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Communications and Publications Division (CPD) of the IFCC

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Editorial

Dear colleagues

This is the first IFCC eNews issue for 2024. A new year is in front of us, full of activities and with an IFCC Worldlab in Dubai, full of promises.

This issue begins with our new IFCC President Prof Tomris Ozben's important first message.

Go through this full of significant content message, dear colleagues, and you will learn a lot about IFCC brilliant future in accordance with its wonderful past.

And what is the most suitable article to follow the second woman IFCC President's message, but the first woman IFCC President's, the late Prof. Jocelyn MB Hicks' own words for inspiration, lessons and counsel? Dr Sharon M. Geaghan offers us the opportunity to "hear" Jocelyn Hicks' voice guiding us and especially us, women scientists, in life and work and science. You will be definitely moved by her words and you will feel a kind of empowerment, of support. Do try to mimic her, dear colleagues.

Two ladies, Dr Maria Del Carmen and Dr Maria Schroeder, Chair and member of the Committee on Public Relations together with the Past Chair, Prof. Rajiv Erasmus, who played such an important role in Global Medlab week launching, are inviting us as national societies to participate in the Global Medlab week 2024 with the inspiring title "Labs save lives".

News from EFLM and the national societies (Saudi, Iran, COLABIOCLI, Japan), from the IFCC PMEP and VLP programs, endocrine cases presented by the TF-YS, a new clinical care group of scientists awarded the UNIVANTS excellence award complete this first 2024 issue of the IFCC eNews.

Happy New Year, dear colleagues and don't forget to read and to contribute to the eNews.



Katherina Psarra, MSc,
PhD, eNews Editor

Katherina

The voice of IFCC

Message from the new IFCC President – Prof. Tomris Ozben

January 2024
By Tomris Ozben

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Stepping into the role as the President of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) Executive Board is not only a tremendous honor, but also a great privilege for me. I am excited about the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead as I embark on my journey of serving the IFCC community, commencing my term on January 1st, 2024. I want to express my sincere gratitude to the IFCC member societies within the 6 IFCC Regional Federations for their kind support and trust. I sincerely appreciate their confidence and assure them that I am fully committed to deserving their trust. I am dedicated to contributing my time, expertise, knowledge, and energy to enhance the functions and activities of IFCC.

Taking on a leadership position, with other dedicated members of the IFCC Executive Board, IFCC officers, Regional Federations, National Societies, and Corporate members, our collective mission is to strengthen the robust foundations on which the Federation stands. Our efforts will be centered on identifying new opportunities and formulating innovative strategies that empower Laboratory Medicine to play a crucial role in patient care. Our goal is to ensure that the IFCC continues to stand as the leading global organization representing Laboratory Medicine worldwide.

IFCC demands a dedicated and proficient management team. The President, along with the members of the new IFCC Executive Board and officers of the IFCC Functional Units, will devote both commitments, time and effort. The day-to-day operations of IFCC will be managed efficiently by the exceptional capacity, enthusiasm, and efforts of the IFCC office secretaries working closely with IFCC officers. Our aim is not just to sustain, but to enhance IFCC functions and activities, making significant contributions to the advancement of Laboratory Medicine and the growth of its professionals. We are set to carry the IFCC flag even higher, maintaining past initiatives and introducing new projects. The collective expertise, knowledge, and fresh ideas from the Executive Board members and IFCC officers, working with enthusiasm across various functional units, will drive this progress. We emphasize the importance of close collaboration with IFCC Regional Federations, IFCC Member Societies, and Corporate Members, encouraging their active participation in all IFCC activities.

I express my sincere thanks and congratulations to Prof. Khosrow Adeli for his outstanding leadership, motivating and encouraging IFCC officers and Executive Board members to actively engage in numerous IFCC projects. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the former IFCC Presidents, outgoing members of the IFCC Executive Boards, and officers of the



Prof. Tomris Ozben
EuSpLM, Ph.D.

Functional Units for their exceptional contributions, voluntary services, knowledge, and enthusiasm over the years. Their dedication has played a crucial role in building a resilient and continually advancing Federation, establishing it as a leading organization in laboratory medicine worldwide, providing high-quality healthcare services to its members. We will always remember and deeply appreciate their significant contributions. Although they may no longer hold active roles, we are confident that their interests and contributions to the IFCC will endure. We look forward to working closely with them, drawing upon their extensive experience and knowledge for the benefit of IFCC.

In recent years, IFCC's activities have experienced steady growth. The substantial services and contributions of IFCC to the enhancement of Laboratory Medicine are widely acknowledged. This remarkable success is attributed to the voluntary service, dedication, and time invested by over 300 laboratory scientists from Member Societies and Corporate Members, serving across various IFCC Functional Units. Our heartfelt gratitude extends to the IFCC officers representing Member Societies and Corporate Members for their unwavering support throughout the years. Their ongoing commitment and loyalty have played a pivotal role in the successful execution of numerous IFCC tasks and projects.

I firmly believe that advancing healthcare through Laboratory Medicine relies on the active engagement and dedicated involvement of IFCC Member Societies, Corporate Members, and IFCC officers of the Functional Units. Their collective efforts play a pivotal role in steering our profession toward the objectives and direction which will be outlined in the new IFCC Strategic Action Plans, set to be implemented in the coming years. These plans will be meticulously crafted in collaboration with the IFCC Executive Board, IFCC Functional Units, IFCC National Societies, and Corporate Members, incorporating their valuable suggestions, ideas, and comments in formulating the IFCC Strategic Action Plans. This inclusive approach ensures that the IFCC Strategic Action Plans are a true reflection of the diverse perspectives and expertise within our community.

Success in this evolving landscape requires collaborations among industry, public, private, and academic drivers of innovation. The IFCC Executive Board values and welcomes the input of ideas, comments, suggestions, criticisms and the sharing of challenges and concerns from IFCC National Societies and IVD Industry Partners. We particularly encourage young scientists to actively engage and play fundamental roles in IFCC activities. We invite all IFCC community to actively participate in IFCC's endeavors, fostering collaboration to strengthen IFCC's leadership role in advancing laboratory medicine, integrated diagnostics and enhancing the quality of healthcare and medical laboratories globally. Your engagement and contributions are crucial as we collectively strive towards these shared goals. Your feedback, participation, and engagement will be integral in steering laboratory medicine forward and shaping the future of our profession.

Achieving our shared objectives requires collaborative action and effort. To facilitate this, we will establish an interactive global platform for IFCC members in laboratory medicine, colleagues from the in vitro diagnostic industry, digital health, and medical devices. This platform will provide opportunities for interaction, sharing, and learning through networking discussions on trends, opportunities, and challenges. The aim is to deliver the latest innovations and cutting-edge technologies in laboratory medicine, establish partnership models for the efficient integration and adoption of emerging technologies, prepare for the new in vitro diagnostic regulations in Europe and beyond, transition to green and sustainable medical laboratories, harmonize and standardize laboratory tests, and enhance collaborations in education and research. This platform will serve as a dynamic space for collective advancement in our field.

I am looking forward to fostering productive cooperation with the IFCC Executive Board members and officers, establishing collaborations and efficient bridges with the IFCC Regional Federations, National Societies and Corporate Members in the ongoing and future activities of IFCC. I wish you all an excellent New Year with new hopes and plans for the year ahead.

With my best regards

Prof. Dr Tomris Ozben

IFCC President

Inspiration, Lessons and Counsel from Professor Jocelyn MB Hicks (1937–2023): In her Own Words

By Sharon M. Geaghan MD, Consultant, IFCC C-ETPLM

The recent passing of Prof. Jocelyn M B Hicks, PhD, FACB, FRC Path on October 7, 2023, was an especially profound loss for the international pediatric laboratory medicine community. Born in England, Jocelyn earned a B.Sc. and M.Sc. in London, qualified in clinical chemistry in DC and became a Professor of Pediatrics and Pathology at the George Washington University Medical Center in Washington DC. In Jocelyn's extraordinary career, she established herself as a founding scientist of our field of pediatric laboratory medicine. She was a leader in the creation of the International Association of Pediatric Laboratory Medicine, later incorporated into the IFCC.

