

**International Federation of
Clinical Chemistry
and Laboratory Medicine**



**Annual
Report 2015**

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- ◆ ***EuroMedLab Congress***
Paris, FR - June 2015 - <http://www.paris2015.org/>
- ◆ ***IFCC-Abbott “Turning Science into Caring” Symposium***
Bali, ID (December 2015)
- ◆ ***IFCC Speakers Bureau***
<http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-education-division/speaker-s-bureau/>
- ◆ ***Webinars and Distance Learning Modules***
<http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-education-division/webinars/>
- ◆ ***e-Academy, open educational resources***
<http://eacademy.ifcc.org/>
- ◆ ***Experts Database***
<http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-education-division/experts/>
- ◆ ***Launch of the IFCC Foundation for Emerging Nations***
<http://www.ifccfoundation.org/>
- ◆ ***Implement cooperation and agreements with IFCC Regional Federations***
- ◆ ***COLABIOCLI Congress 2015***
Quito, Ecuador, September 2015 - www.sebiocli-ec.org

INDEX

<i>Message from IFCC President</i>	4
<i>Executive Board</i>	6
<i>Treasurer Report</i>	7
<i>Corporate Members</i>	14
<i>Committee on Congresses and Conferences (C-CC)</i>	16
<i>Scientific Division (SD)</i>	19
<i>Educations and Management Division (EMD)</i>	32
<i>Communications and Publications Division (CPD)</i>	38
<i>Task Forces</i>	43
<i>Federations</i>	47
» APFCB - Asia-Pacific Federation of Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine and Laboratory Medicine	47
» COLABIOCLI – Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry	50
» EFLM – European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine	54
» NAFCC - North American Federation Of Clinical Chemistry & Laboratory Medicine	57
<i>Full Member Societies</i>	58
<i>Affiliate Member Societies</i>	119

Message from the President of IFCC



This is my report after the first year as IFCC President and I'm very proud to summarize what has been done during the 2015.

During 2015 IFCC again increased its membership as we welcomed one new Full Member:

- Malawi: Malawi Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists (MAMLS)
And three new Affiliate Members:
- Iran: Iranian Association of Clinical Laboratory Doctors
- Nepal: Nepalese Association for Clinical Chemistry (NACC)
- Turkey: Society of Clinical Biochemistry Specialists (KBUD)

Collectively, there are 90 Full Members, 12 Affiliate members and 46 Corporates Members and IFCC represents >45,000 senior laboratory medicine specialists.

The important work of IFCC takes place in its Divisions, Committees Task Forces and Working Groups. During 2015 >300 experts volunteered to work on 46 IFCC projects, which cover a wide range of clinical, scientific, educational and communication related topics. Full details may be found on the IFCC website (www.ifcc.org) and reports from many of these projects may be found in this Annual Report. IFCC also contributes expert input to a number of global organizations.

The IFCC Strategic Plan

The Executive Board for 2015-2017 has identified and agreed the above strategic objectives for its term of office. They accord with the overall IFCC strategic plan and its principal objectives. They are intended to be in addition to the ongoing work of Division Executives. There are 33 strategic actions which have been classified into the following four broad areas:

1. Supporting our membership.
2. Broadening our horizons.
3. Improving the quality of laboratory medicine.
4. Improving the effectiveness of IFCC.

The Executive Board worked effectively during 2015 and I would like to outline some of the achievements:

- Agree and implement a procedure to enable the future election of Regional Federation representatives to the IFCC Executive Board.
- Sign the MoU between EFLM and IFCC.
- Conclude and sign an agreement with the North American Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (NAFCC).
- Launch and promote the Foundation for Emerging Nations as a new income stream for IFCC.
- Invite an external body to perform a wide-ranging SWOT analysis of IFCC, evaluate the findings and publish a report with recommendations.
- Further develop and promote "Shaping the Future of Laboratory Medicine".
- Devise and introduce a strategy to increase the attractiveness of IFCC to Corporate members.
- Establish one new high level project with WASPaLM that aims to promote the quality of laboratory medicine through promoting the value of Laboratory Medicine.
- Increase the number of young scientists participating in the IFCC Committees and Working Groups.
- Consolidate the mentoring programme as a Special Project and promote its gradual expansion.
- EuroMedLab Congress, Paris, FR - June 2015 (<http://www.paris2015.org/>)
- IFCC-Abbott "Turning Science into Caring" Symposium, Bali, ID (December 2015).
- IFCC Speakers Bureau (<http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-education-division/speaker-s-bureau/>).

- Webinars and Distance Learning Modules (<http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-education-division/webinars/>).
- e-Academy, open educational resources (<http://eacademy.ifcc.org/>).
- Experts Database (<http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-education-division/experts/>).

Over the last year there we increased the activity focused to outline on the clinical effectiveness of laboratory medicine. For IFCC this has been exemplified by the work of many of the Task Forces and by the increasing collaboration with international clinical organizations. This trend will surely gain further momentum in the years ahead for laboratory medicine is truly central to clinical decision making in healthcare.

Finances

The annual accounts for 2015 were audited in March 2016 and copies are available upon request from the IFCC Office. IFCC had another solid year financially and our finances are sound as we prepare for the future. The only 'dark cloud' is the continuing fall in value of the Euro against other currencies, notably the Swiss Franc (the formal currency of IFCC).

We prepared a clear budget for 2016 to try to contain the increasing expenses but with the goal to improve as much as possible the activities of IFCC in favor of our Members.

Finally, I wish to thank, after my first year as President, the Executive Board and the Chairs of Divisions for their skill, wisdom, commitment and inspiration. Our excellent team in the IFCC Office in Milan (Paola Bramati, Silvia Colli-Lanzi and Silvia Cardinale) have again demonstrated their dedication and professionalism in supporting our Members. Above all, however, IFCC owes a great debt to the many scientists and medical doctors who work on a voluntary basis to give freely of their time and expertise in the interests of improving the quality, delivery and relevance of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine on a worldwide basis. It is gratifying that we are seeing an increase in the number of experts who want to work for IFCC. These people are the true strength of IFCC as we move forward.

EXECUTIVE BOARD (EB)

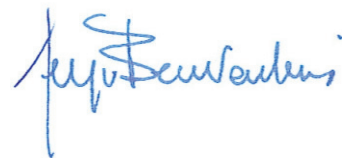
The Executive Board held three meetings during 2015. The first meeting was held in Milano on January 30-31; this meeting has been the first one for the new EB elected for the first time by an electronic ballot and was mainly focused on the new Strategic Plan. The second EB meeting was held in Paris in connection with the EuroMedLab Congress on June 19-20. The third EB meeting was held in Quito in connection with the COLABIOCLI Congress on September 26-28.

Besides the new members societies that joined IFCC in 2015, two mergings took place, the first one between the “Royal Belgian Society of Clinical Chemistry” and the “Belgian Society of Clinical Biology”, forming the “Royal Belgian Society of Laboratory Medicine”, and the second one between the “Romanian Society of Laboratory Medicine” and the “Romanian Association of Medical Laboratories”, forming the “Romanian Association of Laboratory Medicine”. Two companies joined IFCC as Corporate Members: Helena Biosciences Europe, UK, and Ningbo Medical System Biotechnology, China.

A letter was sent to National Societies of the Full and Affiliate members requesting for their annual report. More than forty reports were received to be included in the IFCC Annual report 2015 which is available on the IFCC Website (www.ifcc.org).

2015 has been the first year of my 2nd term as Secretary of the IFCC and has been for me a great opportunity to continue my professional growth in Laboratory Medicine as well as the chance to meet and make new friends from different countries and cultures. Thanks to the members of the EB for their support and friendship, thanks to all IFCC officers and to the staff of Emmezeta-MZ Congressi in Milan (Paola Bramati, Silvia Cardinale and Silvia-Colli-Lanzi).

Sergio Bernardini, Executive Board Secretary



TREASURER REPORT

I start expressing my warmest thanks to Dr Bernard Gouget as the previous Treasurer for his work and services to IFCC.

During my first year of term as the IFCC treasurer, with the valuable help and assistance of the IFCC office, the annual dues of Full, Affiliate and Corporate Members have been received, the adherence of operating units of IFCC to their budgeted allocation have been monitored and detailed records of all transactions have been kept, reimbursements have been processed as quick as possible after the receipt of the claims. Close collaboration has been achieved with the IFCC investment bank, (LGT) to optimise the financial return on IFCC investments. A detailed report has been prepared in consultancy with the Director and Portfolio Manager of LGT to provide to the IFCC Executive Board the detailed status of the investments depending on the chosen portfolio. The annual accounts and financial actions have been reviewed by an external independent audit in order to finalize the actual income and expenses at 31st December 2015.

COMPARISON OF 2015 PROPOSED BUDGET WITH ACTUALS AT 31st DECEMBER 2015: IFCC NET INCOME

The 2015 budget was expected to be closed with a deficit of CHF -408 461. Instead, it was closed with a positive balance of CHF 154 850 (Fig. 1).

IFCC NET INCOME - 2015 Budget to Actual at 31 st December 2015		
SUMMARY	Budget 2015	Actual 2015
	CHF	CHF
Total Operational revenues & financial income	1.388,000	1.952,283
Total Operational costs & financial charges	1.796,461	1.797,433
Profit (-loss) for the year	-408,461	154.850

Figure 1. 2015 proposed budget versus to actual at 31st December 2015.

TOTAL OPERATIONAL REVENUES AND FINANCIAL INCOME

The actual total operational revenues and financial income in 2015 are CHF 1 952.283 (Fig. 2). The main revenue sources are, in decreasing order in CHF: Congresses (CHF 866 989), Sponsorships (CHF 399.257), Corporates members' contributions (CHF 326 733), Full+Affiliate Members' contributions (CHF 187 724), realised profits on sales of investments and increase in value of investments in year (CHF 90 468), Securities (CHF 14 137) and Royalties (CHF 66.975).

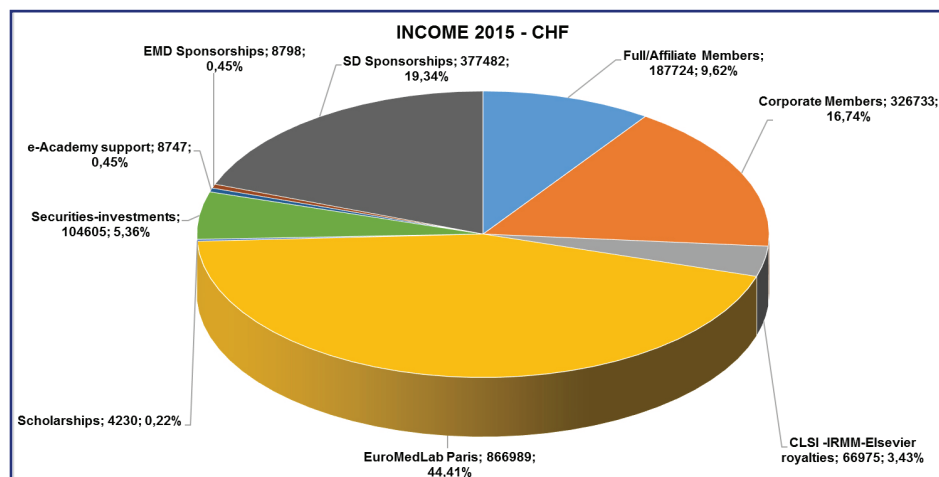


Figure 2. 2015 Total Income by categories (CHF 1 952, 283).

The revenue includes the financial inflow from EuroMedLab 2015 Paris. According to the current EuroMedLab Guidelines, IFCC receives 15% of the gross income of EuroMedLabs which was € 749 872 from EuroMedLab Paris. € 50 302 of this figure was kept by MZ for the advanced hotel payments. € 699 570,88 entered into the IFCC account. € 29 892 of this figure was spent for the expenses of the speakers of the IFCC sponsored symposia. CHF 162 497 (~€ 150 000) of this figure was transferred to EFLM corresponding to the EFLM share of EuroMedLab Paris.

The Chair of EuroMedLab 2015 presented a random-system audit of revenues conducted by Nava Viganò Revisori Associati srl to provide for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view in all material respects of the revenues of EuroMedLab Paris 2015 as of December 21, 2015 in accordance with the International Standard on Related Services 4400. The procedure constituted a random-system audit and do not constitute a full review made in accordance with International Standards on Auditing or International Standards on Review Engagements. The auditing firm confirms that:

MZ CONGRESSI have made available all books of account and supporting documentation related to the revenues solely.

MZ CONGRESSI has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of noncompliance. There has been no noncompliance with requirements of regulatory authorities that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance.

We thank EuroMedlab 2015 Congress Organizing Committee and MZ for the organization of a successful IFCC EuroMedLab Congress.

IFCC Membership Dues

Below is a diagram showing the percentage of the major income of IFCC from the annual dues of Full, Affiliate and Corporate Members collected during 2015 (Fig. 3). Thanks all the member Societies and Companies that supported IFCC throughout the years. Their continuous contribution have made possible the accomplishment of numerous IFCC tasks and projects. We also thank the members for their loyalty and attention in paying dues at the start of the year, which helps the cash flow.

Dues	CHF
Full members	184 858
Corporate members	326 733
Affiliate members	2 866
Total	514 457

Figure 3. IFCC membership dues in 2015.

A total amount of CHF 184 858 was received as full member dues received from IFCC Regional Federations.

