I congratulate the Global Video and Podcast Winners of GMLW 2025.

Finally, I'm pleased to announce the launch of the IFCC Professional Exchange Program **(PEP)**, with applications open until **June 15th**. I warmly encourage eligible participants to apply.

With my sincere thanks and warmest regards, I wish you a fruitful and inspiring month—and I look forward to seeing many of you in person in **Bruges** and **Brussels** as we continue advancing our field—together.

Prof. Dr. Tomris Ozben

IFCC President

Nominations Comittee

IFCC Executive Board call for nominations for Executive Board Members are open until June 30th, 2025

(time in office 2027-2029, with President-elect to begin in January 2026)

The IFCC Nominations Committee is announcing the schedule for the **election of the IFCC Executive Board (EB). All Executive Board Members' term of office is from January 1st, 2027, till December 31st, 2029, with the exception of the President who begins as President-elect on January 1st, 2026, to be confirmed as President for the term January 1st, 2027, till December 31st, 2029.** IFCC Full Member Societies can consider appropriate candidates for the various positions on the EB.

We take the opportunity to remind you that the election of the **Corporate Representative is conducted by Corporate Members' Representatives only**. A separate communication will be made to Corporate Members' Representatives.

The election to the IFCC EB is a major step for the operational and strategic management of the Federation based on global partnership to strengthen the IFCC community. The EB members should develop a common vision based on a federal approach, which respects the diversity of cultures.

We invite you to propose candidates with a strong work ethic and vision who will commit to the Federation to assure a sustainable IFCC future, in a changing healthcare environment.

The election schedule is as follows:

- **April 1st – June 30th, 2025:** Call for nominations for the positions of President, Secretary, Treasurer, Corporate Representative and 6 Regional Federation Representatives;
- **July 1st – 31st, 2025:** Nominations Committee determines the eligibility of each candidate and sets the slate of eligible candidates;
- **August 1st – September 30th, 2025:** Slate of candidates is distributed widely throughout IFCC;
- **October 1st – 31st, 2025:** Electronic ballot;
- **Beginning of November 2025:** Results announced;
- **January 1st, 2026:** President-elect term begins;
- **January 1st, 2027:** President-elect is confirmed as President, beginning his/her term along with all other EB Members.

Please contact the respective IFCC Full Member societies for further details

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Welcome to Visit Snibe Booth: 218, Hall 11

Expert Guidance Documents Now Available from the IFCC Committee on Clinical Applications of Cardiac Bio-Markers

By **Tricia RAVALICO,** IFCC Corporate Representative on the IFCC Executive Board, Committee on Clinical Applications of Cardiac Bio-Markers Corresponding Member, Corporate Representative, Director, Scientific Leadership and Education, Medical and Scientific Affairs, Core Diagnostics Abbott

The IFCC Committee on Clinical Applications of Cardiac Bio-Markers (C-CB) has been instrumental in the development and dissemination of valued, educational materials and peer-reviewed published manuscripts for nearly 15 years. With consistent membership that spans expertise in laboratory medicine, emergency medicine, cardiology, and industry, the committee routinely tackles emerging, exciting and informative topics that highlight important analytical and clinical aspects of established and novel cardiac biomarkers in clinical practice and research.

A representative and long-standing asset produced by the IFCC C-CB are Biomarker Reference Tables that capture the most up to date performance characteristics across all available troponin and natriuretic peptide assays on the market. More recently, however, and as a complement to the educational podcasts and webinars that are currently featured on the committee's webpage, experts are now creating reference documents that answer the most-commonly asked questions directed at industry in the field of cardiac diagnostics.

What companies were involved?
Sixteen companies with direct affiliations with the IFCC C-CB were invited to participate by sharing the top 5 questions that each company received from interactions with their customers. Questions were not filtered nor edited across companies. The six companies that ultimately contributed to the effort were Abbott, Beckman, QuidelOrtho, Radiometer, Roche, and Siemens Healthineers.

What were the most commonly asked questions?
Upon collation, multiple insights were learned. First, not all questions were alike. However, many of the questions fell into common themes. Each of those themes became their own FAQ series with a total of 6 domains planned for the 6-part series launching this year, 2025.

- (1) Clinical interpretation of cardiac troponin to aid in AMI diagnosis
- (2) Cardiac troponin assay differences and how it affects clinical use
- (3) NP assay differences and how it affects clinical use
- (4) Analytical, physiological, and clinical factors affecting troponin performance
- (5) Cardiac troponin & NP pediatric considerations
- (6) POC cardiac assay considerations (including comparison/use with core lab assay

Where can the reference documents be found?
A new tab has been added to the committee webpage for FAQ about Cardiac Biomarkers. The first guidance document of the series has now been added with more expected each month until all 6 documents are completed before the end of 2025. We encourage everyone to review, learn and disseminate these documents in an effort to address common questions in this field and ideally, elevate patient care around the globe through expert guidance.

How can I learn more?
The IFCC C-CB welcomes corresponding members from industry corporate members and national societies. If you wish to learn more about the committee, please reach out to Dr Kristin Moberg AAKRE, chair of the IFCC C-CB at kristin.moberg.aakre@helse-bergen.no.

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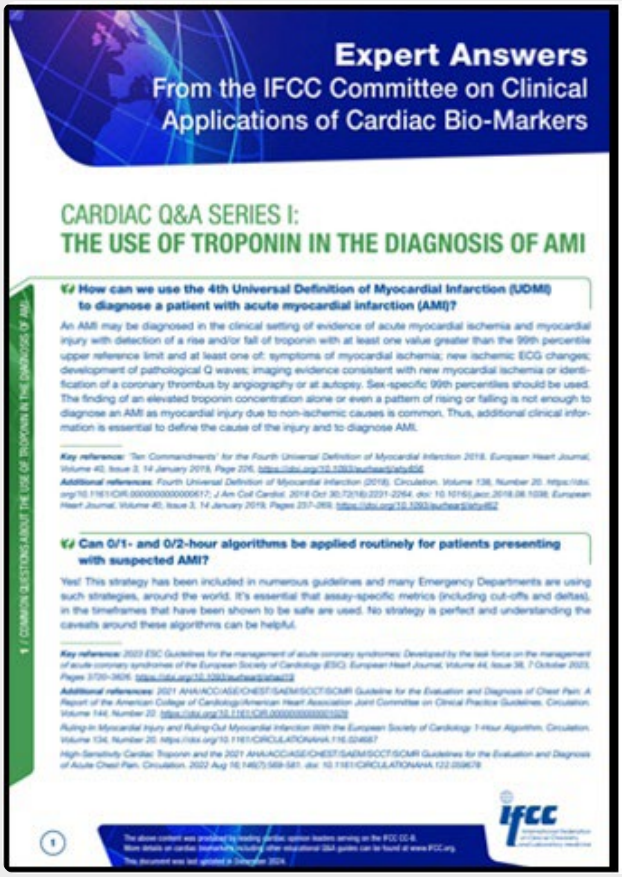

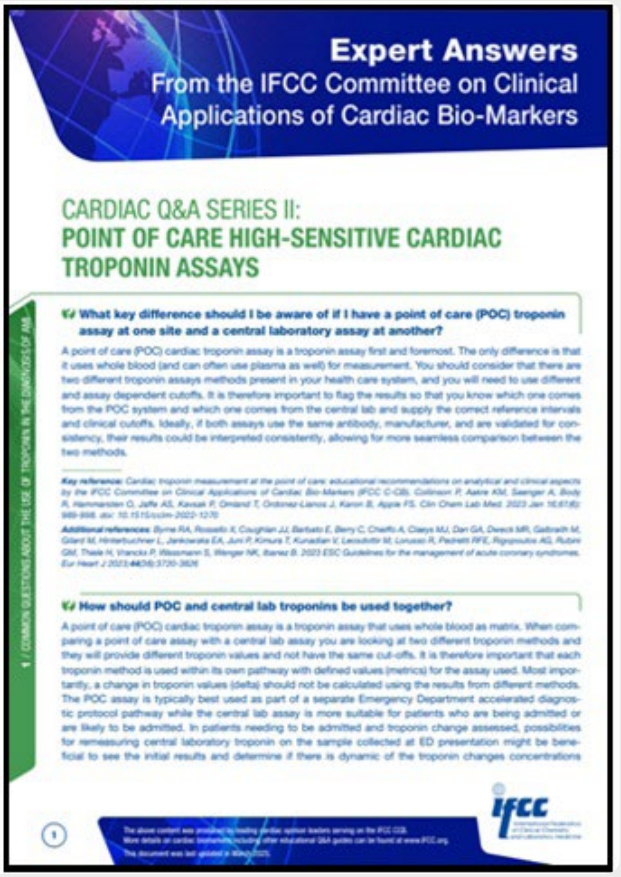

the Experts answer the FAQ about Cardiac Biomarkers

New Podcasts from the IFCC Committee on Clinical Application of Cardiac Biomarkers

Two new podcasts have become available from the IFCC Committee on Clinical Application on Cardiac Biomarkers. In these podcasts Kristin M Aakre (Chair of the committee) is interviewing Professor Louise Cullen, an expert on cardiac biomarkers and leader in the use of troponin in the Emergency department. Prof. Cullen is an emergency physician at the Emergency and Trauma Centre at the Royal Brisbane and Women's hospital, and a Clinical Professor at the Queensland University of Technology and University of Queensland. She is a clinical trialist and outcomes researcher in acute diseases and biomarkers, and is enthusiastically involved in the translation of research by clinical redesign and innovation. Professor Cullen's mantra is that "you do not do research for research's sake" and as such, clinical redesign and translational research is a key part of her endeavors. She has led widespread implementation of research and established clinical redesign initiatives in Emergency Departments (EDs).

The educational (https://eacademy.ifcc.org/lessons/prof-louise-cullen-use-of-accelerated-assessment-protocols-in-emergency-departments/) podcast discusses utility of cardiac troponins in accelerated diagnostic protocols in the emergency department and covers the utility of cardiac troponins from the perspective of an emergency medicine physician including a discussion of several major clinical trials, how interference may influence clinical interpretation of troponins and finally some future perspectives.

The "Getting to know the Experts" (https://eacademy.ifcc.org/lessons/professor-louis-cullen/) podcast explores further on the transdisciplinary nature of the cardiac biomarker field and how that may foster fruitful collaboration and propel the scientific field forward. Prof. Cullen also touches on how rewarding it is to do science being closely aligned with the clinical challenges she faces as an ED physician, and how she has managed to balance scientific and clinical work until again rounding up suggesting some future challenges needed to be solved."

Prof. Louise Cullen, Pre-Eminent Staff Specialist Dept. of Emergency Medicine Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Adjunct Professor Faculty of Health, Queensland University of Technology, Professor (Clinical) The School of Medicine, The University of Queensland, Australia, interviewed by Kristin M Aakre (Chair of the IFCC Committee on Clinical Application of Cardiac Biomarkers) in two educational podcasts

Pioneering Tomorrow: The IFCC Emerging Technology Division's Vision for Transformative Laboratory Medicine

By **Bernard Gouget,** IFCC ETD-EC member, **Damien Gruson**, IFCC ETD Chair, **Swarup A. V. Shah**, IFCC ETD-EC member

One year ago, the new Executive Committee of the IFCC Emerging Technology Division (ETD) was appointed, marking a significant milestone in advancing the Federation's capacity to embrace and integrate groundbreaking innovations. Led by Chair Damien Gruson (Belgium) and Executive Committee members Swarup Shah (India), Bernard Gouget (France), Woochang Lee (Korea), Yan Liu (China), and Sven Ebert (Switzerland), this globally representative team immediately adopted a mission defined by agility, foresight, and transformative ambition.

As the youngest division within IFCC, the ETD is uniquely positioned to anticipate and shape the rapidly evolving landscape of laboratory medicine. Its core mandate, to identify, evaluate, and champion emerging technologies, is increasingly critical in an era characterized by swift scientific breakthroughs, digital transformation, and evolving patient expectations. Within its initial year, ETD has already laid the foundation for a strategic trajectory extending three to six years, marked by innovation, collaborative global impact, and adaptability to structural evolution within the Federation.

The division's vision aligns closely with the trajectory of laboratory medicine toward integrated, predictive, and personalized healthcare. Central to this vision are key focus areas such as the development of multi-omics platforms for advanced biological insights, the integration of nanotechnology and microfluidics to revolutionize precision diagnostics, and the commitment to sustainability through eco-conscious practices. ETD is also embracing the potential of immersive digital environments, preparing to explore transformative opportunities through the metaverse, while concurrently shaping long-term strategic foresight with its Envision 2050 initiative. ETD actively engages with emerging technologies, notably in vivo nano-sensors, which promise continuous molecular monitoring and real-time health insights well before clinical symptoms emerge. Coupled with secure cloud infrastructures and AI-driven analytics, these innovations feed digital health avatars dynamic, personalized simulations of patient physiology that facilitate anticipatory and preventive care. Thus, ETD is at the forefront of transitioning diagnostics from episodic, reactive testing to continuous, proactive health management.