A prodigious investigator, her papers, books, invited lectures and awards manifest her exceptional talents and accomplishments. For those who did not have the opportunity to read the beautiful and comprehensive "Farewell to Professor Jocelyn MB Hicks - IFCC President 2006-2008" contributed by IFCC's Past President Graham Beastall, please see the November issue of IFCC news¹. This perfect tribute details the many ways in which she achieved and received professional recognition, nationally and internationally.

It has been often repeated by those who knew Jocelyn that she will be dearly missed. But her work is not finished. She can continue as an inspiration. Seventeen years ago, as she assumed the IFCC Presidency, Jocelyn published her goals, which ring true today. The following includes guiding principles which she exemplified; as well as aspirational goals, lessons, and counsel we can continue to learn from, reprised as much as possible in her own words.

Representation of and equity in laboratory medicine for marginalized professionals, peoples, countries

In her own words:" I am proud of my 'firsts by a female', including being elected as the youngest member (male or female) to be president of AACC and the only woman to be president of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) in its 60-year history. My advice to young females in the field is to be a colleague and a resource to the medical staff; learn why tests are ordered and how they are interpreted. For the first 7 years of my career, I went on morning rounds and learned a great deal. Listen to the laboratory staff and be physically present in the laboratory on a daily basis if possible. Finally, read journals, and keep up with the science and medicine! I still read and follow the scientific literature, particularly Clinical Chemistry and the New England Journal of Medicine". She expressed this hope:" More women need to study science at the doctoral level." Now, in 2024, we have seen women achieve tremendous accomplishments, but as a group, women still lag in progression in academic rank and salary. Today, women and men of color are underrepresented in membership and leadership of scientific and academic communities. Jocelyn stated in 2016:" I have experienced salary discrepancies and rank discrimination²" Today, as exemplified in the most recent American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) survey, white men were paid a higher median compensation than men of other races and women of all races/ ethnicities. The report concluded "Gender was the primary factor driving compensation inequities; men consistently made more than women of the same race/ethnicity. Among faculty in clinical science departments/ specialties with MD degrees, women across races and ethnicities were paid between \$0.67 and \$0.77 per \$1.00."³. It is up to us to continue Jocelyn's pioneering spirit and make these realities disappear.

One of Dr. Hick's aspirational goals as IFCC President was written:" Determine the need of developing countries and meet what we can of these needs. Two such programs are already underway: Visiting Lecturers' program; and the Professional Scientific Exchange program"⁴. Her commitment manifested in action. Together with other stakeholders, Jocelyn helped establish the African

Federation of Clinical Chemistry, which became an IFCC member, carried forth by the good leaders who have followed. Our continued, collective efforts can extend this progress.

Visionary Leadership Driven by Humanity, Consensus-Building, and a Commitment to Mentorship

Visionary thinking is bold. It is about seeing the world as it could be, not just as it has been or is today. This is how leaders such as Jocelyn shape the future. Jocelyn's horizons extended so far beyond the technical performance characteristics of an analytic test. She looked at the big picture and never forgot that every sample represents a human being, and that vision inspired her most impactful legacies. In turn, she made one of her goals as President to "Encourage the Executive Board to do more visionary thinking and to set priorities"⁴. It is the forward-thinking IFCC leaders – Jocelyn, and those that came before and after Jocelyn – that have led the organization to constantly seek new possibilities to create a better future for the global community.

During her Presidency Jocelyn demonstrated how the IFCC can facilitate consensus-building to create international agreement for important issues in laboratory medicine. She organized (with Graham Beastall and others) and raised funds for the first consensus meeting in Milan, Italy on May 4, 2007, where the new IFCC reference system for HbA_{1c} was recognized as the singular valid anchor to implement measurement standardization. It was agreed that HbA_{1c} results would be reported worldwide in IFCC units (mmol/mol) and derived NGSP units (%), using the IFCC-NGSP master equation. Clinicians and scientists alike embraced the use of the IFCC reference method for calibration purposes, and the standardization process^{5,6}. This consensus meeting (the first of several) had the bold goal of ensuring that worldwide understanding of reported and upcoming scientific HbA_{1c} results could be understood by the global audience of doctors, nurses, laboratory scientists and diabetic patients and families. This was a foundational step on the path to the central role that HbA_{1c} has in the diagnosis and management of diabetes. What an enormous achievement!

Numerous testimonials from colleagues over the world express appreciation for Jocelyn's exceptional efforts to mentor young or less experienced colleagues, and the value of her counsel.

A Founding Mother of Pediatric Laboratory Medicine

In clinical chemistry Professor Hicks recognized that children needed a voice – and she became a leader in advocating for special techniques, reference intervals, and development of pediatric expertise in laboratory medicine. Her work on many pediatric reference intervals in clinical chemistry with Steve Soldin and Nadir Rifai, and later with Carlos Brugnara, in collaboration with Ortho Diagnostics was compiled in serial editions of Pediatric Reference Intervals (AACC) and was foundational work in pediatric reference intervals. These reference intervals were used by laboratories for pediatric patients around the world. She and her colleagues began holding International Congresses of Laboratory Medicine (Pediatric) beginning in Jerusalem in 1980 and every 3 years thereafter. At the 6th Congress in Vancouver, Canada (1995), the founding of a professional association was formalized: the International Association of Pediatric Laboratory Medicine (IAPLM). The four stated goals were to "enhance the science and practice of paediatric laboratory medicine; advance the interests of pediatric clinical pathologists and scientists through continuing education; providing camaraderie and a network among international leaders in laboratory medicine; recognizing outstanding contributions in the field". A Constitution, Bylaws and criteria for membership were created. Membership in IAPLM had extended to 15 countries as of 2002, as recorded in a history by Jocelyn and Klaus Kohse.⁷ The IAPLM was merged into the IFCC in 2005.

Accessible Scholarship with a purpose

Jocelyn's scholarship had influence and literally daily use over a remarkable period. For example, *The Neonate : clinical biochemistry, physiology, and pathology* (1976), for which Jocelyn served as

co-editor with Donald S. Young, and the Biochemical Basis of Pediatric Disease, with Steven Soldin, Nader Rifai became classic references. These unique and valued contributions bridged principles of biochemistry, pathogenesis, and the key laboratory parameters and clinicopathological manifestations of neonatal disorders. Together with co-editors Donald S. Young and Nader Rafai, Jocelyn edited the inimitable Directory of Rare Analyses (DORA). DORA was the trusted, every day, “go-to” compendium for laboratorians trying to solve challenging patient cases with unusual testing needs. DORA was published (with various co-editors) for three decades. Accordingly, Jocelyn wrote one of her goals as President was to: “Encourage both scientific and educational articles in eJIFCC⁴, a journal which is both highly accessible, useful and inclusive.

