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Dear colleagues,

The November issue should have been referring to the winter, it may be so for many of you, but winter hasn’t yet arrived in the southern Europe. This climate change seems to be established, so don’t forget to turn your labs into green ones.

In this issue the very long but so important and pleasant first article by Dr Bernard Gouget takes us to the Indian Karala state, (difficult to remember the name of this so interesting city, where the congress took place). We learn about the city and the area, we learn about proteomics and AI, it is a journey in India and so much scientific knowledge at the same time.

And then, go to the next article by Prof M. Iqbal Parker that introduces us to the connection between laboratory and nutrition from a congress in Marrakech.

In this issue we pay tribute to the late Jocelyn Hicks, a model of a scientist and a woman, a very important person for IFCC. The IFCC people were lucky to know her well, lucky was also IFCC to have her as a president, lucky us to follow her example.

The next article by the TF-YS is presenting the webinar by the young scientists on artificial intelligence, bioinformatics and the future. Three young ladies, scientists, following on Jocelyn’s steps are introducing us, in three different languages, to a survey on reporting critical-risk laboratory results all over the world. Go on and respond to this survey in your preferred language.

UNIVANTS guides us to the Executive Leadership Exchange.

And finally, reports from the Mexican and the Australasian societies, together with new societies joining IFCC and the congresses to be held all over the world, are closing this eNews issue.

Go on and read this new issue dear colleagues! A lot to enjoy a lot to gain.

Katherina
The voice of IFCC

ACBICON 2023, Thiruvananthapuram: a vibrant scientific hub in South India

By Bernard Gouget, Chair C-MHBLM; Pradeep Dabla, Member C-MHBLM; Damien Gruson, ETD-EC liaison; Sergio Bernardini, Chair ETD

13th-16th Sep, 2023: The 49th ACBICON 2023 in Kerala took place from September 13 to 16 at the Al-Saj International Convention Centre in Thiruvananthapuram, the capital of Kerala. This state, situated in the southwest corner of India, is a narrow strip of land with its western coast bordering the Arabian Sea. Thiruvananthapuram, formerly known as Trivandrum until 1991, is a distinguished center for academia and research, boasting numerous universities and research institutions, including the prestigious Indian Space Research centers such as the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology. The city is also a hub for media institutions, including Chitranjali Film Studio, one of the pioneers in Malayalam cinema. As the largest city in southern India, Thiruvananthapuram holds strategic significance, hosting the southern Air Command headquarters of the Indian Air Force. The city was ranked among the best cities to live in India. Kerala’s Human Development Index (HDI) rating is the highest in the country. This seemingly paradoxical phenomenon, often referred to as the ‘Kerala phenomenon’ or the ‘Kerala model of development,’ showcases high human development despite relatively fragile economic development. This is attributed to the dominance of the strong service sector. Agriculture and fishing industries play a significant role in the state’s economy, nearly half of Kerala’s population relies on agriculture as their primary source of income.

In this context, it was not surprising that the focal theme of the congress was “Laboratory Medicine Path Ahead: Amalgamating Technology and Humanity.” This event was held under the patronage of Sri. Pinarayi Vijayan, the Chief Minister. We were warmly welcomed by His Highness Moran Mor Athanasius Yohan I, who expressed his heartfelt gratitude in his Patron message to the ACBI for organizing the conference in association with Believers Church Medical College Hospital (BCMCH). Dr. George Chandy Matteethra, Director of BCMCH, emphasized the importance of focusing on the human touch in patient care. Dr. Seema Bhargava, President of ACBI and member of IFCC-EBLM, along with Rajiv Ranjan Sinha, ACBI General Secretary, highlighted that the organizing committee had the great fortune of having esteemed patrons from BCMCH, including Pr. Dr. D.M. Vasudevan as the Organizing Chairperson, as well as the very efficient Prof. Dr. Kannan Vaidyanathan, Organizing Secretary, and his dynamic team.

Prof Dr Kannan Vaidyanathan, ACBICON 2023 organizing secretary.

The smiling and efficient ACBICON 2023 technical staff.
The pre-conferences were thoughtfully designed to address the pressing needs of our time. The workshops reflect our collective commitment to fostering a holistic perspective on lab medicine. They encompassed a wide range of topics, including the clinical applications of proteomics, genomics in infectious diseases. Healthcare isn’t one-size-fits-all, and proteomic tests can enhance precision medicine delivered to patients. Thousands of proteins analyzed together paint a better picture of patient health than genes or single protein tests. Adverse reactions to drugs, health complications and comorbidities are determined by looking at proteins. Measuring proteins can improve the accuracy of prognostic and diagnostic testing and can help uncover new treatment options for patients. There is an extensive range of applications for proteomic tests covering all aspects of human biology. Some of the most popular areas for proteomic tests are cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, kidney and liver disease, metabolic risk factors, inflammation, and immune response.

