

e-Newsletter



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International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine



May - June
2015

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Challenges and complexities of workload modelling in clinical chemistry

by Tahir Pillay

Editor, IFCC e-NewsLetter



Prof. Tahir Pillay

Workload modelling is an important facet of planning in laboratory medicine, as it supports the planning of health services and high quality service delivery to achieve excellent patient care. In laboratory medicine, workload modelling in the various subspecialties has been the subject of a number of studies and

reviews. The discipline with the simplest and the most easily quantifiable workload is undoubtedly anatomical pathology where the visible and measurable workload is easily quantified, e.g. post mortems, specimens, slides, reports etc. This also simplifies the process of billing where a fee-for-service model is applied.

The challenges arise in other disciplines where the quantitation of workload is more difficult because of the complexity or diversity of responsibilities. This is especially problematic in clinical chemistry amongst others. The complexity is aggravated in academic centres where other responsibilities such as teaching, research and academic administration also feature. This is especially difficult in the postgraduate teaching sector where formal teaching and lectures do not feature prominently and therefore teaching time is difficult to quantify.

We have faced particular challenges in the South African context and there are undoubtedly similarities in countries where similar structural systems abound. In the South African pathology sector, the pathology laboratory services are run by the National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS), a national parastatal entity. This allows the provision of laboratory services to public hospitals and clinics at all

levels with a fee-for-service billing implemented to the provincial departments of health.

In the public sector, all pathologists are employees of the NHLS, with those at academic centres being joint university-NHLS employees.

Within the South African National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS), the contracted basic work week is 40 hours, with a commuted overtime of 16 hours per week, for a total of 56 hrs (i.e., 3360 mins).

With the constraints on health care funding and the increased costs of health care, laboratory services have been faced with having to increase service delivery annually without any change in the operating budgets meaning that laboratory services are faced with increased accountability for service provision. Thus pressure has resulted in a demand to quantify the workload of laboratories across all the disciplines to facilitate rational billing and to allow prospective workforce planning.

Workload modelling within clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine is a complex task and is probably best left to experts working directly in the discipline. The design and analysis of any workload modelling exercise therefore requires direct active participation of clinical chemists and clinical biochemists themselves and considerable reliance has to be placed on self-reporting.

The complexity of activities is most obvious at academic health complexes where laboratory service, clinical activities, undergraduate teaching, postgraduate (medical scientist & medical students) training and research are conducted. It is likely that these aforementioned challenges are omnipresent globally and it will be interesting to hear from the IFCC eNews readership about how they are approaching these challenges locally.

www.paris2015.org



**21st IFCC - EFLM
European Congress
of Clinical Chemistry
and Laboratory Medicine**



EuroMedLab JIB
2015 exhibition
22 -24 June 2015

Paris, France
Palais des Congrès
21-25 June 2015



**LAST DAYS TO REGISTER ON-LINE (WITHIN 7 JUNE)
*Don't miss the opportunity to participate in
this prominent scientific event!***



Diabetes mellitus is an increasing global problem for public health which requires the availability of reliable biomarkers for the optimal patient care. Haemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) has proved itself to be vital for the management of patients with diabetes and improvements in methods has enabled global targets to be set for treatment and diagnosis.

This symposium will present the most recent advances in the management of diabetes mellitus focussing on HbA1c and new biomarkers. Additionally, new aspects of HbA1c analysis (e.g. in diabetes diagnosis or point of care testing) will be debated according to both clinical and biological points of views.

International experts in the field of diabetes and laboratory medicine, especially those involved in the IFCC reference network on HbA1c, will give presentations and participate in debates.

This meeting is intended for clinical chemists and diabetologists, who will hear the most recent information for use in their daily practice and new perspectives for the future.

HbA_{1c} and management of diabetes mellitus in the 21st Century

Reims, France
Reims Convention Centre
June 26th, 2015



SATELLITE MEETING



For information on all EuroMedLab satellite meetings, please visit:

<http://www.paris2015.org/go/satellite-meetings>

IFCC Paediatric Task Force

Request for member participation: 2015 Paediatric Critical Value Survey

The IFCC Paediatric Task Force has the mission of developing best practices in paediatric laboratory medicine and works on a recommendation for critical values.

The IFCC Paediatric Task Force will soon be distributing an international survey to assess current critical value practice at member institutions for infants and children.

Your willingness to complete the survey is very important and most appreciated, so as to allow assessment of current practices, and to fulfill the Task Force's mission to develop best practices in paediatric laboratory medicine.

The link for the survey is:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZGL7LHZ>.



IFCC welcomes a new member: the Malawi Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists

by Elias Chipofya

Corresponding member, IFCC Task Force on Young Scientists

Malawi Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists (MAMLS), a full member of AFCC was formed in 1998 and was registered under the trustee's rules on 11 February 1998. The Association was formed to serve as an umbrella body with a mission to promote and safeguard the interests of medical laboratory science in Malawi. This is supposed to be achieved by promoting co-operation amongst Medical Laboratory professionals in the standardization of professional practice, manpower development and exchange of knowledge. MAMLS has been inactive for a long time, but thanks to Mr. Vincent Madhlopa who acted as MAMLS President, many MAMLS documents have been preserved.

A new administration whose acting president is Jones Kadewere, has undertaken the major goal of improving relations of our organization with other countries. We hope that our membership of IFCC will facilitate this.

However, as well as the international societies that have been our core partners, important activities have taken place within Malawi. Under the leadership of Mr. Vincent Madhlopa, MAMLS has joined Laboratory Association of Malawi.

MAMLS was represented on Laboratory Association of Malawi 1st Annual General Conference and Consultative workshop held at Hotel Victoria, Blantyre, Malawi on 9th to 10th December 2014.

We are organizing the Annual General meeting in December 2015 when a new council will be elected. We hope this meeting will be attended by all medical laboratory professionals from both government and private sector. Similarly scientific events will be organized in different cities of Malawi, where for the first time we will receive lecturers under the IFCC VLP Scheme. MAMLS have an active correspondent with the IFCC young Scientist task force.

We plan to develop a website with the aim of reaching all Medical Laboratory professionals in Malawi. We are also working on establishment of our National External Quality Assessment Scheme (EQAS) in order to monitor Malawi Medical Laboratories competency with the support from IFCC.

Further more, we plan to participate in the 14th Asia-Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine Congress 2016, IFCC-EFLM EuroMedLab 2017 and XXIV IFCC WorldLab 2017 Durban, ZA.

DIVISIONAL REPORTS

IFCC Working Group for the Harmonisation in the operation of Interpretive Comments external Quality Assessment schemes (WG-ICQA)

by *Samuel Vasikaran*

*Department of Clinical Biochemistry
PathWest Royal Perth and Fiona Stanley Hospitals
Perth, Australia*



Systematic evidence of the contribution of laboratory medicine to the clinical process has been difficult to obtain owing to the multitude of factors involved in reaching a diagnosis or planning treatment for an individual [1]. Specific evidence-based measures of the added value of laboratory medicine are needed.

Two of the five areas identified by the report of the IFCC Task Force on the Impact of Laboratory Medicine on Clinical Management and Outcomes to ensure that laboratory medicine is firmly focused on improving outcomes are: optimizing patient outcomes by adding value at all points of the diagnostic brain-to-brain cycle and auditing the effectiveness of these roles and the overall diagnostic process, and Improved utilization of existing and new tests which requires among other factors, agreement on consultative services and comments to ensure that results are properly applied [2].

Rapid, accurate diagnosis of the patient's presenting condition is essential to obtaining the best outcome and there has been much emphasis on recent years in reducing diagnostic error. The role of accurate interpretation of results in reducing diagnostic errors and improving patient care has been well recognized; however, where diagnostic errors arise from laboratory testing, the pre- and post-analytical phases are much more vulnerable to error than the analytical phase [3,4].

Proficiency testing or external quality assessment (EQA) of analytical testing (among other factors) has played an important role in reducing errors in the analytical phase. Whilst the quality of analytical phase can be measured as imprecision, bias, total error or measurement uncertainty, the quality of qualitative data such as interpretative comments cannot be measured in these ways [5]. EQA of interpretative commenting is in its infancy with only a few national schemes operating currently, with no agreement or harmonisation of the methods used for such EQA [6-8]. unsurprisingly, there is lack of evidence for the utility of such schemes in improving the quality of interpretative comments, let alone their impact on patient outcomes [7]. However, participation and satisfactory performance in an interpretative EQA scheme may in the future be important in demonstrating proficiency and competence of an individual to provide an interpretative service in Clinical Chemistry [9].

It is in this context that the IFCC has formed a working group to seek harmonisation in the operation of EQA schemes for IC with a view to increasing the possibility of obtaining evidence to demonstrate benefit to patients.

The objectives of this WG are to:

- Bring together representatives of organisers of national EQA schemes for IC and experts in the field.
- Develop harmonized goals for EQA of IC.
- Devise standard methods of assessment, nomenclature and marking scales for EQA of IC.
- Establish minimum standards of performance for participants [10].

