



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

eNewsletter



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IFCC WORLTLAB 2008

Contributed by Dr. Edson Gil and Prof. Dra. Stella Raymondo, Director of Clinical Biochemistry, Faculty of Chemistry, NR Uruguay, Member of the IFCC EMD and of the eNewsletter WG



Prof. Jocelyn Hicks, President of IFCC and Dr. Ulisses Tuma, President of the Congress and of the SBAC



From left to right Prof. Bernard Gougel, Member of the IFCC Executive Board, Dr. Ulisses Tuma, And Dr. Joseph Lopez, President of the APFCB and Member of the IFCC Executive Board



From left to right: Dra Rosa I Sierra Amor, National Representative of the AMCB, Mexico; Dr. Ulisses Tuma

The Brazilian Society of Clinical Analyses hosted the IFCC WorldLab 2008 in Fortaleza, in the North East of Brazil. This major event was a great success and was the result of 5 years of devoted to a careful planning by the Local Organizing Committee, the Scientific Committee, the industrial exhibitors and hundreds of volunteers. The Congress was held in the Convention Centre of Ceará. More than 100 exhibitors, and 7000 delegates registered and there were more than 200

technical or scientific lectures, workshops given by world-renowned scientists from all continents, making this event the largest ever held in South America

The WorldLab Congress opened on the Brazilian National Anthem and raising of the Brazilian National and States flags, followed by speeches delivered by Dr. Ulisses Tuma, President of the SBAC and of the IFCC WorldLab 2008 in which he warmly thanked his colleagues and family for their efforts, devotion and patience that was essential in the preparation for such a majestic event. Prof. Jocelyn Hicks, President of IFCC, followed him and also congratulated the organization and the scientific commission for the arrangements of the IFCC WorldLab 2008. Finally, Dr. Paolo Mocarelli thanked Drs. Ulisses Tuma and Jocelyn Hicks for their confidence in this event. The evening went on with an unforgettable party that was livened-up by a lifting Samba demonstration by the dancers of the " Escola de Samba Portela" (Portela Samba School).

During the Congress official dinner that allowed all congress members to socialize, scientific prizes were given to a number of participants of the 35th Brazilian Congress of Clinical Analyses, held concomitantly with the IFCC WorldLab 2008 Meeting. On that occasion, the IFCC Flag was passed on to the organizers of the next IFCC WorldLab, that will be held in Berlin in 2011.

Edited by Edgard Delvin PhD, FCACB, FACB
Editor

NEWS FROM NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND FEDERATIONS

ASIAN-PACIFIC FEDERATION OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY

Expanded AACB-VACB Quality Assurance Programme

Contributed by Renze Bais, Past Secretary of the IFCC

Leslie Burnett, AACB President.

Joseph Lopez, APFCB President, sourced this article



The AACB Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists has for some years been active in supporting quality assurance programmes in Vietnam. The current project has been running for four years and the AACB has provided

lecturers, workshops and other educational activities during this period. During this project, the AACB has also paid for five laboratories nominated by the VACB to be enrolled in the Australian Quality assurance program. In addition, the AACB and VACB jointly ran a program in which sixty laboratories were introduced to Quality Assurance by assaying two samples. These laboratories were provided with result feedback and enrolment certificates. The AACB has also provided various international expert lecturers to visit Vietnam and to provide lectures on topics of laboratory Quality Improvement.

In a letter to the VACB from the AACB President dated 7 November 2008, it was noted that both the VACB and AACB have recently expressed a wish to expand the Quality Assurance program by providing samples to 120 laboratories throughout Vietnam. This will assist Vietnam develop the capacity and capability for its own future national External Quality Assurance Program. The expansion of this program is receiving financial support from the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC).

The AACB commitment to this program is that the AACB will:

1. Source the material and dispatch it to Vietnam.
2. Assist the VACB to organise seminars in Vietnam on the introduction of Quality Assurance and provide lecturers for these seminars. There would be a series of seminars in various centres at the beginning of the program described above explaining how to treat the QA samples, submission of results, interpretation of results, etc.
3. Provide expertise in helping the VACB develop the data analyses for the program.
4. Provide technical support and expertise during the program such as members of the AACB being available to correspond with individual laboratories if they have any concerns with the program.
5. Assist the VACB to organise seminars in Vietnam at the end of the program and provide lecturers for these seminars. Again there would be a series of seminar in various centres at the conclusion of the program to explain the results, conclusions and the next phase.