The participants had the privilege of benefiting from the presence of an impressive panel of expert speakers. The spectrum of information was very rich, including plenary sessions, scientific sessions, and roundtable discussions. At ACBICON congresses, it is customary to have the privilege of listening to several brilliant plenary lectures at the beginning of each day. The K.L. Gupta Memorial Oration was on “Recommendations and approaches in cancer” by Alpana Sharma from AIIMS Delhi. The Dr. K.P. Sinha Oration, titled “Counting on Patients, One and All,” was presented by Tony Badrick, APFCB President. The Taranath Shetty Memorial Oration focused on “Two Decades of Raman Spectroscopy”. The Awadhesh Memorial Oration was centered around “Oral Cancer” and discussed by Shyam Chauhan. The Praven Sharma Oration was presented by Poornima Manjkekar in “Diabetes 2”. “Biomarkers and inflammatory skin diseases” was the topic of the Dr. G. P. Talwar Oration delivered by Medha Rajappa. Dr. Seema Bhargava spoke brilliantly at the Dr. T.N. Patabhiraman Oration on “The Nobel laureates of biochemistry and the ‘not so Nobel’. “

The four days event with the preconference workshops brought together, according to the “Veda Exotic Holidays” team represented by Shiyas S.T., Jijin Joythi Babu, and Raj Naorayanan, nearly 1,000 participants. It was impossible to attend all the conferences. Among the topics covered were sessions on quality management, molecular diagnostics, hypercholesterolemia, inborn metabolic disorders, biomarkers, etc. The third day of the congress was dedicated to oral presentations by students. The exhibition halls with major IVD companies were also the venue for poster sessions, which are always enriching moments for fostering exchanges among young professionals in medical biology. It was a great pleasure to meet again Sriram Naresh with his wife Shyamala (Photos 3, 4). Six years ago in Mangalore, I gave him the Dr. Sita Devi Award and the ACBI Travel Fellowship Award. During ACBICON 2023, he was selected for the Dr. DM Vasudevan Award. They make a wonderful couple and are exceptionally talented clinical chemists. Best wishes to both!
Helen Martin, APFCB traveling lecturer, gave us energy by presenting the benefits and requirements of vitamin D for optimal health. The AACC India section discussed the total testing process and the collaboration between lab medicine and emergency medicine to ensure quality testing. IFCC had the honor of organizing several sessions. The first was organized by the IFCC Committee on Clinical Laboratory Management (IFCC C-CLM) with Praveen Sharma as the chair. Shruti Gupta emphasized that professional best practices are a managerial responsibility. Prasenjit Mitra highlighted the leadership role of medical biologists, while Sedef Yenice discussed the use of data analytics in clinical laboratories (Photo 5). Seema Bhargava chaired the IFCC-C-EBLM session on the value and evidence of laboratory testing in diabetes mellitus.

The IFCC-C MHBLM team (Photo 6) took the audience on a journey into the exciting world of “AI Generative Intelligence for the Better! ” Artificial Intelligence (AI) has tremendous potential to advance clinical and laboratory practices, revolutionizing patient care and opening up a world of incredible promise. Sergio Bernardini explored the role of AI and machine learning in laboratory medicine and digital health, examining both the promise, pitfalls and potential challenges of their application across the healthcare continuum. With the continuous expansion of technology, machine learning offers an exciting opportunity in healthcare to enhance diagnostic accuracy, personalize healthcare, and innovate in addressing long-standing issues. However, this frontier also brings with it several ethical considerations. For instance, the shift from human-based medical decision-making to the use of intelligent machines raises questions about privacy, transparency, and reliability.

According to Pradeep Dabla, the increasing reliance on methods of artificial intelligence to guide patient care is not only transforming medicine but will also transform the ways in which the specialists in Lab medicine will be trained. Future healthcare professionals will need to understand fundamental principles of data science and be capable to apply them to critically evaluate the emerging literature on AI in medicine and to do research in this emerging field.

The entire high-tech planet is in upheaval, three decades after the advent of the web, humanity is preparing to experience a new revolution whose scale promises to be gigantic, underlined Bernard Gouget. However, unlike the Internet, which took time to establish itself and manifest its full effects, generative AI instantly reveals its potential. By providing free and open access to Chat GPT interfaces for text generation and Dall-E2 for image generation, the company Open AI (USA) has positioned itself with the most powerful testing ground. In just a few weeks, millions of people were able to play with the technology and test its capabilities and limits. Although the technology is still far from being stable and completely reliable, the beginnings are more than promising.

Pradeep Dabla, Praveen Sharma, Sedef Yenice, C-CLM Speakers

Speakers’ Group at the Congress, including the IFCC-C MHBLM team. (L-R): Damien Gruson (BE), Bernard Gouget (FR), Seema Bhargava (IN), Helen Martin (AU), Tony Badrick (AU), Pradeep Dabla (IN)
In the long run, everyone will have their own personal AI, just like everyone has their own computer. With this AI, we will have access to information from around the world in our pockets 24/7. We will ask any question and we will get a tailor-made answer. Today’s smartphone is equivalent to a supercomputer from ten years ago. AI will follow the same trajectory. Current AI models make factual errors and are forgetful, but in the years to come, they will be flawless, remembering everything and adapting in a personalized way. This will be the revolution, and we will all have our personal virtual assistant, enabling us to accomplish tasks outside our area of expertise. In medicine, Chat GPT can be incredibly valuable for a wide range of applications in the healthcare industry. Its ability to understand natural language and generate contextually relevant responses makes it a versatile tool for improving patient care, assisting healthcare professionals, and enhancing overall healthcare services. Chat GPT offers tremendous promise, but its use also entails risks and ethical challenges. By taking a proactive approach to regulation, it will be possible to harness the potential of AI-driven technologies while minimizing potential harm and preserving the trust of patients and healthcare providers alike.

