



## EDITORIAL

### CONFERENCE ON PRE- AND POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION IN LABORATORY MEDICINE AND RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

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The conference organised by the Polish Ministry of Health and National Chamber of Laboratory Diagnosticians, under the auspices of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC), was held on 25-27 March in Warsaw, Poland. We had the honor and pleasure to host almost 150 participants from all over the world.

The conference was divided into four sessions during which participants had an opportunity to listen to presentations given by invited speakers who came from Belgium (Prof. V. Blaton), Croatia (Prof. A. M. Simundic), Czech Republic (Prof. V. Palicka, Prof. J. Drsata), France (Dr S. Zerah), Ireland (M. Culliton), Italy ( Prof. G. C. Guidi ), Norway (P. Haugum), Poland, Portugal (Fernando Mendes), Serbia (Prof. N. Majkic-Singh), Slovakia (Prof. G. Kovac), Spain (Prof. J. Queraltó), Sweden (Dr M. Silvestri) and United Kingdom (Dr J. Mc Murray, A. Lubasinska and R. Houghton).

During the first session entitled *Teaching and Training of Laboratory Professionals*, chaired by Prof. Victor Blaton (Belgium) and Prof. Grazyna Sypniewska (Poland), the speakers presented and discussed the pre - and postgraduate teaching and training curricula in laboratory medicine in Belgium, the Czech Republic, Italy, Poland, Serbia, Spain and Slovakia. The second and third sessions were dedicated to different specialisations in the field of laboratory medicine for Medical Doctors and Laboratory Diagnosticians in Poland. E-learning platforms and public sources on laboratory medicine on the internet (the [Labtestonline project](#)) were also discussed.

The last session, chaired by Associate Prof. Roman Danielewicz, Director of Department of Science and Higher Education in the Polish Ministry of Health, focused on the recognition of professional qualifications. It included presentations from delegates from Croatia, France, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Serbia, Portugal, Poland and the UK and was followed by lively discussion.

Participants at the Conference shared their experiences and discussed the most pressing issues concerning the recognition of professional qualifications. This included the Commission's Code of Conduct for Directive 2005/36/EC, difficulties arising from the implementation of the Directive, and concerns over the language ability of some healthcare professionals practicing in host countries in Europe. It was emphasised by all participants that in the context of free movement of professionals in Europe, the main aim of European countries is to ensure a high quality of professional standards and practice in the field of laboratory medicine. Hosts and participants of the conference expressed hope that the conference will become a trigger for future cooperation.