Article continued on next page

- Construct plans to collect evidence to demonstrate the impact of participation in EQA for IC on patient outcomes.

The WG consists of the following members: Sam Vasikaran (Chair, AU), Tony Badrick (AU), Anand Dighe (US), Jane French (UK), Eric Kilpatrick (UK), Jacqui Osypiw (UK), Mario Plebani (IT) and Ken Sikaris (AU).

The WG will consult and liaise with organisers of national and international EQA schemes for interpretative commenting in Clinical Chemistry as well as seeking input from similar schemes in other Pathology disciplines such as Histopathology and Haematology where such schemes are functioning in an advanced state. Liaison with an appropriate international professional clinical organisation would be planned for studying patient outcomes. It is hoped that the outcome of the work of this group will help move forward the field of QA of IC.

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COLABIOCLI Congress Invitation

The XXII Latin American Congress of Clinical Biochemistry 2015

The Ecuadorian Society of Clinical Biochemistry and COLABIOCLI invites all scientists, professionals and students to the 12th Latin American Congress of Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Sciences "COLABIOCLI 2015", a major scientific event for clinical laboratorians, held for the first time in Ecuador.

Venue: Hotel JW Marriott, Quito

Dates: 24-26 September 2015

Time: 09h00 - 18h00

Registration is now open.

Payment plans available.

You may request additional information from the Congress Secretariat:

Anita de Pérez, *Congress Executive Secretary*

Tel: 593 (0) 995 154 625

E-mail: congresocolabiocli2015@gmail.com

You may also visit the website dedicated to the event: www.sebiocli-ec.org.



XXII

Congreso Latinoamericano de Bioquímica Clínica y Ciencias de Laboratorio COLABIOCLI 2015

"Desde la Mitad del Mundo hacia la Bioquímica del nuevo Milenio"

Dirigido a Profesionales, Investigadores y Estudiantes de Ciencias y Medicina de Laboratorio Clínico

*Premio Wiener Lab al mejor trabajo de Investigación
Premio SEBIOCLI y Fundación Wiener al mejor Poster*

PRE CONGRESOS

TÉCNICAS AVANZADAS DE CALIDAD ANALÍTICA

Cuenca: 19 - 20 Septiembre 2015 (Hotel Oro Verde)
Quito: 22 - 23 Septiembre 2015 (Hotel JW Marriott)

Costo:

Inscritos al Congreso: UDS 40.00
Solo Pre Congreso: USD 100.00

"BIOMARCADORES EN LA ENFERMEDAD CARDIOVASCULAR Y CEREBROVASCULAR, FACTORES DE RIESGO"

Quito: 22 - 23 Septiembre 2015
Auditorio Colegio de Químicos y Bioquímicos Farmacéuticos de Pichincha
El Tiempo N39 -106 y el Universo.

Costo:

Inscritos al Congreso: UDS 40.00
Solo Pre Congreso: USD 100.00

FORMA DE PAGO

- 1.- Depósito, Transferencia Bancaria, Tarjeta de crédito
- 2.- Reserve ahora su Cupo con USD 100.00 y cancele con tarjeta de crédito al inicio del evento
- 3.- Organice su Precongreso, Intra Congreso y Congreso su total puede cancelar en 3 partes.

Información e inscripción:

www.sebiocli-ec.org
congresocolabiocli2015@gmail.com
Secretaría: + 593 995 154 625
593 2 2253 723

INTRA CONGRESOS

- 1.- Hematología
- 2.- Formación de Auditores Internos
- 3.- Control de calidad Fase Preanilitica
- 4.- Enfermedad Celiaca
- 5.- Control de calidad en equipos de laboratorio

CONGRESO

24, 25 y 26 Septiembre 2015
Sede: Hotel JW Marriott
Quito - Ecuador

COSTOS

Congreso:
Profesionales Socios y Extranjeros: USD 360.00
Otros Profesionales: USD 415.00
Intra Congreso solo para inscritos USD 25.00

Organizan:



Aval Académico de:
Facultad CCOQ
Universidad de Cuenca



Auspicio Institucional de:



IFCC Mentoring Programme



In 2014, IFCC made available a mentoring programme for clinical laboratory directors in developing countries. The intent of the programme is to make readily available the knowledge of well respected experienced laboratory directors in developed countries to their counterparts in less advanced societies on a one-to-one basis.

Potential mentors and Associates, as their partners are known, are selected based on shared interests. IFCC is particularly interested in supporting laboratory directors who have the potential of becoming leaders in the field of laboratory medicine in their countries.

Associates in the programme have primarily been selected from IFCC member societies in sub-Saharan African countries. Associates have been nominated by National Representatives of the IFCC societies in these countries. To try to provide an equitable distri-

bution of resources IFCC imposed an initial limit of three associates from any one country.

Selection of the most appropriate combination of mentors and associates is done from their shared interests, which both parties are expected to identify in a simple form that all mentors and associates must complete. The form also includes information about the professional background of the participants. One of the special intentions of the programme is to provide assistance as laboratory directors in developing countries undertake the initial steps that will ultimately lead to accreditation of their laboratories. The programme depends on e-mail, and Skype, when both mentors and associates have it available. Associates are expected to ask their mentors any questions concerning laboratory operations or their research interests. Mentors are expected to provide appropriate answers and guidance.

While the programme is still in its infancy, IFCC conducted a short survey of both mentors and associates to obtain feedback that would be used to improve the programme.

Currently, there are eleven active mentors and fifteen associates in the programme.

Responses to the survey indicated that 36% of the associates initiated contact with their mentors at least once per month and 46% mentors initiated contact with their associates at least once per month.

Mentors felt that their associates responded appropriately to their suggestions on 56% of occasions. They felt that their involvement with associates was definitely helpful in 11% of occasions, probably and possibly helpful in 88% of interactions. They stated that most benefits to their associates have come from guidance concerning quality improvement and from advice on how to approach a research issue.

The associates felt that 94% of mentors were responsive to the programme and that in 87% instances they responded appropriately to issues raised.

Substantially more than half the associates felt that the programme had been helpful for their mentors. Some of the associates had assumed that the programme was designed as a course, whereas it was set up to enable a mentor and associate to work together to address an associate's pressing needs.

Both mentors and associates agreed that it would be helpful for them to have had direct face-to-face contact, which IFCC's limited resources are unable to provide.

Summary of the questionnaire suggests that the programme is of value and should be expanded.

IFCC is interested in increasing the number of mentors. It would like to expand it to Spanish-speaking countries and thus is particularly interested in recruiting potential mentors whose first language is Spanish.

Several of the current mentors are recently retired well-known directors of leading clinical laboratories.

Although the demands of the programme are small, such individuals bring their updated knowledge and experience to the programme.

For associates IFCC is particularly interested in incorporating individuals who have identified their potential ability to become leaders in the clinical laboratory field in their own country and, accordingly, IFCC hopes that National Representatives and Presidents of the societies would nominate appropriate individuals as associates.

Application forms for both mentors and associates may be obtained from Silvia Colli-Lanzi in the IFCC Office (colli-lanzi@ifcc.org).

When requesting a form please make it clear whether you would like to be considered as a mentor or as an associate. Please address specific questions about the programme to Donald Young at: donalldyo@mail.med.upenn.edu.

NEWS FROM REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND MEMBER SOCIETIES



Standardization of the colour coding for blood collection tube closures

by Ana-Maria Simundic

Chair, TFG on Standardization of tube closure colour (TFG-STCC)

The European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) has recently established a Task-and-Finish group (TFG) with the title **Standardization of the colour coding for blood collection tube closures**.

The TFG membership is as follows:

- Ana-Maria SIMUNDIC, Chair (Croatia)
- Nuria BARBA MESEGUER (Spain)
- Alberto DOLCI (Italy)
- Edmée van DONGEN-LASES (The Netherlands)
- Stephen CHURCH (Becton Dickinson)
- Helene IVANOV (Greiner Bio)
- Christa SEIPELT (Sarstedt)

The aim of this project is to initiate and manage a dialog between interested parties in order to achieve the world-wide harmonization of the colour coding for blood collection tube closures and labels.

The background of the problem has recently been described in the EFLM Opinion paper published in CCLM (Simundic AM, et al. *Colour coding for blood collection tube closures – A call for harmonization*. Clin Chem Lab Med. 2015;53(3):371-6)

TFG members will meet for the first time in Paris, during Euromedlab for an initial dialogue and hopefully reach a preliminary consensus and agree on the way forward.

All IVD manufacturers have been invited to join this TFG and EFLM wishes to acknowledge the kind participation of three major manufacturers of blood collection systems.

We hope that our efforts are going to take us one step closer to global harmonization and standardization initiatives in laboratory medicine.

The Royal Belgian Society of Laboratory Medicine (RBSLM) Scientific meeting announcement



The Role of the Laboratories in Personalized Medicine

by J. P. Chapelle

The Royal Belgian Society of Laboratory Medicine will organize in June 2015 the following scientific meeting: **Role of the Laboratories in Personalized Medicine** at the Université Catholique de Louvain, Medical School, Auditorium E, Avenue Mounier, B-1200 Brussels, Belgium, on June 20, 2015.