Damien Gruson stated that in the rapidly evolving digital age, the metaverse, has emerged as a parallel dimension with immense potential to revolutionize various aspects of society, including laboratory medicine and patient care. By seamlessly integrating the natural and virtual worlds, the metaverse presents unparalleled opportunities for value creation and enhanced experiences. The convergence and integration of technologies within the metaverse are set to reimagine laboratory medicine services. Augmented services, personalized care, and unparalleled user experiences will become the norm, revolutionizing traditional healthcare practices. In this transformative landscape, artificial intelligence, virtual reality, digital twins, and avatars will play pivotal roles. By embracing the metaverse, laboratory medicine can transcend physical limitations, breaking barriers of distance and accessibility. Patients from remote regions can receive expert care, and collaborations between experts.

During the conference, networking opportunities helped to shape the future and discuss various predictions on the evolution in laboratory medicine and its subspecialties. Technological trends are increasing laboratory capabilities. The innovative methods and equipment allow specialists in lab medicine to work more efficiently and accurately than ever before. Smart technologies, automation, miniaturization, and artificial intelligence are becoming real-world, streaming life in the lab. Simultaneously, the pressure to deliver results quickly is increasing, hence, the clinical laboratories must be fast and agile and patient centered. That is why quality management and harmonization of techniques at a global level are of paramount importance.

From science to South Indian cuisine, from the sophisticated art scene with Kathakali dances to architectural treasures and historical sites such as the Shree Padmanabhaswamy temple, a famous Hindu temple dedicated to Maha Vishnu, there was much to discover in the capital of Kerala. Like Reverend Father Sijo Pandapallil, Senate Member of the Kerala University of Health Sciences and Manager at BCMCH, we would like to express our gratitude to all the professionals and volunteers who worked tirelessly to make this event a reality. The congress was an excellent opportunity to demonstrate that it is both possible and desirable to work together to improve healthcare and humanity.
IFCC Professional Exchange Programmes (PEP)

**FALL 2023 Call for Applications is OPEN**
Apply for the Programme and send the completed application form to the IFCC Office (ifcc@ifcc.org) by 30 November 2023

*News from the website*
Second International Nutrition Congress: From Laboratory Research to Clinical Studies

MUMS International Convention Centre, Mashhad, Iran 4-6 October 2023
IFCC - Abbott Visiting Lecturer Programme

By Prof M. Iqbal Parker, Division of Medical Biochemistry, Department of Integrative Biomedical Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Cape Town Cape Town, South Africa

Title of Presentation: Genetic Polymorphisms and Molecular Pathways in Nutrition.
Lecturer: Professor M. Iqbal Parker.

The Congress, run over 3 days, was addressed by 18 international speakers, including two Nobel laureates (Professors Kurt Wuthrich and John Walker) who gave virtual presentations. In addition, there were 30 short workshops of about 90 minutes each interspersed before, during and after the main conference.

The main conference comprised 27 topics run in three parallel sessions. I am not sure on the number of attendees, but I estimate that there may have been around 300-400 participants. The sessions were well attended, and the attendance was good until the very end of the conference. Many of the discussions in the sessions that I attended were lively. The students were very enthusiastic and clearly thirsty for knowledge they continued questions during the tea and lunch breaks.

Many of the local presenters gave talks of good scientific quality, but some of the interesting work may have gone unnoticed by foreign delegates as many of the local talks were given in Persian. Although the slides were in English, I think that it is crucial that young researchers become confident in communicating in English so that their work is visible to the international scientific community.

I visited some of the institutions in Mashhad, including the International UNESCO Center for Health-Related Basic Sciences and Human Nutrition at Mashhad University of Medical Sciences. This is a well-run facility with modest but functional and well-maintained equipment. The patient records are still in paper format, but well secured and maintained. It is an impressive facility despite the sanctions.

Professor Iqbal Parker giving his presentation at the Congress
Prof Khosrow Adeli, IFCC President and prof Iqbal Parker VLP, having a light-hearted discussion between sessions.

Article continued on the next page
Prof Adeli addressing the audience during the opening ceremony.

Prof Parker with two of the local students.

IFCC WorldLab Dubai 2024 - Find out what awaits you!

See the video at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mGuC6G5crUM

Visit the website

News from the website
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**Topic**
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**8 December 2023**
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Delivered by:
**Oswald Sonntag**
Independent Consultant

During this webinar, Oswald will present a comprehensive approach to QC processes that integrates the principles of efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and sustainability.

**REGISTER NOW**
Farewell to Professor Jocelyn MB Hicks – IFCC President 2006–2008

By Graham Beastall, IFCC Past President

Jocelyn Hicks died on 7th October 2023 at the age of 86y after a period of failing health. Jocelyn had a long and distinguished career in laboratory medicine. She was IFCC’s first female President and was instrumental in creating the African Federation of Clinical Chemistry.

Jocelyn was born in Leamington Spa in England (Shakespeare country) and she retained her classical English accent throughout her life. After completing her BSc and MSc in London she moved to Washington DC in the USA where she qualified as a clinical chemist and was based for the rest of her life.

Jocelyn developed an interest in paediatric clinical chemistry and quickly became established as an international expert on metabolic screening, reference values and the organisation and management of paediatric laboratories. She was the Professor of Pediatrics and Pathology at the George Washington University Medical Center. She published extensively and was an invited guest speaker at many national and international conferences.

