

## Foreword of the editor

Editor in Chief: Gábor L. Kovács, MD, PhD, DSc

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The Communication and Publication Division of the IFCC and the editor of the eJIFCC decided to introduce to the readership major ongoing regional developments in the field of laboratory medicine in Latin America. As a unique exception, a bilingual issue (in English and Spanish) is presented hereby to help publicize the journal among laboratory specialists in Latin American countries. Two excellent laboratory scientists of the region, Dr. Rosa Isabel Sierra-Amor (Mexico) and Dr. Maria del Carmen Pasquel (Ecuador) were invited to guest co-edit this issue. In addition to collecting and editing the manuscripts, Rosa also translated most Spanish papers into English. On behalf of eJIFCC I take this opportunity to thank their valuable work.

**Dr. Rosa Isabel SIERRA-AMOR** is a clinical biochemist, with MSc and PhD degrees in physiology sciences from the Autonomous University of México, UNAM. She did a fellowship in biochemistry at the Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Mo., USA (1982) and a postgraduate course in clinical chemistry at the University of Reading, England (1986). From 1980 to 1990, she worked as Head of the laboratory, Nephrology and Mineral Metabolism Department, National Institute of Medical Sciences and Nutrition SZ in Mexico City; from 1990-2003, she was invited to direct the Bone and Mineral Metabolism Research

Laboratory at the Division of Neonatology, Department of Pediatrics, University of Cincinnati, and Children's Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati, Oh., USA. Since 2004 she is board member of Laboratory LAQUIMS, S.C. and QC&QM Consultant.

In Mexico, she has collaborated closely with the Mexican Accreditation Entity as member of the National Assessment Panel, and former Board Member; she acted as external consulting member for the postgraduate program in clinical laboratory science at the University of Veracruz. With BIO RAD Mexico and Latin America, she initiated the International Conference on Quality with the auspices of IFCC (2006); she has lectured on laboratory accreditation, quality topics, and bone and mineral metabolism in Mexico, Latin America, and internationally; she is elected president of the Mexican Association of Clinical Laboratory Sciences (2015-2016). In the IFCC, she participated as member of the Executive Board of IFCC (1997-2002 and 2015-2017). She was member of the eJIFCC WG News, eJIFCC Editorial board, Awards Committee, and WG-IANT-RIA and National Representative from 1997-2011. At AACC Latin American WG she participates as member and chair (2015-2016), she was former AACC Treasurer, Materno-Fetal Division, former Chair Membership awards, Ohio Valley Section, and former member of the AACC International Relations Committee.

She served as Member in the WHO Laboratory Services Advisory Panel (1997-2001). Rosa was awarded with the Latin American Ames Award (1993), the AACC International Fellowship Award (1996), and by several other professional and health organizations in Mexico and in Latin America. She has published 27 papers, two book chapters, has served as reviewer of journals (POCT, Biochemia Medica, and Bioquimia), author and co-author of 78 abstracts, mentor of more than 20 post graduate and graduate students in laboratory medicine.

**Dr. Maria del Carmen PASQUEL CARRERA** is a pharmaceutical biochemist with a doctoral degree in biochemistry and pharmacy and a diploma in hematology from the Central University of Ecuador, Quito, Ecuador. She was assistant professor in the Department of Biochemistry (1984-1991). She has widespread activities in the scientific life of Ecuador; she was many times president of organizing committees of conferences, symposia, courses and workshop.

Lately, she was the president of Organizing Committee of the XXII Latin American Congress of clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Sciences (COLABIOCLI) 2015, in Quito, Ecuador.

Maria is the past president of the Ecuadorian Society of Clinical Biochemistry of Pichincha (2009-2011), past vice president of Ecuadorian Society of Clinical Biochemistry National (SEBIOCLI, 2011-2013), past vice president of the College of Chemical and Biochemical Pharmaceutical in Pichincha (2011-2015). She is the correspondent of Ecuador in the "Radio el Microscopio" and the IFCC. She is the chair of the Latin America Working Group of Nomenclature and Translations of Publications and Communications Division of IFCC and the regional advisor of the Wiener Lab Foundation. She takes part in the scientific life of Ecuador as the member of the Technical Committee for Clinical Laboratories (SAE), as quality advisor of Consulting and Training CONCAP and general manager of Specialized Analysis Center (CEA).