The VACB has responded positively to this offer. The effort will involve the Vietnamese Ministry of Health, VACB and the Ho Chi Minh University (and Hospital)

of Medicine/ Pharmacy who will work in collaboration with most provinces, universities and hospitals around Vietnam.

While many individuals within the AACB and VACB have contributed to the success of this program, we particularly wish to acknowledge the work of Dr Renze Bais (AACB), and Dr Vu Quang Huy (VACB), who have acted as their respective points of national Society contact and coordination.

**XVI Meeting of Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation
& 7th Hellenic Congress of Clinical Chemistry, 16–18 October
2008, Athens, GREECE**

Contributed by Dr. Dzintars Ozolins, National Representative for Latvia

The 16th Meeting of the Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation, co-organized with the 7th Hellenic Congress of Clinical Chemistry, was held in Athens from October 16th to the 19th 2008. The Greek Society of Clinical Chemistry–Clinical Biochemistry (GSCC–CB) was the Maître d'Oeuvre of this event that was held under the auspices of the IFCC and of the EFCC. Almost a thousand participants, including residents, technicians and students, attended the meeting. The majority of congress members came from Greece but there was a good representation from the Balkan and European countries as well as from other parts of the world.

Dr. Demetrios Rizos, Chairman of the Meeting, Professor Nada Majkić–Singh, President of the Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation, Dr. Katerina Psara, President of the Greek Society of Clinical Chemistry and Professor Kostas Sekeris gave the welcoming addresses during the vivid Opening Ceremony. The hearth-taking performances of the singer Savina Giannatou voice and the guitarist Kostas Grigoreas, who interpreted songs and music from Greece and other countries, followed these introductory remarks. The welcome reception cocktail allowed Balkan colleagues and guests to get together in a relaxing and friendly atmosphere.

Professor Mario Plebani gave the opening lecture entitled "Errors in laboratory medicine and patient safety". The scientific program consisted of 20 lectures, 2 workshops and 3 round table discussions given by world-known experts. The lectures comprised, among others, state-of-the-art talks on new opportunities for prenatal diagnosis using maternal blood cell-free foetal nucleic acid given by Dr. Diana Bianchi from USA, new prospects in laboratory medicine based on proteomics

by Dr. George Panayotou from Greece, biochemical markers of pre-eclampsia in pregnancy by Kevin Spencer from the UK, the use of micro RNAs in clinical oncology by George Yousef from Canada.

The round-tables included 3 hot topics. The 1st, coordinated by Drs. Kostas Makris and Cas Weykamp from Greece and the Netherlands respectively addressed the new IFCC standardization of HbA1c and its impact on measurement, results reporting and clinical practice, the 2nd coordinated by Dr. Nikos Karamanos covered the principles and applications of modern technologies in Clinical Chemistry such as multiplex assays, capillary electrophoresis, mass spectrometry, and the last coordinated by Dr Seferiadis, was on the accreditation of the medical laboratories: experiences of the Balkan countries.

The scientific program also include well-attended workshops and sponsored symposia on a variety of subjects such as, for example, the uncertainty estimation of laboratory tests, molecular diagnostics and Clinical chemistry, lipoprotein-associated phospholipase A2 (Lp-PLA2) as a new biomarker for cardiovascular risk assessment, the clinical values of novel markers for bone metabolism and myocardial injury, quality control programs in the accreditation process, and guidelines and recommendations for implementing cardiac biomarkers into clinical practice.

Several awards for selected manuscripts, oral and poster presentations were presented. The Balkan Award for the best paper was given to Dr. Birsen Can Demirdogen from the Refik Saydam Central Hygiene Institute of Ankara, Turkey for: PON1 -107TT and 55LL genotypes are risk factors and triple combined heterozygote haplotype (QRLMTC) is protective for ischemic stroke.

The Greek Society of Clinical Chemistry Clinical Biochemistry (GSCC-CB) award for the best oral presentation went to Dr. J Konstantou, P Ioannou and T Christopoulos from the Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry, Department of Chemistry, Athens University, Department of Chemistry, University of Patras, Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas, Institute of Chemical Engineering and High Temperature Chemical Processes, Patras, Greece, for their work: Dual-allele dipstick assay for genotyping single nucleotide polymorphisms by primer extension reaction.

Finally the best poster presentation award was attributed to Dr. V Psofaki, C Kalogera, D Ziogas, K Seferiadis, D Roukos and G Kolios from the Laboratory of Biochemistry, University Hospital of Ioannina, the Laboratory of Clinical Chemistry,

the Surgical Oncology Research Unit, Department of Surgery, Medical School, University of Ioannina, Greece, for their poster on: A new deleterious BRCA2 mutation in the Greek population.