This is a one-day-conference dedicated to personalized medicine, a fast and broad growing medical concept that proposes the customization of healthcare, with medical decisions, practices, and/or products being tailored to the individual patient.

In this concept, laboratory medicine is often employed for selecting appropriate and optimal therapies based on the context of a patient's genetic content or other

biomedical properties (age, body weight, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, environmental factors...). In addition to progress in technologies, personalized medicine may also raise ethical considerations which should be addressed.

International opinion leaders will review some aspects of this fascinating field.

The meeting is organized under the auspices of EFLM and IFCC. Information: isabel.vandorpe@icloud.be.

In November 2015, the RBSLM will organize its annual national symposium in Brussels.

(final programme in progress; further information: pieter.vermeersch@uzleuven.be).



Report from the Porto Conference on Preanalytical Phase

by Ana-Maria Simundic

Chair, EFLM Working Group for Preanalytical Phase

The 3rd EFLM-BD European Conference on Preanalytical Phase was held in the beautiful city of Porto (Portugal), between 20-21 March 2015. This conference was organized by the Working group for Preanalytical Phase (WG-PRE) of the European Federation for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) in collaboration with BD Diagnostics, Preanalytical Systems and with the kind help of the Portuguese Society of Clinical Chemistry, Genetics and Laboratory Medicine. Almost 600 participants from more than 30 different countries gathered at this meeting.

The highlight of the conference was harmonization. Conference presentations have been delivered by well-known international speakers and experts in the field of preanalytical phase. An honorary lecture was presented by one of the founders of preanalytical phase, Prof. Walter Guder (Germany) who gave a wonderful overview of the history of the preanalytical phase. Participants had a chance to listen and learn about the best preanalytical practices and techniques as well as about some latest original reports and developments in the field.

Article continued on next page

A special feature of this meeting was the last session during the Conference during which all EFLM National Societies were invited to present their efforts and achievements related to the preanalytical phase at the national level. It was interesting and very impressive to learn about a lot of recent activities across Europe, in many European countries. Many National societies have launched working groups for Preanalytical Phase during the last 2-3 years, and many of them have started to work on various guidelines and recommendations. One of the key outcomes of that meeting was a joint consensus statement by the presenting societies (22 in all) that harmonization at European level is necessary and possible and all countries have expressed their desire and willingness to work with EFLM WG-PRE towards that goal.

Out of 171 poster abstracts, the Scientific Committee selected 4 most interesting and challenging topics for oral presentations:

1. Effect of inactivation procedure of Ebola virus on routine biochemistry parameters, Adrijana Dorotic (Croatia);

2. The effect of an exhaustion exercise in routine clinical chemistry parameters, Sandra Martins (Portugal);
3. MALDI-TOF/MS proteomic signature of pre-analytical sample quality, Andrea Padoan (Italy);
4. A Novel Metabolomics-Based Quality Control Assay of Human EDTA Plasma, Beate Kamlage (Germany).

Conference proceedings were published in the form of Opinion papers in CCLM: Lippi G, Banfi G, Church S, Cornes M, De Carli G, Grankvist K, Kristensen GB, Ibarz M, Panteghini M, Plebani M, Nybo M, Smellie S, Zaninotto M, Simundic AM. Preanalytical quality improvement. In pursuit of harmony. Clin Chem Lab Med 2015;53:357-70, and all powerpoint lectures were made available at the conference website: www.preanalytical-phase.org.

Conference Poster Abstracts have been published in CCLM 2015; 53(4):eA1–eA89, which is freely downloadable from the CCLM and EFLM website.

The success of this conference is our greatest motivation and challenge for the future.

We hope to see you all again at the next conference in 2017 in the wonderful city of Amsterdam!





IFCC Website News

2015.05.14 - Paris website updated

We are happy to announce that the congress website has been updated.

Visit www.paris2015.org to download the full scientific programme, including plenary lectures, symposia, and Educational Workshops.

The map of the exhibition area and the list of exhibitors is also now available.

[Read more](#)



IFCC Website News

2015.05.21 - New Events Calendar

Plan your attendance at upcoming Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory medicine events using the the IFCC's Calendar of Congresses, Conferences & Events. Our newly designed calendar lists major upcoming events, allowing you to view or

download the available scientific programmes for careful selection of your preferred events. Among the new features is the possibility to add the events dates to your desktop calendar.

[Read more](#)

EFLM Bursary Programme



15th EFLM Continuing Postgraduate Course in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine

by **M.S. Graziani**

EFLM Communication Committee Chair

EFLM is promoting a programme of bursaries for young scientists attending the 15th EFLM Continuing Postgraduate Course in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, between 24-25 October 2015, in Zagreb (<http://www.eflm-course.org>).

The bursaries will cover the cost of the travel and accommodation (max. 2 nights in a 3* hotel) for a maximum of Eur 400. Kindly note, that the registration fee is not refundable.

Eligible candidates must come from an EFLM Member Society and meet the following criteria:

- ➔ Young participants (≤ 35 years of age at the date of the conference);
- ➔ Have a poster abstract accepted as First Author.

Applications **must** be submitted through the proper

application form (downloadable at <http://www.eflm-course.org/bursary>) and accompanied by the following documentation:

1. Copy of the ID or passport;
2. Document proving the membership to the National Society;
3. Notification of poster acceptance.

Send your applications to: silvia.cattaneo@efclm.eu until **10 September, 2015**.

Applicants will be notified of the bursaries acceptance/rejection within **2 October 2015**.

Important dates

15 June 2015 – deadline for abstract submission

15 September 2015 – deadline for reduced registration fee



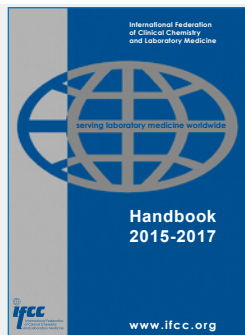
***15th EFLM Continuous Postgraduate Course in
Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine***

***October 24-25, 2015
Zagreb, Croatia***



***How to assess
the quality of your method?***

www.eflm-course.org



IFCC Website News

2015.05.01 - IFCC Handbook 2015-2017

We are happy to announce that the 2015-2017 edition of the IFCC Handbook is available. All the updated information about the function and operation of IFCC, in a single online publication.

[Read more](#)



IFCC Website News

2015.04.30 - APFCB News 2014

The publication of the Asia-Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine, *APFCB News 2014*, is now available. Click below to access a copy and catch up on all the region's news from 2014.

[Read more](#)



Joint EAS and EFLM Task & Finish Group on Laboratory Testing for Dyslipidaemia



Bringing together the expertise of clinicians and laboratory professionals in producing consensus guidelines

*by Michel R. Langlois, MD, PhD
Chair, EFLM TFG-LTD*



Prof. Dr. Michel Langlois,
Chair of EFLM TFG-LTD



Prof. Dr. Børge Nordestgaard,
Co-chair of EAS-EFLM Consensus Panel

Article continued on next page

Introduction

Clinical practice guidelines (CPGs) relating to laboratory diagnostic testing are being increasingly produced and aim to standardize and improve patient care based on the best available evidence. There are relatively few pure laboratory testing guidelines as the majority of laboratory guidelines are embedded in CPGs and these may not provide sufficient levels of detail (1). When CPGs are produced they often encompass a broader topic within which a laboratory test or testing pathway is applied. The description of the laboratory testing modalities and analytical performance criteria surrounding it are often neglected areas. There is therefore a need to incorporate expertise of laboratory medicine specialists into CPG writing committees.

Several strategies include a checklist of criteria to consider when using laboratory tests in CPGs. A comprehensive list was published in 2012 by the EFLM Working Group on Guidelines (WG-G) (1). The list suggested 33 pre-analytical, 37 analytical and 10 post-analytical items that should be addressed in producing guidelines including laboratory tests. Twelve guidelines covering common diseases were evaluated during the development of the list and the mean percentage of topics dealt with by the guidelines was 33%. Information about pre-analytical, biological and analytical interferences were scarce in most guidelines even if the inclusion of a laboratory medicine specialist in the guideline production led to increased focus on some typical laboratory test-related items (e.g., pre-analytical issues and analytical variation).

The EFLM WG-G checklist has been used to evaluate the major international CPGs regarding use of troponins for diagnosing acute coronary syndrome (2). The finding in that paper was that in these nine CPGs most of the checklist items are not considered or need to be updated, e.g., suggested analytical quality goals are not applicable for the high-sensitive troponin assays and important interferences that may lead to false positive or negative diagnoses are not mentioned.

Methods

The method chosen to develop laboratory test-related guidelines by different professional groups is to write so-called “consensus papers”, published by a multidisciplinary task force of invited experts—clinicians and laboratory professionals—from two or more relevant scientific societies. This method has been successfully applied by the European Atherosclerosis Society (EAS) and resulted in the publication of consensus papers (3,4). Recently, the EAS and EFLM agreed to establish a joint Consensus Panel to develop guidelines for lipid testing in the management of dyslipidemia and cardiovascular risk (5). For this purpose, the Task & Finish Group on Laboratory Testing for Dyslipidaemia (TFG-LTD) was established in 2014 under the EFLM WG-G.

