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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IFCC - COLABIOCLI - CUBRA 02 - 03 - 2013

*by Maria Alejandra Arias
Treasurer CUBRA Representative of Argentina to IFCC*

On March 2, 2013 the members of the Executive Committee of IFCC (International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine), COLABIOCLI (Confederación Latinoamericana de Bioquímica Clínica) and CUBRA (Confederación Unificada Bioquímica de la República Argentina) gathered at the headquarters of the Fundación Bioquímica Argentina – Buenos Aires.

The IFCC participants of the meeting were, Dr. Graham Beasall, President (UK), Dr. Howard Morris, Vice President (Australia), Dr. Jocelyn Hicks, Past President (USA), Dr. Sergio Bernardini, Secretary (Italy), Dr. Bernard Gouget, Treasurer (France), Dr. Vanessa Steenkamp, Executive Board Member for

South Africa (Africa), Dr. Ulysses Tuma, Executive Board Member, Latin America (Brazil), Dr. Larry Kricka, Executive Board Member, AACC (USA), Dr. Thomas Brinkmann, Corporate Representative (Switzerland) and Ms. Paola Bramati, administrative secretary. Representatives of COLABIOCLI were Dr. Carlos Navarro, President, Dr. Roberto Garcia, Vice President and Dr. Daniel Mazziotta. CUBRA was represented by Dr. Jorge Alegre, President, Dr. Alberto Casado, Secretary and Dr. Maria Alejandra Arias, Treasurer.

Dr. Graham Beastall began the meeting by thanking the hosts and expressing that it is a real pleasure to be with both institutions (COLABIOCLI - CUBRA) gathered in this wonderful country for the second time in the history of IFCC. The meeting was driven by the possibility of finding areas of common interest between the three entities.

Dr. Carlos Navarro was very satisfied with the outcome of that meeting in CUBA, which bore fruit, the meeting in Argentina. For his part, Dr. Jorge Alegre emphasizes working together with the Latin American entity, whose executive is in Argentina for the period.

Reference was made to the activities carried in Latin America such as in the RIA space (Iberoamerican space) and the recent addition of the radio program "The Microscope" conducted by Dr. Hernan Fares Taie (Argentina). During Quality Management the 3 month internships in different laboratories funded by the travel scholarship (ROCHE) for participation allowed Dr. Arias to participate in the IFCC General Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. In this connection, there was also willingness to fund 6 scholarships to the COLABIOCLI Congress in October 2013 in Lima – Peru. There will also be greater Latin American participation of regional news publications in e-news IFCC.

The Symposia held in Punta Cana and in Kuala Lumpur were mentioned as both very enriching for both Latin America and the IFCC. It was stated that the program of activities with the other federations that make up IFCC was very complete.

IFCC achieved the signing of the formal agreement of collaboration with COLABIOCLI.

Dr. Navarro says that once an enquiry to the member countries of the Confederation, has been made, beyond agreeing with the signing of the agreement has not materialized yet despite the years that have passed and they, recognize and value the contribution of IFCC without which existence things will be different. Importantly, the collaboration will be mutual, since the reality in Latin America is very different from other regions; therefore the contributions that can be made from here are very valuable and enriching.

Dr. Navarro says that not all members of COLABIOCLI are members of IFCC and this could hinder the understanding and this is an area for some work to be done in the Confederation in which he presides. The reason for keeping the agreement is purely economic since based on the Latin American reality, will not be possible with other federations.

IFCC noted that federations work closely with corporate members, exhibitions, congresses, etc. and propose to organize networks of corporate members in Latin America to achieve greater economic support of regional congresses. Both organizations are committed to working to finalize the agreement so that it is advantageous to all.

Concluding on this topic, it was agreed that it is important to show the Latin American countries the advantages of belonging to IFCC, to encourage joining this company and that economics should not be a constraint to working together. Dr. Hicks said that it is advisable to involve COLABIOCLI and to work with interesting corporate members to feel part of the project and not only are those who contribute money.

Dr. Navarro explained briefly that the activities that are being developed in COLABIOCLI, example the survey distributed in all countries of the Confederation regarding a future level training curriculum beyond a bachelor's degree and commented that a meeting will be held in Guatemala in April to reach a basic agreement.

Later Dr. Roberto Garcia proposed an incorporation between IFCC scientific activities, the project Bacova (Balance del Contenido Vaginal) and explained its objectives and results achieved in Argentina. The main idea is to organize training courses offered from an IFCC working group created for the purpose and with the participation of regional representatives and members of other federations. The

reception by members of IFCC was successful, and they are trying to expand their goals by working in other areas. They pledged to discuss the possibility of including this in the IFCC Scientific Division. Dr. Navarro adds that this type of activity contributes to the professional ranking and positioning in the laboratory.

Dr. Daniel Mazziotta stated that a regional question arises because of the urgent need to standardize the laboratory so that traceability is transferred to patient outcomes. He Proposed strategies make the professional standard system homogeneous. He considered it a reality that is difficult to change but in turn there is a need to standardize laboratory training, if only in the long term. The idea is to create a reference metrology laboratory to service other clinical analysis centers. IFCC commits to convey this to the Committee on Traceability belonging to the Scientific Division, trying to align mounting reference methods.

At the conclusion of the meeting there were ways evaluated to improve communication between IFCC and COLABIOCLI. Reference was made to the operation of web sites and the interaction between the entities in the presence of institutional links in them, stressed the importance of starting to use the Spanish language for messages and / or letters.

Dr. Navarro highlighted the performance of partners from both IFCC and CUBRA, who had contributed to the growth of this relationship.

Finally participants reviewed the schedule of regional events, beginning with the Congress in Lima (Peru) that will be attended on behalf of IFCC by Dr. Tuma, the Congress of Quito (Ecuador) and Congress CUBRA XII in October 2013, Congress Biochemist National, which will be attended by a visiting professor, thanks to the program of "Visiting Lecturer" of IFCC.



