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Communications and Publications Division (CPD) of the IFCC

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Editorial

Dear colleagues

During the winter for those of you in the Northern hemisphere, there is always time for some reading by the fire, when the weather does not permit outdoor activities. But during the summer as well, holidays offer time for a relaxed reading. So why not take the opportunity to go through the eNews, to be in a relaxed way in touch with colleagues all over the world?

In her message, our President, Prof. Tomris Ozben is taking us with her to a tour around the world, participating in national and regional congresses and informing us about them. Go through her message and find out about the XXVI Latin American Congress of Biochemistry, which took place in Cartagena de Indias (Colombia), the XXVII Congress of the Latin American Association of Clinical Pathology / Laboratory Medicine – ALAPAC in Lima (Peru) and the VI Medical Congress organized by the Kosovo Doctors Chamber in Pristina. All of them were well attended and very successful. A lot more congresses are to be held during November. In her message the President is informing us about the EB and the Divisions fall meetings and she invites us to apply for the open positions in the IFCC committees and to go through the program of the Euromedlab Congress Brussels 2025.

In this issue you will find a lot of information about ethics in our profession. A review of themes related to ethics in Dubai, a presentation of the 2024 EFLM Strategic Conference dedicated to ethics in Padova, Italy and spotlights on Ethics at the SIBioC meeting, form a nice overview of the “Ethics” discussions in IFCC events.

Don't forget the podcasts on Pharmacogenetics on modern healthcare by Prof. Van Schalk (The Netherlands) and on the expanding impact of point-of-care testing on Healthcare by Dr. Mashamba-Thomson (South Africa). Two PSEP and two VLP reports take us to different labs of the world. Go through Prof. Tahir Pillay's interview by Maria del Carmen Pasquel-Moxley to learn about the rich course of an important scholar and IFCC officer.

Finally, three more Young Scientists from Belgium, Malawi and Georgia are presenting themselves and their national societies. A very interesting tour in Laboratory Medicine in such diverse countries is offered to us. A report about an Ukrainian lab, which in time of war offers laboratory tests to the citizens and received the UNIVANTS award, is also available. Our Mexican colleagues describe their successful XLVI National congress of Clinical Chemists, in honour of Chemist Carlos Alonso Muñoz.

Read the eNews, dear colleagues, and you will estimate the heart of IFCC.

Warm regards



Katherina Psarra, MSc,
PhD, eNews Editor

The voice of IFCC

IFCC and Congress President's Welcome Message

November 2024

By Tomris Ozben

Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

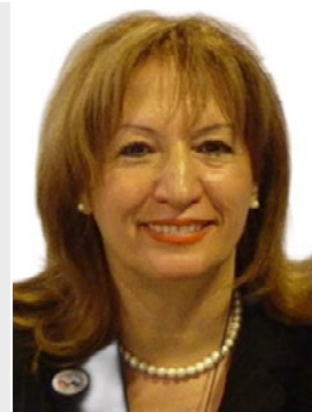
The IFCC activities continue to progress, and I would like to share some recent updates from the IFCC community and its functional units.

The IFCC Executive Board held its 3rd yearly meeting in Cartagena de Indias (Colombia) on occasion of the “XXVI Latin American Congress of Clinical Biochemistry organized jointly with the XXII International Congress of Bacteriology (CNB)” on October 3-6, 2024. I would like to express our thanks to Dr. Álvaro Justiniano Grosz as the President of COLABIOCLI, as well as to the Executive Committee members of the COLABIOCLI, and to Dra. Marlene Vélez De La Vega, as the President of the National College of Bacteriology, Colombia (CNB), along with its members, for their kind invitation and hospitality. The Congress was a very successful congress event, very well organized both scientifically and socially. The program was comprehensive, the attendance was high, more than 2000 delegates attended the event, and the enthusiasm for the scientific sessions was remarkable, indicating a great interest in the program and speakers. Their hospitality was deeply appreciated and unforgettable. I delivered the opening lecture on October 3rd entitled “Towards Green Labs: Sustainable Practices in Medical Laboratories “. On October 4th, a round table discussion was organized with the topic “PRESENT AND FUTURE OF LABORATORY MEDICINE”. It was moderated by Dr. Eduardo Fregiaro and related by Dr. Leonardo Ríos Osorio. Dr Sergio Bernardini attended on-line and the following speakers attended in presence: Dra. Tomris Ozben; Dr. David Grenache; Dr. Álvaro Justiniano and Dr. Pedro Eduardo Almeida Da Silva. The following topics were discussed:

1. Reality of the laboratory in Latin America (Opportunities, difficulties and future).
2. Training of human resources and profile of the laboratory professional.
3. Research in laboratory medicine
4. Ethics in laboratory medicine
5. Development and implementation of new technologies

I am happy to inform you that the first Young Scientist FORUM of COLABIOCLI was organized during the congress. I attended their meeting to congratulate them for this initiative.

Following the COLABIOCLI Congress, I attended the XXVII Congress of the Latin American Association of Clinical Pathology / Laboratory Medicine – ALAPAC, jointly organized with the III Peruvian International Congress of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, X Peruvian Congress of Clinical Pathology, which was held from October 9 to 12, 2024 in Lima, Peru. Congratulations to Dr Luis Figueroa Montes, President of the ALAPAC and President of the Peruvian Medical Association of Clinical Pathology (AMPPC) and Dra. Carolina Cucho Espinoza as the President of the ALAPAC 2024 Congress for organizing a very successful congress in every aspect: participation in the congress was very high, scientific program was well prepared, attendance of the IVD companies to the



Prof. Tomris Ozben
EuSpLM, Ph.D.

exhibition was great. During the congress, I presented two lectures on “Recent advances and challenges in laboratory medicine” and “Integrated diagnostics: evidence-based therapy guide in medical oncology tumor markers in immunohistochemistry, liquid biopsy and imaging”.

Another congress I attended in October was the VI Medical Congress organized by the Kosovo Doctors Chamber, held on 17-19 October 2024, at Hotel Emerald, in Pristina. This sixth edition of Medical Congress brought together leading experts, researchers, and practitioners in the field of diagnostic medicine to exchange knowledge, share insights, and discuss the latest advancements and challenges in the diagnosis and treatment of various medical conditions. I delivered a lecture on Integrated diagnostics during the congress.

The XXXI Meeting of the Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation (BCLF) and 35th National Biochemistry Congress of the Turkish Biochemical Society will be organized in Starlight Convention Center, Side between 28 October - 1 November 2024.

The Asia-Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (APFCB) will be held in Sydney International Convention Centre from 31 October–3 November 2024.

The Executive Committees of the IFCC Divisions are also organizing their fall meetings. The Education and Management Division (EMD) and the Communications and Publications Division (CPD) have already met, whilst the Scientific Division (SD) and the Emerging Technologies Division (ETD) will meet in the next weeks. These are important IFCC Division meetings to review the work done for the ongoing activities and projects and planning for the period ahead for the new projects and activities. On behalf of IFCC EB, I express my heartfelt thanks to all the IFCC officers for their dedication and commitment to IFCC and its mission “Advancing excellence in laboratory medicine for better healthcare worldwide”.

As you will read in the dedicated article, the IFCC has just launched a call for nominations for the IFCC Distinguished Awards 2025 that will be bestowed in Brussels, on occasion of the IFCC-EFLM EuroMedLab Congress. I invite you to see the list of the past Awardees and recognize the outstanding contributions each of them gave to our profession. For the 2025 Awards, the closing date for receipt of nominations is the 31st December 2024.

The cooperation of IFCC with WHO continues for the preparation towards the “Fifth Edition of the WHO Model List of Essential In Vitro Diagnostics” (EDL 5). The Essential in vitro Diagnostics List is intended to support IVD policy development to improve access to IVD testing and clinical laboratory services.

The IFCC organized a symposium at the WasPaLM congress held on 16-20 October 2024 in Granada Congress Center, Belek, Antalya, Turkey. The title of the IFCC symposium was “The place of sustainable laboratory medicine in patient centered health care”. Prof. John Anetor was the Chair and speaker, Prof. Guzin Aykal and Prof. James Bonham were the speakers of the IFCC symposium. The title of Prof. Anetor was “Pathology and laboratory medicine. Integrating the sustainability pathway for greater effectiveness”. Prof. Aykal spoke on “Eco-friendly clinical biochemistry: A green future and sustainable laboratory practice”. The title of Prof. Bonham’ presentation was “newborn screening-an effective means of early detection for rare and not so rare disorders”.

I want to highlight that the IFCC’s Task Force on Outcome Studies in Laboratory Medicine (TF-OSLM) is seeking research proposals to evaluate the impact of laboratory testing on health outcomes. The goal is to promote research that demonstrates how laboratory medicine influences clinical outcomes and improves patient care. Another key objective is to raise awareness of the essential role laboratory testing plays in healthcare.

The IFCC Committee on Public Relations (C-PR) recently announced that the Global MedLab Week

(GMLW) will be celebrated next year on April 2025. A special week to highlight the work of medical laboratories and the significance of the role of medical laboratory professionals in patient healthcare worldwide. All of you are invited to participate in and support the initiatives that will be announced shortly.

In addition, I would like to remind you of a fundamental way for contributing to the advancement of our profession: being involved in IFCC activities through the participation in the IFCC functional units. Review the [open positions](#) and, if interested, contact your National or Corporate Representative.

