



OUR MISSION IS TO BE THE LEADING ORGANIZATION IN THE FIELD OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE WORLDWIDE
eNewsletter



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A 'RETURN TO ROOTS' FOR THE PRESIDENT

Contributed by Graham H Beastall, President,
Association for Clinical Biochemistry

On Tuesday May 20th Professor Jocelyn Hicks opened "Focus 2008", the annual conference of the Association for Clinical Biochemistry in the UK and delivered the Roche Diagnostics Award Lecture entitled "The Future of Laboratory Medicine".

In her introduction Professor Hicks indicated that she had received her secondary schooling in Birmingham, close to the conference venue. She had then moved to Cambridge to complete her education before moving to the United States to undertake her distinguished career in clinical chemistry. She indicated that she was honoured to be asked to give the award lecture, especially in a venue so close to her "roots".

In her lecture Professor Hicks outlined an exciting future for laboratory medicine. She encouraged the audience to consider the benefits to healthcare that will arise from molecular diagnostics, single cell analysis, nanotechnology and the 'omics' revolution. She stressed that the future will involve the generation and management

of knowledge as a key role for laboratory medicine practitioners. The audience of 350 delegates included many medical and scientific trainees in clinical biochemistry and this vision was received with enthusiasm.



Professor Hicks is shown receiving the Roche Diagnostics Award from a senior representative of the company.

BRUSSELS 2008: BETWEEN 'FRANCOPHONIE' AND SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE

Contributed by Damien Gruson, Member of the eNewsletter Working Group

Last May, the wonderful city of Brussels, the heart of Europe, hosted the meeting Brussels 2008. This event, co-sponsored by the Société Française de Biologie Clinique, the Société Belge de Chimie Clinique and the Cliniques Universitaires St-Luc of the Louvain Catholic University, essentially focused on the evolution of Laboratory Medicine and the importance of emerging technologies on laboratory medicine future.

The three day-meeting offered lecture from experts in the field of proteomic, pharmacogenomic, nanomedicine, mass spectrometry, lean process and, more and more popular, new trends for laboratory organization and management. This last session allowed to have examples of Laboratory organization from different European countries and was an introduction to the trendy field of laboratory matrix organization.

The high quality lectures reflected the wishes of Prof.J.M. Ketelslegers, Chair of the congress, and those of the Scientific and Organizing Committees the organizers,

and the partner scientific societies, in proposing a meeting focused on excellence in laboratory medicine.

One month and half before France became President of the European Union, the Brussels 2008 meeting welcomed a half-day session of put together by the Fédération Internationale de Biologie Clinique et de Médecine de Laboratoire (FIBCML), the French-speaking international federation of laboratory medicine. This session was co-chaired by Professor Alain Legrand from France and Professor Abdelsaker Hedili from Tunisia. The audience consisted of embassy representatives from Tunisia and Morocco, promoting the 'Francophonie' and of attendees from France, Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia and Canada.

Some moments of the symposium are represented in the composite picture below:



(top right, the success of the meeting;
top left, party at the museum of the 'Bande-desinée' on Friday night;
bottom left, L. Chabraoui, C. Gruson, M. Ferrari, S. Belazzougand M. Klouche in front of the manneken pis;
bottom right, D. Gruson, A.Legrand and J.M. Ketelslegers as happy meeting organizers).

THE 6TH PARAGUAYAN CONGRESS OF CHEMISTRY MEETINGS

Contributed by Prof Dra M Montserrat Blanes G,
President, Paraguayan Biochemistry Association, Chair WG-IANT, Editor DIV, Coeditor RIA

The 5th National Congress of Biochemistry Clinic was held from June 5 to 7 in Asunción, Paraguay's Capital, within the frame of the 6th Paraguayan Congress of Chemistry. More than 450 participants attended the event, including clinical laboratory professionals and Biochemistry students from several universities. The event benefited from the invaluable and tireless work of 12 volunteers from the Biochemistry Students Association, that together with the Organizing Committee, coordinators and secretaries of the lecturers, contributed to the full achievement of the proposed objectives.