Ambassadorship from our discipline and organization

Jocelyn was a role model as an ambassador from our discipline. One of her aims was to highlight the central role of laboratory medicine in clinical medicine. Together with Mauro Panteghini, Jocelyn best summarized her view of our discipline and our organization: “Laboratory Medicine is recognized as a science that underpins Medicine. It has an important role in the diagnostic process, in the monitoring of disease and therapy, in prevention and risk stratification. By inter-disciplinary dialogue with clinicians, the validity and the utility of laboratory tests are continuously evaluated and linked with clinical outcome. The International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) has, as part of its mission, ‘to be the leading organization of clinical Laboratory Medicine worldwide.’ Through leadership and innovation, the IFCC strives to enhance the scientific level and the quality of diagnosis and therapy for patients worldwide. It is because of the necessity to stress this link between good laboratory science and the physician that the IFCC decided, with the generous contribution of Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics (OCD), to start a bi-annual series of Conferences on ‘Clinical Diagnosis and the Clinical Laboratory’ designed to emphasize this link in specialized areas of Medicine, while always keeping the patient in mind.”⁸

Let’s take a deep bow to the founding mother, the humanist, the scientist, the creative spirit and beacon of hope that Jocelyn was, and is, with our collective gratitude. Our best tribute is to follow her lead and try to finish the work she has left for us to do.

Expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.alvahhalloranandson.com for the Hicks-Brody family.

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Joycelyn Hicks

My Professional Exchange Management Program (PMEP) Experience at Clinical Laboratory of Hospital Arnau de Vilanova in Lleida, Spain

By **Marcelo León Muñoz**, Hospital Las Higueras, Talcahuano, Chile

"I am Marcelo León Muñoz, a biochemist specialized in Clinical Laboratory, responsible for the Emergency Laboratory and the Preanalytical Laboratory at the Clinical Laboratory of Hospital Las Higueras in Talcahuano, Chile. As a member of the Chilean Society of Clinical Chemistry, I had the opportunity to receive a scholarship granted by the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Sciences (IFCC), specifically the Professional Management Exchange Program (PMEP). This allowed me to gain valuable experience during an one-month exchange at the Clinical Laboratory of Hospital Arnau de Vilanova in Lleida, Spain.

During this exchange, I worked in the pre-analytical section, gaining insights into the organization and coordination with peripheral extraction centers, quality management, and participation in an external quality management program for this phase. Additionally, I learned about the management of the pre-analytical phase in a territorial and multidisciplinary laboratory. This internship provided me with a comprehensive understanding of the laboratory's organization, its quality management system, the operations of the Microbiology and Emergency laboratories, the organization and function of the Clinical Biochemistry core, the management of analytical quality indicators, and the application of the ISO 15189 standard. Throughout my stay, I actively participated in quality meetings, coordination meetings, and training sessions within the service.

My time in Lleida was a wonderful experience. I encountered people who were friendly, cheerful, kind, and always willing to share their knowledge and experiences. From the very first day, they made me feel like an integral part of the Lab team.

I extend my gratitude to the IFCC, its president Dr. Khosrow Adeli, the Chilean Society of Clinical Chemistry, and its president Dr. Angélica Lagos. Special thanks to Dr. Mercè Ibarz for accepting me into their laboratory and for the professional guidance during my stay. I appreciate all the individuals with whom I worked and shared experiences during this enriching time."



Marcelo León Muñoz at the Clinical Laboratory of Hospital Arnau de Vilanova in Lleida, Spain



Marcelo León Muñoz with Dr. Mercè Ibarz, Clinical Laboratory of Hospital Arnau de Vilanova in Lleida, Spain

Report from IFCC Professional Exchange Programme at Oslo University Hospital, Hormone Laboratory, Oslo, Norway

By **Tara Rolić**, EuSpLM, Osijek University Hospital, Osijek, Croatia

My first encounter with the IFCC Task Force Young Scientist was back in 2022 at EuroMedLab in Munich during a meeting of young scientists. Since then, I've made some awesome friends and got to know amazing colleagues from all around the world. It was at that meeting where I first heard about the IFCC Professional Exchange Program and the chance to visit other labs to gain experience in lab medicine, learn from experts, and make connections for future collaborations on a professional and scientific level.

As I listened about IFCC PEP, I started thinking about the possibilities... Being a young specialist in lab medicine and a PhD student, I began my search by sending numerous emails. Just before the IFCC closed their bursary applications in fall 2022, Prof. Per M. Thorsby made my day! He already had a candidate before me, knew about the program, and accepted me for three months at Oslo University Hospital, Hormone Laboratory, Oslo, Norway. My excitement and happiness reached new heights when I received confirmation from IFCC that my application was approved! It took a lot of effort, it felt like an unreachable goal, but it was totally worth it!

I spent in Hormone Laboratory an amazing time, learning about lab organization, how the healthcare system works, and observing the differences between Croatia and Norway labs. I delved into the accreditation process in Norway, preanalytics, analytics, and postanalytics, advantages of immunoassays vs. LCMS/MS methods. I even had the chance to work in cell and molecular labs and participate in research group meetings.

The hospitality and warm welcome from the entire lab staff surprised me; it felt like a home away from home. I was included in all meetings, got to be part of the team, and actively discussed real-life clinical scenarios for diagnoses, therapy, and analytics. I was even invited to attend an annual meeting on molecular diagnostics, where I learned about cutting-edge technology in gene analysis and therapy – a completely new and exciting field for me. Moreover, I had an amazing opportunity to discuss with colleagues about the indirect method for calculating reference intervals. The experienced experts at the Hormone Laboratory really impressed me. Planning future collaborations with them and staying in contact after returning to Croatia, made me feel like I had always been there, but time flew away so quickly in that great and professional company. In this once-in-a-lifetime experience, I found myself loving lab medicine even more. IFCC PEP enriched my private, professional, and scientific life in every positive way, and I'll be forever grateful to the people who made this program possible. A big shoutout to Per, all the members of the Hormone Lab, and a special thank you to IFCC Office and Silvia Cardinale, Prof. Adeli, Osijek University Hospital, and Sanja and Vesna for setting up my pathway in thyroid diseases. Tusen takk!



Oslo University Hospital, Hormone Laboratory, from left to right: Attiq, Per, Alexander, Sandra, Oskar, Ingunn, Finn Erik, Julie and Tara

IFCC Abbott Visiting Lecture Programme 21st Congreso Internacional CNB, Medellín, October 2023

By **Carlos A. von Muhlen**, MD, PhD, Senior Consultant in Rheumatology and Clinical Pathology, San Diego, USA, Mentor of the Residency Program in Rheumatology, Hospital Moinhos de Vento, Porto Alegre, Brasil.

In October 2023, I was privileged to take part in the 21st International CNB Congress in Medellín, Colombia. It was my first visit to that country. This gathering convened specialists in laboratory medicine, bacteriologists as they are called in Colombia. My involvement in this congress was marked by the cordial reception I received from the organizing committee, and my active role in presenting two lectures.

Lectures Presented

I had the opportunity to present two key lectures during the congress. My initial lecture, “Autoanticuerpos en enfermedades reumáticas inflamatorias sistémicas: lo nuevo e importante” centered on the newest advances in the understanding and comprehension on the field of autoantibodies as biomarkers for disease diagnosis, classification, and follow-up of therapies. My second conference was on “Actualización sobre autoanticuerpos en miopatías inflamatorias idiopáticas”, which directed the audience to the important role of the laboratory in the diagnosis, classification and determination of prognosis in the autoimmune myositis field. Both subjects struck an important participation from the audience, leading to a productive exchange of ideas and potential strategies for positive changes in this particular field in Colombia.

Networking and Prospective Collaborations

Beyond the lectures, the congress served as an excellent platform for networking. I engaged in meaningful dialogues with fellow professionals, paving the way for future collaborations. Bridging the gap between clinical medicine and the clinical laboratory is a major goal for my participation in congresses in the field.

In summary, my attendance at the 21st International CNB Congress in Colombia was a great personal experience. The cordial reception by the organizing committee, combined with the chance to share my work and interact with other experts, was invaluable. I am looking forward to taking part in future scientific meetings, aiming at advancing the field of clinical chemistry.



Dr. von Mühlen received the best local treatment, including a Colombian typical outfit.

GLOBAL MEDLAB WEEK 2024

We first would like to thank you for your fundamental support of the IFCC and its initiatives related to Laboratory Medicine profession.