Jocelyn held numerous roles within the Association of Diagnostics and Laboratory Medicine (formerly AACC). Starting at local level she soon became involved in publications at national level, before joining the Board of Directors from 1978 to 1980. She served as ADLM President in 1982; received The ADLM Outstanding Contributions Through Service to the Profession of Clinical Chemistry Award in 1984; and the ADLM Outstanding Contributions to Clinical Chemistry Award in 1993. She was a prominent champion and ambassador for our profession in the USA and was well respected by colleagues across the medical spectrum.

Jocelyn became active in IFCC as Chair of the Publications Division. She was responsible, with others for initiating the Journal of the IFCC. She joined the Executive Board as Treasurer and helped to strengthen IFCC finances while improving governance and accountability. During this period Jocelyn appreciated the immense contribution made to IFCC by the Office team in Milan and she always made time to encourage and develop her friendship with ‘the IFCC ladies’.

Jocelyn served as IFCC President from 2006 to 2008. She was immensely proud to be the first IFCC woman President and she became an inspiration for women in laboratory medicine across the world. She received numerous honours from IFCC Member societies and developed friendships that continued until her passing. Jocelyn also had a passion for helping developing countries to improve the quality, delivery, and impact of laboratory medicine. She invested a great deal of personal energy and time in Africa and the creation of the African Region of IFCC may be seen as a high point in her distinguished career. During her Presidency Jocelyn helped to create an international consensus on the role and measurement of HbA1c in the monitoring of diabetes, which further enhanced the role of IFCC in the world of medicine. She raised funds to introduce two series of IFCC specialised conferences that focussed on the central role of laboratory medicine in clinical medicine.

From 2009 until 2014 Jocelyn served as Past President of IFCC. Six years as a Past President was a huge commitment and she was the last to serve for this period as the IFCC rules were changed to ensure that no-one could serve as President (and therefore Past President) for more than three years. Despite her ‘six-year sentence’ Jocelyn was an ever present at IFCC Executive Board meetings providing wisdom, positivity, and harmony to her younger, less experienced colleagues. One highlight was when Jocelyn hosted the Board to a gourmet meal at her home in Washington, which she had
prepared for us with her customary attention to detail.

In 2017 Jocelyn was awarded the IFCC-Wishinsky Award for Distinguished International Service. She treasured this award above all the others she received because ‘international service’ is a fitting tribute to describe her stellar contribution to our profession.

Jocelyn displayed all the key characteristics of leadership. She was clear thinking, determined and extremely hard working. She was also warm-hearted, considerate, supportive of others, and great company. Jocelyn will be missed, and then remembered fondly, by hundreds of international friends. The world of laboratory medicine was improved and inspired by Jocelyn Hicks.
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- Healthcare & Other Benefits
- Bring your Spouse and Children to Canada
- Road to Canadian PR/Citizenship

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
- EDUCATION: DIPLOMA/ DEGREE
- IELTS GENERAL: 6 BANDS EACH
- EXPERIENCE: 2 YEARS RELATED
- ASCP (American Society of Clinical Pathology) LICENSE PREFERRED

CLICK HERE TO APPLY NOW

IFCC Call 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 nominations are open:

Communications and Publications Division (CPD)

- Committee on Internet and Digital Communications (C-IDC) - web editor position - Call for nominations letter

Please send CPD nominations to colli-lanzi@ifcc.org by 30th November

Emerging Technologies Division (ETD)

- ETD Executive Committee (ETD-EC) - 3 members + 1 corporate member - Call for nominations letter
- Committee for Emerging Technologies in Pediatric Laboratory Medicine (C-ETPLM) - 3 members - Call for nominations letter
- Committee on Mobile Health and Bioengineering in Laboratory Medicine (C-MHBLM) - 2 members - Call for nominations letter

Please send ETD nominations to colli-lanzi@ifcc.org by 15th November 2023
**IFCC Call for Nominations**

**IFCC Congresses and Conferences Committee (C-CC)**

1 member + 1 corporate member - [Call for nominations letter](mailto:cardinale@ifcc.org)

Please send C-CC Nominations to cardinale@ifcc.org by 20th November 2023

**Education and Management Division (EMD)**

- [Education and Management Division Executive Committee (EMD-EC)](mailto:cardinale@ifcc.org): 1 corporate member - [Call for nominations letter](mailto:cardinale@ifcc.org) Deadline: 15th November 2023
- [Education and Management Division Executive Committee (EMD-EC)](mailto:cardinale@ifcc.org): 1 member - [Call for nominations letter](mailto:cardinale@ifcc.org) Deadline: 15th November 2023
- [Committee on Clinical Laboratory Management (C-CLM)](mailto:cardinale@ifcc.org): 1 member - [Call for nominations letter](mailto:cardinale@ifcc.org) Deadline: 3rd December 2023
- [Committee on Evidence-Based Laboratory Medicine (C-EBLM)](mailto:cardinale@ifcc.org): 1 member - [Call for nominations letter](mailto:cardinale@ifcc.org) Deadline: 5th December 2023
- [Committee on Point of Care Testing (C-POCT)](mailto:cardinale@ifcc.org): 1 member - [Call for nominations letter](mailto:cardinale@ifcc.org) Deadline: 10th December 2023

Please send EMD nominations to cardinale@ifcc.org by indicated deadlines

**New Task Force on Laboratory Medicine Practice Guidelines (LMPG)**

5 member positions (1 Chair and 4 Members) [Call for nominations letter](mailto:paola.bramati@ifcc.org)

Please send TF-LMPG nominations to paola.bramati@ifcc.org by 30th November 2023

For any further information on nominations, please refer to your National or Corporate Representative - contacts are available [here](mailto:paola.bramati@ifcc.org).