The amount of full member dues is set according to the World Bank classification which distinguishes countries in different categories according to their gross national product (GNP) per capital. Therefore, economies with low revenue, medium revenue and high revenue are distinguished (medium revenues being subdivided into lower medium revenue and upper medium revenue).

Corporate membership dues (CHF) are decided according to their annual turnover in the field of clinical chemistry. The actual received amount from Corporate members was CHF 326 733 which shows a higher sum compared to the proposed one, due to the contributions from outstanding dues of the companies. IFCC is very grateful to the IVD industry for their support and active participation in the IFCC scientific events.

IFCC Meetings Income Partition

IFCC meetings' revenues are not a regular yearly income. The average yearly income of IFCC arising from the meetings can be calculated dividing the total revenue by the frequency of the event. The yearly income of IFCC from the recent meetings (EuroMedLab2015 Paris and WorldLab 2014 Istanbul) subdivided per year is indicated below.

income	partition	year availability
WordLab (Istanbul) 2014 ~€ 500,000	3 years	~€ 167,000
EuroMedLab (Paris) 2015 ~€ 500,000	2 years	~€ 250,000
Total: ~€ 1,000,000		~€ 417,000 (~CHF 451,820)

Figure 4. IFCC annual meetings income from EML Paris and WL Istanbul.

The income from EuroMedLabs and WorldLabs is in EUR. The dues are received in CHF. The official currency of IFCC budget is in Swiss Franc (CHF). EUR has lost approximately 15% against CHF in 2015 leading to a loss of the meetings' income against CHF. The income of IFCC from the membership dues and annual meetings income (excluding sponsorships and other revenues) in 2015:

CHF 514 457 (dues) + CHF 451 820 (annual meeting income) = CHF 966 277

Sponsorship

Divisions and some Functional Units raise sponsorship from the companies which give them a certain flexibility in conducting projects. These sponsorships are used for the specific projects in due time. Following sponsorship amounts raised by Divisions in 2015 are used for their specific projects:

- CHF 377.482 – SD received sponsorships
- CHF 13.028 – EMD received Sponsorship
- CHF 8.747 – CPD received Sponsorship

CHF 399.257 TOTAL

TOTAL OPERATIONAL COSTS AND FINANCIAL CHARGES

Total operational costs and financial charges are CHF 1 797, 433 which was shown below in three groups.

IFCC Regional Organizations	160.000	192.751
Organizations Affiliated with IFCC	92.880	65.039
IFCC Congresses and Conferences Committee (C-CC)	85.000	40.645
IFCC Scientific Division (SD)	534.081	388.347
IFCC Education and Management Division (EMD)	120.000	103.497
IFCC Communications and Publications Division (CPD)	124.000	117.314
IFCC Special Projects	214.000	108.543
TOTAL	1.329.961	1.016.136

Figure 5. 2015 Functional Units actual expenses compared to their allocated budget (CHF)

EXPENSES	Proposal 2015	Actual 2015
	CHF	CHF
IFCC Office salaries	240.000	174.449
IFCC Consultancy and rent of equipment	30.000	21.845
IFCC Office consumable materials	15.000	17.833
IFCC Office web master/technical support	5.000	2.638
Depreciation & bad debts	1.500	1.280
Auditor's fees	15.000	15.000
Treasurer's office	5.000	2.493
EB Meetings & GC & President's Office	98.000	62.445
TOTAL	409.500	297.983

Figure 6. 2015 Organizational Matters actual expenses compared to their allocated budget compared to their allocated budget (CHF)

EXPENSES	Proposal 2015	Actual 2015
Losses on exchange	0	159.989
Bank charges	5.000	2.995
Management of investments charge	25.000	36.286
Realised losses on investments	0	94.037
Unrealised losses on investment	0	178.339

Figure 7. 2015 actual expenses of exchange, bank charges, and investment (CHF)

IFCC investment at LGT in 2015

The financial outcome for 2015 is disappointing, mainly because of the loss of value of investments and the exchange rate between EUR and CHF. The currency chosen for investments is EUR. EUR has lost approximately 15% against CHF in 2015 leading to a loss of the value of investments in EUR against CHF.



Performance of investments in 2015 indicated as monthly return is shown below in Figure 8. Performance net cumulative was 0.73% at 31st December 2015.


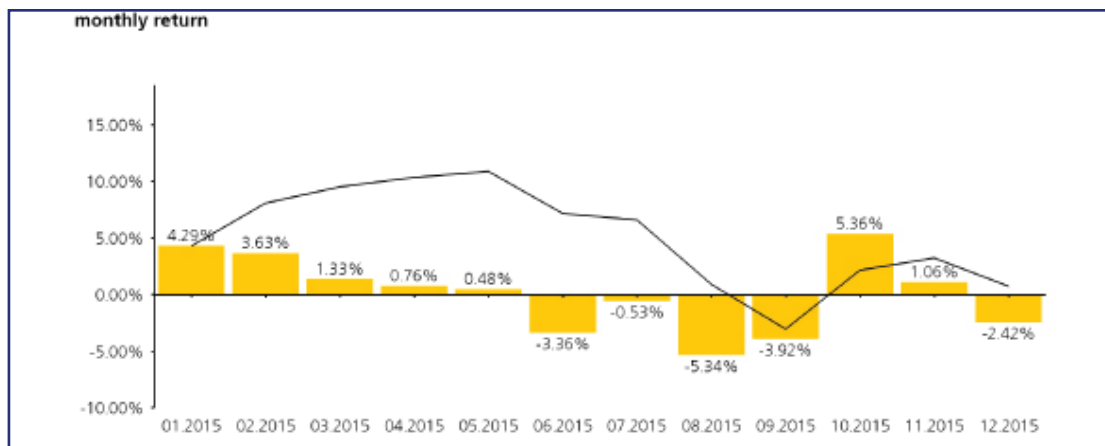
 client: International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) client number: 2824533.014 reference currency: EUR		Rue du Rhône 21, CH-1204 Geneva Phone +41 22 318 65 00. Fax +41 22 318 65 11 lgt.ch@lgt.com, www.lgt.ch. BIC: BLFLCH33 CHE-116.267.756 VAT					
statement of assets as of 31.12.2015				page	3 / 14		
month	value end of month	change in net value	average capital	performance net per month	performance net per quarter	performance net per semester	performance net cumulative
01.2015	2,991,071.77	123,140.63	2,867,931.14	4.29 %			4.29 %
02.2015	3,099,726.79	108,655.02	2,991,071.77	3.63 %			8.08 %
03.2015	3,140,970.12	41,243.33	3,099,726.79	1.33 %	9.52 %		9.52 %
04.2015	3,164,712.12	23,742.00	3,140,970.12	0.76 %			10.35 %
05.2015	3,179,948.55	15,236.43	3,164,712.12	0.48 %			10.88 %
06.2015	3,073,214.60	-106,733.95	3,179,948.55	-3.36 %	-2.16 %	7.16 %	7.16 %
07.2015	3,056,966.56	-16,248.04	3,073,214.60	-0.53 %			6.59 %
08.2015	2,893,848.56	-163,118.00	3,056,966.56	-5.34 %			0.90 %
09.2015	2,780,455.77	-113,392.79	2,893,848.56	-3.92 %	-9.53 %		-3.05 %
10.2015	2,929,591.57	149,135.80	2,780,455.77	5.36 %			2.15 %
11.2015	2,960,659.72	31,068.15	2,929,591.57	1.06 %			3.23 %
12.2015	2,888,886.65	-71,773.07	2,960,659.72	-2.42 %	3.90 %	-6.00 %	0.73 %

Figure 8. Performance of investments indicated as monthly return in 2015.

The percentages of asset and currency allocation are shown below in Figure 9.



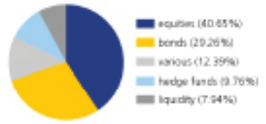

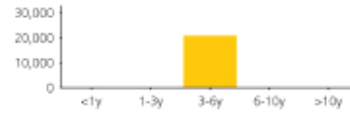
statement of assets as of 31.12.2015		page	1 / 14				
asset allocation overview							
asset allocation/ currency	amount in EUR	EUR	USD	CHF	XAU	others *	% of portfolio
liquidity	229,481.13	24.62 %	-13.49 %	0.02 %		-3.20 %	7.94 %
short-term investments	2,029.07	3.48 %	-2.45 %	0.00 %		-0.95 %	0.07 %
bonds	845,267.70	19.48 %	7.04 %	0.00 %		2.74 %	29.26 %
equities	1,174,421.11	12.26 %	13.99 %	3.01 %		11.38 %	40.65 %
hedge funds	281,868.53	9.76 %					9.76 %
private equity	58,025.44	0.67 %	0.93 %	0.02 %		0.39 %	2.01 %
real estate participations	150,420.88		5.21 %				5.21 %
commodities/metals	138,332.50	1.75 %			3.04 %		4.79 %
Derivatives	9,040.29		0.31 %				0.31 %
total	2,888,886.65	72.01 %	11.54 %	3.05 %	3.04 %	10.36 %	100.00 %
LGT funds allocation considered.							
asset allocation		currency allocation		overview of final maturities in EUR			
							
		* others: JPY, GBP, NDK, XAG		modified duration 1.51			

Figure 9. Asset/currency allocation of investments in 2015.

Name	% of equities	Risk tolerance	Base currencies offered	Duration	returns year to date (30.6.2015)
Income	0%	Very low	CHF, EUR, USD, GBP,		
Conservative	20% (5-35%)	Low	CHF, EUR, USD, GBP,	Min. 4 years	2.90%
Balanced	40% (25-55%)	Average	CHF, EUR, USD, GBP,	Min. 5 years	4.28%
Growth	70% (55-85%)	High	CHF, EUR, USD, GBP,	Min. 8 years	6.06%
Equities	79% (70-100)	Very High	CHF, EUR, USD, GBP,		

Figure 10. Different investment portfolios.

LGT has five main investment portfolios with and without inclusion of alternative investments. The risk tolerance of these five portfolios ranges from Very low to Low, Average, High, and Very High. The risk increase is proportional to the inclusion of the equities in the portfolio from average of 20% to 79%. IFCC had chosen the "**Growth**" portfolio containing alternative investments among the five portfolios as shown above (Figure 10). The reference currency was chosen as "Euro", the duration of investment as "min. 8 years" and the risk tolerance "High".

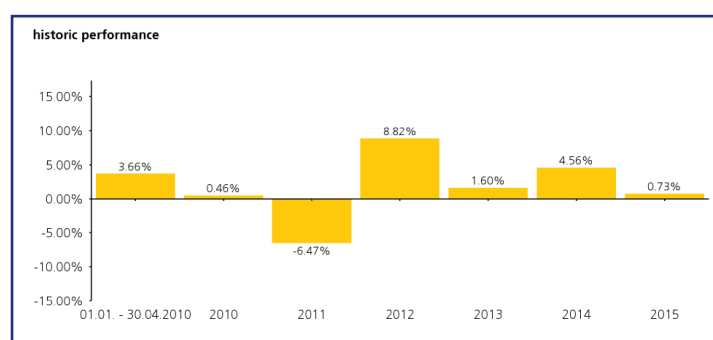


Figure 11. Historic performance of IFCC investments.

The revenues of IFCC investments at LGT in the previous four years are shown in Figure 11 (2012-2015; $8.82+1.60+4.56+0.73 = 15.71\%$).

The sudden devaluation of EUR in 2015 (15-20%) is more than the revenues of the last four years' investment at the LGT Bank.

The LGT Director and Portfolio Manager confirm that the volatility of the profile chosen by IFCC with this exposition in equities (average 70%; range 55-85%) is around 14%. It means that the historical performances have been between +14% to -14% indicating a high-risk tolerance. There is no guarantee even that the worst scenario will not happen which is EUR losing value against CHF again and the negative income of IFCC portfolio up to -14% occurring at the same time leading to a big loss of IFCC capital.

Taking into consideration the current and future financial trends in economy, IFCC Executive Board at its Board meeting in Quito in September 2015 decided to move from the "GROWTH" to "BALANCED" portfolio with less risks limiting the risk posed by the high percentage of equities. It should be noted that transferring the investment into liquidity in a short time might result in big losses. So, the right time and price need to be waited to avoid losses before selling the assets.

Future trends

Some financial difficulties are anticipated in 2016 due to increase expenditure for the General Conference and shortage of income as no major conferences will be held in 2016.

MedTech Guidance and code were changed at the EDMA and Eucomed General Assemblies on December 2nd, 2015. Briefly, this code change seems to bring important changes for industry sponsorship of delegates and speakers leading to a decrease in interest and income for congresses/conferences.

In the recent years, the scientific, and educational activities of IFCC have increased significantly leading to a significant growth in its expenditure. The income of IFCC has not increased proportionally.

In 2016, IFCC activities and meetings can be kept as planned spending all the cash available at Credit Suisse which includes meeting revenues to be spared for 2017 and sponsorship funds. Under these circumstances though, it will not be possible to hold the IFCC activities in 2017 at the same level since the sole income of IFCC will be confined to the dues to be collected. The meeting incomes from Athens and Durban will be available 6 months after these meetings (earliest end of 2017, most probably in 2018).

Tomris Ozben, Treasurer

CORPORATE MEMBERS' REPORT 2015



Rolf Hinzmann, MD, PhD (Roche)

Corporate Representative at IFCC Executive Board (1st term 2015-2017)

Looking back at my first year of service as Corporate Representative at the IFCC Executive Board I am very appreciative of the commitment by which Corporate Members contribute significantly to IFCC activities: Numerous delegates from Corporate Members actively collaborate in most of the scientific workgroups in all three divisions and in their Executive Committees, either as Full Members or as Corresponding Members.