I'm more than glad to announce that the [Preliminary Programme of the EuroMedLab Congress Brussels 2025](#) is ready. It encompasses a wide array of topics, including the fundamentals, advanced diagnostics and the cutting-edge techniques in laboratory medicine, all themes that will be presented by international speakers and key opinion leaders.

On a related IFCC event, the **IFCC General Conference**, that will be held in Bruges, ahead of the EuroMedLab Congress, will see the IFCC "family" gathering and discussing IFCC's present activities and projects, and plan and decide on future actions of the organisation considering the demands of IFCC members and officers. A very important meeting to shape the future of the organisation.

We are very pleased to inform you that four IFCC-EFLM Member societies submitted their application to host the EuroMedLab Congress in 2027:

1. Czech Rep (CSKB): PRAGUE
2. Greece (EEKX-KB): ATHENS / THESSALONIKI
3. Turkiye (TBS): ISTANBUL
4. UK (ACB): LONDON

The IFCC and EFLM Committees will review the bids, score them and submit their joint recommendation to the IFCC and EFLM Executive Boards (EB). The final selection will be made by the IFCC EB and EFLM EB and will be announced at the next EuroMedLab congress in Brussels.

I finish my letter thanking all of you for your continued dedication and contributions to the IFCC.

With my best regards

Prof. Dr Tomris Ozben

IFCC President



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IFCC eAcademy: A Gateway to Expert Knowledge

The IFCC is pleased to present the IFCC eAcademy initiative, which has achieved remarkable achievements this year. The eAcademy (eacademy.ifcc.org) serves as a learning hub, offering registrants access to a wide array of webinars led by world-class speakers who are leaders in their respective fields.

IFCC's commitment to deliver high-quality educational resources continues to give impressive results, and we encourage everyone to take full advantage of the materials available on our platform. This year alone, we have seen incredible engagement, with over 70,000 registrants from around the world. Since 2020, the IFCC has developed its LIVE WEBINAR Series, attracting between 2,500 and 5,000 attendees per webinar, from more than 160 countries, highlighting the truly international scope of this initiative. Each webinar not only provides invaluable insights into various topics but also includes a certificate of attendance, adding value to participants' professional development.

The topics covered in the IFCC Webinars are diverse and designed to meet the broad needs of the IFCC professionals. Whether you seek updates on the latest advancements in Laboratory Medicine or aim to deepen specific expertise, the eAcademy offers continuous learning opportunities for professional growth. The growing appreciation for this IFCC educational initiative is reflected in its increasing success, evidenced by both participant numbers and high engagement during and after each webinar.

As we look ahead, we are preparing the calendar for the upcoming year. Get ready for the new 2025 IFCC Webinars Series, designed to further enrich your knowledge and skills in Laboratory Medicine. The IFCC remains committed to enhancing participants' learning experiences, ensuring that the eAcademy remains a valuable resource for all involved.

Stay tuned for updates, and don't miss the chance to participate in the 2025 eAcademy program!



Ethics in the Limelight: IFCC WorldLab Dubai 2024

IFCC Task Force on Ethics

By **Professor Angela Amayo**

The program for the recent IFCC WorldLab 2024 held in Dubai had a rich array of scientific symposia, workshops and plenary sessions touching on topics which would interest anyone in bioethical space.

Some presentations raised awareness and created opportunities for conversations on current bioethical issues. These include the symposia on Healthcare delivery in the 21st century and the role of the clinical laboratory with discussions on equity and Green Laboratories, as well as conversations on direct to consumer testing (DTCT), management of patient blood sample volumes, and role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the clinical laboratory.

The plenary lecture on Precision, Prevention and Women's Cardiovascular Health: A Global Perspective by Dr. Samia Mora smartly presented clinical perspectives on two important approaches in cardiovascular medicine as applied to women. Considering the topic with a bioethical lens shows the convergence of precision medicine that focuses on individual health with prevention versus the traditional target the entire population. The presentation showed that precision and prevention are complimentary, indicating that population health interventions can be individualized. In cardiovascular diseases where there are multiple risk factors, precision medicine can improve patient outcomes. There are some spin-offs from the concept which require bioethical direction to ensure equitable access to precision or targeted prevention: global availability of genomic and other data on effective prevention approaches, safe use of the data with possible AI supported technologies.

There have been bioethical discussions on justice of distribution, when considering management of cardiovascular diseases in women such as lower attention to cardiovascular health compared to reproductive health in spite of high morbidity and mortality caused by cardiovascular disease (CVD) in women. The presentation increased awareness of CVD in women, which should spur more efforts on provision of laboratory data to support individualization of prevention approaches for women. The global perspective taken by the presenter is in line with the IFCC mission and goals.

There was a lot to learn about global bioethics from this presentation and many similar ones at the IFCC WorldLab 2024

Ethics Front and Center at 2024 EFLM Strategic Conference in Padova, Italy

IFCC Task Force on Ethics

Ethics in laboratory medicine was at the forefront of this year's [EFLM Strategic Conference: A vision to the future: value-based Laboratory Medicine](#). The two-day scientific event was held at the 800-year-old University of Padova on September 23rd and 24th, 2024. On the first day, the sessions began in the famous Aula Magna Palazzo del Bo (Great Hall, pictured below). The Aula Magna was once used by Galileo Galilei to lecture his students. The second full day of sessions concluded at the wonderful G.B. Morgagni Hall at the University Hospital.

Several key ethical concepts were highlighted in the third session of the meeting, featuring a summative panel discussion. Speakers focused on many ethical challenges, such as big data, the use of artificial intelligence, brain-to-brain loops, and direct-to-consumer testing. Dr. Wiencek, Chair of the IFCC Task Force on Ethics, also had the opportunity to present findings on the current state of publication ethics and retraction efforts in top medical technology journals as reported by Clarivate and Retraction Watch Database. His study demonstrated that the median time to retraction was approximately two years, retracted articles had over 800 citations in total and common reason for retraction in lab medicine was fraud.

Dr. Mario Plebani, EFLM President, organized the strategic event, bringing together speakers from around the world and providing a memorable, scientifically engaging experience.

Recorded sessions are available to EFLM members.



Spotlights on “Ethics” at 56° SIBioC Meeting (Bologna, October 8–10 2024)

IFCC Task Force on Ethics

By **Dr. Martina Zaninotto**

During the national meeting of SIBioC, (Italian Society of Clinical Biochemistry and Molecular Biology) that addresses “The clinical role of the laboratory medicine in the healthcare of third millennium” a dedicated session on Ethics was presented.

The speakers focused on many ethical challenges including principal topics “Ethics of Artificial Intelligence” “Neuroethics”, “Ethics and Genetics” and “Ethics in Scientific Publication”.

All topics of the session provided important ethical and theoretical points of view and practical implications. However, the ethical aspects concerning “neuroethics” and the relationship between” ethics and genetics” brought particular attention due to the novel concerns associated to these emerging areas of science.

During the neuroethics report, several clinical cases were presented that dealt with the ethical, legal and social implications of neuroscience discoveries including the criticisms on the use of neurotechnology that could modify human behavior. In addition, this area of ethics highlighted concerns arising from the research and clinical studies in neuroscience. Noteworthy, the recent foundation of the “Italian Neuroethics Society”, suggests the relevance and key focus of this specific ethical subject.

The “ethics and genetics” presentation provided a reflection to the largely diffusion and adoption of genetic testing. It was noted to be an integral part of the medical practice to promote the public health, but, at the same time, several ethical questions arising from this new diagnostic approach, particularly the concept of the “genetic privacy” that refers to the balancing between the “right not to know” and the “duty to inform”.

At the end of the session, a short summary of the IFCC Task Force on Ethics activities was presented to the participants at the meeting, which helped to share the international perspectives and dedicated areas of focus.



Left to Right: Martina Zaninotto (Padova Italy, IFCC Task Force on Ethics Full Member) and Giuseppe Banfi (Milano Italy, SIBioC)

Podcasts on outcome studies on pharmacogenetics and POCT

By **Prof. Zhen Zhao**, Chair IFCC Task Force on Outcome Studies in Laboratory Medicine (TF-OSLM), Professor of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Weill Cornell Medicine, Director, Central Laboratory, New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center - US

The IFCC Taskforce of Outcome Studies in Laboratory Medicine is excited to continue our podcast series, where we provide practical tips and helpful guidance to assist the laboratorian/clinician to engage with and perform laboratory focused outcome studies.

In one episode, we have the privilege of speaking with Professor Ron Van Schaik, a leading expert in pharmacogenetics and clinical chemistry. He is a European Specialist in Laboratory Medicine and Full Professor of Pharmacogenetics and Clinical Chemistry. He is head of the Department of Clinical Chemistry at Erasmus MC - University Medical Center Rotterdam and Director of the International (IFCC) Expert-Center for Pharmacogenetics. In this episode titled "Pharmacogenetic: Transforming Patient Care in Precision Medicine" (<https://eacademy.ifcc.org/lessons/prof-dr-ron-van-schaik/>), Professor Van Schaik discusses the profound impact of pharmacogenetics on modern healthcare. We delve into the broad influence of pharmacogenetics across various diseases; real-world outcomes of DPYD genotype-guided dosing in cancer therapy; challenges to integrating pharmacogenetics into everyday clinical practice and promising future directions for improving patient outcomes through pharmacogenetics. One of the work that he discussed in this podcast has been included in the IFCC database of outcome studies as a highlighted article: <https://oslm.ifcc.org/publication/dpyd-genotype-guided-dose-individualisation-of-fluoropyrimidine-therapy-in-patients-with-cancer-a-prospective-safety-analysis/>

In the other episode, we were excited to interview Dr. Mashamba-Thompson, Professor and Deputy Dean: Research and Postgraduate Studies for Faculty of Health Sciences at University of Pretoria/Universiteit van Pretoria. The title of the podcast is Optimizing Health Outcomes: The Expanding Impact of Point-of-Care Testing (<https://eacademy.ifcc.org/lessons/dr-tivani-mashamba-thompson/>). She discussed how POCT is revolutionizing healthcare, bringing diagnostics closer to patients and improving outcomes worldwide. She also explored the impact of POCT on disease diagnosis and treatment; the challenges and opportunities in resource-limited countries; the operational benefits and real-world impact of POCT in primary care; and emerging technologies and the future of POCT.