The joint EAS-EFLM Consensus Panel is co-chaired by Prof. Dr. Michel Langlois on behalf of the EFLM TFG-LTD and Prof. Dr. Borge Nordestgaard on behalf of EAS. The 22 Consensus Panel members are nominated by the involved Societies to represent worldwide expertise of clinical management and research in the defined topic and scope of the guideline. The aim of the Panel is to critically appraise the current evidence relating to laboratory tests as diagnostic or prognostic biomarkers, and to consider therapeutic strategies for their management or monitoring. The Panel organizes face-to-face meetings during the preparation of the guideline.

Results

At the first meeting in Bruges, Belgium, September 26, 2014, the members selected and agreed on the specific issues to be addressed in the paper, including the pre-analytical, analytical, and post-analytical aspects of the candidate biomarker(s). Selected issues from the EFLM WG-G checklist are:

1. Pre- and post-analytical issues. There is no standardization or consensus for the reporting of lipid measurements. Notably reference or ideal values are not reported uniformly by the clinical laboratories. Pre-analytical issues are not uniformly defined (fasting or non-fasting?).

2. Inaccuracy problems with directly measured LDL- and HDL-cholesterol as well as the Friedewald formula. Alternative measures such as remnant-cholesterol, non-HDL-cholesterol, apoB, and LDL- P: clinical added value?
3. Lp(a) measurement standardization and reporting (in mg/dl or nmol/l?).

At the second meeting in connection with the EAS Congress in Glasgow, UK, March 20-21, 2015, members of the Panel critically reviewed the available evidence based on published literature. They presented data from analytical and clinical validity studies, randomized controlled clinical trials or meta-analyses to assess the impact of biomarker-targeted strategies on patient outcome. On the second day, the panel was split into three separate working groups to discuss the content and outline of the paper dealing with the selected issue (what is new?), to suggest figures and tables, and to assign writing commitments of the first draft manuscript. Finally, the three proposals—including suggested target journals—were reported back to the entire consensus group.

At the third meeting in connection with EuroMedLab Paris, France, June 2015, and in subsequent meetings, members will review additional literature and formulate recommendations in the draft manuscript based on the body of evidence and considered judgment of the consensus panel.

All members of the Consensus Panel are involved in the writing of the manuscript; they agree to the conception and design, contribute to interpretation of available data, suggest revisions for the document, and approve the final manuscript before submission. The Consensus Panel meetings are supported by educational grants by pharmaceutical and in vitro diagnostic companies. These companies are not present at the Consensus Panel meetings, have no role in the design or content of the Consensus Statement, and have no right to approve or disapprove of the final document.

Conclusion

Given the major public health importance of dyslipidaemia and cardiovascular disease (CVD), the joint EAS-EFLM consensus guidelines are developed to as-

sist healthcare professionals in their cardiac prevention strategies using accurate in-vitro diagnostic (IVD) information. Incorrect diagnosis and mismanagement of treatment, which are based on laboratory measures, are both costly to society and harmful to the patient. The “post-analytical error” should not be underestimated, since even modest variability in IVD-related risk prediction with a disease as common as CVD translates into thousands of people that may or may not be treated adequately.

The EFLM TFG-LTD sets an example of how to involve laboratory professionals in formulating recommendations on the use of tests in clinical practice. Initiatives like this are vital in promoting the visibility of the Laboratory Medicine profession in the medical world, helping clinicians to understand how complicated and difficult the interpretation of laboratory tests can be and the crucial role that our profession has in contributing to this activity.

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CONGRESS BUSINESS TRAVEL s.r.o.

New Chairman of the Russian Scientifically-Practical Society of Specialists in Laboratory Medicine (RSPSSLM)

by Lina Khorovskaya
RSPSSLM

The Russian Scientifically-Practical Society of Specialists in Laboratory Medicine (RSPSSLM) elected a new Chairman, Professor Andrey M. Ivanov. The official vote was taken at the XX National Meeting on Laboratory Medicine in Moscow, Russian Federation, between 24-26 March, 2015.

Professor Andrey M. Ivanov is the Head of Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine Department in Kirov Military Medical Academy (VMA), St.-Petersburg, Russian Federation and main Specialist in Laboratory Medicine of Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation.

Andrey M. Ivanov was born in 1971 in Tallinn, Estonia in a family of physicians. He graduated at VMA, St.-Petersburg in 1996. He was head of Microbiology Department in VMA from 2000 to 2007 and head of Scientific and Research Department of Nanotechnology of VMA from 2007 to 2011. His main interests are microbiology; gene, cellular and protein engineering; development of modern molecular and biological, immunological and microbiological methods of diagnosis of infectious diseases; development of methods of identification of antigens of microorganisms, DNA- and RNA- markers; etiological role of microorganisms in malignancy and disturbances of immune system. He is author of 340 scientific publications, 7 patents, 6 National Guidelines in Laboratory Medicine, 2 monographs and 3 textbooks for physicians.

Professor Ivanov supports historical traditions of Russian Laboratory Medicine. The Laboratory in VMA is equipped with modern laboratory instrumentation.

Professor Ivanov actively participates in the development of the National Professional Societies in Laboratory Medicine in the Russian Federation. He is one of the Vice-Presidents of the Russian Federation of Laboratory Medicine (RFLM), Board



Professor Andrey M. Ivanov
Chairman of the Russian Scientifically-Practical Society
of Specialists in Laboratory Medicine (RSPSSLM)

Member of the Russian Association of Medical Laboratory Diagnostics (RAMLD). RFLM and RAMLD are members of RSPSSLM.

Andrey M. Ivanov is an Editorial member of the scientific and practical Journal "Bulletin of Dermatology and Venereology". He is a member of Dissertation Council in Microbiology, Clinical laboratory Diagnostics, immunology and allergology at VMA.

As a new Russian leader in laboratory medicine, Andrey Ivanov proposes a program of development of Laboratory Medicine in Russia aimed at:

- Forming of the State and Public form of government professional activity in Laboratory Medicine

Article continued on next page

including participation in public examination of the projects connected with development and activity of laboratory service;

- Submission of expert opinions for development of National Guidelines in Laboratory Medicine.
- Development of international collaboration with IFCC, EFLM as one of the priority directions of RSPSSLM;
- Development of laboratory services in Federal and Regional levels of obligatory medical insurance of Russia;
- Formation of Quality Assessment System in Laboratory Medicine;
- Development of diagnostic algorithms for Clinical Guidelines for health care;
- Participation in accreditation and certification of specialists in Laboratory Medicine in Russian Federation;
- Improvement of additional professional education for RSPSSLM members;
- Harmonization of domestic traditions of education in Laboratory Medicine with the best international experience;

- Development of distant education in Laboratory Medicine;
- Help in employment for laboratory specialists;
- Assistance of integration of the Russian Laboratory service into international community of specialists in Laboratory Medicine;
- Protection of professional and civil interests of members of RSPSSLM;
- Generalization and promotion of results of scientific researches and new technologies in the field of Laboratory Medicine;
- Organization of conferences, symposiums, seminars, schools and exhibitions in Laboratory Medicine;
- Edition of Journal Clinical Laboratory Diagnostics (Clin Lab Diagn) and release of printing edition for specialists in Laboratory Medicine with news of RSPSSLM and a platform for discussions and exchange of experience, information resource, Internet support and the blog.

Professor Andrey M. Ivanov wishes for the successful development of international collaboration and interaction of Russian specialists in Laboratory Medicine with IFCC and EFLM.



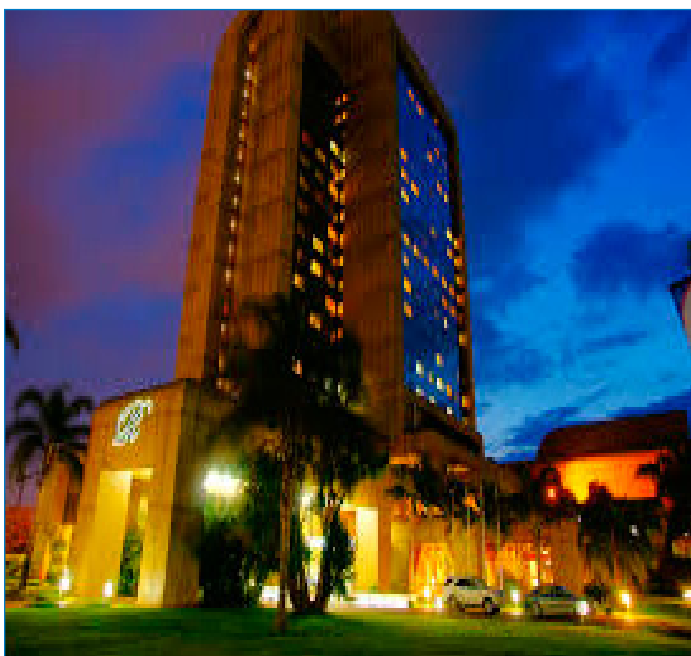
Central Laboratory of Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine Department
in Kirov Military Medical Academy (VMA), St. Petersburg, Russian Federation

4th AFCC LabMed Victoria Congress April 2015 – Harare, Zimbabwe



Integrating Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine in Evidence Based P4 (Personalised, Preventative, Predictive and Participatory) Medicine

*by Hilda Tendisa Marima-Matarira
President, ZACB and Secretary, AFCC
Chairman, Local Organising Committee*



The Rainbow Towers: Harare International
Conference Centre

The 4th AFCC LabMed Victoria Congress recently took place at the Rainbow Towers, Harare International Conference Centre from 28 to 30 April 2014.