Strategically positioned within IFCC, ETD serves not merely as a scientific incubator but as a catalyst for systemic transformation. By integrating centralized excellence in high-throughput diagnostics with decentralized innovations such as mobile health, embedded sensors, and virtual diagnostic tools, ETD ensures accessible, equitable, and scalable solutions. Its committees and working groups pursue ambitious yet clinically grounded initiatives in multi-omics, artificial intelligence, mobile bioengineering, pediatric diagnostics, method evaluation, and health technology assessment. Particularly noteworthy is ETD's commitment to precision medicine through neonatal diagnostics, custom genomic panels, and metabolomics, underscoring its dedication to vulnerable populations and tailored healthcare.

At the intersection of translational research and integrative development, ETD facilitates dynamic partnerships with academia and industry, fostering bidirectional knowledge exchange and co-innovation. A proactive communication strategy, comprising webinars, publications, and targeted outreach, solidifies ETD's role as a growing global thought leader in laboratory innovation.

As Robert Green Ingersoll, a tireless advocate of progress and humanism, famously stated, "We rise by lifting others." This encapsulates ETD's ethos, rising as a division by empowering collaboration, nurturing talent, and collectively advancing global laboratory medicine.

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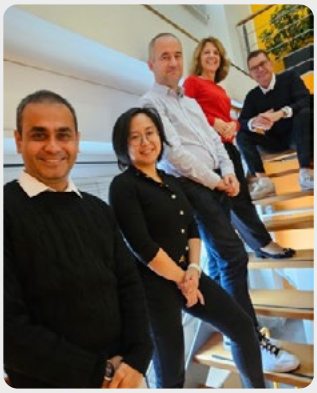
Underlying ETD's operational philosophy is visionary leadership guided by adaptive governance, interdisciplinary alliance and strategic readiness for organizational shifts within IFCC. In anticipation of potential structural evolution, ETD is poised to expand its role, not through directive but through demonstrated excellence, agility, and maturity. This strategic alignment equips the division to effectively navigate emerging scientific, clinical, managerial and organizational challenges.

What differentiates ETD is the coherence and dynamism of its foundational pillars: visionary innovation, global interdisciplinary expertise, and future-oriented teamwork. It acts as a strategic platform promoting smart diagnostics, integrated care pathways, digital health solutions, and preventive strategies. The tangible outcomes of ETD's efforts, educational initiatives, publications, webinars, and international collaborations, clearly demonstrate its capacity for impactful contributions.

Looking forward, ETD envisions itself not merely as a division but as a transformative movement within IFCC, dedicated to redefining laboratory medicine as proactive health intelligence. Guided by curiosity, driven by scientific rigor, and empowered through global collaboration, ETD stands ready not merely to respond to future challenges but actively shape the evolution of healthcare. Echoing Marie Curie's timeless perspective, "One never notices what has been done; one can only see what remains to be done," the ETD is prepared to embrace the considerable work ahead.



ETD Executive Committee members on the ascending staircase at IFCC headquarters in Milan, symbolizing the division's commitment to innovation, progress, and leadership in laboratory medicine.

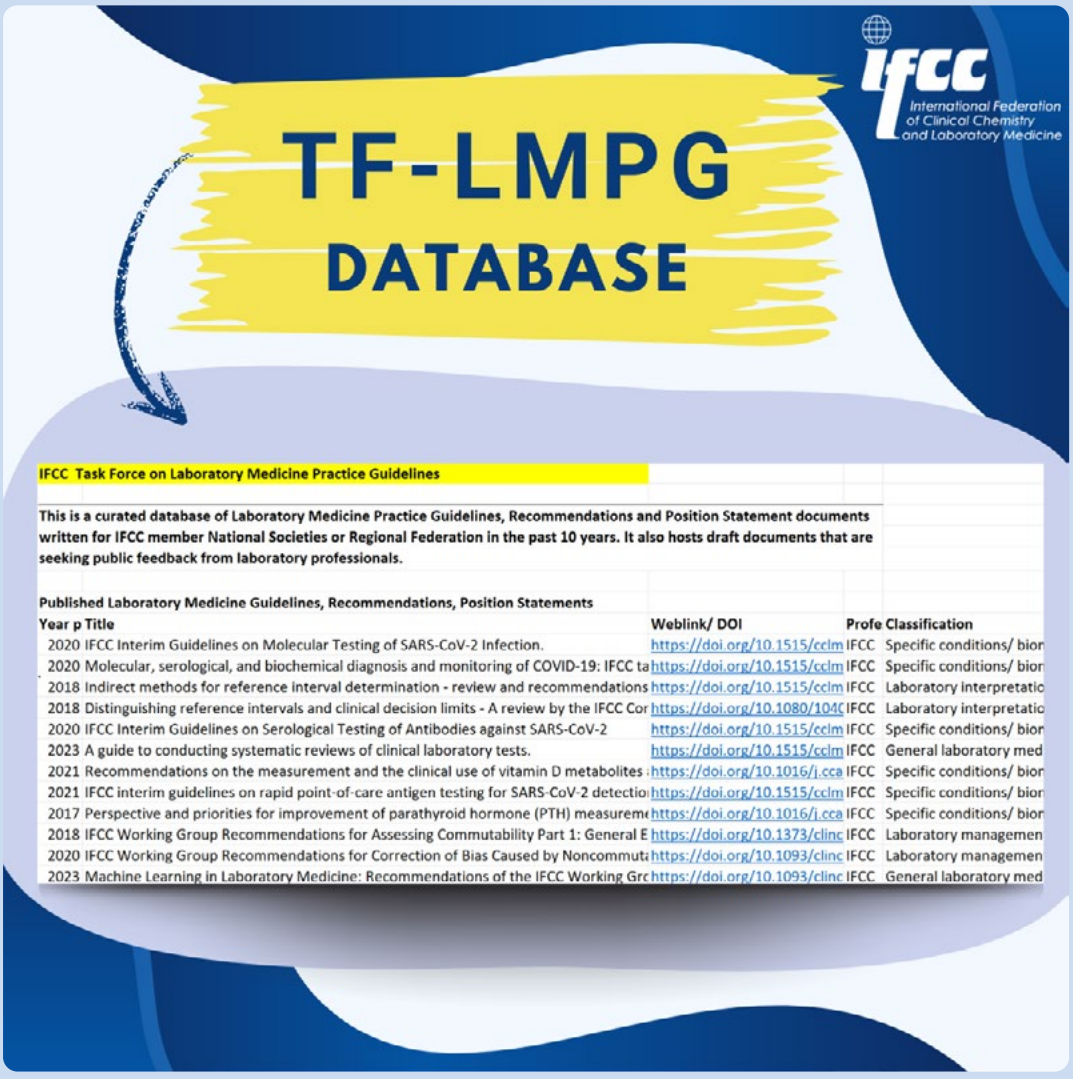
Database on Laboratory Medicine Practice Guidelines

The IFCC Task Force on Laboratory Medicine Practice Guidelines is glad to announce the launch of a database on laboratory medicine practice guidelines, recommendations and position statement documents from IFCC member national societies and regional federations published in the past 10 years. https://ifcc.org/executive-board-and-council/eb-task-forces/task-force-onlaboratory-medicine-practice-guidelines-lmpg/

The curated database hopes to bring together available practice documents for easy reference by laboratory practitioners, raise awareness of available resources, facilitate learning from each other and identify knowledge gaps that may be filled by new guidance documents.

The database will also provide a platform for member societies/ regional federation to publish their draft guidelines, recommendations, and position statements for public feedback from global laboratory practitioners.

If you have identified a guideline, recommendation, position statement document (in draft or published form) that you wish to nominate for inclusion in the database, please contact the IFCC office – Ms Paola Bramati - paola.bramati@ifcc.org.



IFCC Task Force on Laboratory Medicine Practice Guidelines

This is a curated database of Laboratory Medicine Practice Guidelines, Recommendations and Position Statement documents written for IFCC member National Societies or Regional Federation in the past 10 years. It also hosts draft documents that are seeking public feedback from laboratory professionals.

Published Laboratory Medicine Guidelines, Recommendations, Position Statements

Year	p	Title	Weblink/ DOI	Profe	Classification
2020		IFCC Interim Guidelines on Molecular Testing of SARS-CoV-2 Infection.	https://doi.org/10.1515/cclm	IFCC	Specific conditions/ bior
2020		Molecular, serological, and biochemical diagnosis and monitoring of COVID-19: IFCC ta	https://doi.org/10.1515/cclm	IFCC	Specific conditions/ bior
2018		Indirect methods for reference interval determination - review and recommendations	https://doi.org/10.1515/cclm	IFCC	Laboratory interpretatio
2018		Distinguishing reference intervals and clinical decision limits - A review by the IFCC Cor	https://doi.org/10.1080/104(	IFCC	Laboratory interpretatio
2020		IFCC Interim Guidelines on Serological Testing of Antibodies against SARS-CoV-2	https://doi.org/10.1515/cclm	IFCC	Specific conditions/ bior
2023		A guide to conducting systematic reviews of clinical laboratory tests.	https://doi.org/10.1515/cclm	IFCC	General laboratory med
2021		Recommendations on the measurement and the clinical use of vitamin D metabolites	https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cca	IFCC	Specific conditions/ bior
2021		IFCC interim guidelines on rapid point-of-care antigen testing for SARS-CoV-2 detectio	https://doi.org/10.1515/cclm	IFCC	Specific conditions/ bior
2017		Perspective and priorities for improvement of parathyroid hormone (PTH) measurem	https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cca	IFCC	Specific conditions/ bior
2018		IFCC Working Group Recommendations for Assessing Commutability Part 1: General E	https://doi.org/10.1373/clinc	IFCC	Laboratory managemen
2020		IFCC Working Group Recommendations for Correction of Bias Caused by Noncommut	https://doi.org/10.1093/clinc	IFCC	Laboratory managemen
2023		Machine Learning in Laboratory Medicine: Recommendations of the IFCC Working Gr	https://doi.org/10.1093/clinc	IFCC	General laboratory med

Consensus paper: Update on the role of bone turnover markers in the diagnosis and management of osteoporosis

In a groundbreaking update, the Joint Consensus Paper by the European Society for Clinical and Economic Aspects of Osteoporosis, Osteoarthritis, and Musculoskeletal Diseases (ESCEO), the International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF), and the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) has been published.

This publication provides vital advancements in the role of bone turnover markers (BTMs) in diagnosing and managing osteoporosis. The comprehensive paper evaluates the latest research and updates the understanding and application of BTMs, focusing particularly on procollagen type I N propeptide (PINP), β isomerized C-terminal telopeptide of type I collagen (β-CTX-I), Bone Alkaline Phosphatase (BALP), and Tartrate-resistant Acid Phosphatase 5b (TRACP5b) as reference markers. It highlights their significant roles not only in general osteoporosis management but also in the context of chronic kidney disease (CKD)-associated osteoporosis.

Key findings include:

- Enhanced understanding of BTM profiles in predicting fracture risks and treatment monitoring.
- New insights into the interaction of BTMs with Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) and their implications in clinical settings, particularly the roles of BALP and TRACP5b in CKD-associated osteoporosis.
- Recommendations for the standardized use of BTMs in clinical practice and research, aiming for improved patient outcomes.
- This consensus paper is an essential read for healthcare professionals and researchers involved in metabolic bone diseases, providing guidelines that will influence both current practices and future research directions.

Abbott: IFCC-Abbott Visiting Lecture Programme (VLP): the 21st PCQACL-"IGNITE": Innovating for quality excellence

By **Dr Bernard GOUGET,** IFCC-VLP, IFCC-ETD EC secretary, Co-Chair IFCC TF History
Prof. (Dr.) Pradeep Kumar DABLA, IFCC-SD EC

Returning to Manila for the second time was an experience filled with excitement, curiosity, and a deepened appreciation for the city's unique energy. The journey from Paris is always long and challenging, but the reward upon arrival is immense. Manila's vibrant spirit, its mix of dynamism and warmth, and its ever-evolving character made this visit even more enriching. I was staying at the Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria, located in Ortigas Center, Quezon City. The place provided a fresh perspective on the city's rhythm. It was fantastic to witness Manila from a new vantage point, its contrasts, its lively streets, and the seamless blend of tradition and modernity. The enthusiasm of reconnecting with old friends, meeting familiar faces among the staff, and immersing once again in the city's essence was truly special. This visit, centered around an IFCC visiting lecturing program supported by Abbott, was not just a professional engagement but also an opportunity to deepen my understanding of Manila's soul. With each return, the city reveals more of itself, its resilience, creativity, and warmth. The experience of being back was not just about revisiting but about rediscovering, with a renewed awareness and an eagerness to absorb more of what makes the PCQACL so captivating. This year 1200 attendees were present in the auditorium and 500 online!