Stay tuned for more exciting episodes featuring renowned experts in the field of laboratory medicine.



Professor Ron Van Schaik, Full Professor of Pharmacogenetics and Clinical Chemistry, Head of the Department of Clinical Chemistry at Erasmus MC - University Medical Center Rotterdam, Director of the International (IFCC) Expert-Center for Pharmacogenetics



Dr. Mashamba-Thompson, Professor and Deputy Dean, Research and Postgraduate Studies for Faculty of Health Sciences at University of Pretoria/Universiteit van Pretoria.

IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Programme: my experience in biochemistry and medical genetics and counselling at JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research, India.

By **Melise Naomi Banda**, Area 18 Health Centre Laboratory Intern, Malawi

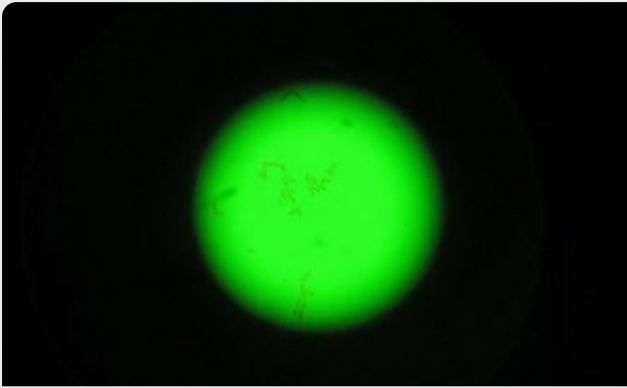
As a young scientist in a developing country, I have always wondered what the laboratory profession offers in the health sector beyond the aspects I have already seen in my country. My dream has always been to see and witness what new and advanced technologies are used in diagnosis, treatment and prognosis which is something I have only read in books through college. With the IFCC PSEP I got the chance to witness this at first hand at the JSS Hospital Laboratory in India. I got the chance to observe and practice technologies in cytogenetics such as karyotyping, fluorescence in situ hybridization, RNA and DNA extraction, purification, PCR as well as sequence analysis. In the biochemistry lab I learnt protein and hemoglobin electrophoresis, immunofixation, newborn screening using ELISA and detection by using high tech machines such as ROCHE COBAS. I got exposed to a very well managed quality system and research. All these techniques were alien to me as I only had basic theory from college and this exposure increased my knowledge and understanding of how the laboratory has an impact in the health system.

Being surrounded by researchers and excellent technologists I was challenged and motivated that there is more that the laboratory can offer out there and that I can contribute to the ever-growing circle of science. Laboratory work is not just sitting on a bench but rather doing work that improves life. In the world of research, I got exposed to trials working with drosophila, unravelling rare diseases using sequencing, diagnosing hemoglobinopathies which is something I rarely see in my own country. I achieved my objectives which were:

- To train and understand the laboratory procedures of various biochemistry and molecular tests
- To analyse step by step samples in all phases of analysis
- To understand quality policy and measures to maintain quality in the laboratory
- To understand the meaning of the results of patients
- To derive prognosis using the same results

In a nut shell, my experience through this program was epic and beyond my expectation it has awaken the scientist in me and stirred up my desire to pursue further my studies and make an impact in the world of science. I am fully grateful to the IFCC for having chosen me to go through the PSEP program and for funding. Thank you to my national society, Malawi Association of Medical laboratory Scientists (MAMLS) for recommencing me to IFCC and Mr Patrick Mkunga for supervising me as an intern at Area 18 Health Centre. Many thanks to Dr Akila Prashant, MD, Head of Biochemistry, Medical genetics and Laboratory services at JSS AHER for accepting to host me in their laboratory. I would also like to thank the biochemistry team for training me and making my stay very conducive. And to the cytogenetics team that inspired me to still pursue my dreams in molecular studies.

IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Programme: my experience in biochemistry and medical genetics and counselling at JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research, India.



My metaphase magnified at 100x during capturing for karyotype.



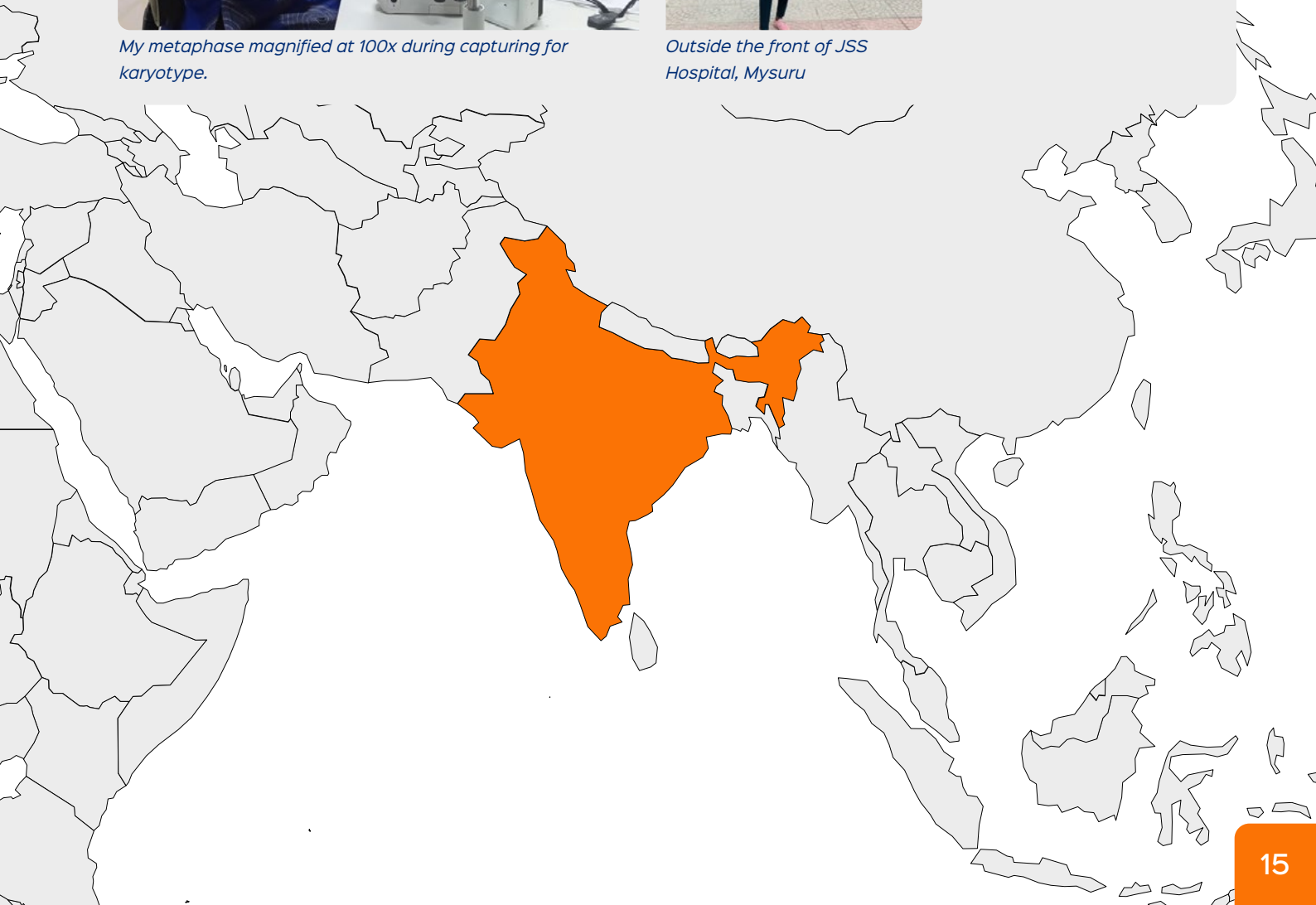
With Dr Akila Prashant MD, host, Professor and head at JSS hospital laboratory, Dr Asees cytogenetics fellow from Palestine.



My metaphase magnified at 100x during capturing for karyotype.



Outside the front of JSS Hospital, Mysuru



IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Programme: my experience at Monash Health Pathology in Melbourne, Australia

By **Kobe Truijens**, Department of Laboratory Medicine, University Hospitals Leuven, Leuven, Belgium

Over the past three months, from June 1st to August 31st, I had the privilege to participate in a professional scientific exchange. This exchange was from my home institution, the University Hospitals of Leuven, Belgium, to Monash Health Pathology in Melbourne, Australia. This opportunity was made possible by the IFCC's professional scientific exchange program, and I am very grateful for their support. The research I conducted during this exchange focused on evaluating the current state of pediatric reference intervals for testosterone (T), dihydrotestosterone (DHT), and testosterone/dihydrotestosterone ratio by mass spectrometry.