As you know, from 2022, IFCC has launched a new initiative entitled “IFCC Global Lab Medicine Week” which will be carried out in April each year. The Global Medical Lab Week celebrations is now in its

third year. Its role is to highlight the vital role of the clinical laboratory professionals in health care, public health and the diagnosis of disease. The recent COVID19 epidemic highlighted the critical role laboratory professionals played in the diagnosis and monitoring of patients with COVID19. In 2023 the GMLW took place from 23 to 29th April and was principally organized by the Committee on Public Relations (C-PR), a subcommittee of the CPD Committee. Several countries developed press releases, scientific activities, activities between scientific societies and the families of their members to publicize the profession of the clinical laboratory professional and such activities were also promoted on social networks in which photos, logos of the week and videos made by different professionals in their laboratories were shared.

IFCC is very appreciative of all the cooperation given to GMLW 2023, which has led to the increased activity on IFCC’s social media on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and podcasts on Spotify.

Launching of GMLW 24

The GMLW theme in 2024 will be “**Labs save lives**”. We are requesting all regional federations and their respective member societies to participate actively in GMLW 24. This is an opportunity for all the regional federations and their member societies to come on board. It is up to all of us individually and collectively to advance the vision of IFCC in which the active role of laboratory professionals is embedded in. To achieve the goal of recognizing and celebrating the role of Specialists in Lab Medicine and other lab professionals in improving health and patient care in every corner of the world we kindly ask you to support the following activities which are divided into 2 sections and to inform us in which type of activity you would like to participate.

Section 1:

- (a) Preparation of short videos between 2-4 minutes in which clinicians share their experiences explaining how the laboratory and laboratory professionals have made a significant contribution to patient care. Videos should be submitted by 15th March 2024
- (b) Preparation of podcasts of between 4-8 minutes. Guidelines will be sent for (a) and (b) in the next 2-3 weeks.

The best 10 videos and 4 podcasts will be awarded a prize: free registration for Congress in Dubai 2024 in person or online format. The creator of the best video will additionally receive financial help to travel to Congress in Dubai. The winner videos will be professionally edited by IFCC and will be shown during Congress Dubai 2024

Section 2:

- (a) Lecture and webinar presentations in which laboratory and other professionals participate and highlight the role of laboratory professionals
- (b) Erection of banners depicting the laboratory professionals’ week by member societies at key labs in their country
- (c) Fun Runs (1 km) in which community takes part and focuses on a particular disease.
- (d) Erection of stall or small tables in lobbies/entrances to the hospital in which pamphlets are shared and distributed
- (e) Mini workshops
- (f) Articles in newspapers highlighting the role of laboratories and laboratory professionals.

We would like to get urgent feedback as to which specific activities your society would like to support and participate in 2024.

Regards,

Prof. Rajiv Erasmus (rte@sun.ac.za) Past Chair Committee on Public Relations

Dr Maria Del Carmen (mariapasquelc@yahoo.com) Chair Committee on Public Relations

Dr Maria Schroeder Member Committee on Public Relations



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. Following call for nominations is currently open:

Task Force on Global Lab Quality (TF-GLQ)

1 position: Member - [Call for nominations letter](#)

Please send TF-GLQ nominations to cardinale@ifcc.org by 19th February 2024



IFCC Live Webinar on
Increasing visibility of Laboratory Medicine through scientific communication and social media



Moderator Moderator
Visualizing Lab Medicine: Instagram's Inspirations How to Use YouTube & X for Effective Science Communication Scroll Safely- Navigating through Social Media Ethically & Professionally



Dr. Kamil Taha Uçar [Türkiye]
Laboratory Specialist in Clinical Chemistry Istanbul Basaksehir Pine and Sakura City Hospital

Mrs. Tara Rolic [Croatia]
European Specialist in Laboratory Medicine, University Hospital Centre Osijek

Mrs. Judit Julian [Spain]
Resident Clinical Chemistry The Hospital Clinic de Barcelona

Prof. Joe M. El-Khoury [USA]
Associate Professor of Laboratory Medicine Yale University

Dr. Sibtain Ahmed [Pakistan]
Chemical Pathologist Aga Khan University, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, Section of Chemical Pathology, Karachi

Date: December 21st, 2023
Time: 9:00 AM (Eastern Daylight), 3:00 PM (Central European), 10:00 PM (China Standard)



Increasing visibility of Laboratory Medicine through scientific communication and social media
The On Demand content is now available

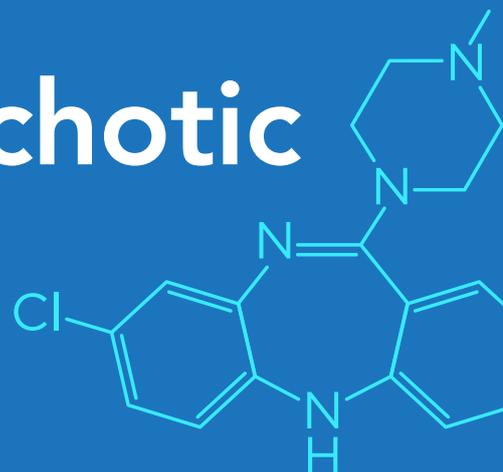


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IFCC: the Young Scientists

TF-YS Clinical Case Discussions

Session 1: Endocrine cases

By the IFCC Task force for Young Scientists (TF-YS)

On November 27, 2023, the first TF-YS Clinical Case Discussion took place virtually for young scientists worldwide. The Clinical Case Discussions were launched by Dr. Udara Senarathne (IFCC TF-YS full member) with the aim of providing a platform for the exchange of knowledge and experiences across the fields of laboratory medicine within the young scientist community. For the inaugural edition, two endocrine cases were selected for online presentation.

This session commenced with a warm welcome from the Chair of the IFCC TF-YS group, Dr. Santiago Fares Taie. Subsequently, Dr. Udara Senarathne and Dr. Claudia Imperiali briefly explained the peer review process and discussed the future plans for this project.

The discussion started with a great presentation by Dr. Élodie Lebredonchel from France on “A Novel Transferrin variant impairs the diagnosis of alcohol abuse: Congenital disorder of glycosylation”. She presented her excellent work, through which she received the first prize in the 1st International Laboratory Medicine Case Contest organized by IFCC in collaboration with Mindray. Following her case presentation, she shared several interesting tips with the audience on how to succeed in elaborating a case report.

The next speaker was presented by Dr. Rucita Severaj from South Africa, about the excellent case of Retrospectively Diagnosed Familial Hypocalciuric Hypercalcaemia Following Total Parathyroidectomy in an Asymptomatic Patient. Familial hypocalciuric hypercalcemia (FHH) is a rare autosomal dominant condition and FHH shares features with primary hyperparathyroidism (PHPT). Differentiation of PHPT and FHH is possible clinically and biochemically. She pointed out that the effective and collaborative communication between clinicians and the laboratory is crucial to arriving at a final diagnosis, which can prevent unnecessary invasive procedures.

The last outstanding speech of this session was carried out by a young scientist from Hungary, Dr Judit Gonda. She has presented her case titled “Pseudohyperkalemia, is it a simple case?”. Hyperkalemia is a common clinical problem. However, Pseudohyperkalemia is a finding observed in vitro after clotting in the serum samples tubes due to a high platelet concentration. She highlighted that the laboratory specialists should keep in mind the phenomenon of pseudohyperkalemia to avoid misdiagnoses and complementary tests.

In summary, the case presentations generated great interest from the audience. The interaction between the authors and YS allowed for the sharing of experiences and questions regarding the cases presentations.

Altogether, and thanks to this first case discussion presentation, a path was established to encourage YS to disseminate their work and learn more about the process of publishing and discussing results, thus boosting laboratory medicine as a whole. The IFCC TF-YS members invited the audience to stay tuned for upcoming sessions that will be promoted on their social media channels.