Our colleague Benzon C. Pisico, a board trustee, generously shared insights into Manila, the historic capital of the Philippines. Founded in 1571 by Spanish conquistador Miguel López de Legazpi, the city reflects centuries of Spanish, American, and Japanese influences. Despite wars and natural disasters, its heritage endures through landmarks and cultural institutions. Before the opening, we explored the iconic "Walled City," home to Fort Santiago, a 16th-century fortress that later held national hero José Rizal. We visited the UNESCO-listed San Agustin Church, a masterpiece of Spanish-era baroque architecture and one of the country's oldest churches. The National Museum Complex provided a deep dive into Philippine history and art. Additionally, we saw the Manila North Cemetery, resting place of prominent figures, and the Manila American Cemetery, the largest World War II memorial for U.S. and Allied soldiers in Asia. Each site offers a glimpse into Manila's layered past, showcasing resilience, colonial legacy, and cultural evolution.

The 21st PCQACL Congress, held from October 8-11, 2024, centered around the theme IGNITE (Inducing Changes and Global Initiatives for Laboratory Education and Quality), reinforcing the commitment to excellence and quality in laboratory medicine. Organized by the Philippine Council for Quality Assurance in Clinical Laboratories (PCQACL), established in 1999, the event served as a catalyst for advancing laboratory standards, ensuring accuracy, reliability, and innovation in diagnostics and healthcare. With core values of Passion, Consistency, Quality, Advancement, Commitment, and Leadership, PCQACL continues to be a pioneer in laboratory quality assurance. This congress provided a platform for experts and stakeholders to exchange knowledge, implement best practices, and drive initiatives that enhance laboratory education and performance.

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In the middle Anacleta P. VALDEZ, President 2024 with PCQACL officiers and members of Board of trustees. On the left , Dr Paulo Enrico P. Belen, immediate past President on the right Sarah Jane Datay-Lim, IFCC representative

By fostering global collaboration, the congress aimed to elevate the standards of laboratory medicine, ensuring excellence in patient care and public health services. The event's initiatives align with Bagong Pilipinas, which focuses on an all-inclusive plan for economic and social transformation, supporting the vision of a healthier nation by enhancing laboratory practices that directly impact healthcare quality. Through rigorous quality assurance, innovation, and continuous professional development, the congress contributes to strengthening health systems, improving patients outcomes, and uplifting the standards of clinical laboratories, ultimately benefiting communities and the broader healthcare landscape.

On October 8, in keeping with tradition, pre-convention workshops were organized to enhance laboratory practices and diagnostic accuracy. The first workshop, conducted in collaboration with the Philippine Society of Histopathologists, focused on advancing pathology diagnostics through the production of high-quality histopathology slides. This session aimed to reinforce best practices in histological preparation and interpretation, ensuring precision in disease diagnosis. The second workshop, titled "Elevating the Quality of the Total Testing Process in the Laboratory," was formally opened by Dr. Anacleta Valdez, PCQACL 2024. It featured expert-led discussions on critical laboratory quality processes: Dr. Sarah Jane L. Datay-Lim presented on the application of Lean Six Sigma in optimizing laboratory workflow and efficiency, Dr. Paolo Enrico Belen provided insights into Internal Quality Control (IQC) methodologies, Dr. Rodelio explored IQC in specialized areas, specifically coagulation and hematology, Mrs. Josephina Soriano addressed strategies for managing post-analytical errors to ensure result accuracy and reliability. The session was expertly moderated by Dr. Glezette Anne Altares and Mr. Eliezer John Bernardino, ensuring an engaging and insightful discussion for all participants. This pre-convention segment set the stage for the 21st PCQACL Congress, reinforcing the commitment to excellence, quality assurance, and continuous improvement in laboratory medicine.

On October 9, the opening ceremonies followed a meticulously planned protocol, seamlessly alternating between official announcements and captivating interludes performed by a dynamic young dance company.

Opening ceremony 21st PCQACL

Professor Pradeep Dabla, formally cut the ribbon, surrounded by PCQACL officials, before delivering his keynote address on M-Health Technologies and Sustainability. The first two sessions explored key themes, including “Changing the Landscape of Cancer Diagnosis”, with discussions on the use of immunostains and genetic testing, quality assurance in diagnostic immunochemistry, and genomic approaches to cancer research. The day concluded with a dedicated session on the latest advancements in transplantation and hematology.
On October 10, during the morning session of Day 2, the focus was on changing mindsets in laboratory management. Dr. Montserrat Chichioco spoke about performance evaluation in the laboratory sector, emphasizing its complexity. She highlighted the necessity for policymakers and managers to adopt a comprehensive and thoughtful approach to understanding performance. Consequently, the development and monitoring of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in this domain should be considered a key priority for policymakers in our sector. Ms. Pearl Joy Gueco-Rejano emphasized the importance of adapting to the evolving demands of the corporate world within a laboratory setting. Notably, the PCQACL successfully organized an exhibitors’ meeting on August 7 at the same hotel, bringing together various suppliers and sponsors. This initiative served as a preparatory step for the upcoming annual convention, aimed at fostering ethical and efficient professional relationships.

The afternoon was dedicated on global initiatives for standardization and quality assurance. The first part was the opportunity for the two IFCC VLP speakers to discuss on TQM and POCT.

Pradeep K Dabla, IFCC SD-EC, APFCB representative, IFCC VLP, Bernard GOUGET, IFCC ETD EC, chair IFCC TF History, IFCC VLP

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The latest version of NF EN ISO 15189 was published in late December 2022. Professor Pradeep Dabla highlighted its key objectives and the rationale behind this revision. The standard has evolved to emphasize risk analysis, evaluation, and control (including prevention and anomaly detection) to ensure the quality and competence of medical laboratories. This fourth revision, following previous versions from 2003, 2007, and 2012, aligns with the systematic five-year review cycle. An international survey conducted in 2017 identified the need for simplification and clarification of the 2012 version, making it less prescriptive. Additionally, the revision incorporates updates from ISO 17025:2017 and ISO 9001:2015, focusing on risk analysis and management. It also integrates ISO 22870, which governs point-of-care testing (POCT). The proposal for this revision was initiated in 2018 by Working Group 1 (WG1) on quality and laboratory competence and was approved by ISO/TC212 on May 16, 2018. The updated standard introduces greater flexibility in requirements related to processes, procedures, documentation, and organizational responsibilities. By emphasizing risk-based thinking, the standard reduces prescriptive requirements. The new version aligns with ISO 17025:2017, embedding principles of impartiality, confidentiality, and patient-related requirements, while emphasizing a risk-based approach to enhance laboratory operations and drive continuous improvement; it integrates POCT requirements, incorporating point of care testing from ISO 22870, and strengthens information management with a focus on data governance and digital transformation.
The new version aligns with ISO 17025:2017, reinforcing principles of impartiality, confidentiality, and patient-related requirements while emphasizing a risk-based approach to improve laboratory operations. It integrates POCT requirements from ISO 22870 and enhances information management with a stronger focus on data governance and digital transformation. To support a smooth transition, a three-year compliance period began in December 2022, during which laboratories must demonstrate adherence through surveillance audits or renewal assessments, ensuring continued quality and patient safety in medical laboratories.

Bernard Gouget highlighted the governance and standardization challenges in Point-of-Care Testing (POCT), which has revolutionized healthcare by enabling rapid diagnostics beyond traditional laboratories. However, widespread adoption brings accreditation and regulatory challenges, particularly in decentralized settings. Governed by ISO 15189, POCT demands strict adherence to quality assurance, result traceability, risk management, and continuous process improvement. Accreditation plays a crucial role in ensuring test accuracy, reproducibility, and reliability, even outside controlled environments, through rigorous External Quality Assessment (EQA) and Internal Quality Control (IQC). Proper operator training and competency assessments are vital to maintaining test reliability. Additionally, seamless data integration into Electronic Health Records (EHRs) remains a challenge due to the lack of standardized communication protocols, impacting interoperability and clinical decision-making. Biosafety and risk management are equally critical—ensuring safe biological sample handling, adherence to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and proper disposal of biohazardous materials is essential to prevent contamination and diagnostic errors. Standardization across multiple locations presents further complexities, particularly for large healthcare networks. Consistent implementation of POCT protocols, quality controls, and regulatory compliance ensures diagnostic accuracy and enhances patient safety. Accreditation is the cornerstone of addressing these challenges, providing a structured framework to uphold the highest standards in POCT and ultimately improving healthcare outcomes.

Dr. Rodedlio Lim and Ms. Norely B. Gil presented CAP quality assurance in the laboratory, emphasizing its strategic impact on healthcare excellence and regulatory alignment. They highlighted CAP accreditation as a powerful tool for enhancing national and international credibility, ensuring laboratories meet global benchmarks for accuracy, reliability, and patient safety. By enforcing rigorous quality control, regular proficiency testing, and on-site inspections, CAP strengthens institutional integrity and compliance with regulatory frameworks like CLIA. Additionally, it plays a critical role in workforce development, fostering technical expertise and professional accountability. From a policy perspective, CAP accreditation positions laboratories as key players in public health resilience, healthcare leadership, and medical innovation, reinforcing trust among stakeholders, policymakers, and the global scientific community.

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The final day focused on quality risk management in the post-COVID era and lab safety, featuring insights from Dr. Analeta Valdez, Ms. Millicent Lumabao, and Me Oliver Shane R. Dumoal. Discussions highlighted best practices for maintaining safety and efficiency in laboratories. Additionally, Dr. Rolando Balburais spoke about the role of diagnosis in lifestyle and functional medicine, emphasizing personalized healthcare approaches.
Before the closing ceremony with Dr Ariel Vergel de Dios, Bernard Gouget led the latest discussion on Ethics and AI, emphasizing the transformative force of AI. AI is revolutionizing healthcare by improving diagnostics, enabling personalized treatments, and enhancing predictive analytics. As these technologies evolve, they offer unprecedented opportunities to expand precision health, optimize efficiency, and improve the effectiveness of medical services. However, their integration into healthcare must be guided by ethical principles to ensure they serve all communities fairly and equitably.

The responsible deployment of AI requires strict adherence to ethical frameworks that prioritize patient autonomy, transparency, and informed consent. Addressing bias in AI models is crucial to preventing discriminatory outcomes and ensuring fairness in decision-making. Ethical AI must align with the core principles of beneficence (ensuring patient benefits), nonmaleficence (preventing harm), and justice (promoting equitable access). Without careful oversight, AI risks are deepening health disparities rather than reducing them. To fully harness AI's transformative potential, investment in public and professional education is essential. Healthcare professionals must be equipped with knowledge of AI ethics, and AI models must incorporate social determinants of health to mitigate biases. By fostering community engagement, promoting transparency, and implementing fair AI policies, we can ensure that AI in medicine enhances health outcomes for all, reinforcing trust in this powerful technology. With the right ethical safeguards, AI has the potential to drive a new era of healthcare—one that is more precise, inclusive, and beneficial to all humanity. Paolo Enrico P. Belen, Immediate Past President, as moderator, energized the discussion with a wave of thought-provoking questions from both the audience and online participants, sparking a dynamic and interactive half-hour of insightful exchanges."

Warmest congratulations to the members of the organizing committee, the PCQACL officers of 2024, and the Board of Trustees, as well as to the newly elected Dr. Bernadette R. Espiritu, President of PCQACL for 2025, along with the incoming PCQACL officers and Board of Trustees!

Bernadette ESPIRITU , President 2025 PCQACL

2025 PCQACL officers

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Seated lunch served at the place inside the auditorium

We felt also the enthusiasm and pride of the young people receiving the many awards and were honored to be under the auspices of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Republic of the Philippines, whose support reflects the importance of this congress. Thank you for your invitation and for the wonderful opportunity to come together for the closing dinner! The recommendation to enjoy a few days in Boracay was greatly appreciated. Promoting world-class quality assurance in laboratory medicine with PCQACL, set against the stunning backdrop of the Philippines – a perfect blend of excellence and paradise!

The video of the congress is available at: https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=522900120520191

IFCC Visiting Lecturer Programme (VLP): XXVI National Conference from the CONAQUIC A.C (Mexico)

By **María del Rosario Vázquez Larios,** Pharmaceutical Chemist Biologist (PCB) and Master in Health Institution Administration (HIA), Head of Microbiology Laboratory, Ignacio Chávez National Cardiology Institute (INC), Affiliated with the Infectious Diseases and Microbiology Clinic Service.

My name is María del Rosario Vázquez Larios. I attended the XXVI National Conference of the CONAQUIC A.C, Clinic Chemists National Federation for the Quality Assurance Analysis at the Laboratory and ZACATECAS EXPOQUIM 2025, held at Zacatecas, Mexico, from March 14th to March 16th.

I participated as a lecturer with the presentation titled "Antimicrobial Stewardship Program. A practical view from the Microbiology Laboratory". The lecture was presented on March 14th in Spanish. Moreover, I participated in a 6 hour duration workshop, titled "Quality Workshop Control in Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing by Conventional Methods and Automated Systems" on March 16th.