By the end of 2015 the total number of IFCC's Corporate Members was 49, providing the IFCC annual fees of CHF 293.000 which was 17% of IFCC's total annual income. In addition, Corporate Members' organizations continued

sponsoring of IFCC conferences, workgroups, scientific awards, e-learning programs and travel scholarships.

In 2015 we welcomed two companies who newly joined IFCC as Corporate Members: Helena Biosciences Europe, UK, and Ningbo Medical System Biotechnology, China. Five companies decided to discontinue their membership: Care, Dako, Drew Scientific, Labquality and Scipac.

Through IFCC membership, Corporate Members mainly seek to benefit from the following:

- Increasing awareness for the importance of lab testing in general and providing education with focus on countries with limited resources.
- Together with clinical societies, supporting medical claims leading to reimbursement.
- Emphasizing the importance of quality and using IFCC's unique expertise in standardization.
- Co-operating intensely with other organizations (CLSI, FDA, clinical societies, etc.) to get alignment of guidelines and recommendations.
- Providing opportunities for exhibitions, industry symposia and networking with lab professionals during high-level academic conferences.

Some of these directions should receive more emphasis in the future.

The following Corporate Representatives were / are members of the Executive Committees of IFCC's three divisions:

- **Scientific Division:** James Pierson-Perry (Siemens) (1st term 2015-2017)
- **Education & Management Division:** Christoph Ebert (Roche) (1st term 2013-2015)
- **Communications & Publications Division:** Bruce Jordan (Roche) (2nd term 2014-2016)

The following persons were/are Corporate Members of the Congress Organizing Committee (COC):

- **IFCC / EuroMedLab 2015, Paris, France:** Christine Flandre (Sebia) and Ulrich Schwörer (Roche)
- **IFCC / EuroMedLab 2017, Athens, Greece:** Angelos Evangelopoulos (Roche) and Thomas Brinkmann (Sonic Healthcare).
- **IFCC / WorldLab 2017, Durban, South Africa:** Beth Slavic (Ortho Clinical Diagnostics)

Last December, MedTech Europe (an organization comprising EDMA and Eucomed) has issued a new code regulating the interaction between the IVD industry and healthcare professionals (HCPs) on various levels. This includes new rules for industry sponsorship of conferences that will become effective partly at the beginning of 2017 and partly at the beginning of 2018 and will impact IFCC conferences:

- For third-party organized conferences (main program): Companies may not directly support an HCP, neither as a delegate, nor as a speaker.
- For company-organized events in the framework of third-party organized conferences (e.g. satellite symposia): Companies may directly support speakers (i.e. their consultants) but not

delegates.

- Educational grants are still possible. They can only be provided to legal entities but never to individuals.
- Companies will be able to define the type of recipients which should be eligible for the grant but will not be able to identify individual recipients.
- Companies must have an internal & independent process based on objective criteria to assess the grant requests.

For more information, e.g. on exact timelines, please check out the MedTech Europe website.

Recently, the IFCC Executive Board conducted an analysis of its strengths and weaknesses, of opportunities and threats (**SWOT**). The results will be presented at the General Conference in Madrid in March 2016 to which all Corporate Representatives are heartily invited.

Last year two **Corporate Members' meetings** were organized in conjunction with international conferences: At IFCC EuroMedLab in Paris, France (June 2015) and during AACC in Atlanta, GA, USA (July 2015). In general, attendance from Corporate Members at these meetings was rather low and I would like to encourage all members to take part in the next Corporate Members' meeting which will take place during AACC in Philadelphia on August 1, 2016. The SWOT results will be presented there as well.

Corporate Members fully support IFCC's recently developed new vision to advance excellence in laboratory medicine for better healthcare worldwide.

Rolf Hinzmann, Corporate Members Representative

COMMITTEE ON CONGRESSES AND CONFERENCES (C-CC)

James Wesenberg replaced Tomris Ozben as Chair of the C-CC as of January 1, 2015.

International Congresses of Clinical Chemistry & Laboratory Medicine (ICCCLM); WorldLab Congresses

23rd IFCC WorldLab Durban, South Africa (22-25 October 2017 - <http://www.durban2017.org/>)

Congress Chair: Prof RT Erasmus; Scientific Chair: Prof TS Pillay; Scientific Committee Members: established and consist of 11 members. 2nd Announcement prepared and distributed.

The 23rd WorldLab Congress will be held at the Durban International Convention Centre.

IFCC WorldLab 2020, Seoul, South Korea (24-28 May 2020)

The organization is on going, Prof. Song announced the website "IFCC WorldLab Seoul 2020" that is linked to the KSCC home page. The KSCC has used other domestic venues to promote the Congress. The KSCC was awarded the "2014 Korea MICE Alliance Conference & Awards" by the Korean Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism" for becoming the host for WorldLab 2020.

IFCC Regional Congresses of Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine

APFCB 2016 Congress - Taipei, Taiwan

(November 26-29, 2016 - <http://www.apfcbcongress2016.org/>)

The 14th APFCB Congress will be held at Taipei International Convention Center (TICC), Taipei, Taiwan. The congress organizing committee has signed a contract with Enjoy Professional Conference Organizer Corp. to locally assist it in organizing the congress 2016.

The tentative program, sponsorship prospectus, and information about conference venue have been posted on the website.

Chairman is Woei-hong Fang; Executive Secretary - Jui-Ching Wu; Scientific Chair - Shu-Chu Shiesh. The theme of the Congress is 'Laboratory Medicine in Cloud'. The revised topics for the Congress are: Big Data, Cloud and Laboratory Medicine; Age and Sex Related Testing; Autoimmune Diseases; Infectious Diseases; Laboratory Management; Metabolic, Cardiac and Kidney Diseases; Molecular Diagnostic; Stem cell and Laboratory Medicine.

The second announcement for the exhibition prospectus was released in the April of 2015.

APFCB 2019 Congress – Jaipur, India

(November 17-20, 2019 - proposed Congress website: <http://www.apfcbcongress2019.org/>)

The Congress Committee has been formed, under the chairmanship of Prof Praveen Sharma, along with Prof. Rajiv R Sinha, Prof MVR Reddy and Dr Elizabeth Frank .

EuroMedLab Congress 2015 – France, Paris (21-25 June 2015)

KEY FIGURES OF THE EVENT:

Almost 10,000 professionals from 106 countries:

- 4.200 delegates including 365 delegates from France

- 5.500 international visitors:

- 47% from France
- 75% from Europe. Among them the most represented countries: Germany, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland
- 7% from Eastern Europe. A strong Russian involvement has been noticed
- 6% from Africa. Maghreb countries (Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco) were highly represented.

More than 160 exhibiting medical laboratory suppliers; 27 symposia and 5 plenary lectures, including an outstanding opening lecture by Prof. J Hoffmann, winner of the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine; 37 workshops held by industrials; 1.285 abstracts presented.

Pre and Post Congress Satellite meetings "6th International Symposium "Critical Care Testing and Blood Gases", "HbA1c and management of diabetes in the 21st century" and "State of the art in the biology of trace elements and vitamins" have been very successful.

EuroMedLab Congresses guidelines have been revised and signed by IFCC and EFLM Executive Board Members on June 2015. http://www.ifcc.org/media/302327/IFCC-EFLM%20EML_Guidelines_Rev_13_June_2015.pdf; application form available at: <http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-congresses-and-conferences/ifccauspicesapplicationform/>. Venue selection and organization of the 2019 EuroMedLab Congress will be done following above new guidelines.

EuroMedLab Congress 2017 – Athens, Greece (11-15 June, 2017)

22nd IFCC-EFLM EuroMedLab Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine - 25th Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation Meeting - BCLF 2014 and 15th National Congress of GSCC-CB9
President of the Congress is Dr. Alexander Haliassos. Local support will be provided by PCO ERA Ltd
Deadline for the reduced registration fees: April 30th 2017
Deadline for the poster abstract submission: November 1st 2016
IVD Companies will have the opportunity to select and organize EduW (educational workshops), as well as propose for EduW topics from SPC to IVD companies. IVD Sponsors will be asked to support postgraduate students with bursaries, travel grants, or poster awards. 1st Announcement has been prepared.

23rd EuroMedLab Congress 2019 – Barcelona, Spain (19-23 May, 2019)

The IFCC and EFLM Executive Board Members have determined the venue for 'IFCC EFLM EuroMedLab 2019' that will be held in Barcelona, Spain, at the Barcelona International Convention Center (CCIB).

COLABIOCLI 2015 Congress - XXII Congreso Latinoamericano de Bioquímica Clínica Quito, Ecuador (24-26 September, 2015)

24 Symposiums, 2 plenary conferences, oral communications and posters have been programmed that will be presented by prominent professionals from diverse areas of Clinical Laboratory and Laboratory Medicine. 3 pre-congress courses and 3 intra-congress courses have been organized.

COLABIOCLI 2017 Congress – XXIII Congreso Latinoamericano de Bioquímica Clínica Punta del Este, Uruguay (17-20 September, 2017).

Organization on going

AFCB 2015 Congress – Khartoum, Sudan, December 2015

ArabMedLab 2015 - 14th Arab Congress of Clinical Biology (AFCB) will be held in Khartoum, Sudan in December 2015. The Congress was successful.

AFCC 2015 Congress – Harare, Zimbabwe (28–30 April, 2015)

The theme for the conference was "Integrating Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine in Evidence Based P4 Medicine". ZACB organized a pre-congress Point of Care (POCT) Workshop. 4 plenary lectures took place, as well as a session on organized by the IFCC TF-YS. The Congress was attended by 168 delegates and the Main Congress by 200 delegates.

IFCC Specialized Conferences

15th Roche Bergmeyer Conference – Eibsee, Germany (3-5 March 2014)

The 15th Bergmeyer Conference will take place on March 7-9, 2016 at Eibsee Hotel in Grainau, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, topic: "Biomarkers in the Diagnosis and Monitoring of Cancer". The Proceedings of the Conference will be published in Scand J Clin Lab Invest.

IFCC Specialized Conference "Biomarkers in Alzheimer Disease", Mexico City, Mexico (May 20th, 2016), supported by ROCHE.

The conference will be held at the "Camino Real Hotel Polanco", with the support of ROCHE. Chairs of the Organizing Committee are Prof. Sergio Bernardini and Dr. Rosa Sierra-Amor.

IFCC-ABBOTT "Turning Science into Caring" Symposium

The 8th Annual Asia Pacific and Japan Scientific Symposium "Turning Science into Caring" was held in Bali, Indonesia, on December 1-3, 2015. The theme of the meeting is "Elevating the Standard of Patient Care" organized by Abbott Diagnostics Division represented by Dr. Peng Yin, IFCC was represented by Prof. M. Ferrari.

IFCC General Conference

The preparation of the IFCC General Conference is on going. The event will be held in Madrid, Spain at the Auditorium Marriott Hotel, from March 19th – 21st, 2016. Closed meetings of IFCC functional units will be planned before the conference on March 18th.

Congresses with IFCC Auspices

The number of the meetings under IFCC auspices, held in 2014 are 45.

James Wesenberg, C-CC Chair

SCIENTIFIC DIVISION

During 2015, the following members served on the SD Executive Committee: Ian Young (UK) (Chair), Philippe Gillery (FR) (Vice-Chair), Joseph Passarelli (US) (Secretary), Giampaolo Merlini (IT), Christa Cobbaert (NL), Tsutomu Nobori (JP) (Members) and James Pierson-Perry (US) (Corporate Representative). Three representatives of International Organizations are invited to attend the SD meetings as consultants: Gary Myers (JCTLM), Heinz Schimmel (IRMM) and David Bunk (NIST). Two meetings were held during 2015: June 19-20 (Paris, FR) and November 20-21 (Milano, IT).

Relationship with International Organizations

The SD continues to pursue the expansion of its activities to partner with international organizations to promote the implementation of the concept of traceability in laboratory medicine and the implementation of reference measurement systems.

• Joint Committee on Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (JCTLM)

The JCTLM continues its work which is available for review on its database at www.bipm.org/jctlm.

JCTLM Governance: The JCTLM Executive conducted a governance review and update during 2015. Membership in the JCTLM was organized into two categories of members: JCTLM National and Regional Members being defined as national and regional organizations that adhere to and/or contribute to the activities of the International Organizations that are members of the JCTLM Executive Committee and that have expertise in traceability in laboratory medicine and demonstrate a willingness to provide experts for JCTLM Working Groups and Review Teams; and in addition JCTLM Stakeholder Members being defined as properly constituted “non-profit” and “for-profit” organizations, with interest, expertise and a demonstrable record of working to reduce the between method variability in laboratory medicine measurements and a commitment to promote the JCTLM database and activities.

The JCTLM Executive formed a new Working Group on Traceability Education and Promotion (WG-TEP). The aim of the WG-TEP is to produce written reports and promote educational materials to demonstrate the value of traceability in laboratory medicine as a means to reduce between method variability in the interests of improved clinical outcomes and patient safety. Dr Graham Beastall was appointed Chairman of the JCTLM WG-TEP.

JCTLM Members’ and Stakeholders’ Meeting: A meeting of JCTLM Members and Stakeholders was held November 30-December 1, 2015 at BIPM, Sevres, France.

JCTLM Database: In February 2015, 13 entries for certified reference materials, 9 reference measurement methods, and 30 reference measurement services were published in the JCTLM Database following the approval by the Executive of nominations reviewed during WG1 cycle 11 and WG2 cycle 9.