The project started with a general introduction of the clinical laboratory at Monash Health Pathology by Prof. James Doery, allowing me to observe their laboratory processes and compare them with those at my home institution. This was followed by an introduction from Prof. Zhong Lu, who presented the ongoing projects at Monash Health Pathology related to reference intervals and the statistical methods recently used to validate and stratify TSH reference intervals by age, based on physiological changes. Based on their methodology and my skills, we further refined our previously established research proposal, ensuring it was aligned with the needs and expertise of both teams.

We began with a comprehensive literature review of currently available pediatric reference intervals for testosterone, dihydrotestosterone, and T/DHT ratio analyzed by mass spectrometry. While I had prior experience in literature review, Prof. Lu and Prof. Doery provided valuable insights for processing the data more efficiently and presenting it in a clearer format. I gained considerable experience from Prof. Lu, who has lots of prior expertise in data analysis and reference interval studies, which helped organize the extracted reference intervals in the most concise way possible. This created a mutually beneficial collaboration, where Prof. Lu guided the visualization process, and I applied my knowledge of statistical programs to process the data.

To verify the published reference intervals, we conducted a retrospective data analysis covering 10 years at Monash Health Pathology. We extracted all available data and compared it to the reference intervals gathered during the literature review. This approach allowed us to map the existing heterogeneity and identify gaps in the reference intervals published in academic literature. We found that current reference intervals show variability in their lower and upper limits, as well as inconsistencies in the applied age partitions, which often fail to consider the physiological changes associated with child development. Based on the literature review and collected data, the three of us collaborated to conceptualize and structure a manuscript, which will soon be submitted to the electronic journal of the IFCC.

In the coming months, we aim to continue the collaboration between Monash Health Pathology and the University Hospitals of Leuven by initiating a 'call for data.' We will seek real-world lab data from various laboratories to build a sufficiently large dataset that will enable the establishment of age partitions that accurately reflect the biochemistry of children.

This collaboration has led to a relationship between the two tertiary laboratories, opening opportunities for further cooperation. Personally, I have gained valuable skills through this project, including conducting reference interval studies, data analysis, and data visualization. Additionally, we hope that our work will raise awareness about current pediatric reference intervals of testosterone and dihydrotestosterone in children, with the goal of improving these reference intervals in the future.

*IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Programme: my
experience at Monash Health Pathology in Melbourne, Australia*



*Involved persons in the professional scientific exchange (from
left to right): prof. Zhong X. Lu, Kobe Truijens, prof. James
Doery.*



IFCC Abbott Visiting Lecture Programme (VLP): XXVII Congress of the Latin American Association of Clinical Pathology/Laboratory Medicine (ALAPAC), III Peruvian International Congress of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, X Peruvian Congress of Clinical Pathology

By **Prof Tomris Ozben**, IFCC President

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the EMD Chair, Prof. Nader Rifai, EMD VLP Chair, Prof. Sedef Yenice and Abbott company for supporting my attendance as a visiting lecturer to the XXVIIth Congress of the Latin American Association of Clinical Pathology / Laboratory Medicine – ALAPAC, jointly organized with the IIIrd Peruvian International Congress of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Xth Peruvian Congress of Clinical Pathology which was held from October 9 to 12, 2024 in Lima, Peru.

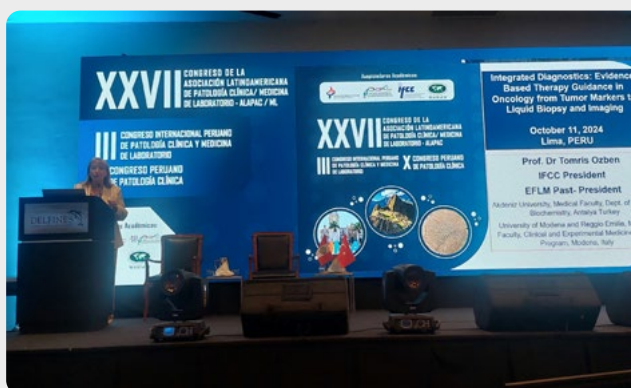
I Congratulate Dr Luis Figueroa Montes, as the President of the ALAPAC and President of the Peruvian Medical Association of Clinical Pathology (AMPPC) and Dra. Carolina Cucho Espinoza as the President of the ALAPAC 2024 Congress for organizing a very successful congress in every aspect: The program was comprehensive, the attendance was high, and the enthusiasm for the scientific sessions was remarkable, indicating great interest in the program and speakers and attendance of the IVD companies to the exhibition was great. I would like to express my thanks to all those who contributed to the realization of the congress. Congratulations and thank you.

Their hospitality was deeply appreciated and unforgettable.

During the congress, I presented two lectures on

1. Recent advances and challenges in laboratory medicine
2. Integrated diagnostics: evidence-based therapy guide in medical oncology tumor markers to immunohistochemistry, liquid biopsy and imaging.

I received good questions and congratulations for my presentations from the audience.



Prof Ozben delivering her presentation



Prof Ozben with participants in the Congress

IFCC Abbott Visiting Lecture Programme (VLP): XXVII Congress of the Latin American Association of Clinical Pathology/Laboratory Medicine (ALAPAC), III Peruvian International Congress of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, X Peruvian Congress of Clinical Pathology

By **Fábio Vasconcellos Brazão**, President of the Board of Past Presidents of the Brazilian Society of Clinical Pathology/Laboratory Medicine - SBPC/ML - 2024/2025 Biennium, President of SBPC/ML - 2022/2023 Biennium

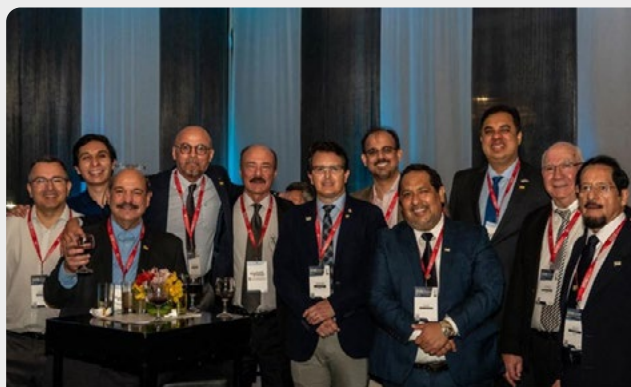
I would like to thank the IFCC and Abbott for the opportunity to travel to Lima, Peru to participate in the XXVII Congress of the Latin American Association of Clinical Pathology / Laboratory Medicine – Alapac, III Peruvian International Congress of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and X Peruvian Congress of Clinical Pathology.

The event was excellent, being an opportunity for technical and scientific updates, relationships with the diagnostic industry and networking among colleagues from several Latin American countries, in addition to the brilliant presence of Dr. Tomris Ozben, President of the IFCC.

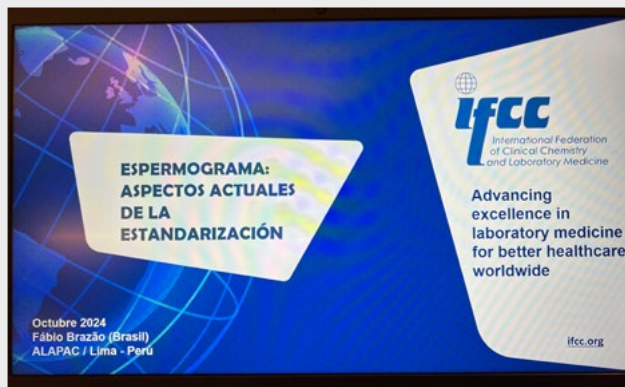
We participated in the opening ceremony, gala dinner, ALAPAC assembly, scientific activities in classrooms and the closing ceremony. We presented the lecture: *Spermogram: current aspects of standardization* and participated in the book launch, where our Brazilian Society of Clinical Pathology / Laboratory Medicine presented the following books: *Laboratory tests in emergency medicine* (Spanish), *Laboratory accreditation program 2025* (Spanish) and *25 stories that examine Clinical Pathology*.

We were very well received by our Peruvian colleagues, especially Drs. Luis Figueroa Montes, Carolina Cucho Espinoza and Zulema Berrios Fuentes, organizers of the conferences.

Many thanks to the IFCC - International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine and the Asociación Médica Peruana de Patología Clínica for the opportunity and I congratulate you on your interest in investing in the dissemination of technical-scientific knowledge in Latin America.



Cocktail after the opening ceremony of Congress, with colleagues from various scientific societies.