During the lecture, which 350 chemists attended, it was underlined the important role of the laboratory in the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program, Resistance antimicrobial (RAM) and Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI) program. After the lecture many questions were asked, as well as compliments were expressed about the Antimicrobial Stewardship support, in which the lab must provide a 24/7 service, be aware of the patients' context and apply reliable practices to issue appropriate reports, as well as to consider the quality control in every step of the process.

At the workshop 26 chemists participated. The workshop agenda was as follows: Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (AST) Importance, AST Methods, International Guidelines Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) and European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST), Quality Control: conventional and automated systems methods, technical results review to issue a clinical impact report and conclusions. During the workshop, it was underscored that the Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing has a high impact for infected patients. It is a scientific field which is updated continuously and should apply quality control methods to avoid adverse outcomes. The automated systems are a great help but they can't replace staff competence and working experience. The attendees were very interested and participated in an interactive way during the workshop. They created a check list to apply improved actions at their labs, to support the patients' diagnosis and treatment. All attendees will be in constant communication via e-mail to monitor the updates, answer questions and clarify any doubts that may arise. An exchange program at the laboratory where I'm currently working, will be possible in the future.

María del Rosario Vázquez Larios during her Magisterial Antimicrobial Stewardship lecture. A practical view from the Microbiology Laboratory Lecturer

María del Rosario Vázquez Larios during the Quality Workshop Control in Antimicrobial Susceptibility testing by Conventional Methods and Automated Systems

ACBICON Golden Jubilee: Bridging Chandigarh's Modernist Spirit with the Future of Lab Medicine

By **Bernard Gouget,** IFCC ETC-EC, Chair TF-History, **Prasenjit Mitra,** ACBICON Golden Jubilee-organizing secretary, **Swarup Shah,** IFCC ETC-EC Member, **Pradeep K DABLA,** IFCC SD-EC

Set against the symbolic and visionary backdrop of Chandigarh, the 50th Annual Conference of the Association of Clinical Biochemists of India (ACBI) was far more than a scientific gathering, it was a celebration of heritage, innovation, and global scientific synergy. This spirit of collaboration and progress resonated powerfully throughout the jubilee conference, held in partnership with the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) and the Asia-Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (APFCB). The city of Chandigarh itself reflects a visionary mindset. Born out of the need for a new capital after India's 1947 partition, it was entrusted to the legendary Franco-Swiss architect Le Corbusier to design a city that embodied modernity, order, and innovation. Today, nestled within clear sight of the Himalayan foothills, Chandigarh stands as a testament to the dynamic spirit of a new India, one that embraces progress while remaining deeply rooted in its cultural richness. This blend of functionality and heritage aligns beautifully with our conference theme: *"From Lab to Life: Recent Research for Improving Global Healthcare."*

Founded on January 18, 1975, ACBI mirrors the remarkable growth and unity of India itself. Over five decades, it has united clinical biochemists from across the nation to advance healthcare through daily practice, innovation, and collaboration. Now, more than ever, ACBI stands tall on the global stage, its connections with IFCC and APFCB stronger than ever. What once seemed distant, geographically or institutionally, is now brought closer by a shared purpose and a collective passion. From nighttime stopovers in Delhi or Mumbai to sunny sessions of scientific exchanges and cultural discoveries, nothing could stop my desire to come, share ideas, seek new inspiration and energy. Where the presence of the IFCC was once rare at ACBI meetings, it has now become a powerful presence. Today, young Indian scientists and those from all backgrounds are coming together to help shape the future of laboratory medicine.

The Golden Jubilee theme, *"From Laboratory to Life,"* perfectly encapsulates the mission of this congress: to translate scientific research into real-world impact. And what better venue than Chandigarh, a city that masterfully blends geometric planning, green spaces, and water features with bold architectural vision, to host such a transformative event? This conference is more than a milestone. It is a vibrant expression of shared pride, purpose and progress. A unique experience intertwining science and medicine, spirituality, culture, and deep-rooted patriotism. Welcome to Chandigarh, welcome to the future. The "Golden Conference" began on a high note, blending tradition with cutting-edge science. Staying true to ACBI's rich ceremonial character, the day opened with the prestigious KL Gupta Memorial Oration, delivered by Dr. Sanjay Gupta, who captivated the audience with his talk on "The Emerging Epigenomic Landscape of Gastrointestinal Cancer in the Context of Precision Medicine." This was followed by an insightful plenary session chaired by Dr. Sucheta Dandekar and Dr. Rajendra Prasad, focused around "Understanding the Molecular Dynamics of Diabetes and Tuberculosis." Keynote speaker Dr. Sadina Sharma offered a compelling perspective on the intersection of chronic and infectious diseases, bringing molecular science to life.

The first official pause of the day came in the form of an interactive poster walk, with mandatory author presence, a wonderful opportunity for focused dialogue and vibrant discussion. After a refreshing tea break, the momentum continued with three parallel scientific sessions. As the proud recipient of the Visiting Lectureship Program (VLP), I had the privilege with Dr Pankaj Johri of chairing the session on "Quality and global issues in Laboratory Medicine", a topic close to my heart and central to our collective mission of advancing patient care. Khosrow Adeli recalled the key role of the IFCC Scientific Division, Qing Meng enlightened us on the return of the IFCC Global Quality Projects in ten countries, and Tony Badrick explained to us why, even with the right result, one can make

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an incorrect interpretation. Given my role, it was unfortunately not possible for me to attend the concurrent sessions on diabetes and gastrointestinal disorders.
Lunch is always an experience, two neat lines, far from the French-style chaos. The smiling assembly, like robotic chains, move forward looking at the spicy dishes, discussions with students are going well, in the middle of the garden yard: the bins! Moments before the afternoon sessions, it's spotless. Shiva has been here!

In the afternoon, Tahir Pillay, Chair of the IFCC-CPD, led a lively panel discussion on molecular diagnostics. With a rich agenda ranging from bone disorders, cardiovascular diseases, nutrition, and kidney disorders to cutting-edge cancer research, one highlight was the special session by the **Committee on Clinical Laboratory Management (C-CLM, IFCC-C-CLM)** expertly chaired by **Dr. Praveen Sharma and Dr. Rajiv R. Sinha.** This session was a must, reinforcing that boosting quality in medical lab services is not just a goal, it's a necessity! Dr. Merve. S. Gungoren highlighted patient satisfaction as central to Total Quality Management, driving service improvement and better health outcomes. Dr. Praveen Sharma focused on the role of leadership in value-based laboratory utilization. He underlined that strong leadership ensures the appropriate use of tests, promotes cost-effective practices, and fosters collaboration and data-driven decisions to improve healthcare outcomes. Dr. Sedef Yenice addressed the challenges and strategies for continuous quality improvement in medical laboratories. She highlighted the need for proactive quality systems, staff training, and ongoing evaluation to meet evolving standards and maintain high performance. Together, the presentations underscored the importance of patient-centered care, effective leadership, and strategic quality improvement as pillars of modern, value-driven laboratory services.

After thirst for knowledge, warmth, an overflow of questions and long hours of sitting, the tea break on the terrace was a welcome moment. It was time for body and mind to find harmony again before attending the much-awaited inaugural lecture on *"Epigenetics"* by Dr. Tapas K. Kundu, with Professor Praven Sharma and Dr. Rajiv R. Sinha guiding the discussions. The dinner later served as a lively platform for reflecting on the day and networking with IVD companies.
Oral presentations kicked off on Friday, the second day of the congress, setting the stage for three captivating plenary sessions on Innovation in Lab Medicine, the Biochemistry of Migraine, and Preeclampsia. After a quick sip of tea, we jumped right back into sessions, one focused on AI in laboratory medicine, the other on inborn errors of metabolism. Dr. Seema Bhargava and Dr. Tester Ashavaid brought in the Executive Committee of the IFCC Emerging Technologies Division to spark a fascinating discussion around... the Exposome! "Did you know you have an exposome?" asked Bernard Gouget. It is the sum of all the environmental exposures you experience throughout your life: what you eat, the air you breathe, radiation, behavior, noise, stress, and even your socioeconomic context. Just like your genome, it shapes your health in a major way. Today, it's widely recognized: our environment plays a decisive role in our health. In fact, more than 70% of non-communicable diseases, whether cardiovascular, as Damien Gruson pointed out, metabolic, oncologic, or chronic respiratory, are rooted in environmental factors. As knowledge grows, so does our understanding: to truly make a difference, we need to look at these factors. Swarup Shah emphasized just how crucial biomolecular tools are in advancing this research.
Before lunch, participants had the opportunity to connect with leading manufacturers including Roche Diagnostics India, Siemens Healthineers, Sebia Diagnostics India, and Quidel Ortho. The second half of the afternoon, along with Saturday morning, was dedicated to a series of engaging sessions covering a wide range of current and forward-looking topics. These included accreditation processes, cancer biomarkers, therapeutic drug monitoring, infectious diseases, immune system mechanisms, malignancies, omics technologies, maternal and child health, neurodegenerative disorders, point-of-care testing (POCT), precision medicine, toxicology, and emerging perspectives in laboratory medicine.

The international spirit of the jubilee was clearly reflected during the networking dinner, where experts from across the globe including Australia, North America, Europe, Southeast Asia, and Africa, discussed around a shared vision and underlined a growing recognition of India's rising role in global

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health. As a country with a large pool of highly skilled healthcare professionals and robust innovation capabilities, India is positioned as a strategic partner in addressing some of the world's most pressing health challenges. India's healthcare sector is expanding swiftly. Key growth areas include medical infrastructure, telemedicine, medical devices, and AI-powered technologies. The country is also emerging as a global center for digital health innovation, with strong momentum in health IT and virtual care solutions. This dynamic environment not only positions India as a leader in medical innovation but also as a key partner in shaping the future of global healthcare.

Living in Neuilly-sur-Seine, just beside the Maisons Jaoul built by Le Corbusier in 1951, has deepened my admiration for this visionary architect. Conversations with my Indian colleagues eventually led to the honor of closing the congress. Chandigarh stands as a monument to modernity, a planned city born in the crucible of independence and shaped by Le Corbusier's vision, in collaboration with his cousin Pierre Jeanneret, the multifaceted Jane Drew (architect, author, and alleged spy), and Maxwell Fry. Every boulevard, public space, and monument reflects a profound commitment to order, progress, and the unleashing of creative energy. In this era of transformative challenges and boundless opportunity, Chandigarh's spirit reminds us that building a better future, whether in our cities or our laboratories, requires a delicate balance between rigorous planning and the poetry of human aspiration. This profound vision finds a contemporary echo in the pioneering field of lab medicine. Just as Chandigarh's urban fabric was meticulously mapped to interweave functionality with aesthetic elegance, organizing life into head, heart, lungs, circulation, intestines and intellect, modern lab medicine is also emerging as a dynamic ecosystem. In this evolving field, cutting-edge technology collaborates with human insight, and ethical imperatives harmonize with innovative strategies, recalibrating the balance between precision and compassion. As Chandigarh transformed into a living laboratory of modernism, a city that both challenged and transcended its origins, lab medicine is redefining its boundaries, embracing change while upholding a legacy of excellence.

At the ACBICON Golden jubilee, this convergence of art, science, and strategic urban design was celebrated as a powerful narrative of renewal. Both Chandigarh and the field of laboratory medicine stand as blueprints of hope and resilience, embodying the belief that meticulous planning, visionary leadership, and an unwavering commitment to the common good can transform abstract ideals into tangible legacies. Chandigarh's open hand, symbolizing a welcome to diverse cultures and ideas, mirrors the call for collaboration and inclusivity that must guide us toward a healthier, more enlightened society. As we draw inspiration from Chandigarh's legacy, a testament to the enduring power of vision and the indomitable human spirit, let our work in laboratory medicine continue to reflect this same blend of poetic ambition and strategic clarity. In doing so, we help shape a future as innovative, inclusive, and transformative as the city that once redefined modern urban life.

A big thank you to the patrons: Prof. KP Sinha and Prof. Praveen Sharma, Prof. Rajeev R Sinha, chairperson, Prof. Indu Verma, chair of the organizing committee and her colleagues, and to Prof. Jyotdeep Kaur and Dr. Prasenjit Mitra, joint organizing secretaries, not forgetting Dr. Kannan Vaidyanathan, ACBI President, and other colleagues for their dedication and meticulous planning in making the golden jubilee a memorable and impactful event!

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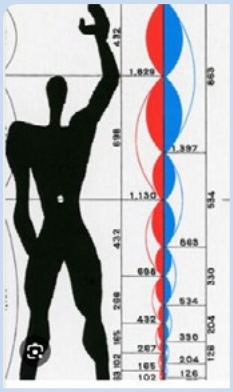

The Modulor (module-Or (gold) represents an attempt to give architecture a mathematical order oriented to a human scale. Starting from the golden ratio and the proportions of the human body

Capitol complex: ceremonial gate , assembly building: the upper half of the gate shows the direction and movement of the Sun

Prof. Sedef Yenice, Chair of the Visiting Lecturer Programme, seated on a Pierre Jeanneret armchair.