The current status of the database as of December 2015 was as follows:

- 295 certified reference materials (CRMs) amongst which 33 are in List II (i.e. Reference Materials value assigned using an internationally agreed protocol), and 3 are in List III (i.e. Reference Materials for nominal properties),
- 176 reference measurement methods covering 80 analytes, and
- 133 reference measurement services covering 39 analytes. These services were delivered by 14 reference laboratories accredited for compliance against ISO 15195 and IEC/ISO 17025 as calibration laboratories, and by 2 National Metrology Institutes (NMIs).

• Joint Committee for Guide in Metrology (JCGM)

A new version of GUM is in development that has more of a focus on users. Graham White has been taking the lead on this. A key issue is to find the right balance between exactness and simplicity. The strategy selected by WG1 is to keep the GUM as simple as possible and refer to other JCGM documents for more complex cases.

A first draft for the VIM4 (WG2) is in development and a review of the so-called “VIM3 Annotations” is in process. Thirty informative annotations have been developed to go beyond the formal Notes and provide more detailed description and definition of terms appearing in VIM 3. It is planned that these annotations will be published on a new BIPM website. Further annotations will be developed, all of

which will be incorporated into VIM. The proposed timeframe for producing a first draft of the VIM4 for circulation to the JCGM Member Organizations for comment is 2018 (ten years after publication of the VIM3).

- **Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (IRMM)**

Close collaboration with IRMM continues through a number of joint ventures involving SD Committees and Working Groups.

- **Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) (formerly NCCLS)**

An up dated list of joint CLSI/IFCC documents is available on the IFCC web site at:

[http://www.ifcc.org/index.asp?cat=Publications&scat=CLSI_\(Clin_Lab_Stand_Inst\)_-_IFCC_Joint_Projects&rif=6&dove=1](http://www.ifcc.org/index.asp?cat=Publications&scat=CLSI_(Clin_Lab_Stand_Inst)_-_IFCC_Joint_Projects&rif=6&dove=1).

- **National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)**

NIST continues to undertake a large number of projects, many of which are of considerable interest to IFCC. The NIST website (www.nist.gov) can provide information on materials and services available today.

- **National Institute of Biological Standards and Control (NIBSC)**

NIBSC, previously part of the Health Protection Agency (HPA), is now a new Center of the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) alongside the Clinical Practice Research Datalink (CPRD). The MHRA is an executive agency of the Department of Health, UK. C. Burns has agreed to join the SD as an Observer.

- **European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM)**

The EFLM Scientific Committee and SD leadership agreed there should be close liaison and communication between the two groups. The purpose is to share information on activities and look for areas of mutual interest. It was agreed the leadership of the SD and the EFCC Science Committee should meet formally once per year, preferably at a major conference.

The Current EFLM president finishes his term at the end of 2015 and Professor Sverre Sandberg will be the successor. The current EFLM SD chair is also finishing his term and a new chair will be appointed. Professor Elvar Theodorsson outlined the following key areas of interest to the EFLM SD: 1. The Milan conference “Defining analytical performance goals, 15 years after the Stockholm Conference” last autumn has vitalized working groups within the EFLM, in particular the one on biological variation; 2. A task and finish group on Total Error created after the Milan conference under the leadership of Wytze Oosterhuis continues; 3. The working group on preanalytics under the leadership of Ana-Maria Simundic continues; 4. A task and finish group on the laboratory testing for dyslipidemias under the leadership of Michel Langlois and in collaboration with European Atherosclerosis Society is ongoing. Their consensus report was submitted for publication in November.

- **World Health Organization (WHO)**

WHO meetings occur each Fall. Philippe Gillery attends and participates as the liaison from the SD. The SD decided that there were no new projects or collaborations to propose in 2015. PG participated at a meeting with the Expert Committee on Biological Variation Standardization in October in Geneva. There were relatively few topics relevant to the SD.

- **Congresses (WorldLab, Regional and other congresses)**

EuroMedLab 2015 – 21st IFCC-EFLM European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine – Paris, France, June 21-25, 2015:

Philippe Gillery was co-president and chair of the Scientific Programme Committee of the Congress.

SD had one session: IMPROVING PATIENT OUTCOMES THROUGH ASSAY STANDARDIZATION
Chair: Ian Young

Reducing variability between Troponin I assays and its potential impact on clinical care (J Tate, Australia)

Improved Haemoglobin A2 measurement and its impact on the diagnosis of thalassemia (A Mosca, Italy)

Serum parathyroid hormone - pre-analytical and analytical factors and their impact on measurement (C Sturgeon, UK)

CSF-proteins - clinical utility and potential benefits from standardization (K Blennow, Sweden)

COLABIOCLI 2015 - XXII Congreso Latinoamericano de Bioquímica Clínica, Quito, Ecuador - September 24 – 26, 2015:

SD had one session: Title: Benefits of standardization of laboratory tests
Standardization of laboratory tests – why it is needed (G Beastall)
Standardization of laboratory tests – how to do it (G Miller).
Benefits of standardization – the example of Thyroid Function Tests (L Thienpont)
Standardization – what does it mean for my laboratory? (I Young).

• Congresses with IFCC Auspices

ROCHE BERGMAYER CONFERENCE

The next Roche Bergmeyer Conference will be held on March 7-9, 2016. The topic chosen is Biomarkers in the Diagnosis and Monitoring of Cancer.

Listed on web pages for information only (<http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-congresses-and-conferences/>)

Activities of Committees and Working Groups

The Committees (Cs), which are theme-oriented, carry out much of the scientific and professional activities of the SD. Their work is often in close collaboration with other international organizations. For more specific tasks, the activities are usually accomplished through Working Groups (WGs).

Committees

• C-Nomenclature, Properties and Units (C-NPU), by Robert Flatman, Chair

During 2015 ongoing progress towards C-NPU terms of reference included:

Term of Reference 1. Provide advice for the management, updating and publishing of the NPU terminology. **Accomplishments include:** **1.** The newly created NPU Steering Committee met for the first face to face meeting in Copenhagen in April 2015. Key NPU stakeholders (including IFCC, IUPAC and national representatives from Denmark and Sweden) agreed on proposal for future NPU governance. Key issues remaining include number of representatives on the SC, shared financial support, website development and details of Governance; **2.** Sweden and Norway have committed to the NPU terminology and have both applied for national release center status; **3.** NPU Steering Committee website prepared by Insoft with assistance from Graham Beastall, now ready for content; **4.** Regularly updated versions of the NPU terminology continue to be available from the IFCC website.

Term of Reference 2. Make recommendations on NPU for reporting clinical laboratory data that conform to or adopt current standards of authoritative organizations and that will improve their utilization for health care. **Accomplishments include:** **1.** New project on Molecular Biology terms for the NPU terminology in progress, Chaired by Ulla Magdal Petersen; **2.** On-going project for better definition of poorly identified NPU terms - Project for Establishing definitions for non-referenced terms in the NPU terminology ongoing (IUPAC Project 2010-035-700) (Chair: Helle Moller Johannessen); **3.** Silver Book revision 2 (Compendium of Terminology and Nomenclature of Properties in Clinical Laboratory Sciences) in final review.

Term of Reference 3. To provide a connection with other organizations concerned with NPU, such as the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM), the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and, by extension, clinical laboratory sciences societies, such as the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), and the in vitro diagnostics industry, to ensure that problems encountered by health care professionals in the area of NPU are considered by those organizations. **Accomplishments include:** **1.** Primary accomplishment has been progression of the proposed NPU Steering Committee from being outlined in an MOU signed by all parties, to an actively functioning entity.

• **C-Molecular Diagnostics (C-MD), by Deborah Payne, Chair**

During 2015 ongoing progress towards C-MD's terms of reference included:

Term of Reference 1. Foster dynamic exchanges between IFCC and molecular diagnostic laboratories and industry. **Accomplishments Include: A.** Included representatives of industry to participate in a meeting on reference materials for molecular testing; **B.** Collaborated with Cancer Genetics working group and their industrial partners; **C.** Focus Group on expanding Latin American participation

Term of Reference 2. Produce guidelines on clinical validation of tests, conduct and report on molecular diagnostic tests. **Accomplishments Include:** Two manuscripts have been submitted.

Term of Reference 3. Provide reference materials; and create a network of locus-specific IFCC Molecular Diagnostics Centers. **Accomplishments Include:** Edited and revised the application forms for the Network Laboratories and Expert Centers which were posted on the website. Invited additional individual laboratories to participate.

• **C-Reference Systems for Enzymes (C-RSE), by Ferruccio Ceriotti, Chair**

During 2015 ongoing progress towards C-RSE terms of reference included:

Term of Reference 1. IFCC Enzyme Reference Measurement Procedures: New 37°C IFCC enzyme reference procedures are being developed on the basis of the existing 30°C IFCC. **Accomplishments include:** Development of a reference measurement procedure for Pancreatic Lipase: The interlab experiment results from Japan, Italy and Germany were comparable, and those on frozen pools were promising in terms of imprecision. However, data from two labs was problematic. The results of the second interlab exercise were somewhat confounding: good within run reproducibility was confirmed, but the between day imprecision increased significantly, especially in Germany. The absorbance of the reaction solution was clearly identified as the cause for the differences in results, but it was not clear why different laboratories or even the same laboratory obtained reaction solutions with so different absorbance values. These results will be the bases for future activity.

Terms of Reference 2. Network of Enzyme Reference Laboratories: Coordination of a group of reference laboratories from hospitals, academy and industry, which are able to perform adequate measurements according to a list of stated requirements. **Accomplishments Include:** Some of the activities are in term 3.

Terms of Reference 3. Enzyme Reference Materials: Evaluate reference materials provided by IRMM within the network of reference laboratories prior to certification. The materials are available as primary reference materials for calibration and/or validation of lower order procedures for the measurement of the catalytic concentration of enzymes. **Accomplishments include:** Value assignment to IRMM materials for ALT, CK and LDH:

A feasibility experiment was performed on two lyophilized materials (in August, September). After positive results of this preliminary exercise (ten participating laboratories), the value assignment campaign started in November. Final results will be available at the beginning of 2016.

• **C-Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (C-TLM), by Lothar Siekmann, Chair**

During 2015 ongoing progress towards C-TLM terms of reference included:

Term of Reference 1. Support activities regarding Traceability in Laboratory Medicine, permitting IFCC to continue its international role in this area and providing an operating link between the SD and the WGs of the Joint Committee on Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (JCTLM), concerning identification of reference measurement procedures, reference materials and reference laboratories.

Accomplishments include: The JCTLM structure has been modified during the recent year. Two Working Groups have been established: 1. **JCTLM Working Group 1 deals with the Data Base:** The JCTLM every year accepts nominations for listing of reference measurement procedures, reference materials and reference measurement services. These are evaluated by Review Teams which are responsible for different groups of measurands (e.g. metabolites & substrates, electrolytes, hormones, therapeutic drugs, etc.). The review teams report to WG-1. Based on the proposals of the review teams and the working group chairs the JCTLM Executive decides on the listing of reference materials, methods and services. 2. JCTLM Working Group 2: Conducted its first meeting in December 2015. The working group focuses on the project of "Education and Promotion".

Term of Reference 2. Establish an External Quality Assessment Scheme (EQAS) for reference

laboratories and act as an advisory committee. **Accomplishments include:** RELA ring trials are currently provided for 38 measurands. The results of RELA 2014 were published on the website (www.dgkl-rfb.de:81) in July 2015. 59 laboratories participated in RELA2014 and the organizer received 351 results from these laboratories. LDL-cholesterol, HDL-cholesterol, and free Thyroxine were offered as measurands for the first time. For these measurands lyophilized control materials are available. The organizer received 2 results for HDL-cholesterol and none for free thyroxine and LDL-cholesterol. The reason why there were no results for LDL-cholesterol is that the control materials did not behave like patient samples. Therefore, additional pre-investigations have to be performed in future to ensure that the control material used is commutable. Only then the survey for LDL-cholesterol will be offered again. For CK, a large dispersion of the results was observed. The samples seem to be very sensitive with regard to light and temperature. The participants should be advised to pay attention to these aspects. The key measurands for RELA 2015 are total cholesterol, magnesium, ALT, HbA1c, total protein, testosterone, digoxin, total triiodothyronine, and 25-OH-Vitamin D3.

Term of Reference 3. Promote the establishment and maintenance of IFCC reference laboratory networks for clinically relevant measurands. Accomplishments include: As in previous years, the HbA1c Network organized 2 intercomparison studies with participation of all approved and candidate network laboratories as well as all laboratories of the designated comparison method networks in the US, Japan and Sweden, respectively. All IFCC network laboratories met the quality criteria and kept their status of approval. The BCCL (Beijing Center Clinical Laboratory) gained the status of approved network laboratory.

• **C-Reference Intervals and Decision Limits (C-RIDL), by Kiyoshi Ichiara, Chair**

During 2015 ongoing progress towards C-RIDL terms of reference included:

Term of Reference 1. Review current concepts of establishing reference intervals (RIs) and decision limits and to prepare state-of-the-art position statements regarding new avenues. Accomplishments include:

Methodological issues for establishment of reference intervals (RIs) have been controversial especially over the use of parametric and latent abnormal values exclusion (LAVE) methods. During the Paris' C-RIDL meetings held in June, discussions took place on results from the global multicenter study on reference values (RVs), which included national studies from 12 countries. There were very consistent tendencies regarding the use or non-use of those methods. The results were fully reported in part one of two key note papers submitted to the SD in October as well as in the papers reported by Chinese and Saudi Arabian groups (see Publications).