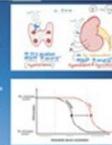
Task Force for Young Scientists

Retrospectively Diagnosed Familial Hypocalciuric Hypercalcaemia Following Total Parathyroidectomy in an Asymptomatic Patient



Introduction

- Rare autosomal recessive
- Caused by loss-of-function mutations in *Selagin-binding*
- Residual CaSRs in non-target genes
- Increased risk-point for calcium wasting
- CaSR-deficiency from parathyroids, bone, kidney, and other tissues
- Higher concentrations of calcium resulted in excessive parathyroid hormone (PTH) release
- Increased renal tubular reabsorption of calcium and magnesium
- Asymptomatic
- Hypocalciuria
- Poor basis of treatment possibility



Task Force for Young Scientists

Patient history: 41 yo female

Pseudohyperkalemia – is it a simple case?



• Lab report on 26 Apr 2023, 3:12 PM
• PLASMA (LITHIUM HEPARIN TUBE)

Test name	Value	Unit of measure	Reference values
K ⁺	14	mmol/L	3.5-5.1
Li ⁺	18	mmol/L	—
IP ⁺	2	mmol/L	—
Li ⁺	100	mmol/L	0.202
Na ⁺	142	mmol/L	136-145
Prothrombin	1.70	seconds	1.00-1.30

Young Scientist: Judit Gonda, North-Pest Central Hospital – Military Hospital, Budapest, Hungary
Tutor: Judit Simon, North-Pest Central Hospital – Military Hospital, Budapest, Hungary

Task Force for Young Scientists

TFYS Clinical Case Discussions

Season 1: Endocrine Cases
Date: 27th Monday November 2023
Time: 12:30 (1st part) & 6:31

How to participate in a case contest?



Main medical history

Case Report:

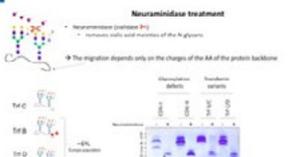
- 39-year-old male of Tamil ethnicity
- Ca²⁺ > 20% (normalised) using capillary electrophoresis
- Control: strong kinase-activating
- Exchange between the biologist and the gastroenterologist: absence of symptoms + normal hepatic function
- Source of Ca²⁺: www.genetests.com/conditions/2023/01/01/2023-01-01-01

Result

• Suspicion of a prionoprotein carrier?

Neuraminidase treatment

- Neuraminidase (Neuraminidase 2H)
- Neuraminidase acts on the N-glycans
- The migration depends only on the charges of the AA of the protein backbone



Contribute to IFCC eNews

Early diagnosis of maternal cytomegalovirus for improved management and reduced risk of fetal transmission and complications

Cytomegalovirus (CMV) is a common virus that can infect people of all ages, including pregnant women. Babies born with a cytomegalovirus infection, or congenital cytomegalovirus (cCMV), can be at higher risk for serious complications. Accordingly, cCMV is the leading cause of non-genetic hearing loss and neurodevelopmental disabilities in children. The highest risk of fetal infection is among mothers experiencing a primary infection (new infection) during the first and second trimesters of pregnancy, however, transmission can occur if a pre-existing infection is reactivated during pregnancy.

Diagnosis of cCMV can be complex, as newborn presentation can range in severity. It is estimated that 90% of babies born with cCMV will be asymptomatic and suffer no health impairments or visible delays. However, some asymptomatic newborns may have complications, including hearing loss, mild vision loss and/or communication delays. Lastly, babies born with symptoms of cCMV are at higher risk for severe and potentially devastating complication, including vision and hearing loss, microcephaly, enlarged spleen and liver, and in some cases, death.

While currently no standard exists for universal CMV screening during pregnancy, and in many countries, routine CMV screening during pregnancy is not recommended, it is likely that CMV prevalence and impact are underestimated due to lack of newborn screening. Thus, an integrated care team at National Reference Center for Herpesvirus, University Hospital Center, in Limoges, France sought to implement a universal CMV screening program for pregnant mothers to improve early diagnosis and treatment.

Since inception of their Universal CMV screening program in 2020, the number of pregnant women identified with a CMV infection has increased by 16 (from 10 CMV positive women to 26), representing a 2.6-fold increase in earlier identification. This has corresponded to a 23% reduction (from 50% to 27%) in cCMV transmission from CMV-positive pregnant mothers to their babies, including full mitigation of 11 transmissions attributable to early identification and treatment.

For their efforts and outcomes, this integrated clinical care team was awarded the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award recognition of Distinction. Congratulations to Sébastien Hantz, *Professor, Bacteriology-Virology-Hygiene*, Perrine Coste-Mazeau, *Doctor, Obstetric department* Sophie Alain, *NRC for Herpesvirus*, Elodie Ribot, *NRC for Herpesvirus*, Melissa Mayeras, *NRC for Herpesvirus*.

For more information on this best practice and others, please visit www.univantsHCE.com.



From L to R: Perrine Coste-Mazeau, Sébastien Hantz and Sophie Alain



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News from Regional Federations and Member Societies

The Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (ACB – UK) changes its name to Association for Laboratory Medicine

The Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine have announced our name change to the Association for Laboratory Medicine as well as revealed a new logo and branding.

As well as the name, we have changed our logo - we have incorporated the motif of a zero and one to represent how we use data, science and technology to support human health.

As we evolve, we continue to build an influential, diverse and inclusive community of scientists, clinicians, innovators, collaborators, and researchers. This new name and brand better reflect our current members, is open and inclusive to new members in other disciplines in laboratory medicine. This will support our ambition of becoming the voice of laboratory medicine for our members, our partners and the general public.

As a membership organisation we need to change and innovate in order to respond to our members' needs as well as the changing environment that impacts on laboratory medicine. We are confident the new brand will attract a new generation of members and sustain the excellent work of our members.

We must continue growing membership with our current target audience, particularly in fields of immunology and microbiology which are currently underrepresented in membership, but also diversify our membership to other fields of laboratory medicine.

The new brand supports our ambitions to grow our influence in the sector working with a wider range of stakeholders and partners including through our corporate membership programme.

Association President Katharine Hayden said: "The evolution of our name better reflects the breadth of our membership and provides us with the opportunity to bring together scientists who play a key role in influencing best practice in service delivery and diagnostic innovation, and to respond to the changing roles and clinical practice of professionals across Laboratory Medicine."

"Our new brand celebrates the fields of science and medicine working together, emphasising partnerships and the vital role of knowledge in advancing health," said CEO Victoria Logan. "This rebrand underscores our commitment to our values of innovation, inclusivity, and sustainability".





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DIAGNOSTICS**

Free Educational Webinar

Topic

Enhancing Efficiency in Laboratory Medicine

A Focus on Quality Control Procedures

23 January 2024

2pm GMT, 3pm CET and 9am EST

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.

WATCH NOW



Greetings and Farewell note of the EFLM President – term 2022–2023

By **Prof. Dr Tomris Ozben**, EuSpLM, Ph.D.
Specialist in Medical Biochemistry
President EFLM – term 2022-2023

Dear Colleagues, and Friends,

It has been a great honour and privilege for me to serve the EFLM community as the President of the EFLM during the term 2022 and 2023. Throughout my tenure, my commitment has been focused on maintaining the EFLM's position as the leading organization representing Laboratory Medicine in Europe.

Assuming a leadership role, together with other motivated members of the EFLM Executive Board and EFLM officers, my main focus was directed towards strengthening the solid foundations of the Federation. Our work was to identify new opportunities and strategies, enabling Laboratory Medicine to exert its crucial role in patient care.