The IFCC EB with members of the COLABIOCLI and CUBRA EBs, and Paola Bramati - IFCC Office, in Buenos Aires

REUNIÓN COMITÉ EJECUTIVO IFCC - COLABIOCLI - CUBRA 02 - 03 - 2013

*par María Alejandra Arias
Tesorera CUBRA - Representante de Argentina ante IFCC*

El 2 de marzo de 2013 se reunieron en la Sede de la Fundación Bioquímica Argentina – CABA, los integrantes del Comité Ejecutivo de **IFCC** (International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine), **COLABIOCLI** (Confederación Latinoamericana de Bioquímica Clínica) y **CUBRA** (Confederación Unificada Bioquímica de la República Argentina).

Participaron de dicho encuentro por **IFCC**, el Dr. Graham Beastall, Presidente (REINO UNIDO); el Dr. Howard Morris, Vicepresidente (AUSTRALIA); la Dra. Joselyn Hicks, Ex Presidente (EEUU); el Dr. Sergio Bernardini, Secretario (ITALIA); el Dr. Bernard Gouget, Tesorero (FRANCIA); la Dra. Vanesa Steenkamp, Miembro del Comité Ejecutivo por Sudáfrica (ÁFRICA); el Dr. Ulises Tuma, Miembro del Comité Ejecutivo por Latinoamérica (BRASIL); el Dr. Larry Kricka Miembro del Comité Ejecutivo por la AACC (EEUU); el Dr. Thomas Brinkmann, Representante Corporativo (SUIZA) y la Sra. Paola Bramatti, Secretaria administrativa. Por **COLABIOCLI**, el Dr. Carlos Navarro, Presidente, el Dr. Roberto García, Vicepresidente y el Dr. Daniel Mazziotta. Por **CUBRA**, el Dr. Jorge Alegre, Presidente; el Dr. Alberto Casado, Secretario y la Dra. María Alejandra Arias, Tesorera.

El Dr. Graham Beastall da inicio a la reunión agradeciendo a los anfitriones y expresando que para ellos es un verdadero placer poder estar con ambas instituciones (COLABIOCLI – CUBRA) reunidos en este país maravilloso, por segunda vez en la historia de IFCC.

Lo que motivó este encuentro fue la posibilidad de encontrar áreas de interés común entre las tres Entidades y lograr al final del mismo un mayor entendimiento.

Se efectuaron las presentaciones personales y el Dr. Carlos Navarro se mostró muy satisfecho por el resultado de aquel encuentro en CUBA, que dio como fruto, la reunión en Argentina. Por su parte el Dr. Jorge Alegre hace hincapié en el trabajo conjunto de CUBRA con la Entidad Latinoamericana, cuyo Ejecutivo es de Argentina por este período.

Se hizo referencia a las actividades efectuadas con Latinoamérica como es el espacio RIA (Rincón Ibero Americano) y la reciente incorporación del programa radial “El Microscopio” conducido por el Dr. Hernán Fares Taie (Argentina). Se mencionó el curso de Gestión de la Calidad, las pasantías de 3 meses en diferentes laboratorios, el otorgamiento de la beca de viaje ROCHE para la participación de la Dra. Arias en la Conferencia General de IFCC en Kuala Lumpur, Malasia. En relación a esto también se comentó que se han dispuesto 6 becas para participar del Congreso de COLABIOCLI en octubre de 2013 en Lima – Perú y la participación de Latinoamérica con la publicación de noticias regionales en el e-news de IFCC.

Se mencionaron los Simposios llevados a cabo en Punta Cana y en Kuala Lumpur, ambos muy enriquecedores tanto para Latinoamérica como para IFCC. Se comenta que el programa de actividades con las demás Federaciones que integran IFCC es muy completo.

IFCC genera uno de los puntos de gestión, que es lograr la firma del convenio formal de colaboración con COLABIOCLI.

El Dr. Navarro comenta que una vez efectuada la consulta a los países integrantes de su Confederación, más allá de estar de acuerdo con la firma de dicho convenio, que a pesar de los años transcurridos aún no se ha concretado, reconocen y valoran el aporte de IFCC sin la existencia del mismo. Es importante destacar que la colaboración será mutua, ya que la realidad en Latinoamérica es muy diferente a la de otras regiones, por lo tanto las contribuciones que se pueden hacer desde aquí son muy valiosas y enriquecedoras.

El Dr. Navarro agrega que no todos los miembros de COLABIOCLI, son miembros de IFCC y que esto podría dificultar el entendimiento, pasando a ser un área para trabajar desde la Confederación que él preside. El motivo que podría imposibilitar el acuerdo es netamente económico, ya que volviendo sobre la realidad latinoamericana, es imposible compararlo con el que posee IFCC con otras Federaciones.

Desde IFCC comentan que las demás Federaciones funcionan en estrecha relación con los miembros corporativos en, exhibiciones, congresos nacionales, etc. y proponen se organicen redes de miembros corporativos en Latinoamérica para lograr un mayor apoyo económico en los congresos regionales. Ambas Entidades se comprometen en trabajar para concluir el acuerdo de manera que sea ventajoso para todos.

Finalizando con este tema, se acuerda que es importante mostrar a los países de Latinoamérica, las ventajas de pertenecer a IFCC, para que se sumen a esta empresa y que lo económico no sea una limitante para trabajar juntos. La Dra. Hicks aconseja que se considere COLABIOCLI como un todo y que se trabaje en interesar a los miembros corporativos para que se sientan parte del proyecto y no solo sean los que aportan dinero.

El Dr. Navarro explica brevemente las actividades que se están desarrollando en COLABIOCLI, como la Encuesta distribuida en todos los países que conforman la Confederación, para poder en un futuro, nivelar la formación curricular, más allá del nombre que reciba el título de grado y comenta que la reunión que se efectuará en Guatemala en Abril, es para llegar a un acuerdo de base.