Term of Reference 2. To make available reference intervals and decision limits that respects the requirements of international directives such as the European IVD Directive 98/79, and relevant ISO standards. Accomplishments include: Country-specific RIs for the populations of Philippines, South Africa, and Pakistan were newly derived and related analyses on RVs were carried out. The traceability of test results was confirmed by common measurement of a serum panel. When found biased, the test results were recalibrated according to the traceable values assigned to the panel. Comparison of the RVs across 12 countries after alignment based on the panel test results was fully described in part one of the key note paper.

Term of Reference 3. To determine priority list of measurands (analytes) for which reference intervals and/or decision limits have to be developed, considering various factors, such as age, gender, ethnicity, and for which the greatest improvements in medical decision making are anticipated. Accomplishments include: The measurands based on a priority list for establishing RIs have all been targeted in the ongoing global multicenter study. Therefore, a relevant issue for this TF is exploration of biological sources of variation (SV) of measurands. By merging RVs from 12 countries, SVs were harmoniously analyzed by use of multiple regression analysis and ANOVAs. The most intriguing finding in 2014 was differential effects by ethnicity of body mass index (BMI) on test results. The finding was reinforced by inclusion of 12 countries in this year's analysis. Gender and age related changes in RVs were nearly consistent across the countries. The analyses of SVs across the countries were fully described in part two of the key note paper.

Term of Reference 4. To monitor and evaluate currently proposed reference intervals for selected measurands (analytes) in the light of the concept of traceability and of the identification of the uncertainty.

Accomplishments include: No primary action was taken on this so far.

Term of Reference 5. Establish transferability protocols of reference intervals and decision limits, which take into consideration inter-routine laboratory method variations and achieve better applicability in clinical practice. **Accomplishments include:** The Data Management System was built, which enables alignment of entire results from the global study through flexible conversion of test results from one laboratory to another based on common test results for a serum panel.

Term of Reference 6. Collaborate with other organizations and/or to undertake establishment of reference intervals or decision limits for measurands (analytes) identified as a priority. **Accomplishments include:** No action was taken on this so far.

Term of Reference 7. Work in close collaboration with other Cs and WGs of SD and other IFCC Divisions for the development and appropriate clinical utilization of reference intervals and decision limits. **Accomplishments include:** The specimens in the new serum panel lot were value assigned for 12 biochemical analytes (creatinine, urea, uric acid, triglyceride, total cholesterol, AST, ALT, LDH, ALP, GGT, CK, AMY) with the support of the C-TLM. Full test reports with certificates were obtained in March 2015 and the panel was actively used in the ongoing global multicenter study.

• C-Standardization of Thyroid Function Tests (C-STFT), by Linda Thienpont, Chair

During 2015 ongoing progress towards C-STFT terms of reference included:

Term of Reference 1. To develop reference measurement systems for free thyroid hormones and TSH. **Accomplishments include:** Free thyroid hormones already accomplished in 2011.

For TSH a reference measurement system based on the “all-procedure trimmed mean (APTM)” calculated by Factor Analysis (FA) was established in 2013. Both reference measurement systems were implemented in C-STFT phase IV, the final method comparison intended to technically recalibrate the FT4 and TSH assays. All measurements (by immunoassays and the ED-MS reference method for FT4) are complete. For TSH the statistical all-procedure trimmed mean (APTM) was calculated. A first report was presented/discussed in Atlanta at the 2015 AACC meeting. In total 12 companies participated. The outcome of the evaluation was positive. Manufacturers were meanwhile asked to recalibrate their assays (note for TSH they will calibrate against the APTM from all immunoassays). Reporting on the recalibration is ongoing; data will be qualitatively evaluated by C-STFT.

Term of Reference 2. To establish a network of laboratories competent to offer reference measurement services for thyroid hormones. **Accomplishments include:** FT4 concentrations were assigned to 20 frozen sera from healthy subjects by UGent already in 2014. These samples will be made available to the partners within the Network for validation of their performance.

Term of Reference 3. To provide an infrastructure for procurement of serum panels. Demonstrate that the traceable assays can use a common reference interval; use this as a basis for further elaboration of the reference intervals by the IVD manufacturers; consult with clinicians about the need for ethnic, age- or sub-population-specific reference intervals in co-operation with C-RIDL.

Accomplishments include: In order to collect samples for the final method comparison (phase IV) and the samples for the reference interval study, the committee worked together with clinicians in collecting clinical samples. Besides this, the Committee contacted commercial sources to provide samples and prepare the sample sets for the participants. The committee also started collection of samples for a FT4 follow-up panel, this panel is ~80% complete. It will be assigned values with the RMP, probably in 2016. The reference interval study is initiated, samples (2 panels of 120 samples) will be distributed to the participants by the end of 2015; deadline for reporting samples is early 2016.

Term of Reference 4 and 5. Liaise with key stakeholders to implement the use of the traceable assays in routine clinical practice. Through collaboration with IFCC EMD, provide educational materials for manufacturers, clinicians and patients which will support the implementation of traceable assays. **Accomplishments include:** The Committee is currently preparing the implementation of the standardized/harmonized assays. The committee wants to prepare for standardization/harmonization from a technical point of view (phase IV method comparison) and in the meantime seeks answers to all open questions which need to be addressed before implementation can be realized. As furthered by the FDA, a thorough risk-benefit analysis is on-going. The C-STFT ran several projects in parallel to complete this task at all levels of stakeholders. A dedicated C-STFT website is online (<http://ifcc-cstft.org/>).

The FDA also expressed the need for a monitoring system for the stability of the standardized/harmonized

assays. The committee has also contacted other regulatory agencies to define their requirements towards implementation of the newly standardized/harmonized assays.

Working Groups

• **WG-Standardization of Hemoglobin A2 (WG-SHbA2), by Renata Paleari, Chair**

During 2015 ongoing progress towards WG-HbA2 terms of reference included:

Term of Reference 1. To promote the standardization of hemoglobin A2 measurement through the definition of an international reference system, including a reference measurement procedure and primary and secondary reference materials. **Accomplishments include:** Development of a reference method procedure:

The HbA2 candidate reference measurement procedure based on isotope dilution-mass spectrometry and calibration with recombinant hemoglobins (HbA0 and HbA2) has been implemented in the reference laboratories of INSTAND e.V. and the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB). First results show good correlation of the HbA2 values from the two IDMS labs. Additionally, measurement results obtained by the candidate LC-IDMS/MS reference method were well correlated with results from several routine systems.

Term of Reference 2. Development of a secondary certified reference material for hemoglobin A2 (in cooperation with the IRMM). **Accomplishments include:** A collaboration with ICSH has been proposed with the first objective to assess the possibility to use the existing WHO International Reference Material for HbA2 (held at the NIBSC, UK) to find an interim solution during the period necessary for completion of the IFCC WG activities. As the reference method will be fully validated and approved, the reference material for HbA2 will be prepared.

• **WG-Standardization of Carbohydrate-Deficient Transferrin (WG-SCDT), by Jos Wielders, Chair**

During 2015 ongoing progress towards WG-CDT terms of reference included:

Term of Reference 1. Establish a network of CDT reference laboratories that perform the HPLC candidate reference method. **Accomplishments include:** A set of blinded samples was sent to all reference labs in autumn, asking them to send in their results before end 2015. Performance of the labs will be evaluated in January-February 2016

Term of Reference 2. Development of a reference material for CDT. **Accomplishments include:** The reference material was developed in 2014.

Term of Reference 3. To appoint the HPLC reference method, the reference interval and measurement uncertainty in a formal publication (this item was addressed in 2013 and 2014 contacts with the SD of the IFCC). **Accomplishments include:** A manuscript has been prepared about validation of the candidate reference method plus practical aspects of the use mainly in clinical settings.

• **WG-Standardization of Albumin Assay in Urine (WG-SAU) (a joint committee with the Laboratory Working Group (LWG) of the National Kidney Disease Education Program (NKDEP), USA), by Lorin Bachmann, Chair**

During 2015 ongoing progress towards WG-SAU terms of reference included:

Terms of Reference 1. Physiologic variability of UA in stable mild kidney disease (funded by NKDEP). **Accomplishments include:** John Lieske at Mayo Clinic and John Eckfeldt at U of Minnesota have expressed interest in conducting the project and are investigating the feasibility with clinical colleagues.

Terms of Reference 2. Status of harmonization among commercial immunoassays for UA (funded by NKDEP). The objectives of this project are to: 1.) Assess current status of harmonization of routine measurement procedures versus ID-LCMS candidate reference measurement procedure using native patient samples; 2.) Evaluate analytical performance characteristics of urine albumin measurement procedures; 3.) Evaluate commutability characteristics of the Japan Society for Clinical Chemistry (JSCC) and diluted IRMM ERM-DA470k/IFCC reference materials; and 4.) Assess utility of candidate reference materials for use in standardization of routine measurement procedures.

Accomplishments include: Findings include: **a)** Bias was greater than ± 10 percent for 14 of 16 quantitative methods vs. ID-LCMS indicating that standardization is needed; **b)** Several methods had non-constant bias with concentration suggesting that calibration technique needs investigation; **c)**

Dilution caused changes in bias for some methods; **d)** CV total was greater than 10 percent for five methods showing that improvement in precision is needed for those assays; **e)** In general, sample specific effects were not clinically significant. A joint meeting including NKDEP and representatives from each major manufacturer was held on Feb 5th, 2015 at the NIH campus in Bethesda, MD. The goals of the meeting were to discuss the need for improvement of method performance to accomplish standardization and to plan for implementing standardization of the routine methods in the next several years. The next step is to perform a freeze-thaw study to assess the ability to use frozen samples for the commutability study. The freeze-thaw study has been submitted to the NKDEP for review.

Term of Reference 3. Establish a reference procedure and reference materials for the measurement of albumin in urine. **Accomplishments include:** The Mayo reference method was used to assign albumin values for CAP and CEQAL urine samples. The NIST (David Bunk) has developed and performed an in-house validation of an ID-LC-MS/MS reference measurement procedure for urine albumin. It is anticipated the NIST procedure will enable assessment of the molecular forms of albumin in urine that may be of importance in the specificity requirements for routine measurement procedures.

Terms of Reference 4. Reference materials for UA and urine creatinine (funded by JSCC and NIST) **Accomplishments include:** SRM 2925 Human Serum Albumin is a primary certified reference material for use with higher order reference measurement procedures for albumin. SRM 3666 is currently being prepared based on the specifications developed by the WG-SAU and the LWG of the NKDEP.

• **WG-Standardization of Pregnancy-associated Plasma Protein A (WG-PAPP A), by Saara Wittfooth, Chair**

During 2015 ongoing progress towards WG-PAPPA terms of reference included:

Term of Reference: Develop a reference system for standardization of PAPP measurement employed as marker for prenatal screening. **Accomplishments include:** The group is essentially restarting activities again with a new chair - Saara Wittfooth. The chair submitted a revised project plan to the SD including schedule and cost estimates. The WG previously used purified material to assess ability to standardize assays, but this did not work for all assays. The group will assess the potential of harmonization and the goal of making assay results more comparable. Therefore, the group name will be changed to Harmonization.

• **WG-Standardization of Insulin Assays (WG-SIA), by Mike Steffes, Chair**

During 2015 ongoing progress towards WG-SIA terms of reference included:

Term of Reference 1. Establish a reference system for serum/plasma insulin measurement to achieve standardization of all commercial methods to assay insulin. **Accomplishments include:** Continued to develop plans to sustain this program. Develop continuing resources and components of reference systems based on results from feasibility information.

Term of Reference 2. To develop a continuing program to collect new serum samples (and serum pools) for assignment of IDMS values. These materials will be applied to sustain the program to harmonize results from manufacturers of insulin assays. **Accomplishments include:** The Work Group has completed the latest phase to procure single donor and pooled aliquots. In 2015 the aliquots were transferred from Solomon Park in WA to the University of Minnesota. An inventory is currently in process.

Term of Reference 3. To establish availability of pure recombinant human insulin as a Reference Material (RM) for insulin assays and have the RM listed by JCTLM. **Accomplishments include:** Collaboration with Dr. C. Burns and colleagues at NIBSC assures availability of a recombinant insulin candidate reference material that would be integrated with a program to harmonize preparations from manufacturers of insulin as treatments for diabetes mellitus. NIBSC continues to proceed to sustain materials for the Insulin Assay Standardization Program.

Term of Reference 4. To establish and validate in at least one additional laboratory for a procedure to the LC-MS/MS candidate reference measurement procedure implemented by Prof L. Thienpont and colleagues. This step is a necessary prerequisite to submitting the procedure to JCTLM for review and listing. **Accomplishments include:** Continuing discussions with the laboratories of Prof R. Little at University of Missouri (USA) and Prof D. Stein at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York (USA) as well as Dr. Michael McPhaul of the Nicols Institute CA. Secure commitment to establish a reference

method at the University of Minnesota.

Term of Reference 5. To determine the feasibility of a joint approach to standardization with the C-peptide Work Group. **Accomplishments include:** Active discussions with the C-peptide group (Chair Prof R. Little), with regard to delineating common approaches and the establishment of a cRMP for C-peptide. Continued emphasis on how both groups can achieve their goals by sharing plans, materials and activities.