Bernard Gouget, Sedef Yenice and Tahir Pillay at the Sukhna Lake

Bernard Gouget and the Open Hand: a powerful symbol of peace, prosperity, and unity. It represents 'the hand to give and the hand to take' — a gesture of global harmony and connection

IFCC ETD session , the golden ETD -EC team with the chairpersons Dr Seema Bhargava and Dr Tester Ashavaid

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Session "Global issues in lab Medicine": Qing Meng, Endang Hoyaranda, Khosrow Adeli, Tony Badrick, Bernard Gouget

ACBICON Young scientists

Dr Prasenjit Mitra, ACBICON joint organizing secretary

A group photo with young scientists taken following the Award Session and Valedictory Ceremony at the 50th ACBICON 2024—Golden Jubilee Conference of the Association of Clinical Biochemists of India, held in Chandigarh. The cheerful atmosphere captured in this moment reflects the highly engaging and inspiring spirit that marked this landmark celebration.

from left: Dr Prasenjit Mitra, Pr Jyotdeep Kaur, Pr Praveen Sharma and the other "Patrons" of the congress.

CLAIR 2025 in Belgrade: Where Science, Spirit, and AI future Meet

By **Bernard Gouget,** IFCC-ETD EC, Chair IFCC T-History, IFCC/EFLM Labac representative, **Sanja Stankovic,** CLAIR 2025 SC Chair

At the confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers, Belgrade rises dynamic and timeless, full of promise at the vibrant crossroads of East and West. Each cobblestone whispers stories of past glory and visions of a radiant future. Between the weathered ramparts and the shimmering towers of modern glass, tradition and innovation intertwine in graceful harmony. From these storied streets, Nikola Tesla once lit up the world, his luminous ideas still inspiring generations to carry their people's name forward across the boundless horizons of knowledge. Mihajlo Pupin, too, gave voice to invisible currents, turning whispers along copper threads into conversations that span oceans reminding us that communication itself is a profound form of innovation. Through the bittersweet poetry and playful irony of his cinema, Serbian poets and film directors show that science, at its most powerful, is not without emotion, art, or laughter, a true symphony of human ingenuity. Today, laboratory medicine professionals continue this legacy, driven by intellect, poetic imagination, and scientific daring. And when inspiration fades, we turn to the unwavering spirit of Serbian sportspeople. Each triumph is a testament to focus, resilience, and grace under pressure. They brilliantly demonstrate that Serbia's greatest talent lies in transforming scientific challenges into resounding success. It is in this vibrant setting that the CLAIR initiative (Clinical Laboratory AI Revolution) was born. Imagined during a chance encounter at WorldLab Dubai 2024, CLAIR emerged from a spirited exchange between **Sanja Stankovic (SRB),** President of the Serbian Society for Clinical Laboratory Medicine and Science, and members of the IFCC Emerging and Technologies Division Executive Committee (IFCC ETD-EC). Fueled by her dynamism and vision and supported by the intellectual leadership of the IFCC team, the project took shape as more than just a meeting, it became a movement.

Under the auspices of the University Clinical Center of Serbia and the Center for Medical Biochemistry, CLAIR 2025 *(March 28, 2025)* offered a golden opportunity to gather the IFCC/EFLM officers, engage with local expertise, and share bold ideas on the evolving role of artificial intelligence in laboratory medicine. **Tomas Zima (CZ),** EFLM President-Elect and renowned Rector of Charles University acted as a catalyst for dialogue, vision, and innovation in shaping the future of laboratory medicine. In Belgrade, a city where past and future live side by side, CLAIR found its natural home. It is not just a place. It is a beginning.

The AI-focused congress day unfolded as a compelling narrative of transformation, ethics, and collaboration in healthcare. Speakers across disciplines emphasized how artificial intelligence is reshaping diagnostics, clinical decision-making, and workflows in medicine. They kicked off the meeting by underscoring AI's transformative potential, citing examples of machine-learning tools that already augment physicians in interpreting complex data and personalizing treatments. **Damien Gruson (BE)** agreed that AI is on the verge of inducing a paradigm shift in medicine, enhancing clinicians' capabilities and improving patient outcomes. Indeed, in the clinical fields, AI systems are supporting decision-making and improving diagnostic and prognostic performance, thereby augmenting specialists and enabling better patient care. During his captivating presentation, he sweetened the message by offering two chocolate bars to the audience. This charming gesture not only captured the audience's attention, but also symbolized his commitment to making science more accessible and engaging. A great reason to attend EuroMedLab Brussels 2025 and, why not, try some Belgian chocolate to accompany innovations.

With this optimistic framing, the stage was set for a day of forward-thinking insights from experts in endocrinology, cardiology, oncology, laboratory medicine and more. **Guillaume Assié,** (FR) endocrinologist, described the digital data deluge in his field, from continuous glucose monitors to genomic data and how AI algorithms help make sense of it. In endocrinology, numerous AI-powered diagnostic and therapeutic tools have already entered routine practice, a trend expected

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to accelerate; He noted that endocrinologists will need support to manage these AI applications. Beyond technical training, he argued for an "interdisciplinary vision" that addresses the ethical and legal implications of AI and maintains an optimal balance between human input and AI in care

Prof Petar Seferović (SRB), a leading figure in European cardiology and former President of the Heart Failure Association (HFA) of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC), has been instrumental in exploring the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into cardiovascular medicine. He highlighted how AI can improve risk prediction and personalize heart disease management. Sophisticated algorithms can flag early signs of heart failure on imaging or electrocardiograms that might be missed by the naked eye. Such tools are already demonstrating enhanced prognostic accuracy in cardiovascular medicine, complementing the cardiologist's expertise. By augmenting clinical decision support, AI can help reduce hospital readmissions and mortality through earlier interventions and tailored treatment plans. He advocates for the use of AI-driven algorithms to analyze complex datasets, such as imaging and biomarker profiles, to facilitate timely and accurate clinical decisions.

Laboratory medicine experts **Anna Carobene (IT)** reinforced how AI is streamlining diagnostic workflows behind the scenes. She showed examples of AI-driven systems that assist in quality control, for instance, algorithms that detect analyzer malfunctions or identify anomalous results before they can lead to clinical error. By automating data review and routine tasks, AI allows clinical laboratories to operate more efficiently and accurately. She explained how integrating AI into laboratory information systems can optimize test utilization, ensuring the right tests are done for the right patient at the right time and accelerate turnaround time for critical results. Her insights showed that workflow optimization in the lab is not just about operational gains, it directly contributes to patient safety and better clinical decisions by delivering timely, reliable information to physicians. Carobene supports the development of comprehensive regulatory frameworks, such as the EU AI Act. She believes that such legislation is crucial for establishing consistent standards across countries, ensuring that AI tools in healthcare are safe, effective, and aligned with fundamental values.

In his keynote lecture, **Joris Delanghe (BE)** explored the rapidly evolving role of artificial intelligence in scientific publishing, focusing particularly on the ethical challenges and responsibilities that accompany this digital transformation. He highlighted how AI can significantly streamline editorial processes, enhancing peer review, detecting plagiarism, and improving content discoverability, but warned against uncritical reliance on algorithmic tools. J. Delanghe stressed the importance of transparency, fairness, and accountability in AI-assisted decision-making, emphasizing that editorial responsibility must remain human-centered. He urged the academic community to develop clear guidelines on authorship, data integrity, and algorithmic bias, ensuring that the deployment of AI respects the core values of scientific integrity and trust. His presentation called for a balanced and thoughtful integration of AI, one that upholds ethical publishing standards while embracing innovation.

Pierre-Jean Lamy (FR), onco-geneticist and Scientific Director at Inovie's Imagenome Institute, is at the forefront of integrating artificial intelligence (AI) into oncology to enhance cancer diagnostics and treatment strategies. His work focuses on combining genomic data analysis with AI to identify actionable mutations and biomarkers, thereby facilitating personalized medicine. One of Dr Lamy's notable contributions is the development of Imagenome, a specialized unit within Inovie that leverages AI and genomic technologies to improve cancer care. This initiative emphasizes the use of liquid biopsies and genomic sequencing to detect tumor-specific anomalies, enabling early diagnosis and tailored treatment plans. In his presentation, he advocated for the use of AI-driven tools to analyze complex datasets, which can lead to more accurate prognoses and effective treatment options. He also calls for collaborative efforts between public and private sectors to ensure that innovations in AI and genomics are accessible to all patients, regardless of geographic or socioeconomic status in order to improve patient outcomes and foster a more personalized approach to cancer care.

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To build and maintain trust in AI, the consensus was that AI models should be explainable and transparent. Clinicians and patients have a right to understand, at least in broad terms, how an algorithm reaches its conclusions. The conference echoed international principles that call for AI systems to be understandable, explainable, and accountable, with their limitations and uncertainties communicated. In practice, this means developers should provide interpretable outputs, such as highlight maps on medical images or reason codes for advice and, openly acknowledge an AI's scope of training to users.

He Sarina Yang (US) presented a forward-looking perspective on the integration of machine learning (ML) in clinical laboratories, highlighting its potential to revolutionize diagnostic workflows. From automating result interpretation to predicting patient outcomes, ML offers opportunities to enhance accuracy, reduce turnaround times, and uncover patterns invisible to the human eye. She emphasized that, when responsibly implemented, these tools can not only support clinical decision-making but also alleviate the growing burden on laboratory professionals. Her message was clear: machine learning is not the future, it is the next step forward.

Several speakers agreed that maintaining a "human-in-the-loop" approach, where physicians can override or query AI recommendations, is vital for ethical implementation and for legal accountability. Another focal point of the congress was the technological and data infrastructure needed to support AI's integration into healthcare. **Sanja Stankovic** and speakers collectively acknowledged that AI's success depends on the quality, availability, and security of health data. Massive datasets – from electronic health records (EHRs) to imaging archives – fuel the AI models that can "capture the complexity of human health and disease" in ways previously impossible. However, harnessing this potential requires robust solutions for data sharing and privacy. Discussion turned to the role of cloud computing and big data platforms in medicine. Cloud-connected, decentralized diagnostics were portrayed as a cornerstone of the future laboratory: they could "optimize efficiency, reduce waste, and democratize access" to cutting-edge analyses worldwide. With cloud infrastructure, even smaller or remote hospitals might leverage AI algorithms trained on global data, narrowing the care gap between centers.

Yet, with great connectivity comes great responsibility, cybersecurity and data privacy were stressed as non-negotiable priorities in an AI-driven healthcare ecosystem. **Alexander Haliassos (GR),** Treasurer of IFCC, delivered a compelling address on one of the most urgent topics in modern healthcare: the cybersecurity challenges brought about by cloud computing and artificial intelligence (AI).As clinical laboratories across the world embrace digital transformation, He emphasized that the shift to cloud-based platforms and AI-driven diagnostics, while offering immense potential for efficiency and precision, also introduces serious risks to data privacy and cybersecurity. While such scenarios are forward-looking, the consensus was that protecting patient data and ensuring privacy must guide every step today, from how datasets are anonymized for AI research to how AI tools are deployed in clinics.

Crucially, the congress addressed the integration of AI into everyday clinical workflows. It was noted that an algorithm's brilliance means little if its output doesn't reach clinicians at the point of care. **Sanja Stankovic** (SRB) and several speakers discussed embedding AI into EHR systems and diagnostic platforms so that recommendations appear in the same interface doctors use, at the right time. This tight integration would make AI a natural part of clinical decision support rather than a separate black-box tool. Participants also frankly examined the current barriers to adopting AI in healthcare organizations. A survey of laboratory stakeholders, for instance, found that high implementation costs, unclear ROI, and data privacy concerns are key hurdles slowing down AI adoption. Many professionals remain unsure about how to evaluate AI tools or what is needed to deploy them safely. To tackle these issues, the community proposed pragmatic solutions: education and change management for healthcare workers, evidence generation to prove AI's clinical value, and vendor partnerships to streamline integration into existing systems. Simplifying the user experience and demonstrating success stories will go a long way toward overcoming skepticism. As

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one panelist quipped, “innovation in healthcare is a team sport”, it requires not just inventors, but also IT specialists to implement, administrators to finance, and clinicians to champion the changes. In summary, building a secure, interoperable, and user-friendly ecosystem was seen as foundational to realizing AI’s promises.