**Task Force Corporate Members (TF-CM)**

3 member positions: The open positions include (1) one new member position, (2) opportunity to serve as the secretary, and (3) opportunity to serve as chair - [Call for nominations letter](mailto:paola.bramati@ifcc.org)

Please send TF-CM nominations to paola.bramati@ifcc.org by 31st October 2023
INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PEDIATRIC LABORATORY MEDICINE

TOPICS:

Immunodeficiencies

Immuno-flow cytometry in pediatric laboratory medicine

Genomics vs Mass spectrometry in pediatric laboratory medicine

Newborn Screening for SCIDs

NGS in diagnosing undiagnosed diseases

CHAIR OF THE CONGRESS: Tim Lang, UK
The aim of IFCC task Force – Young Scientists (IFCC TF-YS) is to ensure that young scientists make a significant and growing contribution to the activities of IFCC and to the promotion of laboratory medicine at the centre of healthcare.

The TF-YS has organized several activities, including IFCC forum for young scientists and free webinars with participation of YS. Today’s young scientists have shown a keen interest in digital technologies and artificial intelligence and its applications in laboratory medicine. Indeed, the digital revolution does not stop at any area of life and plays a major role in healthcare. The young professionals and researchers in laboratory medicine have a key role in this changing lab environment and try to seize new opportunities given by technological evolutions.

The IFCC TF-YS dedicated one forum session to this topic at the IFCC TF-YS forum of young scientists held at the ROMA 2023 WORLDLAB EUROMEDLAB, on the 21st May 2023 in Rome, Italy.

Recently the IFCC TF-YS organized a webinar on 27 July 2023. This webinar, moderated by Dr Marie Lenski (France) and Dr Ashlin Rampul (South Africa), both members of IFCC-TF-YS, has covered challenges of digital technologies in laboratory medicine from several facets, including digital competence, artificial intelligence, and applications of bioinformatics in routine clinical practice. This webinar comprised of the following three presentations and was followed by a panel discussion at the end.
Skills of the future – what kind of digital competence is needed?

We live in the time of digital transformation and this change will not stop at medicine either. However, the skills required for this are not adequately covered in the standard training of physicians and laboratory personnel. But which skills are necessary and how can you learn them? Dr. Jakob Adler, YS from Germany, answered these questions using a survey he launched together with the DGKL, the IFCC-TF-YS, the EFLM TG-YS and other colleagues from all over the world. He showed how digital skills can be taught, using the example of the working group he founded in Germany in 2021. He also gave an outlook on the future plans of the international digital competence initiative launched at EuroMedLab 2022.

Augmenting Intelligence: Basics of Artificial Intelligence in the Clinical Laboratory

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has already impacted the world we live in, and it is on the verge of an exponential growth phase that will fundamentally change the way we interact with various areas of life. The clinical laboratory is well positioned to harness the power of AI to improve many aspects of laboratory medicine including test utilization, automation, error detection and results interpretation. Dr Reinhardt Hesse, YS from South Africa, provided a high-level overview of the different branches of AI, the current state of development of AI, and its future potential. He focused specifically on the impact of AI on the clinical laboratory and the role that laboratorians can play in successfully implementing AI solutions in the laboratory.

Bioinformatic infrastructure, pipelines, and impact in clinics.

Bioinformatics is a relatively new and evolving discipline that combines skills and technologies from computer science and biology to help us better understand and interpret biological data. One field where bioinformatics is especially useful is genomics, which can generate vast quantities of information. From personalized medicine and genomics to disease diagnosis and treatments improvements, Dr Augustin Boudry, YS from France, described how bioinformatics contribute to patient care and medical research. He provided an overview of pure IT and developing environment, and then illustrated practical applications with a whole range of bioinformatics pipelines, each specifically designed to meet unique research needs and clinical application. He detailed a pipeline, created in his lab, specifically designed to diagnose acute myeloid leukemia within 72 hours, a pathology characterized by a complex genomic landscape, for which high-throughput sequencing plays an essential role in classifying, predicting, and treating patients.

The webinar was attended by 750 participants, and received positive feedback from the audience.

More about IFCC TF-YS activities on IFCC website https://ifcc.org/task-force-young-scientists-tf-ys/, or follow us on Instagram (ifcc_tfys), Facebook (ifccYOUNG), LinkedIn (groups/3049837)
Young Scientists initiative: Survey on Reporting Critical-Risk Laboratory Results

By Judit Gonda, Hungarian YS (Hungarian Society of Laboratory Medicine, MLDT), Marie Lenski, French YS (Société Française de Biologie Cliniques SFBC), IFCC-TF-YS member, Maria Schroeder Castagno, Uruguay YS (Asociación Bioquímica Uruguay ABU), IFCC C-PR and WG-FC member and TF-YS corresponding member

A survey is launched by Judit Gonda, PharmD, a Young Scientist from Hungary, that aims to get to know the protocol and habits of Reporting Critical-Risk Laboratory Results in different countries. The survey focuses on Laboratories performing emergency laboratory tests (Biochemistry, Hematology, routine Coagulation, emergency Microbiology, and Toxicology tests).