In recent years, EFLM activities have experienced steady growth through collaborative efforts with EFLM national societies and, in vitro diagnostic (IVD) industry partners. They joined actively to EFLM in its endeavours, working together to share comments, suggestions, and challenges and to strengthen the leadership role of EFLM in advancing laboratory medicine as well as in improving the quality of healthcare and medical laboratories in Europe.

The significance of EFLM's services and contributions to the enhancement of Laboratory Medicine is widely acknowledged. This remarkable success to building, growing, and promoting laboratory medicine is attributed to the voluntary service, dedicated effort, and time generously provided by over 200 laboratory scientists from member societies working across various EFLM Functional Units. I extend my gratitude to the EFLM officers and member societies for their continuous support, loyalty, and invaluable contributions that have enabled the successful completion of numerous EFLM tasks and projects. My sincere thanks to all of them, as well as to the EFLM Executive Board members and Silvia & Terry (Silvia Cattaneo and Silvia Terragni) for their exceptional capacity, enthusiasm and efforts in efficiently managing the hard-daily work of EFLM and EFLM office.

Now, I confidently pass the torch of EFLM to my successor, Prof. Mario Plebani, 2024-2025 EFLM President. With his wisdom and leadership, I have no doubt, he will steer our federation through new challenges and towards new achievements.



Prof. Dr Tomris Ozben, EuSpLM, Ph.D., Specialist in Medical Biochemistry (2022-2023)



EFLM bursaries ceremony at the EFLM booth during WorldLab-EuroMedLab, May 2023, Rome, Italy.

Listed below are some of the important EFLM activities, achievements and projects developed and established during the past two years (2022-2023).

3rd EFLM Strategic Conference

The 3rd EFLM Strategic Conference entitled “**SMART and GREEN LABORATORIES. How to implement IVDR, Emerging Technologies and Sustainable Practices in Medical Laboratories**” was held from 25th to 27th May 2022.

According to the EFLM Procedure Manual, the preparation of the EFLM Strategic Conference is initiated under the coordination of the President-Elect. So, I initiated the preparations for the 3rd Scientific Conference, consulting and collaborating with the EFLM officers and EFLM national societies. The objective was to create an inspirational and exceptional program, which included the careful selection of cutting-edge and innovative topics, as well as identifying and inviting new expert speakers and scientific chairs.

[Click here to read the full article](#)

EFLM Welcomes Prof. Mario Plebani as New President of Executive Board

Commencing his position as EFLM president in 2024, Prof. Plebani brings extensive experience and expertise, poised to guide the European laboratory medicine community, joined by a team of equally motivated individuals on the Executive Board, each contributing their unique skills and perspectives to the organization. The EFLM Executive Board includes distinguished professionals:

- Past President: Dr. Tomris Ozben from the Department of Medical Biochemistry at Akdeniz University, Turkey
- President-Elect: Dr. Tomas Zima from the Institute of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Diagnostic at Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic
- Secretary: Dr. Snezana Jovicic from the Department for Medical Biochemistry at the University of Belgrade, Serbia.
- Treasurer: Dr. Klaus P. Kohse from the Institute for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine at the University Medicine Oldenburg, Germany.
- Members at Large: Dr. Pilar Fernandez-Calle from the Department of Laboratory Medicine at Hospital Universitario La Paz, Madrid, Spain, and Dr. Dalius Vitkus from the Centre of Laboratory Medicine at Vilnius University, Lithuania.

Together, this dynamic team is poised to lead the EFLM with a shared vision and commitment to advancing the field of laboratory medicine in Europe.

Among the priorities outlined by Prof. Plebani are initiatives to ensure an appropriate and adequate workforce, fostering new vocations, and promoting career development opportunities for young scientists. Additionally, the new Executive Board aims to contribute to the improvement of the European Directive on in vitro diagnostics (IVDR) and advance harmonization and standardization in laboratory medicine to ensure the comparability of laboratory information. As the EFLM sets its sights on the future, the new Executive Board's dedication and strategic goals align with the broader mission of enhancing the quality and effectiveness of laboratory medicine practices across Europe. Members and stakeholders alike are optimistic about the positive impact that Prof. Plebani and his team will bring during their tenure.

The entire laboratory medicine community extends its best wishes to the new EFLM Executive Board, anticipating a period of successful collaboration and advancements in the field over the next two years.



Mario Plebani

9th Annual Meeting of Saudi Society for Clinical Chemistry

5th – 7th December 2023, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

By **Anwar Borai**, SSCC representative to the IFCC

The Saudi Society for Clinical Chemistry held its 9th Annual conference on 5th – 7th December 2023 in Jeddah. A pre-conference workshop was held on 5th December 2023 covering the topics on Laboratory Leadership, Low Carbohydrates, Methamphetamine Toxicology, and postgraduate studies programs.

The keynote speaker for the conference was Professor Khosrow Adeli, the President of International Federation of Clinical Chemistry (IFCC). The conference was accredited by Saudi Commission for Health Specialties for 19 CMEs. More than 500 delegates attended the meeting.

The Scientific Program included 11 sessions with more than 35 speakers, 65 posters, and 40 presentations. The speakers were from international (Australia, Canada, UAE, Oman, Syria), regional and national.

This scientific program included sessions about cardiometabolic markers, biochemical genetics, and the need to know on inborn errors of metabolism and its application in clinical practice. The sessions also covered the importance of laboratory quality on auto-validation and reference intervals.

The Industry Workshop sessions provided by the collaborators presented the topics on the diagnosis of neonatal sepsis and monoclonal gammopathy, lab future technologies, and cardiac markers.

The event was also attended by some special guests namely Prof. Abdulrazak Hiddilli, Arab Federation for Clinical Biology (AFCB) representative to IFCC; Dr. Manal Shabaan, Tunisian Society of Clinical Biology (STBC) as well as the President of the Emirates Society Clinical Chemistry – UAE.

The exhibition court included booths of different collaborators namely Roche, Siemens, Snibe, Abbott, QuidelOrtho, Binding Site, Siemens, Beckman, BD, and EMS.

By the end of the meeting there was Poster Session Awards Announcement with more than 65 posters printed, and 5 prizes for the 5 best posters.



First poster winner prize



Prof. Peter Brukner Australia (guest speaker).



Reference Intervals session discussion: Middle, Prof. Gassan Shannan (Guest speaker), Syria; Right: Dr Hadi Khodari (United Arab Emirates), left, Dr Anwar Borai (Saudi Arabia).



Prof. Abdelrazek Hedhili, Representative of (AFCC) to the IFCC



SSCC group gathering.



The Iranian Association of Clinical Laboratory Doctors (IACLD) recognized as the first Iranian accreditation body in the Asia-Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC)

By **Shadi Edris**, Accreditation Executive Manager, Iranian Association of Clinical Laboratory Doctors (IACLD)

IFCC congratulates IACLD, which is a member of IFCC, for successfully signing the MRA document as an accreditation body and becoming a full member of APAC/ILAC. Recently, IFCC was informed that the Iranian Association of Clinical Laboratory Doctors (IACLD) has succeeded in being recognized as the first Iranian accreditation body in the Asia-Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) as a full-member that signed Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRA). The scope of this accreditation body is to accredit medical laboratories based on the ISO 15189 standard and the criteria of the ILAC/APAC.

The general expectation from the services of laboratories is to have the necessary qualifications to perform the tasks correctly and to issue reliable results. For this reason, today, we are witnessing a growing demand from laboratories to receive accreditation services by accreditation bodies because it not only ensures the proper performance of activities in accordance with the requirements but also provides the opportunities that test results are accepted by other economies without the need for re-testing.

In response to this expectation, IACLD supports patients by providing accreditation services and accreditation certificates for applicant laboratories, and it facilitates the promotion of Global acceptance of results issued by accredited laboratories.