Bernard Gouget’s presentation powerfully underscored the synergy between the One Health concept and the exposome approach, stressing their combined potential to tackle the growing impact of environmental exposures on human, animal, and ecosystem health. He illustrated how the exposome, encompassing all non-genetic factors such as pollution, food, lifestyle, and social conditions, must be at the core of future health strategies. He emphasized the direct and escalating environmental threats, including air and water pollution, climate change, and emerging chemical contaminants, zoonoses, which demand urgent and coordinated responses. he advocated for the creation of integrated strategies, where professionals from laboratory medicine, environmental sciences, public health, and data science collaborate within a shared framework. To support this shift, he stressed the critical importance of developing powerful data centers and digital infrastructures. These hubs would collect, standardize, and process massive exposome-related datasets, serving as the backbone for: real-time environmental monitoring, predictive health modeling, risk mapping at local and global levels, and rapid public health response mechanisms. Generative AI plays a central role in making sense of this complexity. Its ability to simulate future scenarios, uncover hidden patterns, and tailor health interventions could be a game-changer for prevention and public health planning

A recurring solution woven through all these discussions was multidisciplinary collaboration. The complex challenges and opportunities of AI in medicine clearly span technical, clinical, and ethical domains. Time and again, speakers noted that effective AI deployment demands synergy: software engineers and data scientists must work closely with physicians and laboratory experts to ensure algorithms address real clinical needs and are rigorously validated. Ethicists and regulators need to be part of the loop early to set guidelines that keep AI use patient centric. This collaborative ethos was highlighted as the way to navigate AI’s learning curve while maintaining trust. By pooling diverse expertise, the healthcare community can iteratively improve AI tools, refining the algorithms, ironing out workflow kinks, and sharing best practices across specialties. The conference itself exemplified this spirit, bringing together clinicians, lab professionals, IVD and data experts in dialogue. Several speakers agreed that maintaining a “human-in-the-loop” approach, where physicians can override or query AI recommendations, is vital for ethical implementation and for legal accountability. The message was clear: no single discipline owns AI in healthcare, it will take continuous cooperation to translate technical advances into safe, effective clinical solutions. Notably, even scientific publishing is evolving through collaboration; as one forward-looking remark noted, traditional siloed publishing may give way to decentralized knowledge-sharing networks and holographic scientific conferences that accelerate interdisciplinary innovation. This hints that how we disseminate knowledge about AI and generally in medicine is also transforming in the age of digital connectivity.

In the closing session, the speakers and IVD companies delivered a compelling vision of the road ahead, where AI is deeply integrated into every facet of healthcare. The day’s final takeaway was one of balance, embracing innovation while rigorously managing its risks. touch. The journey has only begun, but with collective commitment, the promise of AI in clinical practice can be fully and ethically realized.

“Pleasure is the only thing we should live for. Nothing ages like happiness.” Oscar Wilde. With those words in mind, Katarina, our amazing PCO, and Silvia Colli-Lanzi from the IFCC office reminded us it was time to head to the banks of the Sava and celebrate Damien G.’s birthday in style at a fabulous floating restaurant! Happy Birthday, Damien! Here is to joy and all the best for Brussels 2025!

Article continued on the next page

Welcome dinner at the Madura

Pr Guillaume Assie

Pr Peter Seferovic

The IFCC ETD EC with Sanja Stankovic

Happy Birthday Damien!

IFCC Global Medlab Week 2025 Winners

By **Dra. BQF. María del C.Pasquel,** Chair- Committe Public Relation (C-PR)

From April 21st to 27th this year, countries from all 6 Federations and Executive Bureau authorities, which make up the IFCC, participated in the Global Med Lab Week 2025 (GMLW 2025). They all sent videos of greetings or with the experience about Labs Save Labs.

The participation was very well received, and twice as many videos and audios were received compared to last year. This year's theme was Laboratories Save Lives.

The judging panel was divided into three groups:

1. 1. To select the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place videos from the six participating IFCC Federations.
2. 2. To select the global winner from among the 18 best videos chosen as winners in their respective regions.
3. 3. A jury for the podcasts. This jury was responsible for selecting the three best podcasts worldwide.

The judging panel consisted of 30 professionals, as well as of the general public from different countries across the six Federations (Africa, Arabia, Europe, Latin America, Asia-Pacific, United States, and Canada). Voting was conducted through an automated platform, and none of the judges could see the scores of the other judges, allowing for highly impartial scoring.

The GMLW 2025 video winners were as follows:
WINNER GLOBAL VIDEO GMLW 2025

Id: VID60
Title:
Name: Dr. Galmangodage Nilanka Emarshana
Institution: National Hospital of Sri Lanka
Country: Sri Lanka
Coordinator: IFCC
WINNER GLOBAL VIDEO GMLW 2025 : https://youtu.be/aE5YwYm2fic

Article continued on the next page

Winning video's by IFCC Federations

ARAB FEDERATION OF CLINICAL BIOLOGY AFCB

Arab Federation of Clinical Biology (AFCB)

Coordinador: AFCB

ID Video	Titulo	Nombre	Institución	Ciudad	Pais
6	Ms.	Hadeel Darweesh Moawya Shqair	Biolab - Jordan	Amman	Jordan
1	Ph.D	Montaser Haddad	Palestine Polytechnic University (PPU)	Hebron	Palestine
81	Dr.	Youmna Mourad	Al Hadi	Beirut	Lebanon

01
https://youtu.be/Ogucf-m-BbE
02
https://youtu.be/TYliQFS-6xU
03
https://youtu.be/oovR2S6zMNk

ASIA-PACIFIC FEDERATION FOR CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

Asia-Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (APFCB)

Coordinador: APFCB

ID Video	Titulo	Nombre	Institución	Ciudad	Pais
44	Dr.	Akila Prashant	JSS Medical College & Hospital, JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research	Mysore	India
89	MD	Ferdy Royland Marpaung	Department of Laboratory Ciputra Hospital	Surabaya	Indonesia
60	Dr	N.E.Galmangodage	National Hospital of Sri Lanka		Sri Lanka

01
https://youtu.be/8uCTZvFtlHo
02
https://youtu.be/n7Z6pp3BtFU
03
https://youtu.be/abWfWLqDj4U

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COLABIOCLI

Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI)

Coordinador: COLABIOCLI

ID Video	Titulo	Nombre	Institución	Ciudad	Pais	Valoración Total	Ver Video
136		JULIA EDOITH VILLARREAL ERAZO	LABORATORIO CLINICO BETA LAB.	QUITO	ECUADOR	38.33	Ver Video
95			Task Force for Young Scientists at the IFCC		Mexico	38.00	Ver Video
76	Bioq.	Geovanna Maribel Checa Erazo		Quito	Ecuador	37.20	Ver Video

01
https://youtu.be/B0tZzY-NfF4
02
https://youtu.be/H6JiustUihk
03
https://youtu.be/sP4k1gZEHhA

EFLM
EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM)

Coordinador: EFLM

ID Video	Título	Nombre	Institución	Ciudad	País
4		Ledia Curri	Catholic Hospital "Our Lady of Good Counsel"	Tirana	Albania
26	President		General Pharmaceutical Council of Spain	Madrid	Spain
37	Assoc. Prof., MD, EuSpLM		Department of Medical Biochemistry ?stanbul Ba?ak?ehir City Hospital	?stanbul	Turkey

01
https://youtu.be/JQ8uyvkI5wY
02
https://youtu.be/VqDZaJKhqvQ
03
https://youtu.be/rAVCLqdyrx4

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Winning video's by IFCC Federation

Id: AUD1023
Title: Labs Save Lives
Name: Kamil Taha Uçar
Institution: İstanbul Başakşehir Pine and Sakura City Hospital
City: İstanbul
Country: Türkiye
Coordinator: EFLM
1ST PLACE PODCAST
https://youtu.be/BMUxYCrrTPo

SECOND POSITION

Id: AUD1007
Title: Labs Save Lives
Name: Nesali Panapitiya
Institution: Department of Biochemistry, Medical Research Institute
City: Colombo
Country: Sri Lanka
Coordinator: APFCB
2ND PLACE PODCAST
https://open.spotify.com/episode/7bRBQUlYHkg9S0Vty2DD3R?si=cLGvWHxbSlyruUKNNublDw

THIRD POSITION

Id: AUD1020 (Spanish) /1021(English)
Title: La Citometría de Flujo salva vidas
Name: Enrique de Jesús González Cruz y Diego Gómez
Institution: Centro Estatal de Cancerología (CECAN) Dr. Miguel Dorantes Mesa
City: Xalapa
Country: México
Coordinator: COLABIOCLI
3rd PLACE PODCAST
SPANISH
https://open.spotify.com/episode/5xzzqSMw2aU02JwpyhBvc1?si=WquBVCb4RiyNvnWaE6UNYg
ENGLISH
https://open.spotify.com/episode/1BffVS7hQnRdlNPrjKWjnj?si=hYlVHHEdQqinGoFkDJbT8Q

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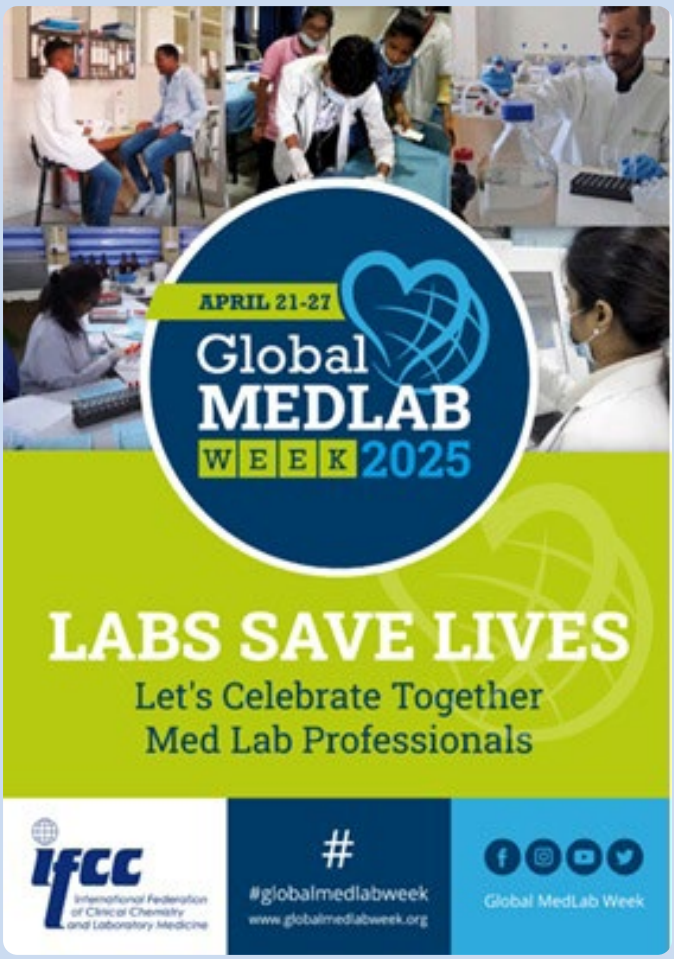

The IFCC Public Relations Committee thanks all the participants in GMLW 2025; they all contributed to the success of this activity.
Congratulations on the excellent audio and video submissions, which made it very difficult for the jury to select the winners.

IFCC: the people

Welcome and thanks to the chairs

The IFCC extends a warm welcome to the new Chairs of its functional units while expressing gratitude to those who have concluded their tenure in office.

Communications and Publications Division (CPD)

Welcome to the new eNews Chair, **Dr Marilena Stamouli** (Greece) and thanks for her commitment to **Dr Katarina Psarra** (Greece), who led the Working Group until December 2024.

Dr Marilena Stamouli received the Diploma in Biology (1986) from the University of Athens, Greece, MSc degree in Health Management (2010) from the University of Pireus, Greece and MSc degree in Total Quality Management (2016) from the Hellenic Open University, Greece. From 1987 until today she works at the Biopathology Laboratory of the Naval and Veterans Hospital of Athens, as tenured civilian scientific personnel, and she is head of the Department of Biochemistry since 2012. Her main research interests include biochemistry, autoimmunity, haemoglobinopathies, protein electrophoresis and laboratory quality control. She has published 40 related articles in scientific journals and many articles in proceedings of peer-reviewed scientific conferences. She has also attended a six month postgraduate program on Waste Management, as well as many scientific seminars and workshops. She is a member of the Greek Society of Clinical Chemistry- Clinical Biochemistry, of the Hellenic Society of Immunology and of the European Register of Specialists in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine. She is a Lead Assessor for ISO 15189:2022 at the Hellenic Accreditation System.

Dr Marilena Stamouli, new Chair of the IFCC Working Group eNewsletter (WG-IFCC eNews)

Dr Katarina Psarra, who served as Chair of the IFCC Working Group eNewsletter (WG-IFCC eNews) for two terms (2020-2025).

IFCC: the Young Scientists

Meet a Young Scientist from the IFCC Task Force Young Scientists

Spotlight on: **Udara Senarathne**, IFCC Task Force-Young Scientists Core Member, and IFCC Task Force-Young Scientists corresponding member from Sri Lanka, nominated by the College of Chemical Pathologists of Sri Lanka (CCPLS)

Could you please introduce yourself?
I am a Board-Certified Chemical Pathologist from Sri Lanka, currently serving as a Lecturer in Biochemistry at a state university. I obtained my Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) in 2012, followed by a Doctor of Medicine (MD) in Chemical Pathology in 2021. In 2024, I further advanced my professional qualifications by obtaining a Diploma from the Royal College of Pathologists (UK).
In addition to my medical training, I have a strong interest in computer science, which inspired me to complete a Diploma in Computer System Design in 2023. This interdisciplinary foundation allows me to approach research and diagnostics with a broader perspective—integrating technology into pathology to enhance diagnostic accuracy, data management, and overall healthcare outcomes.