The Zimbabwe Association of Clinical Biochemists (ZACB) organized a pre-congress Point of Care Test (POCT) Hands on Practical Workshop, on 25 April 2015 with the support of the Australian Association of Clinical Biochemistry and MM African technologies who supplied equipment and kits for the Practicals.

Three recommendations from the workshop including the initiation of an independent IVDD, accreditation agency and decentralisation of POCT to the 150 districts of Zimbabwe were obtained.

On 27 April 2015, there was an IFCC Essentials of Laboratory Quality Management Workshop which included presentations by prominent academics from South Africa representing the South African Association for Clinical Biochemistry, Prof R. T. Erasmus (Stellenbosch University); Prof T.S. Pillay (University of Pretoria, IFCC eNews editor and member of the IFCC CPD executive committee) and Prof Tandi Matsha (Cape Peninsula University of Technology). From the workshop the ZACB recommended that the 138 plus public and private laboratories be accredited to be part of the planned SADC and AFCC clinical laboratories accreditation schemes.

The opening session of the 4th AFCC congress during the evening of the 27th April 2015, was graced by the presence of the Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe The Honorable E Mnangangwa, The Honorable Oppah Muchinguri-Kashiri, The Minister of Higher Tertiary Education and Technology Development, Vice Chancellor of the University of Zimbabwe Prof. Levi Nyagura, The Honorable David Parirenyatwa, the Minister of Health and Child Care, The Honorable Josiah Hungwe the Minister of State in the Office of the President and Cabinet Liaisoning on



From left to right: Renze Bais, Vanessa Steenkamp, Adekunle Okesina and Hilda Matarira on 28 April 2015



From left to right: Hilda Matarira and Vanessa Steenkamp at AFCC General Meeting on 29 April 2015

Education and The Honorable Monica Mutsvangwa, the Deputy Minister of Information in the Office of the President and Cabinet.

The Government of Zimbabwe's welcome of Congress delegates received wide publication in both the local electronic and print media. During the briefing session, Prof Vanessa Steenkamp highlighted the activities of the IFCC worldwide and AFCC in Africa. Prof Hilda Matarira informed the meeting of ZACB activities in the AFCC and IFCC. This was highly appreciated and was followed by more media interviews later.

The diagnostic industry exhibition came to life from 27 April 2015. It ran directly opposite the Congress Venue and was an exciting activity which added colour and practical relevance of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine. One of the exhibitors from the Diagnostic Industry, SNIBE, had a workshop held on 29 April 2015, which addressed the theme of Chemiluminescence Immunoassay.

This workshop attracted 88 participants, including clinicians, paediatricians, general practitioners, nurses and laboratory practitioners at various grades in all disciplines of clinical pathology.

Altogether 168 delegates attended the Workshops; and 200 delegates attended the Main Congress.

ACHIEVEMENTS of the 4th AFCC LabMed Victoria Congress held at Rainbow Towers HICC from 25th to 30th April 2015

Professor V. Steenkamp highlighted the achievements of the Congress as follows:

1. The IFCC, AFCC and ZACB has networked effectively with the Government of Zimbabwe, Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education Science and Technology Development, Office of the President and Cabinet, Ministry of Health and Child Care, University of Zimbabwe and Harare Polytechnic.
2. The Theme for Education Ministries was Automation, Computerisation and Nanomedicine relevant to Paediatrics, Pharmaceuticals, Health and Education. This was achieved through Harare Polytechnic industrial exhibition. The exhibition by the Harare Polytechnic included pro-

duction of active ingredients using local materials, for ARVs used for treatment of HIV/ Aids.

3. IFCC Taskforce Young Scientists (TFYS) wider network was established at this congress for the first time in the history of AFCC where 115 young scientists representing the international community and African countries were present. A high level of information, skills and knowledge were shared among the 200 participants in the 7 symposia, 5 plenary lectures and 4 workshops over 50 presentations in 5 days.
4. Ten international companies from South Africa, China, United Kingdom, USA and Australia exhibited together with five local institutions namely ZACB, Zimbabwe College of Pathology, Zimbabwe National Quality Assurance Programme, Harare Polytechnic and University of Zimbabwe. All scientific research results were published in the first issue of the online Journal of Biomedical and Public Health on 27 April 2015 on www.spectrohealth.co.uk. This was possible as a result of initiative by Zimbabweans in the medical laboratory diaspora.



AFCC Young Scientists: In the centre Itai Chitungo, Zimbabwe Representative and, next to him, Omolara Popoola (in pink)



Participants at the SNIBE Diagnostic Industry Workshop, held on 29 April 2015



IFCC Website News

2015.04.24 4th AFCC Harare Congress

The 4th AFCC Harare Congress began under the flag of hospitality and spirit of friendship. The Zimbabwe Association of Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (ZACB) is greatly honoured to host the historic 4th African Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine Congress at the Rainbow Towers in the Harare International Conference Centre from 25 to 30 April 2015.

[Read More](#)

News from the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia (SMBS)



11th EFLM Symposium for Balkan Region and 60th SMBS Anniversary

Dr Snežana Jovičić

*Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia
Liaison Member of the IFCC e-Newsletter Working Group*

For the 11th time, the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia (SMBS) was the host of the EFLM Symposium for Balkan Region on 14-15 May 2015. This year's Symposium, entitled "Laboratory Medicine Specialist Focuses on the Patients Well-being", was organized by SMBS, EFLM and Department of Medical Biochemistry of the University of Belgrade – Faculty of Pharmacy, and under the auspices of IFCC, Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation (BCLF), Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development and Ministry of Health of Republic of Serbia.

During the two day Symposium, the participants had a chance to hear about the current hot topics concerning the laboratory medicine profession today from the leading European experts in this field – Prof. Mauro Panteghini, Prof. Simone Zerah, Dr. Gilbert Wieringa, Dr. Ian D. Watson, Dr. Wytze Oosterhuis, Prof. Elizabeta Topić, Dr. Wim Huisman, and Prof. Ana-Maria Šimundić; as well as about the situation in the training of specialists in laboratory medicine, accreditation and key process quality indicators in Serbian medical laboratories from Prof. Nada Majkić-Singh and Dr. Zorica Šumarac.

The talks were about the role of laboratory medicine specialists in verification of in vitro medical diagnostics metrological traceability, implementation and the transposition of the Directive on the professional qualifications, common training frameworks for specialists in laboratory medicine, common values in the liberal professions in Europe, laboratory medicine in the EU, the implementation of continuous professional development, present situation on accreditation in Europe, and preanalytical phase quality management.

This year's round table discussion, which finalized the Symposium, was exceptionally vibrant. It was hosted by students of medical biochemistry from the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade, gathered in the "Team of Medical Biochemists". After the short presentation they had made on their extracurricular activities, they initiated a discussion with (and amongst) the distinguished lecturers about the topic of the utmost interest to these enthusiastic young people, i.e. as they defined it, what it takes to become a lab hero!!

After the conclusion of the Symposium sessions, the Ceremony of the 60th Anniversary of the SMBS celebration began. The ceremony was opened by the Infinity Quintet and their inspiring performance of popular pieces by Guns'n'Roses, Whitesnake, Scorpions, in classical adaptation for a string quintet, symbolizing the continuity of the Society's work during the past 60 years and its constant change and advancement according to the demands of the actual time.

Prof. Nada Majkić-Singh, the Executive Director of the SMBS, reminded us briefly of the beginnings and development of medical biochemistry in Serbia, from the middle ages on, as well as of the foundation of SMBS and its various activities. This was followed by photos from numerous events that SMBS patronized and organized during the last 60 years, which were included in the book "Serbian Medical Biochemistry in 21st Century – 70 years later", published on this occasion by the SMBS.

Many distinguished guests from Serbia and abroad were invited and responded to the summons, and they made the welcoming address to the gathering.

Article continued on next page

The greatest honor to the SMBS was made with the attendance and addressing of Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Katherine of Serbia.

Congratulations to the SMBS were delivered also by the IFCC President Prof. Maurizio Ferrari, EFLM President, Prof. Mauro Panteghini, the Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy University of Belgrade Prof. Zorica Vujić, the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine University of Belgrade Prof. Nebojša Lalić, and the Director of the Chamber of Biochemists of Serbia, Dr. Slavica Cimbalević.

In addition, the President of the Croatian Society of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine Prof. Ana-Maria Šimundić and Sonja Kuzmanovska, representative of the Macedonian Society of Medical Biochemistry congratulated the Anniversary, and the letter from the Polish Society of Laboratory Diagnostics sent on this occasion was read.