IACLD is providing accreditation services by IACLD at the national, regional, and international levels and enhancing stakeholders' confidence in IACLD services.

The history of IACLD Membership and activity in scientific and international organizations and assemblies:

- Membership and cooperation with the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC)
- Membership and Representation of the Asian Federation - Pacific Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine in Iran (APFCB)
- Cooperation with the European Federation of Laboratory Medicine (EFLM)
- Membership in the Asia-Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Association (APLAC)
- Membership in the Asia-Pacific Accreditation Association (APAC)
- Membership in the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Accreditation Application Form.

For receiving accreditation services from IACLD, applicants may complete the accreditation application form IACLD-F18 through AB's website and submit it to ab@iacld.ir along with the requested documents.



First Regional Conference of the Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry, COLABIOCLI

By **Dr. Álvaro Justiniano Grosz**, President of COLABIOCLI and **Dr. Rosa Sierra-Amor**, Member eNews Working Group, CPD IFCC

COLABIOCLI

IFCC
International Federation
of Clinical Chemistry
and Laboratory Medicine

1° CONFERENCIA REGIONAL DE LA CONFEDERACIÓN LATINOAMERICANA DE BIOQUÍMICA CLÍNICA-COLABIOCLI

*“Pensando en el Presente y Planificando
el Futuro de los Profesionales del
Laboratorio Clínico en América Latina
y el Caribe”*

Ciudad de Guatemala
Hotel Las Américas

**21 Y 22 DE NOVIEMBRE
DEL 2023**

SOCIETAT CHILENA DE QUÍMICA CLÍNICA
SBAC **ABU** **CMCLatC** **SOCIETAT ARGENTINA DE QUÍMICA CLÍNICA** **SOCIETAT MEXICANA DE CIÈNCIES DE LABORATORI CLÍNICA S.C.** **SOCIETAT BOLIVIANA DE BIOQUÍMICA CLÍNICA C.B.** **ASOCIACIÓN DE BIOQUÍMICOS DEL PARAGUAY** **AGBG**

For the first time since the founding of the Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry in 1973, the first regional conference of COLABIOCLI was held with great success taking place in Guatemala City, Guatemala from November 21 to 22, 2013. This conference was organized by COLABIOCLI EB taking place at the Hotel Las Americas and the host society to welcome the attendees has been the College of Chemical Biologists of Guatemala.

The first regional conference was conceived to bring together the member societies and collaborators, as well as coordinators of working groups focusing on the continuous improvement of COLABIOCLI's strategic plan which was reviewed and updated through the agreements made at this first regional conference.

The overall goal was to generate an open space for discussion and analysis between the structure of COLABIOCLI, both the Executive Committee and the operational units, the working groups and the member societies from the region, which allowed defining the global policy of COLABIOCLI, as well as promoting the development of strategic plan inside COLABIOCLI member societies, encouraging the implementation of quality management systems, the incorporation of young professionals to the scientific community and the generation of links of interaction between the entity and the universities.

The specific objectives were focused on:

- the approval of the COLABIOCLI strategic plan up to 2026, defining the COLABIOCLI policy,
- the promotion of the development of strategic plan in the countries in accordance with the COLABIOCLI policy,
- the design of a working plan and the organization of the COLABIOCLI working groups.
- the structure of a program and a schedule of the activities for COLABIOCLI in 2024
- the establishment of a base document for the COLABIOCLI Policies in the Region

The program included several topics of interest, such as discerning the harmonized development carried out by professional associations; reviewing universities' curricula in relation to the homologation of the different titles of the profession which are given to the clinical laboratory professional in the Latin American region; promoting the professional development of young scientists, and in addition focusing on the efforts of the associations in conjunction with COLABIOCLI in the implementation of quality management systems, ISO 15189 accreditation and the use of external quality assessment schemes (EQAS) for the clinical laboratory in Latin America.

Likewise, the presidents and delegates of COLABIOCLI affiliated member associations that participated in this conference were from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Spain, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Mexico, Panama, and the Dominican Republic.

[Click here to read the full article](#)



Participants of the 1st regional conference of COLABIOCLI, Hotel Las Americas, Guatemala, Gua.



Alvaro Justiniano-Grosz, president of COLABIOCLI, Ma Elizabeth Menezes, president SBAC, Luis Fernando Barcelos, vice president of COLABIOCLI and Rosa Sierra-Amor, Head of COLABIOCLI Accreditation Management Working Group.



ROUNDTABLE 1. Strengthening COLABIOCLI Entities: Marlene Vélez de la Vega, CNB President; Ma Eugenia Leon, Delegate ABP; Carola Briancon, COLABIOCLI Secretary General; Elena George, CMCLabC President; Juan Pablo Grammatico, COLABIOCLI Facilitator; Alvaro Justiniano, COLABIOCLI President, Julio Nieto-Ramos, President CONALAC.



Japan Society of Clinical Chemistry (JSCC) 2023 Academic Award

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

The Academic Award of the Japan Society of Clinical Chemistry (JSCC) is given to a person who has made outstanding academic research in clinical chemistry. In 2023, Saori Nakagawa, Ph.D. was the winner of the Academic Award. At the 63rd Annual Meeting of JSCC in Tokyo, Japan from October 27 to 29, 2023 award winner Dr. Saori Nakagawa was congratulated by Dr. Takashi Miida, President of JSCC for her outstanding work in clinical chemistry.

In this issue, we would like to introduce one of winners of Academic Award to distribute her outstanding work.

Saori Nakagawa, Ph.D. (Division of Bio-Analytical Chemistry, Faculty of Medical Technology, Niigata University of Pharmacy and Medical and Life Sciences) is the winner of the 2023 Academic Award, entitled with “Development of determination for cholesterol precursors and oxysterols and its application.”. Cholesterol is biosynthesized mainly in the liver, absorbed from food in the small intestine, and metabolized to oxysterols and cholestanol. Measurements of cholesterol, its precursors, plant sterols, cholestanol, and oxysterols in plasma are useful in the diagnosis of inherited disorders of cholesterol biosynthesis, malformation syndromes, familial hypercholesterolemia, cerebrotendinous xanthomatosis or sitosterolemia, and the evaluation of the effects of drug administration. Herein, she has reported the development of a new gas chromatography coupled with mass spectrometry method for determining cholesterol, its related sterols, and oxysterols in plasma. Plasma pretreatments were performed as follows: lipid extraction, sterol ester saponification, extraction with n-hexane, and trimethylsilyl (TMS) derivatization. In the case of oxysterols, pretreatment required an additional solid-phase extraction before TMS to remove excess cholesterol. Cholesterol, five cholesterol precursors, three plant sterols, cholestanol, and twelve oxysterols were identified simultaneously using this method. This method was applied to patient blood samples and showed that long-term administration of the cholesterol absorption inhibitor, ezetimibe, promoted cholesterol biosynthesis through compensatory effects. Furthermore, she was able to detect decreases in serum 7 β -hydroxycholesterol (7 β OHC), the possibility of inhibiting the absorption of food-derived 7 β OHC and diagnosed cerebrotendinous xanthomatosis and sitosterolemia. Moreover, 24S-hydroxycholesterol (24OHC) was identified as a potential marker for central nervous system disorders in phenylketonuria, and the increase of 24OHC levels in the brain due to growth hormone administration in small-for-gestational-age patients was measured. Applying this method to cell cultured systems revealed that ergosterol contained in mushrooms, *Lactobacillus sakei*, and soybean-derived daidzein have inhibitory effects on cholesterol biosynthesis. Her future research direction is to further apply the developed method for measuring cholesterol biosynthesis, absorption and oxysterols in patient plasma samples and to discover new biomarkers of disease and new functional foods that inhibit cholesterol.