Posteriormente el Dr. Roberto García presenta como inquietud para incorporar entre las actividades científicas de IFCC, el proyecto BACOVA (Balance del Contenido Vaginal). Expone los objetivos del mismo y los resultados obtenidos en Argentina. La idea principal es la organización de cursos de entrenamiento ofrecidos desde un grupo de trabajo de IFCC creado para tal fin y con la participación de representantes regionales y de miembros de otras Federaciones. La recepción por parte de los miembros de IFCC, fue exitosa, ya que están intentando ampliar sus objetivos trabajando en otras áreas. Se comprometieron a analizar la posibilidad de incluirlo en la División Científica de IFCC. El Dr. Navarro agrega que este tipo de actividades contribuye a la jerarquización y posicionamiento del profesional en el laboratorio.

El Dr. Daniel Mazziotta, plantea el problema regional debido a la imperiosa necesidad de estandarizar los laboratorios, para que la trazabilidad sea transferida a los resultados de los pacientes. Propone para esto estrategias profesionales utilizando sistemas estándar, homogéneos. Considera que es una realidad difícil de cambiar pero a su vez es una necesidad, estandarizar los laboratorios aunque más no sea, a largo plazo. La idea es crear un laboratorio metrológico de referencia para dar servicio a los demás centros de análisis clínicos. IFCC se compromete en transmitir este tema al Comité de Trazabilidad perteneciente a la División Científica, para intentar armonizar montando métodos de referencia.

Finalizando la reunión, se evaluó la manera de mejorar la comunicación entre IFCC y COLABIOCLI. Se hizo referencia al funcionamiento de los sitios web y a la interacción entre las Entidades con la presencia de links institucionales en los mismos, se recalcó la importancia de comenzar a utilizar la lengua española para los mensajes y/o cartas.

El Dr. Navarro destacó el desempeño de los interlocutores tanto desde IFCC como desde CUBRA, que habían contribuido en el crecimiento de esta relación.

Por último se revisó el cronograma de eventos regionales, comenzando por el Congreso en Lima (Perú) al que asistirá en representación de IFCC, el Dr. Tuma; el Congreso de Quito (Ecuador) y el congreso CUBRA XII en octubre 2013, Congreso Bioquímico Nacional, en el que se contará con la presencia de un Profesor visitante, gracias al programa "Visiting Lecturer" de IFCC.



Dr G. Beastall, IFCC President, and Dr C. Navarro, COLABIOCLI President at the joint meeting



from left: Dr C. Navarro, COLABIOCLI President with Dr G. Beastall, IFCC President, and Prof. J. Hicks, IFCC Immediate Past President, during the IFCC-COLABIOCLI-CUBRA Meeting

NEWS FROM REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND MEMBER SOCIETIES

RUSSIAN SCIENTIFICALLY-PRACTICAL SOCIETY OF SPECIALISTS IN LABORATORY MEDICINE (RSPSSLM)

The Russian Scientifically-Practical Society of Specialists in Laboratory Medicine (RSPSSLM) historically was founded in 1947 just like the Association of Staff of Clinical Diagnostic Laboratories in USSR. Professor E. A. Kost was the initiator of establishment of the society and its first chairman. Professor A.S. Petrov and Professor B.F. Korovkin were elected chairmen of the Board of the Society during the next years. At present, Professor Vadim Menshikov is Chair of the National Society.

RSPSSLM is a full IFCC member. The IFCC information booklet was translated and published in Russian and distributed in different regions of Russian Federation.

In connection with the proposal of the IFCC and EFLM on introduction of the name of specialists of our profession our association received a new name " Russian Scientifically-practical society of specialists in Laboratory Medicine ". RSPSSLM incorporates laboratory specialists from 51 subjects of the Russian Federation. The creation of the RSPSSLM Web Page became a new stage of development of our Society (<http://www.labmedicina.ru>).

The overall objectives of the RSPSSLM are:

- development and improvement of clinical laboratory diagnostics as an applied clinical discipline;
- scientific research in the field of Laboratory Medicine;
- improvement of Management in Laboratory Medicine in Russia;
- training of members of society, increased qualifications, protection of professional and civil interests;
- integration of the Russian clinical laboratory service into the world community.

Main forms of activity of RSPSSLM:

- organizing of Annual all-Russian scientific and practical forums "National days of Laboratory Medicine of Russia";
- regular carrying out regional meetings in Laboratory Medicine of local offices of the Society;
- edition of the Journal "Clinical Laboratory Diagnostics" and some other professional Journals;
- edition of textbooks, monographs, guidelines on actual problems of Laboratory Medicine;
- participation in development of National Standards in Laboratory Medicine and other regulating documents in Management of Laboratory Service.

Members of Russian Scientifically-Practical Society of Specialists in Laboratory Medicine that are involved in IFCC and EFLM activities:

1. Prof. Lina Khorovskaya (Pavlov State Medical University, Russian Federation) - National Representative of Russian Scientifically-Practical Society of Specialists in Laboratory Medicine (RSPSSLM)
2. Dr. Svetlana Kovalevskaya (Pavlov State Medical University, Russian Federation) - Corresponding member of the EFLM Working group on Preanalytical Phase, EFLM WG-PA.
3. Dr. Alexey Bugrov (Russian Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education, Moscow, Russian Federation) - Corresponding Member of the EFLM Working Group on Test Evaluation, EFLM WG-TE.
4. Dr. Karina Kasoyan (Russian Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education, Moscow, Russian Federation) - Congresses and Postgraduate Education (WG-CPE).
5. Dr. Darya Kisilichina (Russian Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education, Moscow, Russian Federation) - Full Member-Young Scientist of the EFLM Working Group on Distance Education and e-Learning (WG-DE).
6. Dr. E. Rusanova (Pavlov State Medical University, Russian Federation) – Member of the IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists (TF-YS).

IFCC and EFLM speakers participate in annual all-Russian scientific and practical RSPSSLM forums "National days of Laboratory Medicine of Russia" (pic.1). EFLM speaker Professor P. Schuff-Werner

(Germany) delivered 2 presentations for Russian specialists in Laboratory Medicine in Moscow and St.-Petersburg in October 2012 (pic.2).