Professional experience in laboratory medicine in Hungary shows that there are national recommendations, as well as institutional protocols. The aim of this survey is:

- to see whether different countries use national guidelines or whether they have any protocol in their respective institutions
- to compare the protocols between countries
- to describe how critical values for tests are defined, and how they are reported to clinicians
- to conclude on harmonized practical tips.

The survey is available in English, French, and Spanish.

English version: fm.addxt.com/f/?t=YOyA21
French version: fm.addxt.com/f/?t=P2mP0F
Spanish version: fm.addxt.com/f/?t=oSM3yr

It would be highly appreciated if you could take some time to fill in the survey and help with our work.

The IFCC Task Force – Young Scientists (IFCC TF-YS) supports this young scientist initiative and encourages all specialists in laboratory medicine to participate in this international survey and contribute to the quality of scientific and clinical practice standards.

Judit Gonda, YS Hungary
Marie Lenski, YS France
Maria Eugenia Castagno, YS Uruguay
Un questionnaire est lancé par Judit Gonda, pharmacienne et jeune biologiste Hongroise, visant à connaître les protocoles et pratiques de communication des résultats critiques de biologie médicale. Le questionnaire se concentre sur les laboratoires réalisant des examens de biologie d’urgence (biochimie, cytologie, hémostase, microbiologie et toxicologie).

L’expérience en biologie médicale en Hongrie montre qu’il existe des recommandations nationales, ainsi que des protocoles institutionnels. Le but de cette enquête est :
- d'identifier quelles recommandations nationales ou protocoles institutionnels sont utilisés par différents pays
- de comparer ces protocoles entre les pays
- de décrire comment les valeurs critiques des examens de biologie d’urgence sont définies et comment elles sont communiquées aux cliniciens
- conclure sur des conseils pratiques pour leur harmonisation

Le questionnaire est disponible en anglais, en français et en espagnol.
Version anglaise : fm.addxt.com/f/t=YOyA21
Version française : fm.addxt.com/f/t=P2mP0F
Version espagnole : fm.addxt.com/f/t=oSM3yr

Nous serions très reconnaissants que vous preniez le temps de répondre au sondage.

L’IFCC Task Force – Young Scientists (IFCC TF-YS) soutient cette initiative d’une jeune biologiste et encourage tous les biologistes médicaux à participer à cette enquête internationale et à contribuer à la qualité des pratiques scientifiques et cliniques.
La experiencia profesional en medicina de laboratorio en Hungría demuestra que existen recomendaciones nacionales, así como protocolos institucionales. El objetivo de esta encuesta es:
- ver si diferentes países utilizan directrices nacionales o si tienen algún protocolo en su institución;
- comparar los protocolos de los diferentes países
- describir cómo se definen los valores críticos de las pruebas y cómo se notifican a los médicos
- concluir sobre consejos prácticos armonizados.

La encuesta está disponible en inglés, francés y español.

Versión inglesa: fm.addxt.com/f/?t=YOyA21
Versión francesa: fm.addxt.com/f/?t=P2mP0F
Versión española: fm.addxt.com/f/?t=oSM3yr

Sería muy apreciado si pudiera tomarse algún tiempo para completar la encuesta y ayudar a nuestro trabajo.

El IFCC Task Force – Young Scientists (IFCC TF-YS) apoya esta iniciativa de jóvenes científicos y anima a todos los especialistas en medicina de laboratorio a participar en esta encuesta internacional y contribuir a la calidad de las normas de práctica científica y clínica.
Opportunity to Learn From Top Leaders in Healthcare: Join the Executive Leadership Exchange

The UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence program recognizes, amplifies and inspires replication of best practices involving measurably better healthcare. With hundreds of initiated applications each year, the UNIVANTS award program has become one of the highest and most coveted team honors in healthcare today. Cross-disciplinary engagement and collaboration is not only a key requirement for UNIVANTS, but also an important ingredient in healthcare excellence as a whole. With that in mind, and recognizing the importance of cross-functional education, the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence program is proud to host the inaugural Executive Leadership Exchange (ELX) forum.

Available now through the year end, ELX is an inspiring and engaging educational event for all healthcare professionals, including laboratorians, clinicians, administrators and industry professionals. With a goal to maximize value, identify solutions that resolve care gaps and promote wellness, this must-see program features a diverse agenda, where top leaders across healthcare share best practices, insights and opportunities for measurably better healthcare.

Faculty include more than 30 diverse and world-renown speakers, including Dr. Shannon Haymond, Past AACC President, Quint Studer, Co-founder, Healthcare Plus Solutions Group, David Grenache, Chief Scientific Officer, TriCore Reference laboratories, David Weiss, Senior Vice President of Player Matters, National Basketball Association, Dr. Peter Kavsak, Professor, Pathology and Molecular Medicine, McMaster University, Michael Dowling, President & CEO, Northwell Health, and more. No matter your role, title, or education, the educational opportunities with ELX are vast. Registration, which includes full access to plenary sessions, educational workshops and hot topics is NOW OPEN. Access for registered attendees is available through until December 31st. Registered attendees can also obtain up to 15.25 ACCENT® continuing education credits.