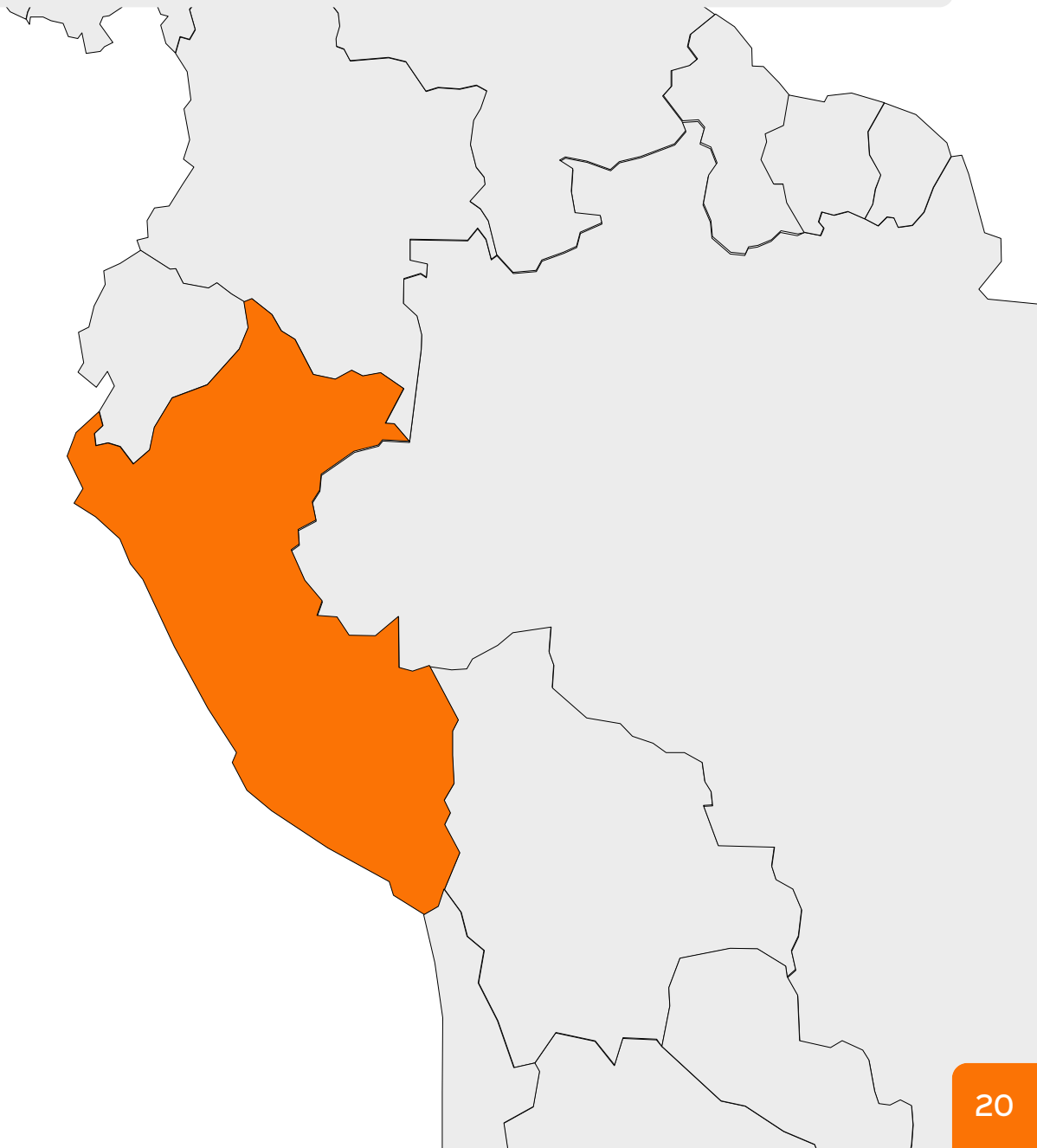


IFCC roundtable, where I presented the topic: Spermogram: current aspects of standardization

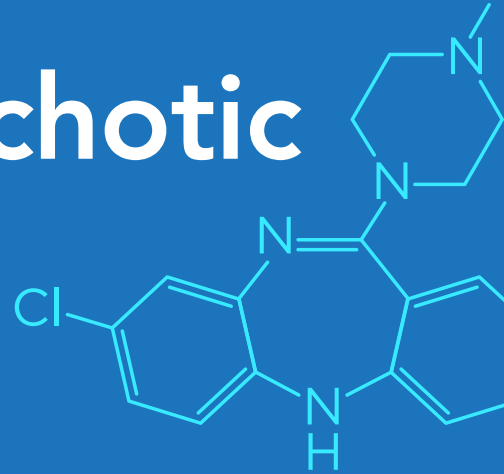
IFCC Abbott Visiting Lecture Programme (VLP): XXVII Congress of the Latin American Association of Clinical Pathology/Laboratory Medicine (ALAPAC), III Peruvian International Congress of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, X Peruvian Congress of Clinical Pathology



Congress closing ceremony



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website: <http://www.ifcc.org/>

From: Prof. Khosrow Adeli – Chair, IFCC Awards Committee

Date: 22 October 2024

Ref: Call for Nominations for IFCC Distinguished Awards 2025

TO: Presidents and National Representatives of IFCC Member Societies

As you are aware, the IFCC confers several Distinguished Awards to scientists and clinicians who work in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine or related disciplines. These Awards are the highest honours that our Federation can bestow to colleagues worldwide in recognition of their outstanding achievements, to publicize their exceptional research and other contributions that have improved medical and healthcare, and to stimulate and encourage other scientists to accelerate their efforts in advancing clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine.

On behalf of IFCC and its Awards Committee, I am pleased to call for nominations for the following **IFCC Distinguished Awards** for presentation at the **IFCC EuroMedLab Congress in May 2025, Brussels (Belgium)**:

1. IFCC-Henry Wishinsky Award for Distinguished International Service (since 1990 - IFCC Distinguished International Services Award (1981-1987).
2. IFCC Award for Distinguished Contributions in Education.
3. IFCC-Robert Shaffer Award for Outstanding Achievements in the Development of Standards for Use in Laboratory Medicine.
4. IFCC Distinguished Award for Contributions to the Cardiovascular Diagnostics.
5. IFCC Young Investigator Award.

The following IFCC Distinguished Awards will be presented in October 2026 in New Delhi (India) and a different call for nominations will be issued in due time:

1. IFCC Howard Morris Distinguished Clinical Chemist Award (since 2020) IFCC Distinguished Clinical Chemist Award (1967- 2017).
2. IFCC Award for Significant Contributions in Molecular Diagnostics.
3. IFCC Distinguished Award for Laboratory Medicine and Patient Care.
4. IFCC-Gérard Siest Award Young Scientist Award for Distinguished Contributions in Pharmacogenetics.
5. IFCC Distinguished Woman Scientist Award for Contribution to In Vitro Diagnostics.

Nominations are welcome from the President or National Representative of the nominees' national society, which should be a member of the IFCC. Each nomination should contain (1) a statement as to the reasons for nomination, (2) a full CV of the nominees including a bibliography, and (3) other letters of support (optional). They should be sent to Silvia Colli-Lanzi at the IFCC Office, (colli-lanzi@ifcc.org).

Each country/society can only nominate candidates for **a maximum of 2 awards**. This rule allows a better distribution of awards to scientists from various regions around the world.

For the 2025 Awards, the closing date for receipt of nominations is 31st December 2024.

Please do not hesitate to write to Silvia Colli-Lanzi or me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Khosrow Adeli
Chair, IFCC Awards Committee

IFCC: the people

IFCC Calls for Nominations

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

Communications and Publications Division (CPD)

[IFCC eNews Editor position](#) and [WG eNews Chair position](#) - [see here](#) the call for nominations

Please send nominations for above CPD position to Silvia Colli Lanzi (colli-lanzi@ifcc.org) by 30th November 2024



Education and Management Division (EMD)

- [Committee for Point of Care Testing \(C-POCT\)](#)
1 member position and **1 corporate member position** - [see here](#) the call for nominationsPlease send the C-POCT nominations to Silvia Cardinale (cardinale@ifcc.org) by 10th December 2024
- [Committee on Evidence-Based Laboratory Medicine \(C-EBLM\)](#)
2 member positions - [see here](#) the call for nominationsPlease send the C-EBLM nominations to Silvia Cardinale (cardinale@ifcc.org) by 15th December 2024

For any further information on nominations, please refer to your National or Corporate Representative - contacts are available [here](#).

Interview with Prof. Tahir Pillay, who is finishing his term as Chair of the IFCC Communications and Publications Division (CPD)

By **Dra. Maria Pasquel-Moxley**, CPD C-PR Chair



Prof. Tahir Pillay
CPD Chair



Dra. Maria Pasquel-Moxley
CPD C-PR Chair

Presentation:

Professor Tahir Pillay:

Clinical Director of International Activities.

Professor Tahir Pillay is full Professor and Head of the Department of Chemical Pathology and overall Pathology Head, University of Pretoria & National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS), Honorary Professor of Chemical Pathology, University of Cape Town (UCT) in South Africa. He is immediate past President of the South African Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (SAACB). He is also Chair of the Communications and Publication Division (CPD) of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry & Laboratory Medicine (IFCC), the first person from Africa to lead a division of the IFCC in its 75 years history. He was previously head of Chemical Pathology at UCT and Deputy Vice Chancellor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Deputy Director, Institute of Cell Signalling, University of Nottingham, UK.

He currently holds the highest research ranking of any chemical pathologist in South Africa by the National Research Foundation, South Africa and one of only two full professors of chemical pathology in South Africa. He is a board member of the World Association of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine (WASPALM) and the Medical Research Council (MRC), South Africa. He is also one of only two pathologists in South Africa who is an elected member of the Academy of Science of South Africa.