Forum “National days of laboratory medicine of Russia-2013” will be held in Moscow, October 1-3, 2013. In the programme of this meeting Dr. Wim Huisman, Chair of the EFLM Committee on Quality and Regulations will give a talk on experience and benefits of application of the standard ISO 15189 in Laboratory practice in Europe.



From the left: Prof. Vadim Menshikov and Prof. Vladimir Dolgov in the session of XVI Forum “National days for Laboratory Medicine of Russia” in Moscow, October 2nd, 2012.



Discussion after the presentation of EFLM speaker Professor P. Schuff-Werner in XVI Forum “National days for Laboratory Medicine of Russia” in Moscow, October 2nd, 2012.

HOW CAN WE PROMOTE LABORATORY MEDICINE?

JOIN MY LECTURES "LABORATORY MEDICINE IN A PRACTICAL WAY" DURING "THE MONTH OF LABORATORY MEDICINE FOR THE GENERAL PRACTITIONERS" IN SIBIU, ROMANIA

By Camelia Grigore, MD, EuSpLM, Children`s Hospital Sibiu, Romania

Last year, Laboratory Medicine professionals started a campaign of promoting their work for a correct understanding of laboratory tests by the other medical professionals and by the patients. The web site www.Labtestsonline.com has been a success, being an important help for many people in 12 different countries, explaining the benefits of laboratory tests, how we work in a laboratory, what are the advances of the laboratory methods, what are the limits, the interferences of the tests, how can they correctly interpret the results of the tests in a clinical context.

When Graham Beastall, the President of IFCC, encouraged us with the words: "**Many small people, from many small places, making many small things, can change the world**", I decided to find my own way to promote laboratory medicine among my colleagues. So I did.

I organized, each year, together with the Medical Society of General Practitioners from Sibiu, my town, "The month of Laboratory Medicine for the General Practitioners". During 4 weeks, I gave lectures about the practical way of looking at a lab result and discussing different pathologies. We started 5 years ago and now my lectures "**Laboratory Medicine in a practical way**" is a well known event in March, for everybody who wants to find out news about laboratory medicine tests.

The subjects presented concern all areas of laboratory medicine, including haematology, biochemistry and microbiology.

Last year's subject was "Geriatrics-biological changes during aging" taking into discussion the lab test for the most frequent pathologies of the older patients: cardiovascular diseases, tumor markers and ending with a very modern subject: vitamin D deficiency. This year we changed the programme completely and took into discussion the variability of lab tests during childhood: "The child is not only a small adult", focusing on the most important diseases of the children - parasitic, bacterial and viral infectious diseases, passing through the normal ranges for children in haematology and biochemistry tests and ending with the growing pathology of allergies and the role of specific allergen determination in the diagnosis of allergy in children.

Not only were the lectures but also case discussions, so that everybody could find an explanation to their everyday questions about lab tests results. What were the most frequent questions? Why do I have different results from different laboratories? What other test should I do to confirm the diagnose? When do I have to repeat the test?

After taking into account all the questions I concluded that, in our time, the laboratory specialist has solved the main analytical problems, but still has a lot to work in explaining the variability of tests results and also has a big role in promoting the new tests and new technologies that will change the medical practice in the near future.

The medical laboratory specialist should always be an interface with the clinicians, trying to understand their needs for solving the case and giving them a helpful hand with the right lab test for the disease.

If you are interested in promoting Laboratory Medicine, join my lectures: "Laboratory Medicine in a practical way", in March 2014 in Sibiu, known, after Forbes, as "Europe`s 8th most idyllic place to live".



NEWS FROM THE SPANISH SOCIETY OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY (SEQC)

By Josefina Mora, Liaison to the IFCC eNewsletter

The SEQC recently inaugurated a new lecture hall, the Aula Enric Concustell, to hold scientific symposia and conferences. The room is fully equipped with state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment, built-in LCD projection screens and Wi-Fi.

To celebrate the inauguration of this centre, a series of humanistic lectures have been organized for 2013:

- The opening lecture, Brain and Power was given by Adolf Tobeña, professor of Psychiatry at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, on February 14. Dr. Tobeña analysed the common traits of people who occupy positions of power, showing that individuals who are astute, dominant, persuasive, false, manipulative and audacious are optimal candidates to seek such roles.
- On March 14th, Maria Barbal will present a lecture entitled The Building of a Novel. Her book *Stone in a Landslide* (Pedra de Tartera) has over fifty editions and has been translated into thirteen languages.
- The next lecture will take place on June 13th. It is entitled Communication and Happiness, and the speaker will be Sebastià Serrano, professor of Linguistics and Communication Theory at the University of Barcelona and author of several books.
- On October 17th, Fernando Bandrés, professor of Toxicology and Legal Medicine at the Complutense University of Madrid, will present his lecture entitled Medicine, Ethics, Values and Law.
- The closing lecture in this cycle, 200 Years of Giuseppe Verdi, will be delivered by Marcel Gorgori, a radio and television journalist whose speciality is opera.



Top row: the Aula Enric Concustell.

Middle row: Adolf Tobeña (second from left) with SEQC board members, audience at the lecture, and members of the scientific committee.

Bottom row: Adolf Tobeña and his lecture "Brain and Power".

THE HONOURS AND MASTERS TRAINING PROGRAMME IN CHEMICAL PATHOLOGY AT THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICAL PATHOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA



There is a shortage of trained scientists in Chemical Pathology/Clinical Biochemistry and an increasing demand to train discipline-specific scientists in order to expand their numbers in South Africa and sub-Saharan Africa. The Honours and Masters training programme in Chemical Pathology at the University of Pretoria has been in existence for many years and fulfils a growing need in the discipline of Chemical Pathology/ Clinical Biochemistry.

The BSc Hons degree course has been offered by the Department of

Chemical Pathology since 1998, with senior medical scientists in the department serving as programme co-ordinators. Several SAACB members have fulfilled this role over the years, including Prof Job Ubbink and Prof Rhena Delpert. Since 2008, the programme has been run by Dr Chantal van Niekerk and Nicky Oosthuizen, producing seven graduates. In order to be admitted to the programme, a student must have a BSc degree that includes relevant major subjects for which an average of at least 60% was attained in the final year.