What is your current role in the lab?
I am primarily involved in teaching Clinical Biochemistry and Chemical Pathology to undergraduate students across several disciplines, including Medicine, Medical Laboratory Science, Nursing, and Dentistry.
My research interests lie in the field of clinical biochemistry, with a particular focus on the development of reference intervals and the application of statistical methods in laboratory medicine. In addition to my academic responsibilities, I actively contribute to the operations of the departmental laboratory—engaging in assay troubleshooting, method development, and quality assurance to ensure the accuracy and reliability of diagnostic testing.

Could you give us a brief introduction to your national society and its main activities/the activities you have in your national society?
The College of Chemical Pathologists of Sri Lanka (CCPSL) is the leading scientific and professional body representing specialists in Chemical Pathology. It plays a pivotal role in enhancing patient outcomes by striving for excellence in clinical and technical expertise within the field. The College is dedicated to fostering research and development in Chemical Pathology and supporting related disciplines, while also promoting awareness of the specialty among other medical professionals.
CCPSL actively advocates for the rational use of laboratory testing and engages in community awareness initiatives to highlight the vital role of laboratory investigations in disease screening, diagnosis, and monitoring. The College also facilitates the continuous professional development of its members through collaborations with national and international organizations.
At its core, the mission of CCPSL is to work in close partnership with policymakers and healthcare stakeholders to strengthen and advance the quality of healthcare delivery in Sri Lanka.

Can you highlight some of the key activities that you had with the IFCC Task Force-Young Scientists?
I was appointed as the corresponding member to the IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists (TF-YS) from Sri Lanka in 2021 and was later selected as a core member in 2023. I have actively contributed to organizing the IFCC TF-YS Forums held in 2021 (Seoul), 2023 (Rome), and 2024 (Dubai), including coordinating with young scientists to facilitate their participation in TF-YS activities.
With the support of TF-YS members, I initiated a webinar series focused on the discussion of clinical

Article continued on the next page

cases for young scientists, which received positive feedback and strong participation. To further expand this platform, I proposed and helped launch the Young Scientist Clinical Case Report publication initiative in the eJIFCC, under the guidance of the eJIFCC Co-Editors-in-Chief.

Did you participate on an exchange programme in your career?
While it was not strictly an exchange programme, I undertook two years of overseas training at Monash Health Pathology as part of the Doctor of Medicine in Chemical Pathology (MD) degree in Sri Lanka. This training was a mandatory requirement set by the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine (PGIM), which stipulates that trainees must complete a placement at an accredited international laboratory.

How can YS from your national society get additional information about the activities of the association and activities with the TF-YS?
The TF-YS activities are communicated to all Young Scientists (YS) via the mailing list maintained by the College of Chemical Pathologists of Sri Lanka (CCPSL). In addition, members often contact me directly for information. These activities are also regularly shared through relevant social media groups.

Is there any future collaborative project of IFCC TF-YS that you want to share with readers of IFCC eNews?
As a TF-YS project through the IFCC, I plan to assess current practices, perceptions, and challenges associated with the use of SI units in pathology reporting among practicing pathologists and laboratory personnel.

Spotlight on: **Jakob Adler**, IFCC Task Force-Young Scientists corresponding member from Germany, nominated by the German Society of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (DGKL) (CCPLS)

DGKL

Could you please introduce yourself?
Hi, my name is Jakob Adler. I´m 34 years old and live with my wife and my seven-year-old son in the small town Schönebeck in Germany. In our free time and at the weekends we love to work in our garden or take short trips in the nearby mountains (the “Harz” Mountains). In the past I played a lot of music, I played piano, drums and bass guitar (there are even two albums from my last band on Spotify!) but now I am very interested in data science, programming with R, machine learning and other topics related to artificial intelligence.

Could you share a bit about your background?
I´m a doctor (MD). In Germany there is the possibility to specialize in laboratory medicine. I started my studies in Leipzig and finished my medical studies in Magdeburg. I completed my specialization in the “Medical Laboratory Prof. Schenk/Dr. Ansorge and Colleagues” in Magdeburg and moved to the IHP and IMD laboratories in October 2023.

What is your current role in the lab?
In the IHP laboratory, I am responsible for the medical validation of the measurement results. At IHP we carry out special hemostaseological tests and therapeutic drug monitoring. We have a range of very specialized analytical equipment such as HPLC, LCMS/MS and GCMS. At IMD, I am responsible for some of our digitalization projects such as the implementation of a new clinical decision support system and I advise our IT department from a medical-technical point of view.

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Could you give us a brief introduction to your national society and your main activities in the society?
The German Society of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine is divided into so-called "sections", which cover all relevant topics in laboratory medicine. For the young scientists there is the "section young laboratory". In this section, I founded the "digital competence" working group, which aims to provide members a basic knowledge of digitalization, data science, programming and artificial intelligence. We also have a "public relations" working group to promote the profession of laboratory medicine. We are also currently starting to establish our mentoring program.

Can you highlight some of the key activities that you had with the IFCC Task Force-Young Scientists?
My contact with the TF-YS began at EuroMedLab 2021 (which took place in Munich in 2022 due to COVID-19 pandemic), where I presented our then newly founded Digital Competence Working Group. This was received so positively that I started to set up an international version of the working group together with Marie Lenski (France). Now we have already held several monthly sessions online and discussed topics such as Markdown, Git and GitHub as well as basics of programming in R. If you want to join, you will find all information on this page: Digital Competence in Laboratory Medicine.

How can YS from your national society get additional information about the activities of the association and activities with the TF-YS?
We will try to share more information about the IFCC and the EFLM in our newly established DGKL member network in the future, so that more people can become aware of the activities and offers.

Is there any future collaborative project of IFCC TF-YS that you want to share with readers of IFCC eNews?
It would be great to start some concrete projects in data science across the laboratories in different countries. The international digital competence working group can be the nucleus for this. Unfortunately, it is difficult to build up a corresponding drive even at monthly meetings, as not all participants can always attend the meetings. Yes, at the beginning it takes some effort to get used to tools like Github and R, but it's definitely worth it!

IFCC Forum


IFCC
International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine
TF-YS
EUROMEDLAB
BRUSSELS 2025
May 18-22, 2025
IFCC
EFLM
RBSLM
IFCC FORUM
for Young Scientists
4° Edition
Brussels
18th May, 2025

Contribute to IFCC eNews

Start Now – UNIVANTS Applications Open Aug 1st!

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much". This quote nicely summarizes the power of working together. And while not originally focused on healthcare and healthcare excellence, it is both relevant and well-suited to healthcare and the pursuit of healthcare excellence. It is in that spirit that the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award program was created; to recognize, celebrate and amplify best practices in healthcare that are facilitated by cross disciplinary collaborative efforts in association with laboratory medicine.
The UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award program is a global, prestigious award program that is run in partnership with Abbott, IFCC, ADLM, Modern Healthcare, National Association for Healthcare Quality (NAHQ), European Health Management Association (EHMA), Institute of Health Economics (IHE), Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS). If you are a passionate laboratorian who collaborates, innovates and measure improvements of strategic initiatives, then now is the time to start preparing your application to the 2026 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award program. Applications for the 2026 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence awards open Aug 1, 2025.

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- Begin collating metrics.
- Reach out to UnivantsOfHealthcareExcellence@abbott.com with any questions.

Eligibility criteria for recognition is shown below, with new and/or updated criteria for the 2026 awards highlighted below:

1. The clinical care initiative must be implemented into clinical practice.
2. The metrics must fall under a singular clinical care effort.
3. The clinical care initiative must include at least three disciplines (including Laboratory Medicine/ Pathology).
4. **The role of Laboratory Medicine and/or Pathology must be evident with a direct and substantiated role to the measured outcomes.**
5. **Any insights from laboratory testing must involve a validated and regulatory approved product.**
6. **The application must be free from industry bias (i.e. no reference to a brand name or specific product).**
7. There must be at least one measurable impact or Key Performance Indicator (KPI) associated with each of the four stakeholders: patients, clinicians, health systems/ administration, and payors.
8. Impact can be assessed quantitatively (preferred) or qualitatively, but there must be at least **two quantitative metrics across at least two stakeholders** that prove measurably better performance, of which **at least one has to be linked to a health benefit.**
9. There cannot be more than four qualitative metrics.

For more information on past winners, best practice examples and to tune in for the Global Announcement of the 2025 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award program winners (in June 2025), please visit www.UnivantsHCE.com.

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News from Regional Federations and Member Societies

News from Japan Society of Clinical Chemistry (JSCC) 2024 Article Award

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

The Japan Society of Clinical Chemistry (JSCC) Article Award is awarded to individuals who have contributed outstanding academic research in clinical chemistry. In 2024, Mitsuaki Tokumaru, M.D. won the JSCC Article Award. At the 64th Annual Meeting of the JSCC in Tochigi, Japan, held August 30 to September 1, 2024, award winner Dr. Tokumaru was congratulated by Dr. Takashi Miida, President of JSCC, for his outstanding work in clinical chemistry.
JSCC proudly introduces the 2024 JSCC Article Award winner in this issue and distributes his outstanding work.

Dr. Tokumaru, who is a graduate student in the Department of Internal Medicine II at Hamamatsu University School of Medicine, earned the 2024 JSCC Article Award for his research titled 'Falsely elevated thyroid hormone levels associated with fibrin interference in patients receiving oral anticoagulant therapy.' His research originated from observing discrepancies between thyroid function test values and clinical presentations, leading him to study invisible fibrin interference in endocrine testing. Through careful methodology, he conducted a retrospective study of health checkup participants, discovering that patients on anticoagulant therapy exhibited invisible fibrin interference, potentially causing falsely elevated thyroid hormone levels. This finding carries significant implications for clinical practice, as well as clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine, especially regarding thyroid function test interpretation in patients receiving anticoagulant therapy. Dr. Tokumaru continues to advance clinical chemistry through research that connects laboratory findings with practical applications. His work demonstrates the importance of precision in clinical chemistry while focusing on applications that enhance patient care. The impact of his research provides valuable insights for healthcare providers in managing laboratory results for patients on anticoagulant therapy, contributing to more accurate diagnostic interpretations and improved patient care protocols.

Mitsuaki Tokumaru, M.D. winner of the 2024 JSCC Article Award

Bolivia, through the Bolivian Society of Clinical Biochemistry, organizes the "First Latin American International Conference on Laboratory Accreditation"

By **Dr. Álvaro Justiniano Grosz,** PRESIDENT - SOBOBIOCLI

Under the slogan "Accrediting the Future of Clinical Laboratory Professionals in the Latin American Region," and with the participation of representatives from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, the event took place at the NOVOTEL Hotel in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, as a prelude to the 27th LATIN AMERICAN CONGRESS OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY - COLABIOCLI 2026.

This important academic activity will be carried out at the initiative of Bolivia, with the support of organizations such as the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry - IFCC, the Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry - COLABIOCLI, the National Quality Control Program - PNCQ, and the Argentine Biochemical Foundation (FBA).

The overall objective of this important activity is to create a forum for discussion and analysis of Clinical Laboratory Accreditation processes in Latin America, which will promote the development of regional manuals and an expanded laboratory accreditation process in the countries involved, based on their own standards, and will support the implementation of Quality Management Systems in laboratories. Specific objectives have also been set:

a. Strengthen the Clinical Laboratory Accreditation processes in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, as well as other countries on the continent that wish to join this project.
b. Establish a regional forum for discussion of Clinical Laboratory Accreditation processes in the region.
c. Promote the development of Strategic Plans in the countries aimed at implementing Clinical Laboratory Accreditation processes in the region.

With the presence of speakers from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Panama, and Uruguay, along with regulatory bodies from the Ministry of Health and Sports through the National Coordination of Laboratories (CONALAB), the foundation will be laid for the initiation of continuous quality improvement and the strengthening of clinical laboratories in Bolivia.

The Bolivian Society of Clinical Biochemistry, in collaboration with the Bioquimica Argentina Foundation and with the support of the Ministry of Health and Sports through the National Coordination of Laboratories, has implemented a pilot program for laboratory accreditation in Bolivia. This has resulted in the accreditation of five laboratories in Santa Cruz, La Paz, El Alto de La Paz, Cochabamba, and Tarija.

Our next step is to begin the nationwide accreditation process, aiming to empower our laboratories to foster a culture of quality and continuous improvement, which will lead to future access to accreditation processes under the most demanding international standards.

Currently, countries in our region, an area characterized by large economic gaps and differences, cannot access Clinical Laboratory Accreditation programs due to costs and the complexity of international standards. However, Clinical Laboratory professionals believe it is important to guide the path towards Accreditation and, to achieve this, it is necessary to generate strategic alliances between countries that will allow access to international standards in the future. Moreover, it is urgent to create a training space that will allow this great objective to be achieved at some point.