He has previously served on the international committee of the Royal College of Pathologists as country advisor for South Africa. He has served on the Publications Core Committee of the American Association of Clinical Chemistry (now the Association of Diagnostic Laboratory Medicine), the first member of an AACC committee from outside North America. Nationally, he has served as Ministerial appointee to the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) Medical and Dental Board (MDB); Council member of the College of Pathologists, SA and Senate member of the Colleges of Medicine, SA; member of the Postgraduate Education and Training committee, HPCSA MDB; chair of the Curriculum Committee and Standard Generating Body of the HPCSA-MDB; member of the Clinical Chemistry Expert committee, National Health Laboratory Service. He is also a member of the WHO Expert panel on Point-of-care testing (2022).

He has also served as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Clinical Pathology for two terms. Professor Pillay has an MBChB cum laude from the University of Natal and a PhD in biochemistry from the University of Cambridge. He completed his postgraduate specialist training at Imperial College and postdoctoral training in molecular and cellular endocrinology at the University of California San Diego. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists, London and the College of Pathologists, South Africa. Professor Pillay's research publications span molecular cell biology of insulin signaling and insulin resistance, molecular modeling of ligand-receptor complexes, and development of new diagnostic probes for laboratory diagnostics and toxicology using recombinant DNA technology.

He is pioneering the increased application of single domain antibodies/nanobodies in pathology and laboratory medicine and forensic toxicology. His group received the first prize in the 2020 GAP Innovation award run by Emory University and TIA for the development of a nanobody based test for Covid-19. He is also a chapter contributor to the two most prestigious textbooks in Clinical Chemistry and Lab Medicine – Tietz Textbook of Clinical Chemistry, 7th edition (published Aug 2022) and Tietz Fundamentals of Clinical Chemistry (published in 2023).

He is also sole author of two 4-dimensional electronic books in laboratory medicine ("Practical Clinical Chemistry: core concepts"; "Interactive mathematics for laboratory medicine") that have been released in 52 countries.

In 2023 and 2024, he has been listed in the Pathologist magazine Power List as one of the Top 100 most influential people in pathology – specifically, as one of the Top 20 Champions for Change.

In his spare time, he produces deep house and electronic dance music through his record label, DJ Kempat.

Interview:

Dear Prof. Tahir Pillay, it is a great pleasure for me to address you and conduct a short interview for the IFCC eNews.

I had the opportunity to meet you since 2012 when you were the editor of the eNews and I was the Chair of the Working Group on Nomenclature and Translation (WG-IANT) of the Ibero-American Corner (RIA) which also belongs to the Division that you have directed in these last 6 years.

You have been a great example of work and dedication to carry out the projects of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine.

In this December 2024 you will finish your activity in this position. For this reason, I would like to conduct a short interview with you. The questions are as follows.

1.- Can you give us a summary of your career in IFCC?

My career with the IFCC spans 12 years. I am Chair of the Communications and Publication Division (CPD) of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry & Laboratory Medicine (IFCC), the first person from Africa to lead a division of the IFCC in its 75 years history. I am completing my 6 years term as chair. I was previously the eNews editor for the IFCC. The CPD is responsible for the IFCC electronic journal and the newsletter, as well as the IFCC website. During my terms on the CPD, the e-journal achieved PubMed listing and the eNews was completely overhauled and is the primary source of information for IFCC member country activities. I was also co-president for Worldlab 2017 which was held in Durban, and this was the first and only time that it was held in Africa and was highly successful.

2.- What is your best experience in your activities with IFCC?

My best experience in the IFCC has been the opportunity to interact with and engage with all the IFCC colleagues, both junior and senior, at various levels over the years. I have, not only made lifelong friends and collaborators, but I also learned so much from the colleagues that I interacted

with, both in a personal and professional context. I have not only acquired scientific knowledge but also important personal skills from the exposure I received.

3.- What would you recommend to young professionals in laboratory medicine about their participation in IFCC?

Young professionals should seize every opportunity to participate in the activities of the IFCC both at committee level and conference events. This is important for professional and personal growth as a laboratory medicine professional.

4.- Can you give us a message for our readers?

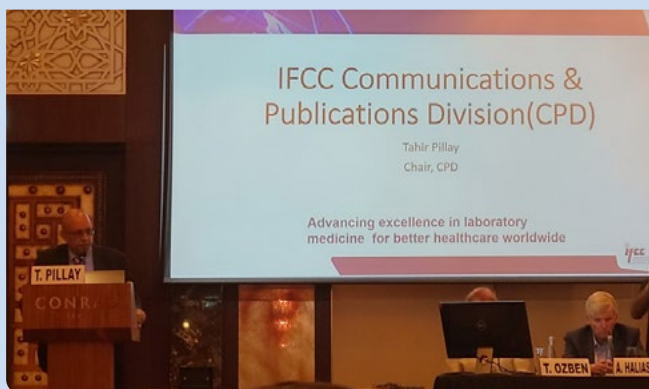
We work in a noble profession that is critical for healthcare. We need to be advocates for the profession and for the IFCC and strive to raise the profile of laboratory medicine in every context we work in and where we may find ourselves. Collectively, we can change and improve the landscape of healthcare for the betterment of humankind.



From left to right, the group that makes up the Communications and Publications Division (CPD) of IFCC. Dr. Kannan Vaidyanathan (IN), Co-Editor eJIFCC; Dra. María del C. Pasquel-Moxley (EC), Public Relations Coordinator; Dr. Deniz Topcu (TR), Publications/Distance Learning Coordinator; Dr. Bryan Adriansee (NL) Consultant, Dr. Colleen Strain (CA), Corporate Representative; Prof. Tahir Pillay (ZA), CPD Chair; Dr. Harjit Bhattoa (HU); Silvia Colli Lanzi (IT) IFCC office. not in the picture, Dr. Katherina PSARRA (GR), News Editor.



Prof. Tahir Pillay received the plaque of recognition from the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC), upon completing his term as Chair of the IFCC Communications and Publications Committee (CPD-IFCC), presented to him by Dr. María del Carmen Pasquel-Moxley, during the group's meetings in Amsterdam, 10 October 2024.



Prof. Tahir Pillay presenting his CPD report during WorldLab in Dubai. May 2024

Dear Prof. Tahir Pillay, I am very grateful for your time for this interview, and congratulations for your excellent performance in the activities that have been under your charge at IFCC.

IFCC: the Young Scientists

Meet a Young Scientist from the IFCC Task Force Young Scientists

Spotlight on: **Matthijs Oyaert**, IFCC Task Force Young Scientists corresponding member from Belgium, nominated by the Royal Belgian Society of Laboratory Medicine (RBSLM)



Could you please introduce yourself and share a bit about your background?

I'm Matthijs Oyaert and I graduated as a master in drug development (pharmacy) in 2011 and master in clinical biology in 2016 at the KU Leuven and started working as a clinical biologist at the clinical laboratory of the Ghent University hospital. In 2021, I obtained my PhD at the Ghent University Hospital entitled "New developments in the laboratory diagnosis of urinary tract pathology" under the supervision of Prof. Joris Delanghe. I am now a clinical biologist with a special interest in clinical chemistry and related.

What is your current role in the lab?

In the laboratory of clinical chemistry and hematology, I'm responsible for a broad variety of (automated) routine clinical chemistry and immunochemistry tests and urinary test strip and particle analysis. In addition, I'm involved in the laboratory diagnosis of auto-immune and neuroinflammatory diseases. Besides my activity in the Sciensano expert group of TDM, chemistry and immunochemistry and member of the European Federation of Laboratory Medicine (EFLM), I'm an active member of the current Royal Belgian Society of Laboratory Medicine (RBSLM) board. Since 2021, I am involved in the EFLM Task and Finish Group on Urinalysis under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Timo Kouri.

Could you give us a brief introduction to your national society and its main activities?

The Royal Belgian Society of Laboratory Medicine aims to represent the scientific and clinical interests of laboratory medicine in Belgium, including fields such as clinical biology,

biochemistry, hematology, microbiology, and emerging related disciplines. The Society was established to foster scientific progress and enhances expertise through the development of knowledge, guidelines, technical and medical innovations, standardization, quality control, patient safety, and both theoretical and practical training in laboratory medicine. Our mission is to serve as a scientific authority and expert group in dealings with the Belgian Institute of Health (SCIENSANO), clinical laboratories, the medical-diagnostic and pharmaceutical sectors, as well as associations of general practitioners and medical specialists. Currently, I'm the president elect of the RBSLM. One of the roles that I'm currently involved in is the organization of our annual meeting.

What are your future collaborative project with IFCC Task Force Young Scientists?

In the future, I would like to be involved by contributing to scientific discussions, collaborating on research initiatives, and participating in conferences aimed at fostering knowledge exchange and networking among young professionals in laboratory medicine.

How can Young Scientists from your national society get additional information about the activities of the association and activities with the IFCC Task Force Young Scientists?

By e-mail at matthijs.oyaert@uzgent.be

Spotlight on: Elias Chipofya,
IFCC Task Force Young
Scientists corresponding
member from Malawi, nominated
by the Malawi Association of
Medical Laboratory Scientists
(MAMLS)



Could you please introduce yourself and share a bit about your background?