The programme is comprised of the following modules: a) Principles and Practice of Clinical Chemistry; b) Pathophysiology; c) Laboratory Management; d) Medical Biostatistics; e) Molecular Pathology; and f) Applied Research. The curriculum is supported by the prescribed Clinical Chemistry textbook and tuition takes the form of a series of structured lectures throughout the year. The Medical Biostatistics module is presented over fourteen weeks by lecturers from the department of Statistics at the University of Pretoria. The Molecular Pathology module, delivered by senior scientists from various Pathology disciplines, runs from March to October and includes weekly lectures and several practicals. Theoretical knowledge is assessed by formal written tests and final year-end examinations in both Chemical Pathology and Molecular Pathology. Each student is required to participate in a research project under supervision and to present and write up their work in the form of a mini-dissertation. Satisfactory attendance of the university's 'Applied Research Methodology' course is compulsory. Skills taught during practical sessions and rotation through the diagnostic laboratory at Steve Biko Academic Hospital, are honed by performing semi-independent laboratory work on the bench during the course of conducting the research project.

On completing the BSc Hons degree, many graduates proceed to enrol for the MSc in Chemical Pathology or allied disciplines. Three of the four MSc presently-enrolled students in the department are graduates of the BSc Hons programme. The Masters is a full research-based masters and topics of current projects are: *Analysis of the FOXL2, RSPO1 and WNT4 genes in ovotesticular disorder of sex development (DSD)*; *Mutations in the androgen receptor and fibrillin-3 genes in women with polycystic ovary syndrome*; *Identification of CYP21A2 mutations in South African patients with congenital adrenal hyperplasia*; and *Genetic analysis of hypophosphataemic rickets*. BSc Hons graduates who do not undertake further postgraduate study, find employment in diagnostic or research laboratories and in the pharmaceutical or medical diagnostics industries.

NEWS FROM AACC

THE AACC BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS APPOINTED JANET B. KREIZMAN CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear AACC Past President,

The AACC Board of Directors today announced that it has appointed Janet B. Kreizman Chief Executive Officer effective April 1, 2013.

Since 2009, Kreizman has served as Deputy Executive Director & Chief Policy Officer of The Endocrine Society, providing executive management for health and science policy advocacy, strategic communications, patient education, marketing, membership and governance initiatives for the \$30 million organization representing more than 16,000 scientists and clinicians.

Elaine Davis

202-835-8713 - 1-800-892-1400 x1713

AACC Executive Department

1850 K Street, NW – Suite 625

Washington, DC 20006

NEWS FROM THE GREEK SOCIETY OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY - CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY

Contributed by A. Grigoratou,

Member of the scientific committee of Greek Society of Clinical Chemistry - Clinical Biochemistry (agrigoratou@hotmail.com)

The 10th Greek Conference on Clinical Chemistry was successfully held in Athens, from 19 to 20 October 2012, at the 251 Air Force General Hospital.

The Young Scientists Committee Round Table presented “The map of the Greek public hospital clinical labs” by Myrto Rizou and “The importance of Proficiency Testing Schemes” by Effie Haviara. The next round table was dedicated to the clinical lab accreditation (Chair: Dr. Angeliki Ferderigou) and included two lectures, “The ISO15189:2007, Medical laboratories. Particular requirements for quality and competence” by Joanna Athanasiadou and “ESYD: the Hellenic Accreditation System S.A.” by Dr. Aiki Stathopoulou.

A round table referred to bacterial resistance to antibiotics (Chairs: Evangelos Vogiatzakis, Violeta Kapsimali): phenotypes of bacterial resistance to antimicrobial agents, the automated systems diagnosis, antibiotic resistance genes, phylogeny and epidemiology of antibiotic resistant pathogens and consisted of three lectures by Prof. Josef Papaparaskevas, Prof. Panayiotis Tassios, of Prof. Leonidas Tzouveleki (Medical School, Athens University).

Russell Watts (MRSC, Waters Corporation, Manchester) spoke on “The routine use of LCMSMS in the clinical laboratory” in an industry-sponsored lecture.

10^ο ΠΑΝΕΛΛΗΝΙΟ ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΟ
ΚΛΙΝΙΚΗΣ ΧΗΜΕΙΑΣ

19-20 Οκτωβρίου

Α'Ανακοίνωση
Οργάνωση:
ΕΕΚΧ-ΚΒ
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΕΤΑΙΡΙΑ ΚΛΙΝΙΚΗΣ ΧΗΜΕΙΑΣ
ΚΛΙΝΙΚΗΣ ΒΙΟΧΗΜΕΙΑΣ

Αμφιθέατρο 251 Γενικού Νοσοκομείου

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ΣΥΝΕΧΙΖΟΜΕΝΗΣ
www.eekx-kb.gr

It was followed by George Kollios' (Ioannina University hospital) lecture on "The sex hormone-binding globulin (SHBG) in the polycystic ovary syndrome"

A very interesting round table on "Evidence-based clinical guidelines in patient testing "(Chairs: Loukas Dadiotis, Ioannis Papisotiriou) included the lectures of Prof. Argyri Gialeraki "Clinical recommendations on testing for thrombophilia", and Prof. Demetrios Rizos "Pre-genetic diagnosis of chromosomal abnormalities" (Medical School, Athens University), of Alexandra Tsirogianni (Evangelimos Hospital, Athens) "The immunology lab – clinical interface", and Vassilis Barbounis (Hippocratio Hospital, Athens) "Tumor markers in clinical practice".

On the first day of the conference the cultural program included an exciting lecture on the Antikythera wreck: the ship, the treasures and the mechanism, by Dr.Elena Vlahoghianni (Greek National Archaeology Museum).

The next day the first round table covered "The contribution of genetic variation to complex disease traits" (Chairs: Michael Koupparis, Andreas Scorilas). It consisted of the lectures of Dr. Athanassios Kalogeridis (Hippocratio General Hospital, Thessaloniki): "The biological importance of nucleic acid polymorphisms"; Prof. Evi Lianidou (Chemistry School, Athens University): "Next generation sequencing"; Prof. Vassilios Spyropoulos (Technological Education Institute of Athens): "The mathematical complexity and the contribution of the emerging technologies in diagnosis and decision making".