• **WG-Standardization of Troponin I (WG-TNI), by David Bunk, Chair**

During 2015 ongoing progress towards WG-TNI terms of reference included:

Term of Reference 1. Develop a candidate secondary reference measurement procedure and candidate secondary reference material for cardiac troponin I (cTnI). **Accomplishments include:** A protocol for the preparation of a serum-based CRM for cTnI was drafted. A protocol has also been drafted to the value-assignment of the CRM through a consensus process using manufacturer's routine assays. This protocol will also include the commutability assessment of the CRM.

Term of Reference 2. Testing for cTnI standardization and clinical validation by comparison with validated commercial assays in a round robin study. **Accomplishments include:** A manuscript describing the round robin study and the study's outcomes has been published (see Publications). A publication is planned for 2016 which discusses the commutability assessment of candidate reference materials that were part of the round robin study.

• **WG-Harmonization of Autoantibody Test (WG-HAT), by Joanna Sheldon, Chair**

During 2015 ongoing progress towards WG-HAT terms of reference included:

Term of Reference 1. To evaluate what are the main causes of variability for a number of diagnostically critical autoantibodies. **Accomplishments include:** The certification process for IgG anti myeloperoxidase antibodies revealed some striking differences between methods and these will be the basis for further investigation into the causes of variability for autoantibodies.

Term of Reference 2. To identify autoantibodies where a common calibrator could reduce the inter-assay variability. **Accomplishments include:** Diagnostic companies are becoming more receptive to the concept of proper standardization for autoantibodies. The WG-HAT will continue with the planned program but also have asked for companies to highlight analytes where they think standardization is important. The WG will consider options for producing material with the IRMM.

The WG has been asked to consider production of reference materials for more autoantibodies but believe that the group should continue with the plan to generate a robust process and to concentrate on IgG anti MPO, PR3, GBM, B2GP1 and CCP.

Term of Reference 3. To identify or produce commutable materials that could be used as interim calibration material for autoantibody assays. **Accomplishments include:** The report and certificate for ERM Da 476 for IgG anti MPO was released in April 2015 and this material is now available from the IRMM. IgG anti PR3 antibodies: preliminary studies are complete and it is planned that the protocol for value assignment developed for IgG anti MPO will be used. The material is in the final stages of evaluation, value assignment and hopefully certification. IgG anti cardiolipin and IgG anti beta-2 glycoprotein I antibodies: some of the validation testing has shown a possible issue with the commutability of the material. Therefore a further commutability study is needed in order to select an appropriate material. This is in progress.

Term of Reference 4. To produce well-characterized pure antibody preparations with known concentration and identity and use these to transfer values to a matrix preparation.

Accomplishments include: ERM Da 476 is now a certified reference material.

• **WG-Quantitative Mass Spectrometry Proteomics (WG-cMSP), by Sylvain Lehmann, Chair**

During 2015 ongoing progress towards WG-cMSP terms of reference included:

Term of Reference 1: To define appropriate operating procedures to perform quantitative mass spectrometry analyses for peptides and proteins from biological fluids. **Accomplishments include:** Different members of the WG contributed to the submitted article (see Publications) and suggested recommendations to perform quantitative mass spectrometry analyses for peptides and proteins from biological fluids.

Term of Reference 2: To evaluate the specification and the need for reference materials for quantitative proteomics applied to clinical biology. **Accomplishments include:** With an additional contribution of the LNE an important section regarding this issue has been included in the submitted publication. A more practical work in relation with term of reference 3 below is also ongoing with the LNE. In fact the LNE is currently performing an analysis of a large batch of synthetic hepcidin to verify its amino-acid composition and purity.

Term of Reference 3 and 4: To design of a Quality Assurance / Quality Control (QA/QC) Program and to select a small series of analytes to be the subject of a future multi-site validation study and to test the implementation in clinical laboratories of quantitative mass spectrometry analyses for peptides and proteins, using the examples of hepcidin and apolipoproteins. **Accomplishments include:** Three laboratories were involved in a QA/QC hepcidin assay. In parallel there is a working group of the French society (SFBC) which also generated pools of samples with different concentrations of hepcidin (these samples are integrated into this IFFCC work).

• **WG-Parathyroid Hormone (WG-PTH), by Cathie Sturgeon, Chair**

During 2015 ongoing progress towards WG-PTH terms of reference included:

Term of Reference 1. Collaborative educational effort to encourage worldwide implementation of PTH IS 95/646 and to assess the effect of this on between-method agreement. **Accomplishments include:** There has been further discussion regarding the importance of implementing an internationally recognised standard for PTH (preferably IS 95/646 if commutable) and how best to demonstrate the commutability of this standard. Several UK NEQAS distributions have again confirmed the clear relationship between method bias and recovery of highly purified PTH(1-84). Presentations at a Vitamin D Standardization Programme (VDSP) meeting in Cambridge (June 2015) and at the AACC Annual Conference in Atlanta (July 2015) provided opportunities to disseminate this to a wider audience.

Term of Reference 2. Definition of inclusion / exclusion requirements for an appropriate panel of sera and plasma with which to establish reference intervals and establishment of such a panel with support from the clinical community and diagnostics manufacturers. **Accomplishments include:** Inclusion/exclusion requirements based on results of the systematic review previously undertaken by the Working Group have yet to be finalised but were considered in some detail at an open meeting of the Working Group held during the AACC conference (July 2015) and also at the VDSP meeting (June 2015). A symposium presentation at EuroMedlab in Paris (June 2015) also provided an opportunity to disseminate some of these issues to a wider audience.

Term of Reference 3. Development of a reference measurement procedure for PTH(1-84) to a standard that would enable its adoption by the IFCC reference laboratory network.

Accomplishments include: Relevant developments in mass spectrometric methods were discussed in detail at the open meeting of the Working Group (July 2015). The possibility of undertaking the work on the reference measurement procedure at the Mayo Clinic, NIST and/or CDC was discussed. The analytical sensitivity of currently available mass spectrometric procedures is also problematic as the mass spectrometric procedure evaluated is 10 times less sensitive than routine automated PTH immunoassays.

• **WG-CSF Proteins (WG-CSF), Chair: by Kaj Blennow, Chair**

During 2015 ongoing progress towards WG-CSF terms of reference included:

Term of Reference 1. Develop an international reference material for cerebrospinal fluid (CSF).

The project aims to: **1.** Collect a CSF material, test stability, and assign values, to establish a Certified Reference Material (CRM); **2.** Establishment of Reference Measurement Procedure (RMP) for the key measurands (A β 1-42 and tau) for assignment of values to the reference material. **Accomplishments include:** **1.** Collection of CSF material and preparation of the Certified Reference Material (CRM): **a.** University of Gothenburg, Sweden has collected a large (5 litre) pool of CSF to be the basis for the reference material; **b.** A **first commutability study** has been done, comparing the candidate CRM as well as spiked variants and pools containing detergents. The analyses show high correlations between the SRM method and the immunoassays, and also very good commutability of the candidate CRM, but not for different variants of artificial CSF, or for samples containing detergents; **c.** Based on these results, a **second commutability study** has been performed. The analyses show high correlations

between the SRM method and the immunoassays, and also very good commutability of the candidate CRM, but less good commutability for spiked variants; d. Studies are ongoing to test the stability and homogeneity of the candidate CRM; e. A common calibrator for A β 1-42 is undergoing quantification by amino acid analysis in certified laboratories

2. Establishment of reference methods for the key measurands for assignment of values to the reference material: **a.** This part of the project is focused on developing a SRM mass-spec method for A β 1-42 in CSF, to qualify as a **reference measurement procedure (RMP)**; **b.** The assays have been compared in a detailed Round Robin study in which both human CSF samples and the calibrators have been analyzed in all labs. The results show very good correlations and agreements between assays; **c.** A **second Round Robin study** has been performed in which the master calibrator is used, to test a common procedure for calibration in preparation of the value assignment of the CRM. Data from this study showed linear correlations and good agreement between the five methods with a variation <4%.

• **WG-Standardization of Bone Marker Assays (WG-SBMA), by Howard Morris, Chair**

During 2015 ongoing progress towards WG-SBMA terms of reference included: This is a joint activity with the International Osteoporosis Foundation.

Term of Reference 1: Standardize or harmonize (as technically feasible or appropriate at this time) clinical assays available for routine and research use for the serum assay for C-telopeptide fragments of collagen type I α 1 chains containing the epitope Glu-Lys-Ala-His-Asp-s-Gly-Gly-Arg in an isomerised form (also known as serum Crosslaps (CTX)). **Accomplishments include:** The protocol for an assay comparability study of the two major clinical assays for CTX-1 has been prepared. The study will be conducted at four European centers. The protocol has been optimised to provide a cost-effective, clinically relevant study and funds have been promised by the two IVD companies involved.

Term of Reference 2: Standardize or harmonize (as technically feasible or appropriate at this time) clinical assays available for routine and research and the serum assay for N-terminal Propeptide of Type I Procollagen (P1NP). **Accomplishments include:** Same as in Term of Reference 2.

• **WG-Commutability (WG-C), by Greg Miller, Chair**

During 2015 ongoing progress towards WG-C terms of reference included:

Term of Reference 1: Establish operating procedures for the formal assessment of the commutability of a reference material intended for use as a calibrator, trueness control or EQA sample, taking into account different measurement procedure properties and categories of traceability described in ISO 17511. **Accomplishments include:** A draft recommendations document is approaching completion. The recommendations address qualification of measurement procedures, qualification of clinical samples, criteria for commutability based on medical requirements for using a laboratory test results and fraction of uncertainty that can be assigned based on the intended use of a reference material, two new statistical approaches for assessing commutability, and use of a correction for non-commutability to make non-commutable reference materials more useful for achieving agreement of results among different measurement procedures.

Term of Reference 2: Establish how to define the degree of commutability which is required for a given reference material, taking into account its intended use and the intended use of the measurand. The degree of commutability becomes the criteria used in the assessment process. **Accomplishments include:** Described in term of reference #1.

Term of Reference 3: Propose standard terminology to describe the degree of commutability of a reference material, taking into account its intended use. **Accomplishments include:** Described in term of reference #1.

Term of Reference 4: Provide guidance to manufacturers and laboratories about what information should be provided by manufacturers in relation to the commutability of reference materials used to establish the calibration traceability of a measurement procedure. **Accomplishments include:** Not addressed.

Term of Reference 5: Develop educational materials regarding commutability for manufacturers, laboratories and users of laboratory results. **Accomplishments include:** Not addressed.

Additional Information: The chair has discussed publication approaches with Nader Rifai, EIC Clinical Chemistry, for the quantity of material likely to be in the final recommendations. An approach of several papers with substantial use of supplemental data will be considered.

Publications by Committees and Working Groups:

C-NPU:

Ferard G., Dybkaer R. The NPU format for clinical laboratory science reports regarding properties, units, and symbols. *Chemistry International*. Vol 37 (3), p 24-25, May 2015

Nordin G. Before defining performance criteria we must agree on what a “qualitative test procedure” is. *Clin Chem Lab Med.*, 2015 May; 53(6):939-41

Silver Book 2 revision – in final review:

Férard G., Dybkaer R., Fuentes-Arderiu X., *Compendium of Terminology and Nomenclature of Properties in Clinical Laboratory Sciences*, International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine & International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, 2016 (in final review pre-publication)

Campbell C, Caldwell G, Coates P., Flatman R, Georgiou A., Horvath AR., Lam Q., Schneider H. Consensus Statement for the Management and Communication of High Risk Laboratory Results, *Clin Biochem Rev*, 2015, 36(iii): 97-105

C-RIDL:

Published:

1. Borai A, Ichihara K, Masoud A, et al. on behalf of the Committee on Reference Intervals and Decision Limits, International Federation for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine. Establishment of reference intervals of clinical chemistry analytes for adult population in Saudi Arabia: a study conducted as a part of the IFCC global study on reference values. *Clin Chem Lab Med* 2015; DOI: 10.1515/cclm-2015-0490.

Submitted to CCA:

2. Ichihara K, Ozarda Y, Barth JH, et al. on behalf of the Committee on Reference Intervals and Decision Limits, International Federation for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine. A global multicenter study on reference values: 1. Assessment of methods for derivation and comparison of reference intervals.
3. Ichihara K, Ozarda Y, Barth JH, et al. on behalf of the Committee on Reference Intervals and Decision Limits, International Federation for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine. A global multicenter study on reference values: 2. exploration of sources of variation across the countries.

Other articles directly related to the C-RIDL projects.

1. Shimizu Y, Ichihara K. Sources of variation analysis and derivation of reference intervals for ALP, LDH, and amylase isozymes using sera from the Asian multicenter study on reference values. *Clin Chim Acta* 2015; 446: 64–72.
2. Qin X, Tang G, Qiu L, et al. A Multicenter Reference Intervals Study for Specific Proteins in China. *Medicine* 2015; 94:e2211. doi: 10.1097/MD.0000000000002211.
3. Masuda S, Ichihara K, Yamanishi H, et al. Evaluation of menstrual cycle-related changes in 85 clinical laboratory analytes. *Ann Clin Biochem* 2015 in press. doi: 10.1177/0004563215617212
4. Xia L, Qiu L, Cheng X, Chen M, et al. Nationwide multicenter reference interval study for 28 common biochemical analytes in China. *Medicine*, in press.

C-STFT:

Thienpont LM, Faix JD, Beastall G. Standardization of FT4 and harmonization of TSH measurements - A request for input from endocrinologists and other physicians. *Clin Endocrinol (Oxf)* 2015 Jul 23. [Epub ahead of print].