I am Elias Chipofya, a young scientist from Malawi. I am currently pursuing a PhD in Biomedical Sciences, specialising in Medical Biochemistry, under the guidance of Dr. Taskeen F. Docrat and Professor Jeanine L. Marnewick. I am affiliated with the Applied Microbial Health and Biotechnology Institute (AMHBI) at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology in Cape Town, South Africa. My research focuses on identifying molecular biomarkers that characterise and validate the mechanisms of action of herbal medicines, particularly Rooibos, a traditional South African herbal tea. Furthermore, I explore how these biomarkers can be utilised to monitor the progression of neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and evaluate novel preventive strategies. I am also dedicated to fostering the growth of young scientists in Malawi. Since 2014, I have been actively engaged with the Malawi Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists (MAMLS), where I have organised numerous national conferences and workshops centred on laboratory quality management and leadership. Additionally, I have authored over 50 articles in both print and online newspapers aimed at promoting laboratory medicine. I was honoured to receive the Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (Malawi) Award for Excellence in Laboratory Medicine in 2022, recognising my contributions to advancing laboratory diagnostics and improving patient care. This prestigious award has motivated me to continue pursuing excellence in my field and positively impacting healthcare.

Could you please present the national society you represent and your activities in your national society?

I am a proud member of the MAMLS, a professional organisation dedicated to promoting and safeguarding the interests of medical laboratory science professionals in Malawi. We engage in a range of professional activities, including advocacy to raise awareness of the vital role of medical laboratory scientists in healthcare through media, public speaking, and social media campaigns; fostering networking and mentorship among professionals nationally and internationally; organising workshops, conferences, and training programs for professional development; and collaborating with the African Federation for Clinical Chemistry (AFCC) and IFCC young scientists to promote global standards and best practices. We are committed to empowering young scientists and advancing healthcare in Malawi.

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

I have been actively involved in the IFCC Young Scientist Mentoring Programme and LabSurfing since 2015. Under the mentorship of Dr Mike Hallworth (UK) and Dr Graham Beastall (UK), I have gained valuable experience and knowledge in medical laboratory science.

In 2023, I was honoured to receive an IFCC Roche Travel Scholarship and attend the IFCC Forum for Young Scientists in Rome, Italy. This experience allowed me to network with other IFCC young scientists, learn about the latest advancements in the field, and present my research. I am eager to continue my involvement in the IFCC Young Scientist Forum and would like to attend the upcoming event in 2025.

Did you participate in an exchange programme in your career?

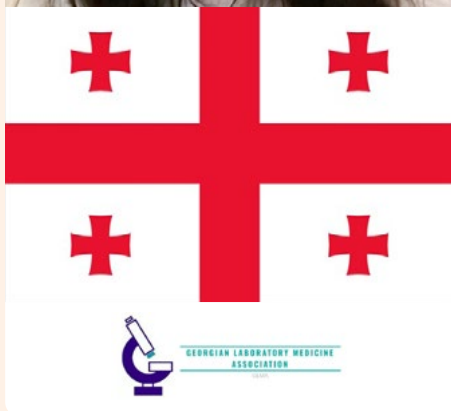
While I have not personally participated in an exchange program, I have collaborated with international colleagues and attended international conferences. I have been selected to participate

in the 2nd Neuropharmacology Research and Drug Development School, to be held in Harare, Zimbabwe, from November 22nd to 26th, 2024. This workshop will provide participants with valuable insights into pharmacological principles and practices relevant to harnessing the potential of African medicinal plants in the management of neurological disorders. The workshop is sponsored by the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) through the African Regional Committee (ARC), in collaboration with the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Zimbabwe. These experiences have allowed me to develop a global perspective and broaden my understanding of different cultures and research practices.

How can YS from your national society get additional information about the activities of the association and activities with the IFCC Task Force Young Scientists?

Young scientists from Malawi are encouraged to contact me at eliaschipofya@gmail.com or through MAMLS channels. I am happy to share more about my role with the MAMLS and IFCC Task Force Young Scientists.

Spotlight on: Tamar Ramishvili, IFCC Task Force Young Scientists corresponding member from Georgia, nominated by the Georgian Laboratory Medicine Association (GLMA)



Could you please introduce yourself?

My name is Tamar Ramishvili – a young scientist from Georgia. I am a corresponding member of the IFCC Task Force Young Scientists nominated from the national Georgian Laboratory Medicine Association (GLMA)

Could you share a bit about your background?

I am a medical Doctor of Laboratory Medicine and represent Genetic department of “Mrcheveli” laboratory – a local medical laboratory in Tbilisi, a capital city of Georgia, where I am working from 2013.

What is your current role in the lab?

My daily activities are very different from each other, as I am involved in the processes of the local PCR laboratory, as well as in the preanalytics and clinical part of the genetic counseling. Medical Center “Mrcheveli” in addition to the local laboratory, cooperates with Limbach&Kollegen Laboratory in Germany and also with different genetic laboratories throughout the world, by which means we have the possibility to send patient samples for wide spectrum of human genetic testing in any of them, depending on their offer. On the days when I do not have duty in a local laboratory, I'm involved in the process of patient preparation for each genetic study, which includes the preparation of patient medical history and disease-specific questionnaires. Sample preparation, transportation of material in accordance with appropriate standards, validation and translation of the results, interpretation processes with the patients are also my responsibilities. I also communicate with my colleagues from Pediatric department as well as with colleagues from our partner genetic centers abroad and once a week have a team work to review and present each genetic case and result before counseling and presenting the report to the patient.

Could you please present the national society you represent and your activities in your national society?

The Association of Laboratory Medicine of Georgia was founded in 1998. The primary goal of the association is to raise the awareness of laboratory medicine in Georgia, to introduce the latest methods and technologies available at the international level, and to raise the qualifications of laboratory personnel. I have been a member of this society for almost 10 years, and from 2024, I am an active member of International Relations Development Committee of GLMA – GLMA CIRDC. Also, I have been actively involved in the organizing committee of the association's annual conferences, such as our 6th annual conference, which takes place on 30th November 2024. Many of our members also represent our society in IFCC and EFLM international working groups.

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

For the first time I met young scientists from IFCC in 2015 during the 21th IFCC-EFLM Euromedlab congress in Paris and this is one of the most remarkable dates in my life and in my scientific activities. I joined the IFCC Task Force-Young Scientists as a corresponding member in 2020 and since then I had the chance to participate in the organization of the IFCC FORUM for Young Scientists all three editions in Seoul, Rome and Dubai. The entire time of period of activities, including group meetings, conferences, projects etc. has been a wonderful networking opportunity and allowed me to acquire not only new contacts or colleagues, also best friends from other young scientists around the world. In the future, I would like to continue and participate more in the IFCC Young Scientists activities and projects and also share the experience I have with all my colleagues.

Did you participate in an exchange programme in your career?

Last year, I had an honor and opportunity to take part in the EFLM LabX program and visit the institute of Medical Biochemistry and laboratory diagnostics – General University Hospital and the 1st Medical faculty of Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic. This is a real highlight in my career. With supervision by Prof. Tomáš Zima and Dr. Ivan Šebesta I had the opportunity to get acquainted with laboratory activities in such areas as: Cytogenetics, Molecular Genetics, Prenatal and neonatal screening and inborn error diagnostics. It was a really great chance for me to look at the daily work and practice, and colleagues from the host laboratories showed me around each segment of the lab, what I was interested in and asking for. For the future, I hope that I will have a chance to participate in another exchange program to deepen my knowledge and experience in the part of the laboratory where I work and especially in the bioinformatic processing of genetic information, which I am currently very interested in.

How does Young Scientists from your national society can contact you for any additional information about activities of the IFCC Task Force Young Scientists?

The GLMA website and social networks have listed me as a corresponding member of the IFCC Task Force-Young Scientists. I would be more than glad to discuss with all who are interested in IFCC TF-YS activities. My contact email is tamarramishvili@yahoo.com

Contribute to IFCC eNews

Improving access to health services in vulnerable communities affected by war

The ability to consistently and reliably access medical testing and care is paramount for ensuring population health and wellness. When essential services such as diagnostic testing are suddenly unavailable, the consequences can be dire. The war in Ukraine has had a significant and devastating impact on healthcare and access to essential care needed to save lives and improve health. Consequently, lack of access to diagnostic testing has decreased identification of high risk individuals with chronic diseases, including heart disease and diabetes. Notably, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that an approximately 10,000 deaths have occurred due to heart disease and stroke in Ukraine since the war started.



From left to right: Olena Yanchinska, Anna Konyk, Viktoriia Honcharenko, Iryna Mandzyuk, Liudmyla Kostiuk

To help improve access to care, Esculab Medical Laboratory implemented several social initiatives. The initiatives facilitated and coordinated medical tests for Ukrainians in need of standard diagnostic testing, including glucose, iron, liver function tests, cholesterol, ABO blood typing, thyroid-stimulating hormone, prolactin, lipid profile, and more. Many of these tests are available free of charge or at reduced costs to those in need. As a result of the social initiatives, more than 90,000 Ukrainians had been provided with free medical analyses, which also raised awareness on the importance of prevention and early detection of diseases, even during times of war.

For their leadership and collaborative efforts, this integrated clinical care team received 2024 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence awards Recognition of Distinction. Congratulations to Anna Konyk, *Chief Marketing Officer*, Iryna Mandzyuk, *Chief Product Officer*, Olena Yanchinska, *Chief Production Officer*, Liudmyla Kostiuk, *Head of the Bacteriological Laboratory*, Viktoriia Honcharenko, *Public Relations and Communication Manager*.