Saori Nakagawa
Ph.D. winner of the
2023 Academic Award

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2024 MAY
26-30

In cooperation with



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 UAEGDA International Genetic
Disorders Conference

More than 1700 abstracts submitted

15 March 2024

Deadline for reduced registration fees

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News from the IFCC Website

IFCC WorldLab 2024 abstracts submission: a new record for IFCC!



In cooperation with



1711 abstracts from 95 countries

This is the second highest number of abstracts submitted and the highest ever for an IFCC WorldLab Congress held outside Europe. **Huge thanks to all abstract authors for their contribution to the Congress!**



Countries	Abstracts
Spain	216
Tunisia	145
Saudi Arabia	89
India	84
Nigeria	59
Italy	54
United States	47
Iran	46
China	45
Serbia	43
Morocco	41
Algeria	40
Poland	37
Pakistan	34
Russian Federation	32
Croatia	29
South Africa	20
Nepal	25
Sri Lanka	25

Countries	Abstracts
Albania	23
Brazil	23
Bulgaria	23
France	23
United Kingdom	23
United Arab Emirates	22
Greece	19
Lebanon	19
Mexico	19
Korea, Republic of (South Korea)	18
Bosnia and Herzegovina	15
Romania	15
Ethiopia	14
Indonesia	14
Turkey	14
Belarus	13
Netherlands	13
Syria, Syrian Arab Republic	13

Countries	Abstracts
Australia	12
Switzerland	12
Zambia	12
Belgium	11
Czech Republic	11
Malaysia	11
Palestinian National Authority	11
Germany	10
Kenya	10
Macedonia	10
Oman	10
Philippines	10
Canada	9
Qatar	9
Uruguay	7
Ireland	6
Portugal	6
Taiwan, Republic of China	6
Cameroon	5

Countries	Abstracts
Georgia	5
Hungary	5
Kazakhstan	5
Austria	4
Ukraine	4
Vietnam	4
Afghanistan	3
Argentina	3
Chile	3
Israel	3
Japan	3
Jordan	3
Kosovo	3
Maldives	3
Norway	3
Paraguay	3
Slovenia	3
Thailand	3
Estonia	2

Countries	Abstracts
Lithuania	2
Montenegro	2
Senegal	2
Singapore	2
Yemen	2
Zimbabwe	2
Armenia	1
Azerbaijan	1
Bangladesh	1
Cyprus	1
Egypt	1
Ghana	1
Hong Kong	1
Iraq	1
Jamaica	1
Kyrgyzstan	1
Latvia	1
Mali	1
Malta	1
Sweden	1

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IFCC's Calendar of Congresses, Conferences & Events

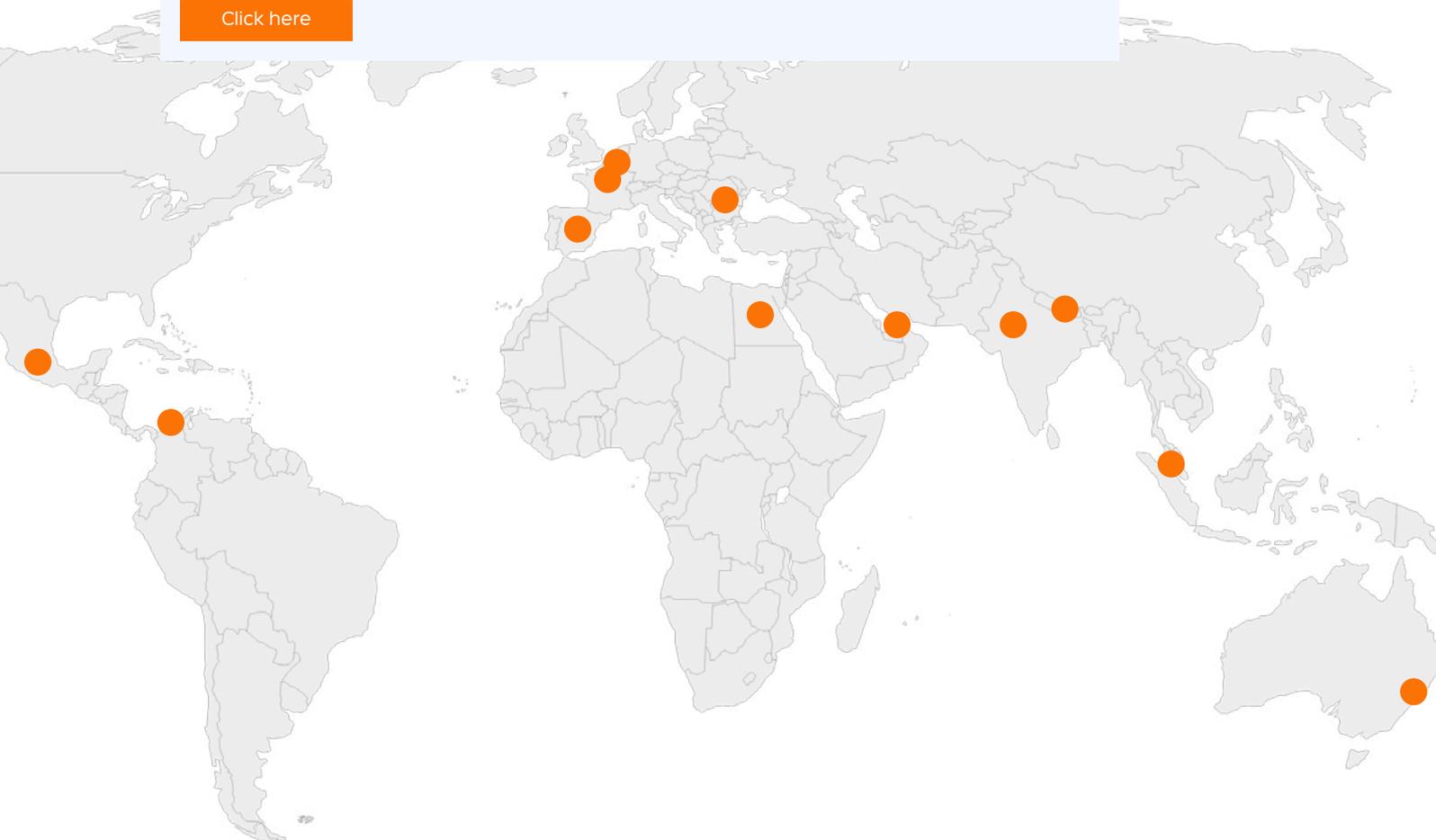
IFCC and Regional Federation Events			
Date		Title	Place
March, 2024		AFCC CONGRESS 2024	Cairo, EG
May 25, 2024		XVII ICPLM - INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PEDIATRIC LABORATORY MEDICINE	Dubai, UAE
May 26 - Jun 30, 2024		XXVI IFCC WORLDLAB - Dubai 2024	Dubai, UAE
May 26, - Jun 30 2024		AFCB Congress in conjunction with the XXVI IFCC WorldLab Dubai 2024 Congress	Dubai, UAE
Oct 3 - 6, 2024		XXVI COLABIOCLI 2024	Cartagena, CO
October 31 - Nov 3, 2024		APFCB 2024 Sydney	Sidney, AU
May 18 - 22, 2025		XXVI IFCC-EFLM EUROMEDLAB 2025	Brussels, BE
October 25 - 30, 2026		XXVII IFCC WORLDLAB 2026	New Dehli, IN
October 10 - 13, 2027		APFCB 2027 KUALA LUMPUR	Kuala Lumpur, MY

Corporate Member Events with
IFCC Auspices

Date	Title	Place
Jun 2 - Mar 26, 2024	Quality Management for Clinical laboratories according to ISO 15189:2022	Quality Academics, Online, MX

Other events with
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- African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC)
- Asia-Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (APFCB)
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 United Arab Emirates: Genetic Diseases Association (UAEGDA)

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