The scientific program consisted of three intra-congress courses of six hours each: 'Administration and Management for laboratories', 'Update on Celiac disease', 'The Clinical Laboratory in Pediatrics'. It also included 8 Symposia, 3 Lectures and Selected Topics. The symposia dealt with Serology, Endocrinology, Oncology, Molecular Techniques applied to diagnosis and surveillance of infectious disease. The lectures addressed: 'Management of the biochemical information', 'The role of the biochemist in the health team', 'ISO 17025 – ISO15189 with emphasis in the microbiology laboratory'. Finally, the Post-Graduate Courses of the Faculty of Chemical Sciences, UNA, were oriented toward Quality Management in clinical laboratories, Hematology, Infectious diseases, Microbiology, and Natural products as a new treatment of leishmaniasis and Chagas disease

Dr. Carlos Navarro, Dr. Patricia Gentili and Dr. Maria Lasta (Argentina), Dr. Alan Fournet (France), Dr. Carmen Melchor Díaz (Mexico) and Dr. Stella Raymondo (Uruguay) were the foreign lecturers. There were also twenty national lecturers.

Dr. Hernan Fares Taie (Argentina), as a lecturer of the IFCC Visitor Lecturer Program (VPL), sponsored by ABBOTT Diagnostics Paraguay, developed the eight-hour pre-congress course 'Evidence Based Medicine and Management of Clinical Guidelines' that was attended by 120 people. It was a complete success in terms of participation as the audience was the largest recorded up to now in the modality of pre-congress courses in the area of Biochemistry in Paraguay. Importantly, attendees of the V National Congress of Clinical Biochemistry could also access of part of the lecture content on 'Management of the knowledge in Clinical Biochemistry' and of the Symposium on Quality Management in the clinical laboratories 'Usefulness of clinical guidelines'.

Prof. Dr. Stella Raymondo (Uruguay, EMD member) reported the most important findings obtained during the first Uruguayan Survey on Creatinine Standardization. This project, supported by a grant from the NKDP and the Uruguayan EQAS, receives the collaboration of the Uruguayan Nephrologist Society. Dr Raymondo also stressed the importance of MDRD for studying renal disease, and gave an enthusiastic explanation of this activity that was recently declared of National Interest by the Uruguayan Government.



Dr. Hernan Fares Taie (Speaker Visitor Lecturer Programme, IFCC) Dra Montserrat Blanes President Paraguayan Biochemisry Association and President 5th National Paraguayan Biochemistry Congress, Ing Elisa Flessnner President Paraguayan Chemistry Federation and President 6th Paraguayan Chemistry Congress



Dra. Cristina Cuevas (Py), Dra Montserrat Blanes (Py) , Dra Stella Raymondo, (Uy) Dra M Asunción Vallejos de Zayas (Py) Dra M del Carmen Miranda de Soto (Py).

The launching of 'Lab Are Vital', the slogan of which is was 'TOGETHER WE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE', was also a memorable moment. The presentation was made during the Pre-Congress course as well as during the Congress. It received optimum acceptance by all participants as it was well perceived that it contributes to the recognition and visibility of the activities of health professionals within clinical laboratories by the general public.

A country-wide survey including 500 professionals was launched in order to assess the level of partnership and the level of knowledge of what 'Lab are Vital' represent. The efforts of Index SACI and sponsorship of ABBOTT Diagnostics Paraguay, that made the presentation and the production of the banners and survey results possible, must be emphasized. The invaluable volunteer contribution of the Biochemistry Student Association of the Faculty of Chemical Sciences, and that of the National University of Asuncion, in making the survey possible must also be highlighted.

In terms of cultural and social activities, the participants enjoyed a beautiful guitar concert during the opening ceremony. A 'Siamese twin-guitar' performance

surprised the audience. While classical music was played on one, music with sounds typical of the littoral was played on the other with a very special sounds. Paraguayan typical dances were also admired, while beautiful girls danced with grace and charm carrying Paraguayan pitchers on their heads. The night ended with a toast to the Paraguayan Culture and Hospitality.

The closing dinner was held in a relaxed and joyous atmosphere that reflected the success of the Congress and the fulfillment of the set objectives. There was an background of warm relationship and companionship that characterize each of our Congresses that gather biochemists, students and suppliers of the industries related to the area of the clinical laboratory.