Regarding the 60th Anniversary of the SMBS, the President of the SMBS Dr. Zorica Šumarac delivered the awards.

The Honorary Diploma, the highest recognition of the SMBS, intended for designated individuals for promoting clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine

in Europe and globally, was handed to Prof. Simone Zerah.

The highest award, the Charter, regarding the 60 years of existence and work, in appreciation and gratitude for the significant contribution to the work and development of the SMBS, was delivered to IFCC and EFLM.

As recognition and gratitude for significant contribution to the work of the SMBS, Diplomas and Acknowledgments were handed to 60 individuals and organizations.

The special Honorary Diploma and Anniversary Logo were delivered to Prof. Nada Majkić-Singh, the long-time President of the SMBS and present Executive Director, for her enormous contribution to the foundation and development of the SMBS and the profession of medical biochemistry in Serbia.

The socializing of guests and many members of the SMBS continued long after the official part of the Ceremony. Amongst many kind wishes the SMBS received for its 60th birthday, one was commonly heard – the wish for the SMBS to celebrate at least a hundredth.



Lecturers and participants of the 11th EFLM Symposium for Balkan Region and SMBS 60th Anniversary



Prof. Nada Majkić-Singh delivers the Charter of the SMBS to IFCC President Prof. Maurizio Ferrari

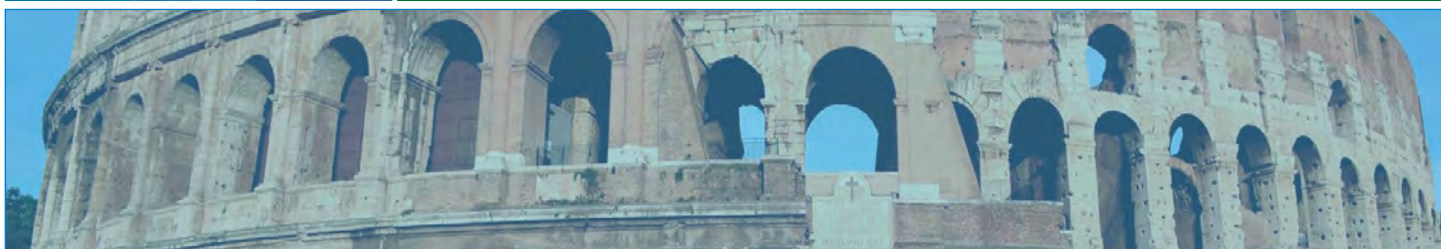


Prof. Nada Majkić-Singh and Dr. Zorica Šumarac delivering the Charter of the SMBS to EFLM President Prof. Mauro Panteghini



Biochemistry, Physiology and Pharmacology of Oxidative Stress

July 2-4, 2015 – Rome, Italy



The Universities of Sapienza (IT) and Ferrara (IT), and the National Research Council of Italy (CNR) are delighted to announce the International Workshop on Biochemistry, Physiology and Pharmacology of Oxidative Stress that will take place in Rome from 2–4 July, 2015 at Sapienza's Campus. This meeting aims to bring together about a hundred international participants to discuss on and share novel ideas and findings concerning the Biochemistry, Physiology and Pharmacology of Oxidative Stress.

ORGANIZING SECRETARIAT

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6th International Conference and Exhibition on Analytical & Bioanalytical Techniques

September 1-3, 2015 – Valencia, Spain

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Analytica-2015 welcomes attendees, presenters, and exhibitors from all over the world to Valencia, Spain. We are delighted to invite you all to register for and attend the 6th International Conference on Analytical & Bioanalytical Techniques (Analytica-2015), which is going to be held between September 1-3, 2015 in Valencia, Spain.

The organizing committee is gearing up for an exciting and informative conference program, including plenary lectures, symposia, workshops on a variety of topics, poster presentations and various programs for participants from all over the world. We invite you to join us at the Analytica-2015, where you will be sure to have a meaningful experience with scholars from around the world. All members of the Analytica-2015 organizing committee look forward to meeting you in Valencia, Spain.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

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- Analytical Techniques in Immuno Chemistry
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- Applications of Analytical and Bioanalytical Methods
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AACB 53rd Annual Scientific Conference

Clinical Chemistry and Endocrinology - Partnerships in Testing

15-17 September 2015 – Sydney Olympic Park, Australia

The AACB 53rd Annual Scientific Conference will be held from **Tuesday, 15 September to Thursday, 17 September 2015** at **ANZ Stadium**, Sydney Olympic Park, Sydney, NSW.

Theme of the Conference

Clinical Chemistry and Endocrinology – Partnerships in Testing" with themed days covering Diabetes, Endocrinology and Clinical Biochemistry. You will hear from keynote international, national and local speakers, and attend joint sessions with the Endocrine and Diabetes Societies.

Satellite Meetings

You will also have the opportunity to attend a PoCT Satellite Meeting pre-conference on Monday, 14 September; and a post-conference Satellite Meeting - Part 3 of the Quality Control Workshop, on Friday, 18 September 2015. These will be held at the Novotel Hotel, Sydney Olympic Park.

Program details available soon.

Sponsorship, Exhibition, Program, Speakers and Call for Abstract enquiries

Please contact:

Lisa King, Events Manager,
Australasian Association of
Clinical Biochemists (AACB)

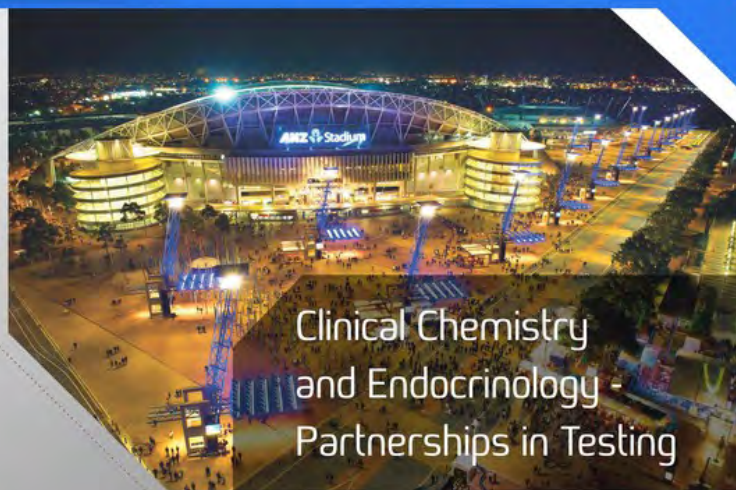
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IFCC TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIPS

4th African Federation of Clinical Chemists (AFCC) Congress



My experience

*by Lucius C. Imoh
Nigeria*

The 4th African Federation of Clinical Chemists (AFCC) congress which held in Harare Zimbabwe from April 28th-30th was indeed a unique experience for me filled with pleasant memories. I attended the conference as one of the young scientist sponsored through the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) - Jocelyn Hick's travel Scholarship grant.

I arrived in Harare Zimbabwe from Jos, my home city in Plateau State, Nigeria, through connecting flights from Lagos and Johannesburg. After the several hours of flight, I lodged in the hospitable Rainbow hotel, venue of the conference. This helped me to quickly settle down for the conference.

The conference gave me the opportunity to make my first oral presentation in a scientific conference of this magnitude. The experience was rewarding. I learnt finer details of making oral presentations including the skill of communication and command of the podium. These and other skills learnt during the presentation are truly invaluable in my quest to becoming a better academic and scientist.

The conference gave me the opportunity to meet one on one with some of the major players in my field. I was able to discuss issues on future collaboration I also had some of my burning questions answered. Moreover, I was able to network with leading manufacturing companies who were represented at the conference. My interactions with other young scientist were also an invaluable experience.

I felt very much at home with the young scientists. The young scientists from the host country and host association i.e. the Zimbabwean Association of Clinical Biochemists (ZACB) did all they could to help me settle down and understand the culture of the people of Zimbabwe. They took us on a tour of the city of Harare and places of interest. Arising from the conference, the young scientists have established a network to encourage communication via social media.

During the conference, I had the opportunity of attending a scientific writing workshop targeted at young scientists who aimed to explain the rudiments of writing good protocols, article and grant proposals as well as making good presentations at scientific conferences. I particularly enjoyed this session because it highlighted areas that I needed to improve on having made an oral presentation earlier in the conference.

Overall benefits of attending the conference to me and my institution:

Attending this conference has broadened my horizon and perspective of scientific activities. I am now more assured and eager to venture into new frontiers of research. I am encouraged to reach out to more senior and renowned scientist both in Africa and beyond so as to leverage on their wealth of experience and assist me in building my career in Laboratory medicine.

I intend to apply the knowledge and experience garnered during this conference to better instruct my

Article continued on next page

residents and students as well as stimulate interest in research. I am confident that the networks I was able to establish will help my department move forward.

My unreserved appreciation goes to the IFCC, Jocelyn Hick and the Association of Clinical Chemists of Nigeria (ACCN) who made this possible for me.