At the social level, the voice of Savina Giannatou and the guitar of Kostas Grigoreas, who interpreted classical folk songs from Greece and other countries, enlightened the opening ceremony. The welcome reception that followed offered the Balkan colleagues the opportunity to get together in a relaxing and friendly atmosphere. The meeting closed with a warm and friendly dinner in the old traditional Greek tavern "Psaras" in Plaka.

Edited by Edgard Delvin PhD, FCACB, FACB

Editor

News from the Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists (CSCC)

Contributed by Ronald Booth, CSCC Treasurer

The Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists was founded more than 50 years ago. During all these years, the Society offered to its membership a large number of opportunities to communicate with other colleagues including a Website (csccl.ca), a printed Newsletter and an International Journal (Clinical Biochemistry) to exchange on many scientific or medical matters. Another important aspect of CSCC is the recognition of outstanding individuals and the support of student both from our Country and abroad (see the International Exchange Grant below). Here is a summary of the numerous awards and grants available through our Society.

- CSCC Award for Outstanding Contribution to Clinical Chemistry sponsored by Siemens Healthcare. The Award is presented as a mark of recognition of outstanding achievement in and/or contribution to the field of clinical chemistry. The Award is normally presented annually. The 2009 recipient is Dr. Connie Prosser from Edmonton, Alberta.
- CSCC Award for Research Excellence sponsored by Ortho Clinical Diagnostics. The Award is presented to an individual or group, as a mark of recognition of their contribution to research directly or indirectly related to clinical chemistry in Canada. This year Award has been attributed to Dr. Denis Lehotay from Regina, Saskatchewan.
- CSCC Award for Education Excellence sponsored by Beckman Coulter Canada Inc. This Award is presented to an individual or group as a mark of recognition of

outstanding contribution to education in the field of clinical chemistry. The 2009 recipient is Dr. Gillian Lockitch from Vancouver, British Columbia.

- CSCC Young Investigator Award sponsored by Elsevier. This **new** Award is presented to an individual for the best article published in Clinical Biochemistry in the preceding year by a "young investigator" who is a member of the CSCC. A "young investigator" is defined as an individual within 5 years of completing their post-doctoral training in a recognized clinical biochemistry program. The individual must be either the first or "corresponding" author. This award can only be received once. The Editor of Clinical Biochemistry can nominate and recommend a candidate for the award to the Awards Committee.
- Best Poster Awards sponsored by CSCC. The CSCC Best Poster Awards are given at the Annual Conference of the Society to the author or group of authors of each of the three posters selected by an independent panel of judges. A poster is eligible if at least one author is a CSCC member and none of the authors is a member of the panel of judges.
- CSCC Awards to Encourage Research Presentations by Trainees in Clinical Chemistry sponsored by Siemens. The purpose of these awards is to enable Clinical Chemistry trainees to benefit from attendance at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the CSCC, to meet with their colleagues and to encourage the presentation of their research. Preference is given to applicants who are CSCC members or membership applicants. The scientific presentation should be on work carried out by the candidate as part of their current training program.
- CSCC International Exchange Grant sponsored by Roche. In 1997, CSCC established the International Visitor Award, to be presented to a visitor from a foreign country to Canada or to a visitor from Canada to a foreign country. In 2001, CSCC established the International Travel Grant to enable developing countries to have CSCC members contribute to their educational or professional development activities. The grant was available to members of the CSCC who had been asked by the relevant professional society of a developing country to participate in their educational programs. The grant was to encourage a society-to-society exchange rather than an individual invited to a meeting to make a presentation. Roche Diagnostics sponsored both the Award and the Grant. In 2007, CSCC merged the award and the grant into the International Exchange Grant, to clarify the criteria for applicants and also to update the purpose of the grant to more accurately reflect members' need for support in the current

scientific environment. The purpose of this grant is to develop cooperative beneficial associations with other national clinical chemistry organizations and expand the international role of the Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists. The grant is available to members of the CSCC who have been asked by the relevant professional society of a developing country (UNESCO list of Countries Eligible) to participate in their educational programs and/or a visitor from a foreign country (developing country) to Canada. Please refer to the CSCC web site for the details.