The last, but not least, round table informed us about the activities of our society (GSCC-CB): Dr. Othon Panagiotakis (Evangelimos Hospital, Athens): "ESEAP: the national External Quality Assessment Scheme for clinical chemistry in Greece and Cyprus"; Dr. Alexander Haliassos: "LAB TESTS ON LINE, a public resource on clinical lab testing from laboratory professionals who do the testing"; Prof. Christos Kroupis (Medical School, Athens University): "The Greek participation in the IFCC WG: in vitro diagnostics-working group", and Prof. Evi Lianidou (Chemistry School, Athens University): "Education and Management Division EMD".

A lot of health professionals and students from all over Greece attended the 2012 Conference. It was a successful Conference and it had a high quality scientific program although it was organized in the current gloomy financial circumstances.



From the left to the right: The president of GSCC-CB Dr. Katerina Psarra, the President of the 10th Greek Conference on Clinical Chemistry Dr. Panagiota Spyropoulou, and the president of the Organising Committee Dr. Effie Botoula



The president of GSCC-CB Dr. Katerina Psarra



**ZIMBABWE ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTS(ZACB) CELEBRATES 21ST ANNIVERSARY WITH A
COURSE IN LABORATORY QUALITY MANAGEMENT
25-26TH MARCH 2013 , UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE (UZ) COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES, HARARE, ZIMBABWE**

Contributed by Dr Hilda TM Matarira, President of ZACB

The Visiting Lecturer Programme of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC), supported by Abbott Laboratories, together with the African Federation of Clinical Chemists (AFCC) and Zimbabwe Association of Clinical Biochemists (ZACB) facilitate the holding of a Laboratory Quality Management course at the University of Zimbabwe, College of Health Sciences (UZ CHS) at Parirenyatwa Referral Hospital from 25th to 26th March 2013. It was a special commemorating event as the ZACB has been existence for 21 Years.



Prof J Hicks

The course was co-ordinated by Jocelyn MB Hicks and Hilda TM Matarira, ZACB President. The two past Presidents of the IFCC namely Jocelyn MB Hicks from Washington DC (USA) and Donald S Young from Pennsylvania (USA), the President of the South African Association of Clinical Biochemists (SAACB), Rajiv T Erasmus from Stellenbosch University in Cape Town, South Africa, and two members of ZACB from the UZ CHS, Department of Chemical Pathology, namely Terence Nyamayaro and Witmore B Mujaji, facilitated the course.

The course was the first to be held in Zimbabwe by the IFCC. It was well attended by 90 delegates from around Zimbabwe and a delegate from Sudan International University in South Sudan. The delegates included the following: Director in the Ministry of Science and Development, Directors and Deputy Director in the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare National Health (Public)Laboratories (NHLs),Managing/ Deputy Managing Directors of 5 Private laboratories, Director of Zimbabwe National Quality Assurance Programme, CEO of Chitungwiza Referral Hospital, 30 Laboratory Managers notably from 3 Referral Teaching Hospitals, Private, Public, University and Government Veterinary laboratories.



Prof D. Young



Hilda TM Matarira, ZACB President



Minister of Health and Child Welfare Dr Douglas Mombeshora, who officially opened the course. He informed the delegates that the Zimbabwe Health service, adopted and implements quality



management systems in the national health laboratory service which currently has a training and mentorship programme in 20 laboratories. These programmes are in the Strengthening of Laboratory Management Towards Accreditation (SLMTA) Programme. Of these, 5 laboratories have attained 1 star status by WHO assessors. By June 2013, 3 of these laboratories are expected to be accredited. Accompanying him was the Executive Dean of UZ CHS Professor Midion Chodzonga who represented the UZ Vice Chancellor Professor Levy Nyagura. The Executive Dean, in his speech, highlighted the need for all medical service providers to embrace the concept of "Best Practice". He emphasized that diagnostic results must be reliable, acceptable and instill adequate confidence in both physicians and patients. Both guests welcomed the course as it assisted in the strengthening of laboratory quality management programmes in Zimbabwe.

The President and National representative of the ZACB, Hilda Tendisa Marima- Matarira, welcomed the honoured and distinguished IFCC facilitators and delegates. She appreciated the long distances that had been travelled by 3 facilitators and a delegate from South Sudan. This was an inspiration to ZACB members to see such a dedication to the profession. It was motivating for ZACB to take Clinical Biochemistry to higher levels beyond the traditional boundaries as we were reviewing the only MSc course in Clinical Biochemistry on the African continent since 1996 and to improve on the clinical skills. ZACB was now planning to introduce a new Doctor in Laboratory Medicine (MD) qualification, a 6 year course after 'A' level qualifications. This has been made possible by a strong Diaspora Brain Gain Home link project with ZACB. It is attracting Zimbabweans qualified in Clinical Biochemistry living in South Africa, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Switzerland etc to participate in local initiatives.

She also informed the delegates that in the 30 years of service of some of the ZACB members at UZ CHS, some 5000 doctors, 70 graduates at MSc and 10 graduates at PhD levels were trained through leadership, innovation and links particularly with the United Kingdom and South Africa. The links with the UK assisted greatly in the establishment of a new Department of Clinical Immunology in UZ CHS and Zimbabwe External Quality Assurance Programme (ZEQAS) which was transformed later in 1994 into Zimbabwe National Quality Assurance Programme (ZINQAP). It has so far recruited 136 public and private laboratories who regularly participate.