Members of Executive Committee Paraguayan Biochemist Association and International speakers 5th National Paraguayan Biochemistry Congress: Dra Stella Raymondo (Uy) Dra Montserrat Blanes (Py) Patricia Gentili (Arg) Dra Maria Lasta (Arg) Dra Alicia Lird (Py) Dra Carmen Melchor (Mx) Dra Ivalena Guillen (Py) Dra Silvia Siciolli (Py).

The following awards were given for the scientific presentations:

- The '*LAB CIENCIA Prize*' for originality, quality of the work and multidisciplinary character: Guillòn, R.; Velàzquez, G.; Lird, G.; Espànola, C.; Laconich, M.; Meyer, M.; Carpinelli, L.; Menacho, C.; Ortellado, J.; Fariña, N., Franco, L.; Russomando, G. Multicentric "Study of wide spectrum beta lactamase producing enterobacteriaceae: detection of blaCTX-M2 and bla_{PER-2} genes".
- Two '*Honor Mentions*' for originality, methodological rigor and impact on Public Health:
 - Mereles L; Michajluk J; Piris P; Wiszovaty L; Caballero S. Content of alimentary fiber inflavored soy juices, nectars and jams nationally produced.
 - Sàncchez, V.A., Nunez, Z. y Vargas, E. Prevalence of antibodies against the lymphotropic virus of T I and II human cells in blood donors in Paraguay in 2007.
- '*Special Mention*' for originality as an experimental research in basic chemistry and a high participation of students: Zarate, C ; Yubero, F ; Torre, M.H; Arango, M ; Laneri, J.C ; Nòèez, R; Fretes, S. Synthesis and physicochemical

characterization of transition metal complexes with essential amino acids of bioinorganic interest.

UPCOMING IFCC RELATED MEETINGS JULY/AUGUST 2008

Joint *IFCC*-Worldlab Fortaleza 2008, 20th International Congress of the Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, XXXV Brazilian Congress of Clinical Analysis and VIII I Brazilian Congress of Clinical Cytology. Ceara's Convention Center, Fortaleza – Brazil, 28 September – 2 October 2008. Web site: <http://www.fortaleza2008.org/>

The 53rd edition of the *Journées Internationales de Biologie* (JIB) Congress and Exhibition will take place on November 5–7, 2008, with scientific conferences held from November 4, 2008, in Paris–La Défense, France. <http://www.jib-sdbio.fr>

The 7th Romanian Society of Laboratory Medicine Congress 2008, under the auspices *IFCC*, *EFCC*, BCLF, WASPaLM and under the patronage Romanian Academy of Medical Sciences. Bucharest, Romania, October 20th–22, 2008. Web site: <http://www.srmlcongres.ro/>

EUROMEDLAB Innsbruck 2009 18th *IFCC*–*FESCC* European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine 7–11 June 2009. Web site: www.innsbruck2009.org

RECENTLY PUBLISHED IFCC DOCUMENTS & RELATED PUBLICATIONS

The following documents have been published by *IFCC* Divisions/Committees/Working Groups:

SD-C 8.2.21 Reference Systems of Enzymes

Schumann G, Aoki R, Ferrero CA, Ehlers G, Ferard G, Gella FJ, Jorgensen PJ, Kanno T, Kessner A, Klauke R, Kytzia HJ, Lessinger JM, Miller WG, Nagel R, Pauwels J, Schimmel H, Siekmann L, Weidemann G, Yoshida K, Ceriotti F. *IFCC* primary reference procedures for the measurement of catalytic activity concentrations of enzymes at 37 degrees C: Part 8. Reference procedure for the measurement of catalytic concentration of alpha-amylase [alpha-Amylase: 1,4-alpha-D-glucan 4-glucanohydrolase (AMY), EC 3.2.1.1]. *Clin Chem Lab Med* 2006; 44:1146–1155.

The following recently published papers relate to *IFCC* documents and Committee–Working Group activities:

Savoca R, Jaworek B, Huber AR. New "plasma referenced" POCT glucose monitoring systems—are they suitable for glucose monitoring and diagnosis of diabetes? *Clin Chim Acta* 2006; 372:199–201