Article continued on the next page

The programme of the First Latin American International Conference on Laboratory Accreditation

Spring Highlights from the European Federation of Laboratory Medicine (EFLM)

By **Lejla Alic,** member of the Promotion & Publication Committee

Dear Colleagues,

As we welcome the new season, we are pleased to share some exciting developments within the European Laboratory Medicine community.

The European Federation of Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) is proud to announce the establishment of two new functional units, which are aligned with EFLM's ongoing strategy to promote value-based laboratory medicine across Europe.

In addition, EFLM has officially endorsed the Milan Declaration on the Crucial Role of Science in Meeting Global Challenges. We encourage you to support this important initiative. You can read more and sign here: https://www.febs.org/milan-declaration-science.

Sustainability remains a key priority. Prof. Tomris Ozben, IFCC President and Chair of the EFLM Committee on Green & Sustainable Laboratories, shares four practical, easy-to-implement actions to help make your laboratory more environmentally friendly—starting today!

Be sure to explore EFLMLabX, EFLM's unique professional exchange program designed to foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing among European laboratory professionals.

We also invite you to review the latest scientific publications produced by EFLM's active and productive committees.

Do not miss out on recent and upcoming webinars hosted on EFLM's e-learning platform. These are excellent opportunities for continued professional development. Join the EFLM Academy and gain access to webinars and plenty of valuable content.

Finally, mark your calendars for major upcoming events:

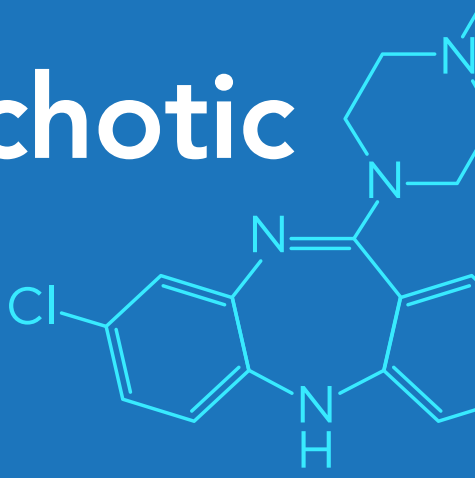
- The EuroMedLab Congress in Brussels. Check out highlights on many symposia to be held during the Congress.
- The 7th EFLM Conference on the Preanalytical Phase

In addition to these, a wide range of EFLM events and those under EFLM auspices are scheduled in the coming months—stay informed and get involved!

With best wishes for a productive and inspiring spring,

The EFLM Team

Redefining Antipsychotic Therapeutic Drug Monitoring



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Test Menu

- Clozapine
- Risperidone
- Paliperidone
- Aripiprazole
- Quetiapine
- Olanzapine

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XXXI Congress of the Andalusian Society of Clinical Analysis (SANAC)

By **Dr. Cristóbal Avivar Oyonarte,** President of the XXXI SANAC Congress, Director of the Clinical Management Unit for Biotechnology, University Hospital of Poniente, Carretera de Almerimar, nº 31 04700 - El Ejido (ALMERÍA), cristobal.avivar.sspa@juntadeandalucia.es
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Introduction
From March 13 to 15, 2025, the 31st Congress of the Andalusian Society of Clinical Analysis and Laboratory Medicine (SANAC) was held in El Ejido (Almería, Spain), under the theme *"Imported and Tropical Diseases in the Laboratory. Global Health."*

The municipality of El Ejido, in the province of Almería, represents a paradigm where intensive agriculture, international migration, and environmental degradation converge, creating a high-risk health environment. This scenario calls for a comprehensive and cross-disciplinary approach aligned with the *"One Health" (One human, animal and environmental health)*, which served as the axis and central focus of the Congress.

The region, a key fruit and vegetable production center in Europe due to plastic-intensive agriculture, relies heavily on migrant labor, which constitutes over 30% of the population, mainly from Africa. Many of these workers live in precarious settlements, increasing health risks from infectious diseases and exposure to pesticides and fertilizers.

The Role of the Clinical Laboratory
The clinical laboratory plays a crucial role in the early detection of imported or uncommon diseases, requiring accurate diagnosis and continuous professional training. One of the Congress's main goals was to strengthen the healthcare system's capacity to identify, diagnose, and treat such diseases, particularly among migrant populations and the general community, while highlighting the value of in vitro diagnostics.

Scientific Program
The program was structured around the following axes:
Pre-Congress Course: *Imported and Tropical Diseases*, with key workshops on:
- Extrapulmonary tuberculosis
- Clinical cases of malaria
- Clinical parasitology
- Tropical pathology through images

Keynote Lectures
- **Opening Lecture:** *Shaping the Future of Laboratory Medicine* — Prof. Dr. Tomris Ozben (President of the IFCC).
- **Closing Lecture:** *The Future of Clinical Laboratory Professionals in the Lab 4.0 Era* — Dr. Cristóbal Avivar Oyonarte (President of the Congress).

Symposium
Panel 1: *Unique Healthcare Challenges in a Sea of Plastic*
- Migrant and refugee health
- Environmental effect biomarkers
- Care for imported diseases in Southern Spain

Panel 2: *Differential Diagnosis in Multiethnic Populations*
- Hemoglobinopathies and thalassemias
- Migrant hematology
- MDW in suspected malaria cases

Panel 3: *Screening Strategies for Imported and Tropical Diseases*
- Microbiological screening in migrants
- Diagnosis of imported tuberculosis
- Personalized and digital screening for immigrant populations

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Special Session
- **Nomenclature and Coding (CLC–GNC)**

Main Axes:
- **Scientific updates:** New diagnostic strategies for tuberculosis, malaria, parasitosis and hemoglobinopathies in migrant populations.
- **Technological innovation:** Integration of artificial intelligence, automation and personalized screening in clinical laboratories.
- **Sustainability and social responsibility:** Implementation of green labs and ethical management of biomedical waste.
- **Global health:** Neonatal screening adapted to migrant populations and advanced epidemiological surveillance using genomics.
- **Environmental challenges:** Assessing the combined impact of pollutants on human health.

Outcomes and Participation

The expected outcome, strengthening the role of the clinical laboratory as a key component in the health response to globalization, migration, and environmental change, was achieved.

The event was a resounding success, with over 280 registered participants and the collaboration of 25 companies from the sector, providing excellent visibility for their products and services. Noteworthy was the exchange of experiences and valuable feedback between exhibitors and attendees.

The Scientific Committee of the Society evaluated a total of **185 submitted abstracts,** six of which were selected for oral presentation. Additionally, eight high-level scientific articles were received, and the following awards were granted for the best oral communications:
- **First Prize:** *Predictive model for the development of type 2 diabetes mellitus based on artificial intelligence.*
- **Second Prize:** *Effect of intermittent fasting and physical exercise on lipid profile.*
- **Third Prize:** *Comparative study of equations for estimating small dense LDL-C particles.*

The **activity was accredited** by the Andalusian Agency for Healthcare Quality (ACSA) and adhered to the ethical principles of the Code of Ethics of the Healthcare Technology Sector (FENIN).

Special Acknowledgements

Special recognition was given to **Prof. Dr. Tomris Ozben,** President of the IFCC, whose participation—made possible through the collaboration between the IFCC and VLP—brought great prestige to the Congress. The involvement of local experts, many from the University Hospital of Poniente and other hospitals in Andalusia, was also highlighted for their firsthand insights into the healthcare challenges stemming from migration flows in El Ejido.

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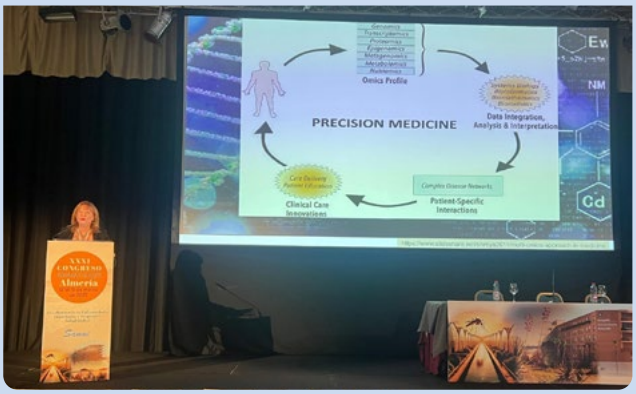
IFCC President, Tomris Ozben (left), delivering her talk "Time for a Sustainable Transition within Medical Laboratories," chaired by María Luisa Hortas Nieto (right), at the SANAC 2025 Congress in Aguadulce.

From left to right: María Luisa Hortas Nieto, Maria Montserrat Blanes González, Tomris Ozben, Cristóbal Avivar Oyonarte, and Luis Figueroa Montes, at the SANAC 2025 Congress in Aguadulce.

IFCC President, Tomris Ozben (right), with María Luisa Hortas Nieto (left), at the SANAC 2025 Congress in Aguadulce.

SANAC Leaflet announcing the Congress



Prof Tomris Ozben, IFCC President, during her speech

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IFCC's Calendar of Congresses, Conferences & Events

IFCC and Regional Federation Events			
Date		Title	Place
May 18 - 22, 2025	EUROMEDLAB BRUSSELS 2025 May 18-22, 2025	XXVI IFCC-EFLM EUROMEDLAB 2025	Brussels, BE
Oct 25 - 30, 2026	ifcc 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	ifcc International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine	APFCB 2027 KUALA LUMPUR	Kuala Lumpur, MY

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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

Other events with IFCC auspices

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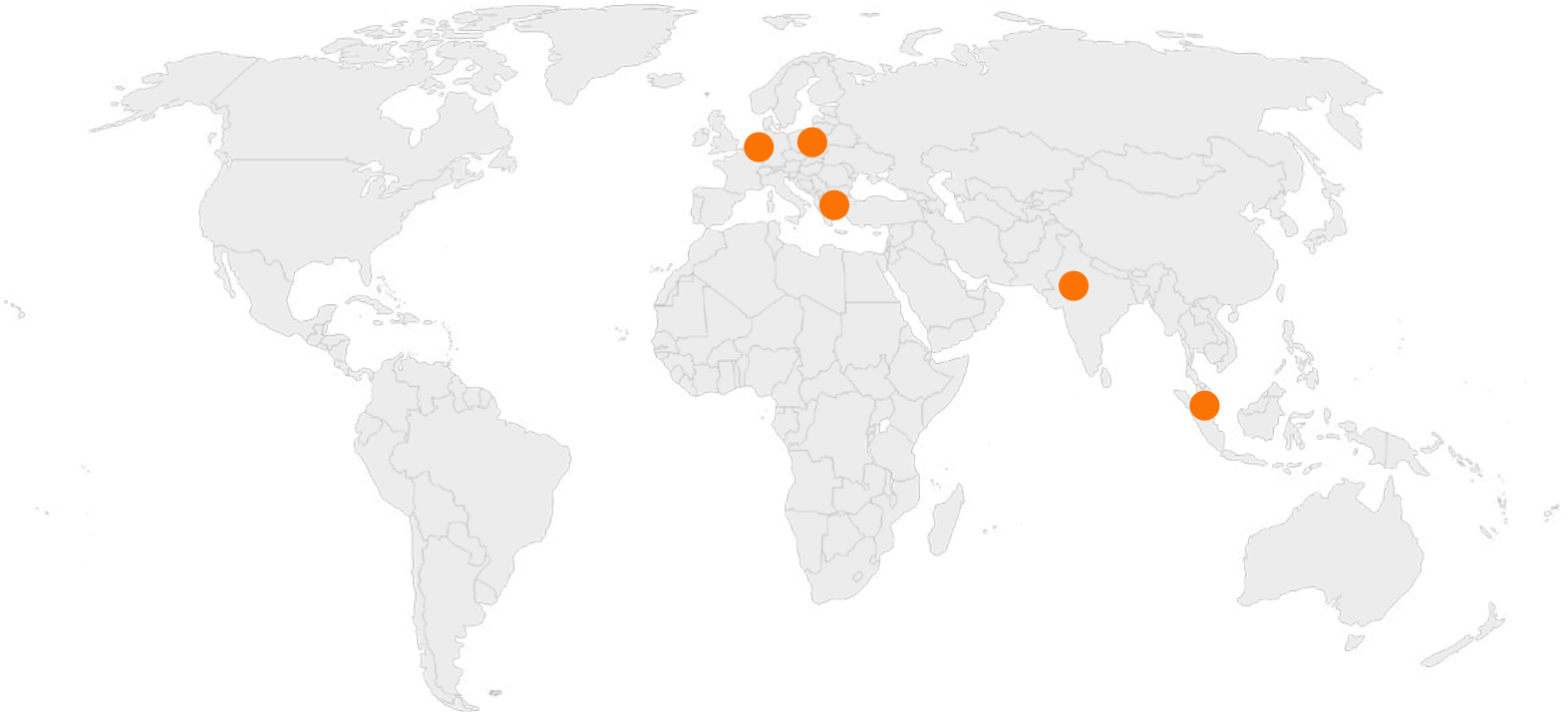

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