Last year recipients were:

- Dr. Khosrow Adeli from Toronto ON who presented a lecture to the Turkish Society of Clinical Chemists and another to the Iranian Biochemical Society
- Dr. Manuela Neuman from Toronto ON who presented "Markers for Steatosis and Fibrosis in Hepatitis C Virus Infection to the Romanian Association for the Medical Laboratories and another presentation at the Tirgu Mures Faculty of Medicine at the Intensive Course on Hepatitis C, in Romania.
- Dr Jayashree Bhattacharjee from India received financial support to visit a Canadian Laboratory in the Spring of 2008 and attend the CSCC annual conference

CSCC Grant for Leadership and/or Administration sponsored By Abbott Diagnostics.

This Grant is presented to a member of the CSCC to support leadership and/or administrative contributions in the field of Clinical Chemistry or Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. The award is intended to encourage and support the administrative and leadership role of Laboratory Scientists and Physicians including (but not limited to):

- administrative positions in hospitals, universities, private laboratories, government and industry,
- participation in committees of Provincial, National and International professional and regulatory agencies,
- leadership role in the strategic planning and implementation of laboratory services.
- leadership in the development of new programs and initiatives

Dr. J. Gilbert "Gil" Hill is the 2009 recipient of this award to support his attendance at the second meeting of the C-NPU Subcommittee of the IFCC for the revision of the Compendium of Terminology and Nomenclature of Properties in Clinical Laboratory Sciences (the "Silver Book").

THE IFCC PROFESSIONAL SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE PROGRAMME (PSEP)

Contributed by Dra. Atocha Romero Alfonso, Department of Laboratory Medicine. Hospital Clínico San Carlos C/ Prof Martín Lagos s/n 28040 Madrid



A few months ago the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) awarded me the PSEP scholarship. I am currently working as a laboratory medicine resident at the Clínico San Carlos Hospital in Madrid, Spain. This scholarship provided me the opportunity to acquire knowledge

in the field of genomics and also gave me the chance to work abroad and learn from a different culture.

During my 6 months training, I worked at the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, Chapel Hill, NC, under the supervision of Prof. Charles M Perou on a project entitled "Predicting response to breast cancer Neoadjuvant treatment using genomics". I had the opportunity to learn how to develop, analyze and interpret DNA microarrays. In addition, the expert supervision and teaching of Prof. Perou, allowed me to understand the molecular pathways and genes involved in the tumor development and to learn the molecular classification of breast cancer tumors. Thus, I have improved my knowledge in genomics, pharmacogenomics and cell biology. Moreover, my sojourn provided me the opportunity to know a new country and to appreciate different ways of working lifestyles. Being in USA at the time of the Presidential elections and being able to visit interesting cities and wonderful National Parks was a privilege and an exciting experience.

I would like to express my gratitude to the IFCC (International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory medicine) as well as SECQ (Spanish Society of Clinical Biochemistry and Molecular Pathology) for their support. Also, I would like to sincerely thank Dr Perou and all the staff from his laboratory for their hospitality and for the wealth of information I have received.

REPORTS ON THE IFCC–ROCHE TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS FOR THE 20TH IFCC WORLTLAB MEETING, FORTALEZA, BRAZIL FROM SEPTEMBER 29th TO OCTOBER 2nd



Contributed by: Dr. Angela Amayo, Clinical Chemists Association of Kenya

I was privileged to receive an IFCC–Roche Travel Grant to attend the 20th IFCC–WorldLab 2008 and the International Conference of Paediatric Laboratory Medicine in Fortaleza, Brazil.

The two meetings running back to back were academically and socially stimulating. The scientific presentations were of a very high standard. The topics reflected current topical issues of interest in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, which made the meetings a real educational experience. It was difficult to select from parallel sessions as they were all interesting. Since I come from a developing economy and work in a University Teaching Hospital, I needed to gain knowledge which I could share with students and help improve the laboratory services that we offer. I was therefore very happy that various IFCC Divisions organized Educational workshops with that in mind. I was particularly impressed with the workshops on Evidence Based Laboratory Medicine, Scientific Peer review and ISO 15189. The presenters gave practical approaches which can be easily adopted. As a bonus, many presenters at the Paediatric Laboratory Medicine Conference allowed us to receive soft copies of their papers. I am happy to say that the knowledge acquired has helped improve our teaching and laboratory services. I was able to present a poster at the Paediatric Laboratory Medicine Conference and attend the IFCC General Meeting. This was very exciting as it was a first time experience. I felt honoured to have participated in the elections of the IFCC Executive Committee. Apart from the Science, the Conference had a healthy social program. Our hosts were very hospitable. All in all it was a memorable experience. I wish to thank the IFCC for the honour, and Roche for making it possible for IFCC to provide such opportunities for those who would not have been able to attend such meetings because of financial constraints.