Additionally, and available now for on-demand viewing are two complementary sessions, including a brilliant plenary talk by Michael Dowling, President & CEO, Northwell Health. As one of the foremost CEOs in US healthcare, Mr. Dowling shares key trends and insights from the viewpoint of leadership. To view this complimentary session now, please visit here.

Also available for on-demand viewing is a short and dynamic conversation between Dr. Colleen Strain, Scientific Leadership, Abbott and Paul Epner, Vice Chair, Sepsis Alliance, where they discuss becoming power users of laboratory medicine. To view this complimentary session now, please visit here.

To learn more, watch the complimentary sessions and to register, please visit www.healthcareELX.com.

If interested in applying for recognition through the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award program, please visit www.UnivantsHCE.com to learn more and apply. Applications are accepted now through until Nov.15th.

Contribute to IFCC eNews
The UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Award recognizes teams who collaborate across disciplines and transform healthcare delivery, and ultimately patient lives.

Does this sound like you and your team? If so, we want to hear from you. To learn more and apply now through November 15 visit UnivantsHCE.com.
The beautiful city of Mazatlán hosted the XLV National Congress of Clinical Chemists and ExpoQuím 2023, which had the endorsement of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine IFCC and the Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry COLABIOCLI and was held on September 11 to 16, 2023, began with three days of 17 workshops and ended with three days of conferences in three rooms with the participation of 60 national and international expert professors who shared their research, knowledge and experience in the area of the Clinical Laboratory.

Forming the presidium in the opening ceremony by the Secretary of Health Dr. Cuitlahuac González Galindo who attended on behalf of the Constitutional Governor of the State of Sinaloa Dr. Rubén Rocha Moya, Edgar Augusto González Zatarain Municipal President of Mazatlán, Dr. Dinorah Dolores Márquez Acosta president of the outgoing Board of Directors 2021-2023, Chem. Rosa María Sánchez Bautista pro secretary of Continuing Education of CONAQUIC and Chemist Miguel Angel Rodríguez Cebreros president of the Sinaloa College of Chemists.

The majestic International Convention Center was the setting to receive Chemists, researchers and personnel related to the Clinical Laboratory to carry out the conferences that were presented as Symposia with current and interesting topics such as Insulin Resistance, Cardiovascular Diseases, Resistance to antibiotics, Autoimmunity and coagulation, new developments in the diagnosis of body fluids, diseases transmitted by vectors, kidney disease to mention just a few.
As social events, the traditional icebreaker cocktail was held where the meeting with colleagues and friends mixed with traditional mariachi and banda music that entertained and made more than 1000 people dance, including congressmen and members of commercial houses, there was also an event at the iconic Angela Peralta theater, erected in the Porfirian era and declared Historical Heritage of the Nation in 1990 where you could listen to the wonderful tenor Oscar Gómez and enjoy the brilliant participation of the municipal folkloric ballet of culture of Mazatlán directed by the maestro Javier Arcadia and finish with the closing dance dinner.

The National Federation of Clinical Chemists CONAQUIC A.C. is made up of 36 Colleges from the different States of the Mexican Republic. During the development of the LXXXV Ordinary Assembly of Presidents, the final report of the 2021-2023 Board of Directors was carried out, chaired by Dr. Dinorah Dolores Márquez Acosta, who also took oath to the new Board of Directors that will be chaired by Chemist Juan del Toro Herrera during the 2023-2025 biennium, and the incoming vice president, Chemist Saúl Luna Félix, was sworn in.
As usual, there was the presence of 36 commercial houses who willingly accompanied us and enhanced the congress by showing their equipment and the most recent technology as well as reactive inputs, computer systems, revealing the best options for the attending congressmen, forming finally a commercial exhibition of 103 stands and 10 tables.

During the closing ceremony of the event, there was the presence of Chemist Roberto Enrique Villarmet Framery, an award-winning chemist whose name was given to the congress in his honor. Prizes were also awarded to the winners of research works as well as to the students who competed in the Knowledge Olympiad in which 20 teams from Universities of Oaxaca, Chiapas, the State of Mexico, Puebla, Sonora, Guanajuato, San Luis Potosí, and Mexico City registered.
The National Federation of Clinical Chemists Conauic holds two National Congresses a year, a National Congress of the Analysis of Quality Assurance in the Clinical Laboratory that takes place in the month of March and the National Congress of Clinical Chemists that takes place in the month of September, so the Cities of Puebla and Morelia will host the 2024 congresses respectively.

CONAQUIC maintains its objectives of union and strengthening continuing education as well as exalting the Clinical Laboratory professional.
The Australasian Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (AACB) welcomes the new President, Mr Greg Ward

By Dr Fernando San Gil, MSc PhD MAACB ARCPAChief Executive Officer Australasian Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine

It is with great pleasure that the Australasian Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (AACB) welcomes the new President, Mr Greg Ward. Greg’s term as President is from 2023 to 2025.

Greg has been active in the AACB over many years at the Branch and National level, including being the AACB Chief Examiner and Chair of the Board of Examiners. Greg has a strong focus on education and continued involvement of the AACB in areas of scientific and medical importance for laboratory medicine.

Greg replaces Dr Tina Yen who has served the AACB with distinction over many years in various roles, most recently including Vice President Education and Training and most recently President from 2021 to 2023.

