

## Foreword from the editor-in-chief

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This recent issue of the eJIFCC contains four additional manuscripts on topics that were presented at the Rome POCT Conference held between September 6-7, 2021. Event information: [https://www.ifcc.org/media/478963/poct\\_roma\\_2021\\_preliminary\\_3nov2020\\_132641875465705822.pdf](https://www.ifcc.org/media/478963/poct_roma_2021_preliminary_3nov2020_132641875465705822.pdf).

The organization of this conference began in the midst of the pandemic, when colleagues around the world were under tremendous pressure to fight Covid-19. The meeting had been postponed to a new date and finally it was held successfully in the form a hybrid conference with almost 200 registrations from 37 different countries (122 in person and 76 online).

In particular, the role of POCT was also highlighted during the Covid-19 pandemic in screening and monitoring programs. The aim of this conference had been to bring together IFCC and EFLM experts and representatives of IVD companies, in order to discuss the various dimensions of the POCT: Quality Assurance, Training, Technological Innovations, Applications, Market and Sustainability.

An impressive amount of information was delivered on the Quality issues concerning POCT in the form of quite a few presentations, an article on one of these talks is featured in this issue authored by Julie Shaw. Another session focused

on training for POCT, and the presentations like that of Scott Isbell in this Issue outlined that a proper training and competency assessment is mandatory to ensure that test results are accurate and reliable, and furthermore, highlighted the difference between the assessment-based certificate program and the professional certification at the AACC. The experience of the AACC could also be a model for other National societies and/or for supranational Clinical Laboratory Federations. An additional two manuscripts from this meeting are also included in this eJIFCC issue. The recent pandemic highlighted the desire for Public Health Education on POCT for both Health professionals and end-users as reported by Gerald Kost, while Tommaso Trenti addresses the issue of possibility of synergy between the consolidation processes of Laboratory Medicine, central Laboratories and POCT. The answer is definitely a yes, where effort and input from all clinical laboratory professionals are required.

I think we should be grateful for the perseverance of the organizers, particularly Professor Sergio Bernardini, and all the participants, particularly to those who undertook the travel burdens in these uneasy times and made this IFCC/EFLM conference a lively event.

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