Thienpont LM, Faix JD, Beastall G. Standardization of FT4 and harmonization of TSH measurements - A request for input from endocrinologists and other physicians [Opinion]. *Endocr J* 2015;62:855-6.

Thienpont LM, Faix JD, Beastall G. Standardization of FT4 and Harmonization of TSH Measurements - A Request for Input from Endocrinologists and Other Physicians. *Exp Clin Endocrinol Diabetes* 2015 Sep 15. [Epub ahead of print].

Thienpont L, Faix J, Beastall G. Standardization of free thyroxine and harmonization of thyrotropin measurements: A request for input from endocrinologists and other physicians. *Thyroid* 2015 Sep 28. [Epub ahead of print].

Thienpont LM, Faix JD, Beastall G. Standardization of FT4 and harmonization of TSH measurements: a request for input from endocrinologists and other physicians. *Endocrine* 2015; 50:826-7.

Thienpont LM, Faix JD, Beastall G. Standardization of free T4 and harmonization of TSH measurements: a request for input from endocrinologists and other physicians. *Eur Thyroid J*. DOI:10.1159/000440614.

Thienpont LM, Faix JD, Beastall G. Inquiry: Standardization of thyroid tests. The future standardization of FT4 and harmonization of TSH measurements in serum. A request for input on benefits and risks from Thyroid Foundations. *ThyroWorld Newsletter* 2015;18:13-4.

Thienpont LM, Faix JD, Beastall G. Standardization of FT4 and harmonization of TSH measurements - A request for input from endocrinologists and other physicians. *Endocr Pract* 2015, accepted.

Thienpont LM, Faix JD, Beastall G. Standardization of FT4 and harmonization of TSH measurements - A request for input from endocrinologists and other physicians. *Endocr Pract* 2015, accepted.

WG-SHbA2:

Arsene CG, Kaiser P, Henrion A, Paleari R, and Mosca A. Candidate reference measurement procedure for the determination of HbA2 fraction in human blood using mass spectrometry. Proceedings of the 14th International Symposium on Biological and Environmental Reference Materials, October 11-15, 2015, Maryland (USA), page 33.

Paleari R, Caruso D, Kaiser P, Arsene CG, Schaeffer-Reiss C, Van Dorsselaer A, Bissé E, Ospina M, De Jesús VR, Wild B, Mosca A. Developing a reference system for the IFCC standardization of HbA2 (submitted for the publication on the special issue of CCA dedicated to contributions from IFCC WGs).

WG-TNI:

“Evaluation of standardization capability of current cardiac troponin I assays by a correlation study: results of an IFCC pilot project” Tate, J.R., Bunk, D.M., Christenson, R.H., Barth, J.H., Katrukha, A., Noble, J.E., Schimmel, H., Wang, L., and Panteghini, M., *Clin. Chem. Lab. Med.*, 55 (5), 2015, 677 – 690.

WG-cMSP:

Clinical Mass spectrometry proteomics (cMSP) for medical laboratory: what could be the future? By Sylvain Lehmann, Cato Brede, Pierre Lescuyer, José A Cocho, Jérôme Vialaret, Pauline Bros, Vincent Delatour, Christophe Hirtz and the IFFCC WG-cMSP is currently submitted for publication in CCA (Editor P Gillery).

WG-CSF:

Bjerke M, Andreasson U, Kuhlmann J, Portelius E, Pannee J, Lewczuk P, Umek RM, Vanmechelen E, Vanderstichele H, Stoops E, Lewis J, Vandijck M, Kostanjevecki V, Jeromin A, Salamone SJ, Schmidt O, Matzen A, Madin K, Eichenlaub U, Bittner T, Shaw LM, Zegers I, Zetterberg H, Blennow K. Assessing the commutability of reference material formats for the harmonization of amyloid beta measurements. *Clin Chem Lab Med* 2015, in press.

Panee J, Gobom J, Shaw LM, Korecka M, Chambers EE, Lame M, Jenkins R, Mylott W, Carrillo MC, Zegers I, Zetterberg H, Blennow K, Portelius E. Round robin test on quantification of amyloid- β 1-42 in cerebrospinal fluid by mass spectrometry. *Alzheimers Dement* 2016;12(1):55-59.

Ian Young, SD Chair and Joseph Passarelli, SD Secretary

EDUCATION AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION (EMD)

A three year strategic plan was produced by the EC on the 16th of January 2015 and was finalised and agreed at the EMD-EC meeting on 20th June 2016. All Chairs of Committees, Working Groups and Special Projects submitted their work plans for 2015 by the 3rd of February 2015.

- **Clinical Molecular Biology Curriculum (C-CMBC); by Evi Lianidou, Chair**

1. Updated the C-CMBC website where general Information about the Course can be found: <http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-education-division/emd-committees/c-cmbc/>
2. Organised and held the 7th Course on “MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTICS FOR BEGINNERS” on 12th – 17th of July 2015, in Vilnius, Lithuania. Ms Liucija Bikauskaitė, medical geneticist, Department of Human and Medical Genetics, Vilnius, Lithuania was nominated as the IFCC Junior member from Lithuania.

Publications:

- Article for the IFCC newsletter electronic edition on the C-CMBC course in Manila, 2014: “C-CMBC: Beginner’s Course in Molecular Diagnostics - Manila, Philippines: A short Overview” by Madelein Hoffman, Verena Haselmann, Parviz Ahmad-Nejad, Atsushi Watanabe, Andrea Ferreria-Gonzalez, and Evi Lianidou

- **Analytical Quality (C-AQ), by Egon Amann, Chair**

1. In February 2015, the “Directory of EQA Services” database was placed on the C-AQ website in the “Resources” section. Information on proficiency testing organisations, website and e-mail contacts, and areas of expertise/clinical chemistry fields are provided. In October 2015, a PDF version was placed on the website for easier access.
2. A “Minimum requirement list” has been prepared to assist countries to plan and design an EQA scheme. This list is available in the “Resources” section of the C-AQ website under the title “EQA Setup Checklist”.
3. An additional document entitled “Procedure for Planning an EQA Scheme” was placed on the C-AQ website in the “Resources” section in 2015. This document was developed by Annette Thomas and contains more detailed procedures for the planning of a new EQA scheme.
4. “Resource table for EQA” was finalised and placed in the C-AQ section of the IFCC website in December 2015.
5. The presentation “The Principles of External Quality Assurance” (originally prepared by Janice Gill) was reviewed and placed in the “Teaching Materials” section of the C-AQ website and was provided to C-DL within 2015.
6. The presentation “The Principles of External Quality Assurance”, developed by Otto Panagiotakis and Alexander Haliassos of the ESEAP-Greek Proficiency Testing Schema for Clinical Laboratories, was reviewed and placed in the “Teaching Materials” section of the C-AQ website within 2015.
7. Annette Thomas and Egon Amann were invited speakers at the 1st Educational Workshop of the Croatia Society for Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine in Zagreb, held on April 24, 2015. Presentations given were: Egon Amann: General introduction on the role of EQA in laboratory quality management. Annette Thomas: 1) How to organise National EQA. 2) How to establish participant performance (including acceptance criteria).

Publications:

- E. Amann “Quality assurance in medical laboratories. Paths to global competence standards” in q&more, For excellence in laboratory and process quality, 01.15, pages 2-7 (2015).
- E. Amann “Divisional Reports: IFCC Committee of Analytical Quality (C-AQ): Education and training of laboratory professionals in international standards and practices of analytical quality” in IFCC eNews, November – December 2015, pages 3-4 (2015).

- **Evidence-Based Laboratory Medicine (C-EBLM), by Chris Florkowski, Chair**

1. Work is on-going with members of the committee for distance learning (C-DL) and the communications and publications division (CPD) to advance the establishment of an on-line learning resource in EBLM.
2. Formulation of an EBLM Curriculum, with input from individual members of the committee and consultants is largely done. Individual topics have been allocated to committee members to do podcasts or similar formatted presentations for review at the IFCC general conference in Madrid in March 2016 and for eventual inclusion in the IFCC e-Academy resources.
3. Guideline reviews has been put forward as a proposal, may be targeting endocrine guidelines with a view to undertaking a critical appraisal using the AGREE (+/- other) instruments. In particular, we are looking for opportunities to write as a group EBLM-focused articles for scientific journals – regionally and internationally, may be through the facility of the IFCC journal (and others).
4. It was suggested that we could circulate a questionnaire about knowledge and awareness of EBLM. Dr N Gimenez already has the nucleus of such a questionnaire that could be adapted by the group and circulated globally in many languages. As a group, we have the opportunity to make these connections and to gather a data set that would be of considerable interest.
5. Dr Hernan Taie (Argentina) continues to contribute his excellent Iberian Laboratory Medicine Radio Station that is broadcasted in Spanish. C-EBLM members have contributed to the programming of this effort and have provided several lectures.
6. It was also proposed that C-EBLM should have a presence on Facebook and other social media to provide broader access to relevant groups, such as younger scientists, and to advertise on-line courses and websites. It was agreed that this should be explored further.
7. Chris Florkowski has been invited to speak on POCT and EBLM in Warsaw, Poland 2016.

Publications:

- Coenzyme Q10 and congestive heart failure: An evolving evidence base. Christopher M Florkowski, Sarah L Molyneux, Joanna M Young. *Kardiologia Polska* 02/2015; 73(2):73-79. DOI:10.5603/KP.2015.
- Demand management: An audit of Pathology test rejections by an Electronic Gate-keeping System at an Academic Hospital in Cape Town. Ida Smit, Annalise E Zemlin, · Rajiv T Erasmus. *Annals of Clinical Biochemistry* 12/2014; 52(4). DOI:10.1177/0004563214567688.

- **Clinical Laboratory Management (C-CLM), by Sedef Yenice, Chair**

1. A meeting was held at EuroMedLab 2015 in Paris with Professor Dr Ganna Lunova, President of Association of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine of Ukraine (ACCLMU), Tanya Kheylomska, Head of Young Scientists Division and Kheilomsky Oleksandr, Head of Council and Subcommittee on Accreditation in Medicine of NAAU. It was discussed whether a training activity on the essentials of laboratory quality management and guidance on the preliminary aspects of accreditation based on ISO 15189 Medical Laboratories – Requirements for Quality and Competence could be arranged in association with the next national meeting of ACCLMU in April 2016 where around 1000 delegates are expected to participate. It was concluded that to have C-CLM assist the ACCLMU by providing training on setting up and implementation related to the clinical testing laboratory quality management programme ACCLMU should initiate an application for training support directly to IFCC EMD EC.
2. A workshop on “The Essentials of Quality Management in Clinical Laboratories” at the 4th AFCC Congress, Victoria Falls, ZW, was held on 27th April 2015 in Harare, Zimbabwe and approximately 50 delegates participated in the workshop. The faculty consisted of senior laboratory professionals from Australia and South Africa (V. Steenkamp, R Bais, T Pillay and RT Erasmus).
3. C-CLM teamed up with C-AQ to produce a joint publication on “Developing Quality Systems in the Clinical Laboratory”. The target audience of the monograph to be published by the end of 2016 are from the developing countries.
4. A laboratory questionnaire focusing on the assessment of quality management system in medical and clinical laboratories is in progress and will be finalised in January 2016.
5. The development of training modules was discussed during the meeting of C-CLM on 21st June 2015 in Paris. Dr. Graham Beastall suggested that C-CLM should develop training modules logically,

• **WG-Laboratory Errors and Patient Safety (WG-LEPS), by Laura Sciacovelli, Chair**

1. Continuous management of an External Quality Assurance Programme (EQAP) concerning the following Quality Indicators (QIs).
 - 45 QIs of Key Processes: 28 to monitor the pre-analytical phase; 6 the intra-analytical phase;; 11 the post-analytical phase.
 - 5 QIs of Support Processes
 - 3 Outcome Measures

The EQAP includes:

- registration of laboratories that require participation in the Programme;
- collection of QIs results through a dedicated website;
- elaboration of QIs results;
- evaluation of results using the Sigma metric;
- preparation of a periodic report for each participant;
- distribution of the report to all participant through the issuing in the dedicated website.

Participation is free and is open to all laboratories all over the world. Moreover, confidentiality of data is assured.

2. Analysis of Quality Indicators (QIs) data collected in EQAP in order to define a Model, consensually accepted, to be used in laboratories all over the world. The definition of the QIs Model includes the use of the same quality indicators, a uniform method of data collection and a centralised elaboration.
3. Identification of Quality Specifications (goals to be achieved) for each Quality Indicator to make easier the interpretation of QIs results and identify the action priorities.
4. Encouragement of laboratories all over the world to enrol in the project. Identifying national leaders to coordinate the participation in the project of laboratories of its country, contribute to the results management of their laboratories and of the information provided in the reports.
5. Arrangement of a Consensus Conference in order to release a Model of Quality Indicators fully accepted by laboratories, if possible in October 2016.

Publications:

- Sciacovelli L, Aita A, Padoan A, Pelloso M, Antonelli G, Piva E, Chiozza ML, Plebani M. Performance criteria and quality indicators for the post-analytical phase. Clin Chem Lab Med. 2015 Dec 10. pii:/j/cclm.ahead-of-print/cclm-2015-0897/cclm-2015-0897.xml. doi: 10.1515/cclm-2015-0897. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 26656613.
- Plebani M, Sciacovelli L, Aita A, Pelloso M, Chiozza ML. Performance criteria and quality indicators for the pre-analytical phase. Clin Chem Lab Med. 2015; 53: 943-8.