Lucius C. Imoh, with Elizabeth Kagotho and other young scientists at the conference



Lucius C. Imoh doing his oral presentation

My experience at the 4th AFCC Congress



A thirst for research-based solutions in medicine

*by Elizabeth Muringa Kagotho
Kenya*

My name is Elizabeth Muringa Kagotho and I was the 2015 recipient of the International federation of clinical chemistry (IFCC) Travel Scholarship to attend the 4th African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC) LABMED 2015 from Kenya.

My journey from Nairobi to Harare was exciting since it was also my first time in Zimbabwe. Upon arrival, the Zimbabwe Association of Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (ZACB) had organized my airport transfer from the to the beautiful rainbow towers.

I had a poster presentation on “Changing trends in Vitamin D testing in a tertiary hospital in Kenya”. I was given a chance to present this paper and this gave me an opportunity to further present other research work on Vitamin D that I am currently undertaking back at home. This raised positive debate and future collaborations were suggested. At the conference, I

got to interact with other young researchers like me from Africa. I also got to meet several other senior colleagues and researchers and I look forward to further future interactions and collaborations with them.

Since all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy, the young scientists in Zimbabwe took us for tours to various places in Harare. The Harare international festival of Arts (HIFA) was particularly entertaining. Various artists showcased their prowess in theatre, music, dance, fine art and poetry.

I would like to thank ZACB for a conference well organized, the various speakers for the many interesting and practice-changing papers and most importantly IFCC for making this possible for me. I look forward to other such opportunities in the future, as this opportunity gave me a thirst for research based solutions in medicine that will be hard to quench.



Delegates touring Harare Town. Elizabeth Kagotho, first from the right

Scholarship to attend the 4th AFCC Congress



Healthy experience for science

by Semaria Solomon

*St Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College
Ethiopia*

The 4th African Federation for Clinical Chemistry Conference of Scientists was a distinctive event in its theme: "Integrating Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine in Evidence Based P4 Medicine".

As one of the young scientists participating in this conference, it provided me exposure to new and emerging science and technology, equipped me with the strategies needed to support myself with scientific paper writing and grant applications and encouraged young scientists from Africa to exchange information, share experiences and best practices from their diverse countries. On a personal level, I can apply the P4 courses for my career development. On an organization level: St Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College, the organization I represent is has the first Kidney transplant unit in Ethiopia henceforth I was able to communicate the "Renal Medicine" session to my Hospital, so that they can use standardization

methods for assays and this might help in moving towards CKD-epi in assessment of donors. On an association level: Ethiopian Medical Laboratory Association (EMLA), we were able to talk with the AFCC management and will the prospect of a 2019 AFCC meeting in Ethiopia.

All the young scientists I spoke to after returning home were absolutely thrilled by the conference, the extraordinary hospitality of the Zimbabweans, and their beautiful country. All in all, I have to commend the organizing committee for the success of the Conference, the choice of site and the high quality of the sessions. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude for the IFCC, for creating the opportunity for us to take part in this proceeding. I was able to use the Conference to lay the foundation of a far-reaching network while laying the establishment of a regional and national networking groundwork.



Semaria Solomon and other young scientists



e-Newsletter



Communications and Publications Division (CPD) of the IFCC

Editor: Tahir Pillay, MB ChB, PhD, FRCPath (Lon), FCPATH (SA)

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2015 AD Pricelist for the IFCC eNewsletter

The IFCC eNewsletter is delivered to more than 30000 laboratory medicine specialists throughout the world and also published on the IFCC website. Circulation includes laboratory directors, clinical chemists, and other clinical laboratory specialists and technologists, as well as leading manufacturers, distributors and dealers in the field.

As an advertiser you get a unique opportunity to showcase your business, your initiatives and products to thousands of readers and potential customers. The latest issue of the IFCC eNewsletter as well as past archives can be viewed and read online, in full digital format, from either a PC or a mobile device. The digital edition is fully interactive and allows the readers to reach the links by way of a simple click on the editorial content, product news items, or display ads.

The IFCC eNewsletter is issued in English, and it is free-of-charge to all registered readers.

We feature useful information for IFCC and not IFCC members and we include a calendar of the major events in the Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine field.

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A successful start in a new research series for the IFCC

by Thomas Brinkman

On March 18, 2015, in the Hotel Louis C. Jacob in Hamburg, Prof. Dennis Lo, M.D., presented a survey on non-invasive prenatal diagnostics in front of 150 guests. The occasion was held under the auspices of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC).

In a most impressive manner, Prof. Lo described the molecular-biological process for the analysis of fetal DNA in maternal plasma, a process which he himself developed. His research forms the basis for tests—which have recently become available—for the analysis of fetal trisomy, such as Down's syndrome in maternal plasma. The non-invasive prenatal diagnostics represents a risk-free alternative to amniocentesis for pregnant women.

„Science meets Medicine“ is a new research series, which will be held annually. This series was created by the Institute for Clinical Chemistry and the Laboratory Medicine of the University Medical Centre Hamburg-Eppendorf (UKE) and Sonic Healthcare Germany, represented by the Labor Lademannbogen, Hamburg. Each year, internationally renowned figures at the interface of Science and Medicine, whose research forms the basis of improved diagnostics and patient care, will be invited to attend.

The extraordinarily positive reaction in the auditorium this year was confirmation for the organisers, Prof. Dr. Dr. Thomas Renné (UKE) and Priv.-Doz. Dr. Thomas Brinkmann (Labor Lademannbogen), to continue this new research concept. Further information can be found under www.science-meets-medicine.de.



E. Kotsopoulos (Sonic Healthcare Germany), Prof. Dr. T. Renné (University Hospital Hamburg-Eppendorf), Prof. Dr. M. Ferrari (IFCC President), Prof. Dr. D. Lo (Hong Kong), Prof. Dr. C. Kubisch (University Hospital Hamburg-Eppendorf), Priv.-Doz. Dr. T. Brinkmann (Labor Lademannbogen, Hamburg).

The IFCC Handbook 2015-2017



The new Handbook places in one source all the information about the function and operation of IFCC. This includes the organization of IFCC and its aims and strategic objectives over the three-year life of the Executive Board. It also includes details of IFCC programmes and projects. The Handbook lists, in logical order, IFCC Regional Organizations, Divisions, Committees and Working Groups. The Full Members, Corporate Members and Affiliate Members are also included. Contact names and addresses are included for the many people who work with and for IFCC. Finally, the necessary Statutes and Rules of the IFCC are published in the Handbook.

The production of the IFCC Handbook occurs once every three years to coincide with the term of each Executive Board. However, IFCC is a dynamic organisation that evolves constantly. The most up-to-date information about IFCC is always available from the IFCC website (www.ifcc.org).

Thanks to Dr Graham Beastall, IFCC Past President, for his valuable suggestions for the preparation of the present Handbook and for his accurate work of revision.

[Click here to access the IFCC Handbook.](#)



North American Federation of
Clinical Chemistry & Laboratory Medicine

American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC) and the Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists (CSCC), both member societies of the IFCC. The NAFCC was recognized by the IFCC in February of 2015. [Read more](#)

IFCC Website News

2015.04.08 - NAFCC

WG News



IFCC Website News

2015.05.02 - New IFCC WG IC-QA

The WG-ICQA is a new IFCC Working Group under the EMD umbrella. This new WG, chaired by Sam Vasikiran (AU), will seek harmonisation in the operation of EQA schemes for interpretive comments with a view to increasing the possibility of obtaining evidence to demonstrate benefit to patients. [Read more](#)

IFCC's Calendar of Congresses, Conferences & Events

Calendar of IFCC Congresses/Conferences and Regional Federations' Congresses

Jun 21 - 25, 2015		<i>IFCC-EFLM EuroMedLab 2015</i>	Paris, FR
Sep 2 - 3, 2015		<i>8th Annual Asia Pacific & Japan Scientific Symposium - Turning Science into Caring</i>	Bangkok, TH
Sep 24 - 26, 2015		<i>COLABIOCLI 2015 - XXII Congreso Latinoamericano de Bioquímica Clínica</i>	Quito, EC
Dec 1 - 2, 2015		<i>ArabMedLab 2015 - 14th Arab Congress of Clinical Biology (AFCB)</i>	Khartoum, SD
Nov 26 - 29, 2016		<i>14th Asia-Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine Congress</i>	Taipei, TW
Jun 11 - 15, 2017		<i>IFCC-EFLM EuroMedLab 2017</i>	Athens, GR
Oct 22 - 25, 2017		<i>XXIII IFCC WorldLab 2017</i>	Durban, ZA
May 24 - 28, 2020		<i>XXIV IFCC WorldLab 2020 Seoul</i>	Seoul, KR