The AACB welcomes Greg and looks forward to advancing the mission of the AACB of promoting the professional development of the laboratory medicine community and improving the practice of laboratory medicine.
Controllab
Controllab is the largest Brazilian laboratory quality control company. Since 1977 we have been working with the objective of sowing quality and we are committed to taking care of life. The 45-year history of the company is based on the commitment to offer complete and integrated solutions in quality and assertiveness of laboratory results.

The services provided by Controllab facilitate routine for laboratory accreditation processes and regulatory bodies in the broadest portfolio on the market: there are more than 3,500 tests. We are a full solution company in several segments: clinical, blood bank, veterinary, microbiology and physical-chemical tests for medicines, food, sanitizers, water and effluents, fuels and others, among services that serve hospitals and industries.

With a focus on developing the best user experience, we help clients to provide accurate, indisputable services that stand out in the national and international markets. We have unique know-how in quality control solutions. We have the exclusive support of important scientific societies and the recognition of the main standards related to our performance: ISO 9001, 17025, 17034 and 17043.

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Brooks Automation Italy Srl

Brooks’ Laboratory Automation Solutions fits into Brooks’ strategy to setup systems within the lab automation segment.

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Laboratory Automation Solutions team in synergy with Aim Solutions and Precise FlexTM is able to offer complete automation solutions to end customers in clinical diagnostics and life sciences.

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IFCC WELCOMES A NEW FULL MEMBER: AZERBAIJAN

The IFCC welcomes the Azerbaijan Society of Clinical Laboratory Specialists (ASCLS) - Azerbaijan

The “Azerbaijan Society of Clinical Laboratory Specialists (ASCLS)” is now the 97th Full Member within the IFCC.

Best wishes for a long and fruitful participation in IFCC activities and projects for advancing excellence in laboratory medicine for better healthcare worldwide.
26th International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine

17th Congress of Arab Federation of Clinical Biology

10th Saudi Society for Clinical Chemistry Annual Meeting

8th International and UAE Genetic Disorders Conference

DEADLINES

15 January 2024
Deadline for poster abstract submission

15 March 2024
Deadline for reduced registration fees

The Preliminary Program is now available on the congress website!
The webinar on “Interference on high sensitivity troponin assays” gives an overview of analytical and biological interference affecting troponin assays, the analytical methods needed to detect interference and further discuss the clinical consequences of troponin interference and discuss a and potential biological meaning of detecting such results.

It comprises of three following presentations of 20 min each

Moderator: Dr. Kristin Moberg Aakre (Norway)

Talk 1: Analytical and biological interferences for cardiac troponin assays; what should we look out for and when? Dr. Pete Kavsak (Canada)

Talk 2: Detecting troponin interferences; recommendations for the routine laboratory Prof. Ola Hammarsten (Romania)

Talk 3: When clinically can macrotroponins be confounding? Dr. Allan S. Jaffe (USA)
Pediatrics is an area where emerging technologies have been implemented successfully to address the needs of this specific population. The IFCC Emerging Technologies Division has recently defined an emerging technology as “an analytical method or device that by virtue of its stage of development, translation into broad routine clinical practice, or geographical adoption and implementation has the potential to add value to clinical practice.” The role of emerging technologies and its introduction throughout the diagnostic cycle will be discussed using examples in the general laboratory and those laboratories supporting regional and national programs such as newborn bloodspot screening and rare disease programs.

This webinar comprises of three following presentations of 20 min each followed by 20 min of panel discussion at the end.
Chair: Prof. Klaus Kohse
Talk 1- “Emerging technologies supporting pediatric laboratory medicine - Dr. Tim Lang
Talk 2- “The Impact of Genomics and Transcriptomics in Pediatric Clinical Care” - Dr. Lianna Kyriakopoulou
Talk 3- “Optimising second-tier newborn screening for congenital adrenal hyperplasia?”- Prof. Ronda Greaves
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## Corporate Member Events with IFCC Auspices

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- India: Association of Medical Biochemists of India (AMBI)
- Iran: Iranian Association of Clinical Laboratory Doctors (IACLD)
- Jordan: Society for Medical Technology & Laboratories (AEBM-ML)
- Kazakhstan: Public Association - Federation of Laboratory Medicine (KZFCRM)
- Mexico: Federación Nacional de Químicos Clínicos (CONAQUIC A.C.)
- Mexico: Colegio Nacional de Químicos Científicos en Medicina de Laboratorio (CONQUALAB)
- Mexico: Federación Nacional de Colegios Profesionales de la Química Clínica, A.C. (FENACQC)
- Nepal: Nepalese Association for Clinical Chemistry (NACC)
- Philippines: Philippine Council for Quality Assurance in Clinical Laboratories (PCQACL)
- Romania: Order of the Biochemists, Biologists, Chemists in Romanian Health System (OBBCSSR)
- Serbia: Serbian Society for Clinical Laboratory Medicine and Science (SCLM)
- Spain: Andalusian Society for Clinical Analysis and Laboratory Medicine (AEBM-ML)
- Spain: Asociación Española de Biopatología Médica - Medicina de Laboratorio (AEBM-ML)
- Spain: Asociación Española de Farmacéuticos Analistas (AEFA)
- Sri Lanka: College of Chemical Pathologists of Sri Lanka (CCPSL)
- Türkiye: Society of Clinical Biochemistry Specialists (KBUD)
- Ukraine: Association for Quality Assurance of Laboratory Medicine (AQLLM)
- United Arab Emirates: Genetic Diseases Association (UAEGDA)
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