The course participants were largely students and medical professionals from different back grounds i.e. Clinical Scientists in Clinical Biochemistry, Haematology, Immunology, Medical Microbiology, Histology from certificate, degree, up to doctorate level; Medical Practitioners, Nurses and Pharmacists. The honoured guest was Hon. Deputy

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The course which was planned for over 9 months by a national organization of 16 ZACB members including the 6 executive board members, had a secretariat of 12 members, some of whom are current MSc students in Clinical Biochemistry. The course was covered in 6 sessions i.e. morning, mid-morning and afternoon. A wide variety of topics in laboratory management were taught namely:

- a) Internal and External Quality Control, Document Management
- b) Validation of Methodology in Quality Assurance
- c) The Zimbabwe National Quality Assurance Programme 1994 to 2012
- d) Laboratory Organisation: Laboratory direction, staff, choice of equipment and physical layout
- e) Training and Competency Assessment: Basic training, continuing education and ongoing testing of personnel
- f) Pre-analytical and Post- analytical Issues: Phlebotomy, specimen processing and patient issues
- g) Patients, employees and the environment
- h) Managing a Point- of- Care Testing Programme
- i) Providing Emergency Tests
- j) Financial and Strategic Planning: Budget setting, short and long term planning, personnel and information technology
- k) Optimizing the use of the Clinical Laboratory: The Laboratory's Role in Educating Physicians

Each session had a chairman and a rapporteur; the lectures were followed by 20 minutes of vibrant debate which was recorded and a 20 minutes tea break. The Medical Laboratory and Clinical Scientists Council in Zimbabwe accredited the course with 20 continuous professional development (CPD) points. This was highly appreciated by ZACB members as it was a significant contribution to the mandatory 40 points required annually by members to be kept on the professional practicing register.

The 2 day courses provided an opportunity for delegates to :

- a) Gain basic and higher level of knowledge "State of the Art" in laboratory quality management. Delegates will get 20 CPD points in addition for this.
- b) Network, twine, allowed mentoring, creation of new friendships and renewing old ones
- c) Strengthen local, regional and international collaboration. ZACB was recruited into UZ CHS Research and Support Unit " Good Laboratory and Clinical Practice" Programme. There were 3 local corporate recruitments namely, AiBST, CIMAS Laboratories and PMSI. The later 2 laboratories also donated generously towards the hosting of the course and pledged future funding.
- d) Form a ZACB Management Committee of Heads of Public and Private Laboratories
- e) Identify new courses on a needs basis e.g. training of accrediting inspectors
- f) Communicate ZACB activities with clients, the public, and publicise future courses in Molecular Diagnostics level 2 in October 2013 and Flow Cytometry in March 2014
- g) Lobbied for more funding for the national laboratories currently at 0.0025% of GDP; training and research funding. ZACB will follow up on offers made of scholarships, funds for research and training pledged by Ministry of Science and Technology
- h) ZACB members shared a common Vision of Clinical Biochemistry beyond the traditional the limits of the field

All in all, it was a rewarding experience having the IFCC and Laboratory Medicine supported two day course. It was greatly appreciated.

NEWS FROM CSLI

CLSI RELEASES NEW VERSION OF QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM: DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF LABORATORY DOCUMENTS

Wayne, Pennsylvania, USA - March 2013-Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) has released QMS02-A6-Quality Management System: Development and Management of Laboratory Documents; Approved Guideline-Sixth Edition. This guideline (which replaces GP02-A5) provides direction for document development, control, and management in paper and electronic environments using a process-based approach that supports the laboratory's entire quality management system.

There are four new features in QMS02-A6 that were not offered in the previous version. First, is a process for managing the lifespan of documents from development through retirement. The second feature includes detailed descriptions and more examples of laboratory policies, processes, procedures/job aids, and form documents. The third is the provision of concise instructions for how to prepare process flow charts with several useful, generic examples. Finally, the guideline presents more condensed and effective means for manufacturers and laboratories to prepare documents for examinations performed on automated analyzers.

Using flow charts to depict the sequence of activities in laboratory processes, QMS02-A6 describes what laboratories need to do to meet published regulations, accreditation requirements, and international standards for laboratory documents and procedures manuals. In addition, several examples of common laboratory processes and procedures are provided, and serve as valuable starting points for documenting laboratory information.

"For this guideline we took evidence-based advances in more effective writing that have been successfully used in business and industry, and applied them to all types of laboratory documents," stated QMS02-A6 document Chairholder, Lucia Berte, MA, MT(ASCP)SBB, DLM; CQA(ASQ)CMQ/OE, President of Laboratories Made Better! P.C. in Broomfield, Colorado, USA. "The result is laboratory policies, processes, and procedures that are easy to read, understand, and use."

QMS02-A6 is applicable to documents used by medical laboratories of any size, complexity, or specialty, and is intended for use by administrative and technical personnel who develop laboratory documents, manufacturers, educators, and regulatory and accreditation organizations.

The Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) is a not-for-profit membership organization that brings together the varied perspectives and expertise of the worldwide laboratory community for the advancement of a common cause: to foster excellence in laboratory medicine by developing and implementing clinical laboratory standards and guidelines that help laboratories fulfil their responsibilities with efficiency, effectiveness, and global applicability.

For additional information, visit the CLSI website at www.clsi.org or call [610.688.0100](tel:610.688.0100).

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CLSI RECOGNIZED VOLUNTEERS AT THE 2013 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Wayne, Pennsylvania, USA - March 2013 - Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) recognized outstanding volunteers at the 2013 Leadership Conference in Arlington, Virginia, USA, which took place from Sunday, March 10 to Saturday, March 16.

The Excellence Award winners are volunteers that are dedicated and committed to CLSI's mission, and are recognized for going above and beyond within the CLSI community. The winners were nominated by their peers and then chosen by CLSI's Awards Committee. CLSI's volunteers are essential to the

organization's mission to develop best practices in clinical and laboratory testing, and the promotion of their use throughout the world.