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News from Regional Federations and Member Societies

XLVI National Congress of Clinical Chemists and Expoquim Morelia 2024 E.H.D.L. Carlos Alonso Muñoz

By **Quím. Juan del Toro Herrera, Quím. Araceli Hernández Hernández, PhD. Dinorah Márquez Acosta**

The XLVI National Congress of Clinical Chemists E.H.D.L. Carlos Alonso Muñoz, organized by the National Federation of Clinical Chemists CONAQUIC, A.C. and the collaboration of the College of Clinical Chemists of the State of Michoacán (COQUICEM) was held from September 9 to 14, 2024 in the beautiful city of Morelia in the state of Michoacán. It was consolidated as an event of great relevance in the field of Clinical Chemistry, endorsed by the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) and the Latin American Confederation of Clinical Chemistry (COLABIOCLI). This congress not only honored the career of Chemist Carlos Alonso Muñoz, but also brought together prominent professionals and authorities in the sector. The congress offered a total



Master of ceremonies Carlos Francisco Contreras Garate, and presidium made up of M.A.N. Rafael Rivera Barragán President of the National Forum of Professional Colleges of Michoacán, E.H.D.L. Carlos Alonso Muñoz, Honored Chemist, Dr. María Monserrat Blanes, IFCC guest speaker, Chem. Juan del Toro Herrera, president of CONAQUIC, M.S.P. Gloria Alicia Figueroa Aguilar, Head of the State Public Health Laboratory of Michoacán, Quím. Elik E. Alonso Muñoz President of COQUICEM, Dr. Paul Álvaro Justiniano Grosz, President of COLABIOCLI; MC Rosa María García Martínez, Director of the Faculty of Chemistry of the Michoacana University of San Nicolás Hidalgo; Chem. Angelina Baray Calderón, Secretary of Continuing Education of CONAQUIC, who stressed the importance of this meeting for advancement and updating in the field.

of 17 workshops focused on topics relevant to Clinical Chemists with the participation of national and international experts. In these workshops the educational experience was enriched, since attendees had the opportunity to interact directly with recognized professionals in their respective fields. The workshops offered a practical approach, allowing participants to not only acquire theoretical knowledge, but also apply what they learned to real situations. This type of training is vital to improve the technical competencies and skills necessary in the clinical laboratory.



Dr. Paul Álvaro Justiniano Grosz, President mCOLABIOCLI,
Quím. Elik Alonso Muñoz, President COQUICEM, Avatar
CONAQUIC "Chemie"



Workshops

25 conferences were given, among which the Microbiology Forum stood out, where experts discussed the impact of microorganisms on future pandemics, a critical topic in the current context. The keynote conferences were another highlight of the event. There was the brilliant participation of Dr. Paul Álvaro Justiniano Grosz, president of COLABIOCLI, who addressed the crucial issue of the impact of technology and knowledge in the clinical diagnosis process, as well as of Dr. Joaquín Carrillo Farga, expert researcher in hematology. These talks not only enriched the technical knowledge of attendees, but also fostered a dialogue about emerging trends in Clinical Chemistry.

During the Congress, two other events of great importance for the participants were held: a) the Knowledge Olympics, in which various Universities in Mexico participate, this time in its third edition. It is through them that promising young people emerge. b) In the field of academic excellence, the traditional Scientific Poster Contest was also held in its different categories. For both events, participants received the corresponding awards at the closing event.



Members of the Universidad de Ixtlahuaca (CUI) winners of the
third Olympiad.



Participants in the Contest of Scientific Posters.

An important space during the celebration of the congress is that reserved for EXPOQUIM, considered as a complement to the professional updating of those attending the Congress by having the opportunity to learn about cutting-edge technology in laboratory devices and equipment from prestigious international brands as well as knowing reagent supply companies, reference service companies, laboratory administrative systems, all of this, applicable to the improvement of their professional activities.

Social events included the Icebreaker Cocktail Party and Congress Gala Dinner, which not only enriched the event experience, but also played a crucial role in creating a collaborative and

supportive environment among Clinical Chemists, fostering lasting relationships and opportunities for professional growth.

The XLVI National Congress of Clinical Chemists E.H.D.L. Carlos Alonso Muñoz was a resounding success, combining education, collaboration networks and professional recognition in an environment conducive to continued growth and development in Clinical Chemistry. These types of events are essential to strengthen professional capabilities and foster a collaborative community among Clinical Chemists at a national and international level. The National Federation of Clinical Chemists CONAQUIC reaffirms its commitment to the continuing education and unity of Clinical Chemists, promoting professional growth and excellence in service through collaboration and constant learning.



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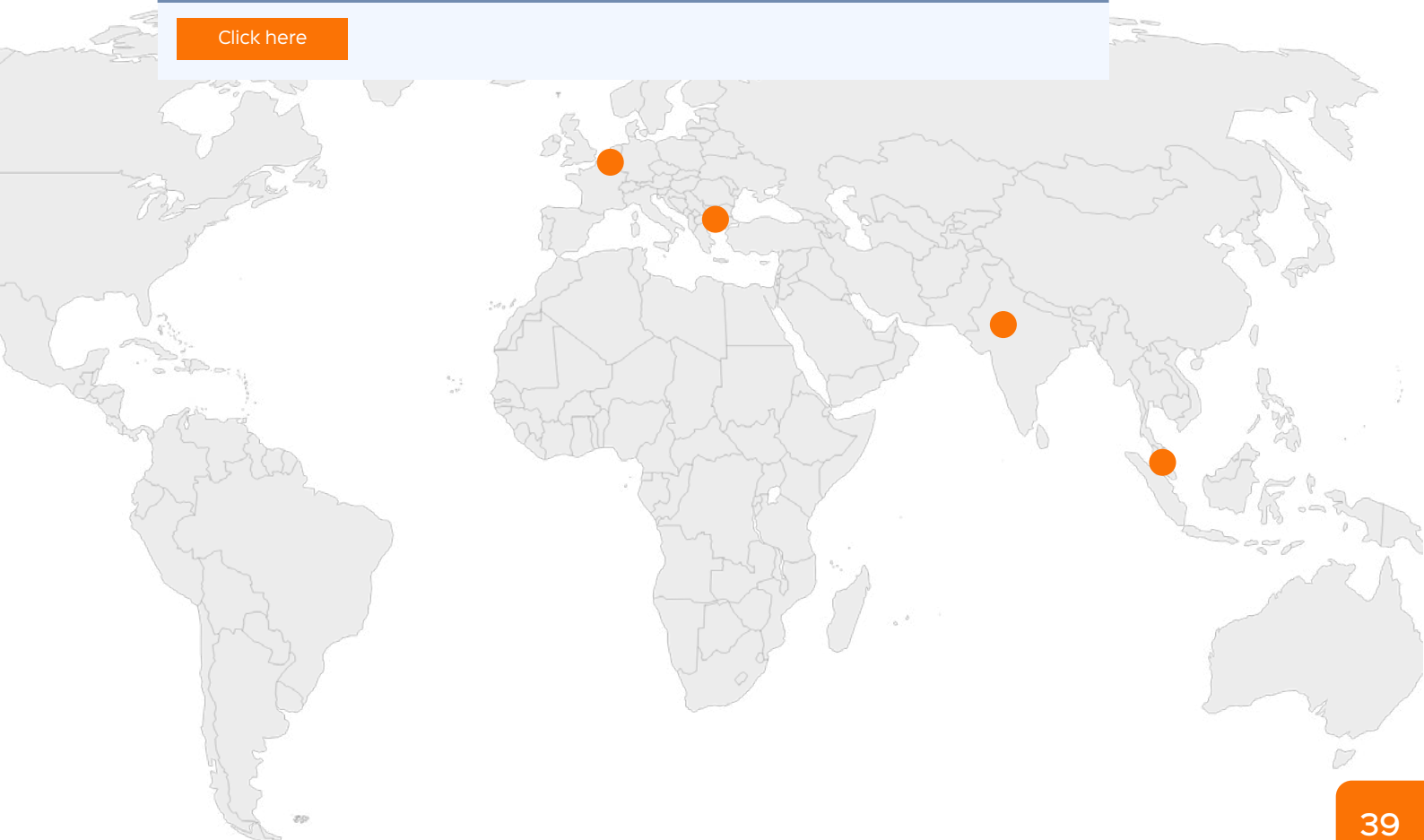
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Date		Title	Place
May 18 - 22, 2025		XXVI IFCC-EFLM EUROMEDLAB 2025	Brussels, BE
Oct 25 - 30, 2026		XXVII IFCC WORLDLAB 2026	New Dehli, IN
Oct 10 - 13, 2027		APFCB 2027 KUALA LUMPUR	Kuala Lumpur, MY
Date to be selected		XXVII IFCC-EFLM EUROMEDLAB 2027	Venue to be selected
Date to be selected		XXVII IFCC WORLDLAB 2028	Venue to be selected
Date to be selected		XXVII IFCC-EFLM EUROMEDLAB 2029	Venue to be selected
Date to be selected		XXVII IFCC WORLDLAB 2030	Venue to be selected

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Nov 16, 2024	On-line events Chemistry and Immunoassay: Tools to Improve Analytical Performance organized by Quality Academics – Asesores de calidad para laboratorios SAS by Quality Consulting.	Quality consulting, online event
Nov 22, 2024	International Symposium on Laboratory Medicine	SNIBE, Budapest, HU
Nov 28, 2024	Vietnam Chemical pathology Course	Roche webinar
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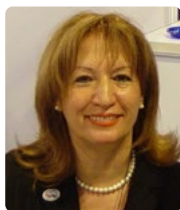
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