Calendar continued on next page

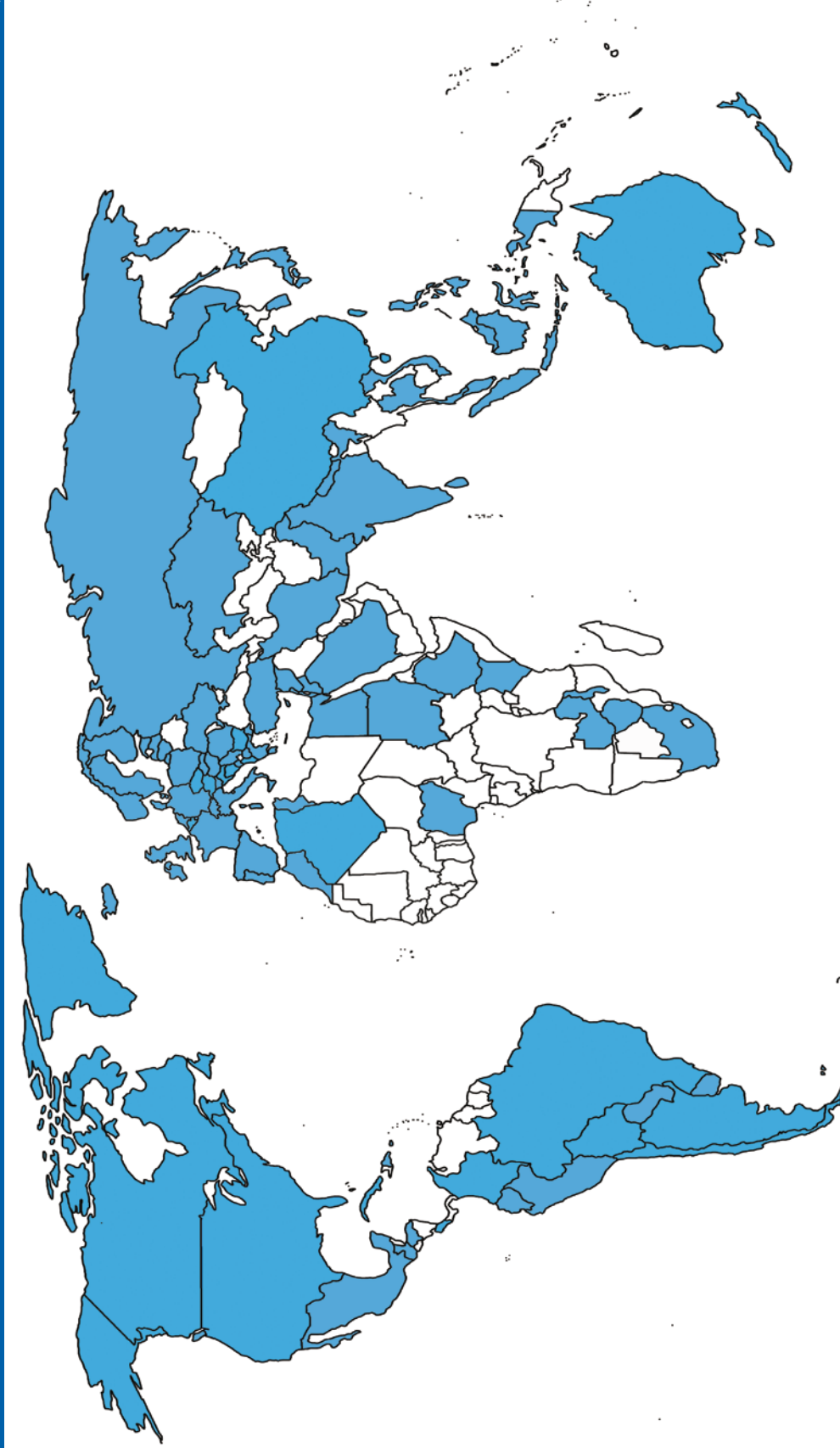
Calendar of events with IFCC auspices

Jun 4 - 6, 2015	<i>15èmes Journée Marocaines de Biologie Clinique</i>	Casablanca, MA
Jun 6 - 9, 2015	<i>7th Vietnam Chemical Pathology Course 2015</i>	Ho Chi Minh, VN Hanoi, VN
Jun 20, 2015	<i>Role of the laboratories in personalized medicine</i>	Brussels, BE
Jun 20 - 24, 2015	<i>Canadian Laboratory Medicine Congress</i>	Montreal, CA
Jun 26, 2015	<i>EuroMedLab 2015 Satellite Meeting 'HbA1c and Management of Diabetes Mellitus in the 21st Century'</i>	Reims, FR
Jul 2 - 4, 2015	<i>Biochemistry, Physiology and Pharmacology of Oxidative Stress</i>	Rome, IT
Aug 21 - 23, 2015	<i>Biochemical and Molecular Basis of Multifactorial Diseases</i>	Moron, AR
Aug 31 - Sep 2, 2015	<i>1st International Conference on Natural Products for Cancer Prevention and Therapy</i>	Istanbul, TR
Sep 1 - 3, 2015	<i>6th International Conference and Exhibition on Analytical & Bioanalytical Techniques</i>	Valencia, ES
Sep 15 - 17, 2015	<i>AACB 53rd Annual Scientific Conference – Clinical Chemistry and Endocrinology - Partnerships in Testing</i>	Sydney, AU
Sep 22 - 26, 2015	<i>8th Congress of the Croatian Society of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine</i>	Rijeka, HR
Oct 7 - 9, 2015	<i>23rd Meeting of the Balkan Laboratory Federation</i>	Sarajevo, BA
Oct 7 - 9, 2015	<i>3rd ESPT Conference "Integration of Pharmacogenomics in Clinical Decision Support"</i>	Budapest, HU
Oct 7 - 9, 2015	<i>IX National Congress of Clinical Laboratory</i>	Madrid, SP
Oct 7 - 10, 2015	<i>XIII Congreso Nacional Bioquímico (CUBRA)</i>	Catamarca, AR
Oct 9 - 12, 2015	<i>Congreso Internacional del Colegio Nacional de Bacteriología</i>	Bogotá, CO
Oct 14 - 17, 2015	<i>12th Annual Congress of Deutsche Vereinte Gesellschaft für Klinische Chemie und Laboratoriumsmedizin e. V.</i>	Leipzig, DE
Oct 22, 2015	<i>International Conference on Laboratory Medicine " Risk Factors and Personalized Medicine"</i>	Padova, IT
Oct 24 - 25, 2015	<i>15th EFLM Continuing Postgraduate Course in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine</i>	Zagreb, HR
Nov 3 - 6, 2015	<i>XXVII National Biochemistry Congress</i>	Antalya, TR
Nov 16 - 17, 2015	<i>IFCC POCT International Symposium</i>	Cancun, MX
Nov 18 - 21, 2015	<i>XXVIII World Congress of the World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (WASPALM)</i>	Cancun, MX
Nov 27, 2015	<i>9th International Scientific Meeting "Structuring EQAS for Meeting Metrological Criteria: ready for prime time"</i>	Milano, IT
Oct 21 - 24, 2016	<i>4th Joint EFLM-UEMS Congress "Laboratory Medicine at the Clinical Interface"</i>	Warsaw, PL

IFCC Members

Full Members

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Iran (IR)	Turkey (TR)
Ireland (IE)	Ukraine (UA)
Israel (IL)	United Kingdom (UK)
Italy (IT)	United States (US)
Japan (JP)	Uruguay (UY)
Jordan (JO)	Vietnam (VN)
Kazakhstan (KZ)	Zambia (ZM)
Kenya (KE)	Zimbabwe (ZW)



Regional Federations

Arab Federation of Clinical Biology (AFCB)
African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC)
Asia-Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (APFCB)
European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM)
Latin America Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI)
North American Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (NAFCC)

Affiliate Members

Brazil: Sociedade Brasileira de Patologia Clínica / Medicina Laboratorial (SBPC/ML)
India: Association of Medical Biochemists of India (AMBI)
Mexico: Federación Nacional de Químicos Clínicos (CONAQUIC A.C.)
Palestine: Palestinian Medical Technology Association (PALMTA)
Philippines: Philippine Council for Quality Assurance in Clinical Laboratories (PCQACL)
Russia: Regional Association for Clinical Laboratory Diagnosis, St. Petersburg
Spain: Asociación Española de Farmacéuticos Analistas (AEFA)
Ukraine: Association of Clinical Chemistry & Laboratory Medicine of Ukraine (ACCLMU)

Publisher

Communications and Publications

Division (CPD) of the IFCC

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Design & Production:



www.insoftdigital.com

Circulation

The e-NewsLetter is distributed to all IFCC members registered on-line to receive it and to all IFCC sponsors.

Deadlines for Submissions to the e-NewsLetter

The Communications and Publications Division (CPD) of the IFCC publishes six editions of the e-NewsLetter per year.

January-February Edition

- submission deadline: [January 22](#)

March-April Edition

- submission deadline: [March 26](#)

May-June Edition

- submission deadline: [May 21](#)

July-August Edition

- submission deadline: [July 16](#)

September-October Edition

- submission deadline: [September 24](#)

November-December Edition

- submission deadline: [November 20](#)

If you want to submit an article or advertisement to be published in the e-NewsLetter, send them to:

Tahir Pillay, Editor, IFCC e-NewsLetter
e-mail: ifccnewsletter@ifcc.org

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