CLSI congratulates all of the 2013 Excellence Award winners:

Excellence in Leadership in Global Health Partnerships

- Wilson Mtotela, MLS, MBA, independent laboratory consultant
- Raymond Nyakuwocha, MLS, MSc, mentor in six of the zonal laboratories in Tanzania

Excellence in Global Leadership in Standards Development

- Donald M. Powers, PhD, President of Powers Consulting Services

Excellence in Consensus Management

- James F. Pierson-Perry, Senior Key Expert in the Global Assay Development group of Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics

Excellence in Mentoring in Standards Development

- David G. Grenache, PhD, DABCC, FACB, Associate Professor of Pathology at the University Of Utah School Of Medicine, and a medical director at ARUP Laboratories

Excellence in Standards Development

- Terry Jo Gile, MT(ASCP); MA.Ed, President of Safety Lady LLC®
- James T. Mascarello, PhD, Technical Director at Integrated Genetics
- David B. Sacks, MD, Senior Investigator and Chief of Clinical Chemistry at the National Institutes of Health
- Barbara Zehnbaauer, PhD, FACMG, Chief of the Laboratory Research and Evaluation Branch within the Division of Laboratory Science and Standards in the Office of Surveillance, Epidemiology, and Laboratory Services at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

John V. Bergen Award

- James H. Nichols, PhD, DABCC, FACB, Professor of Pathology, Microbiology, and Immunology, and Medical Director of Clinical Chemistry at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

Russell J. Eilers Memorial Award

The highest award presented by CLSI is the Eilers Award, given annually to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to CLSI's success; the recipient of this award is selected by the CLSI President in consultation with the Executive Committee.

- Lucia M. Berte, MA, MT(ASCP)SBB, DLM; CQA(ASQ)CMQ/OE, President of Laboratories Made Better! P.C.

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

DATE	MEETING	VENUE	INFORMATION
April 11-13, 2013	 2013 IFCC/ESCCA BECKMAN COULTER FLOW CYTOMETRY COURSE	St. Etienne, France	Click here to download the programme
June 25-27, 2013	VI NATIONAL BIOCHEMISTRY AND CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY CONGRESS	Kars, Turkey	http://vetbiyo2013.kafkas.edu.tr/
May 16-18, 2013	ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SWISS SOCIETY OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY & INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PORPHYRINS AND PORPHYRIAS & INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF PORPHYRIA PATIENTS	Lucerne, Switzerland	www.porphyrinsandporphyrias.org
May 19-23, 2013	 EUROMEDLAB 2013 - 20TH IFCC-EFLM EUROPEAN CONGRESS OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE – 45TH CONGRESS OF THE ITALIAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY AND CLINICAL MOLECULAR BIOLOGY	Milano, Italy	www.milan2013.org
May 23-24, 2013	2ND EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR CHLAMYDIA TRACHOMATIS AND HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS	Berlin, Germany	www.iecclm.com
May 28-29, 2013	7TH EUROPEAN SYMPOSIUM ON CLINICAL LABORATORY AND IN VITRO DIAGNOSTIC INDUSTRY: MOLECULAR GENETICS IN THE CLINICAL LABORATORY"	Barcelona, Spain	www.acclc.cat/index.php
June-September 2013	ORTHO PATHSHALA TRAINING COURSE FOR LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS (4 MODULES)	Mumbai , India	Contact: spandya3@its.jni.com
June 5-7, 2013	2° CONGRESO BIOQUÍMICO DEL LITORAL	Parana Entre Rios, Argentina	www.congresolitoral2013.com.ar/
June 5-8, 2013	2ND CONGRESS OF ROMANIAN ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL LABORATORIES (RAML)	Brasov, Romania	www.raml-conference.ro
June 12-15, 2013	NML-CONGRESS 2013 - NORDIC CONGRESS FOR BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE	Trondheim, Norway	www.nito.no/nml2013/en
September 3-6, 2013	XXV NATIONAL BIOCHEMISTRY CONGRESS	Izmir, Turkey	www.biyokimyakongresi.org
September 8-12, 2013	5TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND 14TH IRANIAN CONGRESS OF BIOCHEMISTRY	Tehran, Iran	Contact: salami.si@gmail.com
September 22-24, 2013	XI CZECH NATIONAL CONGRESS OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY	Olomouc, Czech Rep	www.sjezdcskb2013.cz/

September 25-28, 2013	21ST MEETING OF THE BALKAN CLINICAL LABORATORY FEDERATION AND 1ST MONTENEGRIAN CONFERENCE OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE	Budva, Montenegro	http://bcif2013.org/web/
September 26-28, 2013	SECOND CONFERENCE OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF PHARMACOGENOMICS AND THERANOSTICS "PHARMACOGENOMICS: FROM CELL TO CLINIC - ESPT CONFERENCE 2103"	Lisbon, Portugal	www.esptcongress.eu/
October 3-5, 2013	9TH EFLM SYMPOSIUM FOR BALKAN REGION "INTEGRATIVE ALGORITHMS IN PATIENT FOCUSED LABORATORY MEDICINE"	Belgrade, Serbia	Click here to download the programme
October 9-11, 2013	XII CONGRESO NACIONAL BIOQUÍMICO (CUBRA) AND 70 ° CONGRESO ARGENTINO DE BIOQUÍMICA (ABA)	Buenos Aires, Argentina	http://cubraxii-2013.com.ar/index.php
October 19-20, 2013	13TH EFLM CONTINUOUS POSTGRADUATE COURSE IN CLINICAL CHEMISTRY: NEW TRENDS IN DIAGNOSIS AND MONITORING USING POC INSTRUMENTS	Dubrovnik, Croatia	www.dubrovnik-course.org/
October 23-25, 2013	VII NATIONAL CONGRESS OF CLINICAL LABORATORY	Bilbao, Spain	www.labclin2013.es/
October 23-26, 2013	10TH ANNUAL CONGRESS OF THE GERMAN JOINT SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE	Dresden, Germany	www.dgkl2013.de
October 27-30, 2013	 APCCB 2013 - 13TH CONGRESS OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC FEDERATION FOR CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE	Bali, Indonesia	www.apccb2013.org
October 29-31, 2013	 COLABIOCLI 2013 - XXI CONGRESO LATINOAMERICANO DE BIOQUÍMICA CLINICA	Lima, Perú	http://colabiocli-lima2013.org/
June 22-26, 2014	 WORLDLAB 2014 - 21ST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE	Istanbul, Turkey	www.istanbul2014.org