• **WG-Cancer Genomics (WG-CG), by Jason Park, Chair and Paolo Fortina, Co-Chair**

1. Symposium for 14th APFCB Congress 2016 was accepted on Clinical Cancer Genomics.
 - a. Paolo Fortina, Emerging Technologies for Clinical Cancer Genomics
 - b. Dr David H Wang, Using Clinical Genomics to Manage and Treat Patients with Cancer
 - c. Jason Park, Standards for Cancer Genomic Clinical Laboratories
2. A presentation to the IFCC General Conference will be made on March 19, 2016. Jason Park and Paolo Fortina will present on “Cancer Genomics: Revolution in Medical Practice”.
3. The second meeting of the working group is scheduled to be in conjunction with the IFCC General Conference 2016 on Friday, March 18 in Madrid, Spain where the summary draft manuscript of existing cancer genomics standards will be reviewed for consensus prior to publication.
4. Financial support for the working group has been received from Softgenetics and Affymetrix.
5. Publications
 - IFCC eNews on Cancer Genomics, March – April 2015, written by Jason Park and Paolo Fortina.
 - Draft manuscript on Cancer Genomics Standards is in preparation.

- **WG-Harmonisation of Interpretive Comments External Quality Assurance (WG-ICQA)**

Established in 2015, by Samuel Vasikaran, Chair

1. To bring together representatives of current and potential organisers of national EQA schemes for Interpretive Comments (IC) and experts in the area.
2. Develop harmonised goals for EQA of IC. Goals of EQA of interpretative comments have been discussed among the WG.
3. Devise standard methods of assessment, nomenclature and marking scales for EQA of IC. Methods of assessment, nomenclature and marking scales for EQA of interpretative commenting have been discussed among the WG.
4. Seeking input from similar schemes in other Pathology disciplines such as Histopathology. This is underway with the RCPA histopathology EQA group.
5. A first draft of a paper canvassing the issues under activities 2 and 3 is being prepared by the Chair as a tool for seeking input from and stimulating discussion among WG members.

Publications:

- Vasikaran S. IFCC Working Group for Harmonisation in the Operation of Interpretive Comments External Quality Assessment Schemes (WG-ICQA). IFCC e-Newsletter May-June 2015; 7-8.

IFCC Visiting Lecturer Programme (IFCC-VLP), by Elizabeth Frank, Chair

Sixteen VLPs took place in 2015.

- **WG-Working Group on Flow Cytometry (WG-FC), by Ulrich Sack, Chair**

1. The annual flow cytometry workshop took place from October 27 to 29 2015 in Athens, Greece. The established principle was continued: intense interaction between participants and trainers; 3 topics a day with short introduction and extensive practical exercises; 3 days duration; and emerging and relevant scientific topics with clinical impact for daily practice.
2. International flow cytometry courses are being prepared outside Europe. Contacts with colleagues from Rio de Janeiro (BR), and Sao Paulo (BR), and Cordoba (ARG) ended up with the option of a first Latin American Course in Argentina in March 2016.
3. In 2015, an additional workshop was offered under IFCC auspices in Krems, Austria. From May 7 to 8, "Extracellular Vesicles in Inflammation" was the topic of a meeting. Speakers were Philip D. Stahl (St. Louis, USA), Ciro Tetta (Torino, IT), Eva Pállinger (Budapest, HU), Christoph Binder (Vienna, A), Giovanni Camussi (Torino, IT), Peter Altevogt (Heidelberg, D), Johannes Thaler (Vienna, A), Carla Tripisciano (Krems, A), Alain Brisson (Bordeaux, F), Gerd Schmitz (Regensburg, D), Lukas Wisgrill (Vienna, A), Andreas Spittler and René Weiss (Vienna, A). Besides cutting edge presentations on this topic, practical exercises were offered to the attendees.
4. An Italian scientist, Alessandro de Stefano from Rome was awarded an IFCC educational grant and spent 3 months in Ulrich Sack's institute for professional training in immunodeficiency analysis.

Developing Quality Competence in Medical Laboratories (DQCML), by Michael Thomas, Chair

1. Support was provided to the President of the Sociedad Ecuatoriana de Bioquímica, Ecuador for the delivery of a 2-day Quality Control workshop in February 2015. A second workshop was held in Riobamba, Ecuador on 28th and 29th February 2015. The course was presented in Spanish by Ana Lucia Aguirre-Mejia, from Quality Consulting Co. and organised under the auspices of SEBIOCLI by former president Cecilia Paula.
2. The presentations associated with the Ecuador Workshops were provided in Spanish and therefore inappropriate to go on the main IFCC web site. A request to publish them under the Spanish Section of the IFCC website, Rincón Iberoamericano has not been realised.
3. Support was offered for the EQA Zambia Project being led by Dr Renze Bais. Funding of EQA material (AUD 3,400) to support the project from the DQCML budget was granted for one year.
4. The IFCC Past President, Dr Graham Beastall, is to undertake a DQCML-funded scoping visit to Malawi to assess the needs of improving quality in laboratory medicine. The visit will also assess the potential for and practicability of a pilot EQA scheme similar to that in Zambia. Hilary Lumano from Zambia will join Dr Beastall on the visit.

IFCC Mentoring Programme, by Donald Young, Chair

There are currently 16 mentors and 26 mentees (Associates) in the programme. Several pending mentors are from Spanish-speaking Latin America who were nominated by Rosa Sierra Amor, but more potential mentors and mentees are needed to enable good matches based on interests. A SurveyMonkey survey conducted early in 2015 indicated general satisfaction with the programme. A report of the mentoring programme was published in IFCC eNews early in 2015. The burden on any one mentee remains small so Prof Young will raise the number of mentees that can be managed by any one mentor to 5 (instead of the current 3). Prof Young has been promoting WHO-AFRO's SLIPTA programme to the countries in which the mentoring programme has been operating as a resource to provide a guide towards accreditation.

Education in the Use of Biomarkers in Diabetes (C-EUBD), by Garry John, Chair

A new committee on Education in the Use of Biomarkers in Diabetes (C-EUBD) was approved by the IFCC EB in 2015. The Committee is operational from 1st January 2016.

Leslie Lai, EMD Chair

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS DIVISION (CPD)

During 2015, the following members served on the CPD Executive Committee: Khosrow Adeli (CA, Chair), Edgard Delvin (CA, Vice Chair/Public Relations Coordinator), Peter Vervaart (AU, Publications/Distance Learning Coordinator), Tahir Pillay (ZA, News Editor), G. L. Kovács (HU, Editor eJIFCC), and Bruce Jordan (CH Corporate Representative). Janine Grant (AU, Website Editor), Maria del Carmen Pasquel (EQ, WG- IANT Chair), Ellis Jacobs (US, IFCC Labs are Vital representative) and Anthony Newman (NL, Publications consultant) were invited to attend the CPD meeting in Paris, on occasion of EuroMedLab 2015.

- Two face-to-face committee meetings were held in 2015: Paris, (FR) in June, Quito (EC) in September
- CPD organized a very successful journal editors and publishers meeting during the recent IFCC EuroMedLab congress with more than 25 journal representatives in attendance from several IFCC member countries
- New agreement with Insoft is for eAcademy, released in Paris, cost supported by Siemens and shared with EMD
- Major improvements have been implemented to both the IFCC eNews and the eJournal. Publication formats as well as news/scientific content have been enhanced considerably over the past year
- Diagnostico in Vitro - DiV, was re-styled completely by the WG IANT and was successfully launched
- A CPD symposium was organized at the EuroMedLab 2015 in Paris, on “Value and impact of laboratory medicine in patient care: what is the evidence?”
- A joint C-IeL and C-DL symposium was organized at the EuroMedLab 2015 in Paris, on “The IFCC eAcademy?”
- A CPD symposium was organized at the COLABIOCLI 2015 in Quito, on “Advances in Paediatric Laboratory Medicine”
- Proposal to EB on TF ICO findings, further to the eJIFCC themed, to include developing studies of clinical utility of e.g. biomarkers; the slide presentation based on Dr Hallworth paper in Clinical Chemistry “The value of laboratory medicine” is now posted on the IFCC website.
- A new Publications Guidelines document was developed and presented at the Paris Editors meeting for discussion: it was well received and will soon be finalized for distribution.
- A new web maintenance contract has been signed with Insoft Digital to ensure support and maintenance of the IFCC website
- The 2015-2017 version of the Handbook has been completed and made available on both a USB stick and the IFCC website.

Committee on Public Relations (C-PR), by Edgard Delvin, Chair

There has been one C-PR meeting in Paris in June, to which all the Committee Members, as well as some of the Corresponding Members and Federations Advisors were in attendance; in May 2015 after a call for nominations, Dr Krintus (PL) replaced Dr Zemlin, who became member of the C-EBLM.

Two Advisors for the AFCC and NAFCC are now part of the C-PR. They are Prof. Okesina, from Nigeria and Dr Kinniburgh from Canada.

PR DELIVERABLES

Thanks to the cooperation of many National Representatives and of Dr Jordan, CPD Corporate Representative, the IFCC Brochures are now available in 13 languages. The PR brochure “Understanding Laboratory Medicine” is under revision.

The IFCC presentation is continuously updated by the IFCC office. The “Understanding Laboratory Medicine” slide kit has been revised and published on the website. Contact with C/WG Chairs to ask documents produced by their respective Functional Units that could serve as material for PR purposes. The IFCC handbook has been updated and a print version was available for the EuroMedLab. The electronic version is also available on the IFCC website.

A draft of Proposal, accepted by the C-PR members, for a worldwide promotion of IFCC documents and activities has been discussed during the CPD-EC meeting in Quito.

A CPD Annual Survey has been planned for year 2016.

LABS ARE VITAL CONSORTIUM

The Board will hold regular conference calls for the Board Meeting, to which the C-PR Chair will participate as Clinical Editor on behalf of the IFCC.

THE 1ST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON PERSONALIZED HEALTH CARE

This event will be held in Montreal in June 2016. It may be a good forum to promote the added value of laboratory medicine in a rapidly expanding field. An abstract will be submitted for oral presentation at a session aiming on Education to Public, Professionals and Decision Makers. The opportunity to include some pamphlet on IFCC is also envisaged.

• Committee on Internet and e-Learning (C-leL), by Peter Vervaart, Chair

The C-leL continues to work closely with the Committee for Distance Learning and Insoft in developing electronic/distance learning materials and access for IFCC members utilising the 'e-Academy'. Jointly the C-leL and C-DL continue to work on the development of the eAcademy, whose Stage 1 has been release at the EuroMedLab meeting in Paris.

The Facebook group is now growing at a rapid pace and has >7500 members and the company page has >5400 likes. The Twitter feed has 333 followers and the Social Media Coordinator continues to tweet about IFCC activities. E. Freggiaro, P. Kocna and H. Sakamoto have been proposed to extend their position for a second term.

PUBLICATIONS

The database (available on the website) continues to be updated as publications are forthcoming.

SILVER BOOK

The "Silver Book" draft: Compendium of Terminology and Nomenclature of Properties in Clinical Laboratory Sciences (IUPAC and IFCC Recommendations) underwent public review and it's almost ready for release.

WEB SITE

The website continues to develop under the tutelage of Insoft, our website vendor. After the new Events calendar format to optimise the features available including download of events to major calendar clients (eg iCal), the next enhancements will be the production of an App.

Updates to look of the IFCC Media front page buttons to RIA, eIMicroscopio, eJIFCC and eNews. New front page button linking to Regional Federations to reflect the enhanced relationships.

eAcademy: Added all topics from C-DL survey. Added 3 new events (Vietnam CPC 2015, AACB ASM Bone seminar 2015, EFLM e-seminars). Added associated content files (10 webinar video files and 5 external links) and added authors including photos.

Updates to RIA pages ongoing in conjunction with WG-IANT.

The Policy and Procedure guidelines for IFCC functional unit web pages are currently in preparation and will be soon available.

Review of the most recent 12 months to date continue to indicate an increase Web traffic (sessions + 19%) over the previous period. Google Analytics now provides more information on user demographics.

• Working Group on Electronic Journal of the IFCC (WG-eJIFCC), by Gabor Kovacs, Chair

New position of an assistant editor: Bhattoa Harjit Pal (HU) was co-opted in the editorial board as the assistant editor of the e-journal. New editorial board members: Mike Hallworth (UK), Peter Vervaart (AU), Andrea Rita Horvath (AU), Maria del Carmen Pasquel Carrera (EC)

INDEXING EJIFCC IN PUBMED CENTRAL

A number of technical questions (e.g. sequential numbering, past issues, etc.) with the PMC upload had to be decided internally; these issues have been solved by INSOFTEC and SUNTEC. The upload process will take place in January 2016.

EDITORIAL BOARD MEETING

An EB meeting was organized in Paris. It was well attended, with more than 50 % of the members present. The EB has discussed the content of the future issues and the structure of the journal.

Volumes of the eJIFCC in 2015/2016

VOLUME 1/2015: This themed issue of the journal is focused around the impact of laboratory medicine on clinical management and patient outcomes. (Guest editor: Mike Hallworth). The issue deals with

the systematic evidence of the contribution of laboratory medicine to the clinical process, in view of the multitude of factors that are involved in reaching a diagnosis or planning treatment for an individual: [http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-communications-publications-division-\(cpd\)/ifcc-publications/ejifcc-\(journal\)/e-journal-volumes/ejifcc2015vol26/ejifcc-vol-26-no-1/](http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-communications-publications-division-(cpd)/ifcc-publications/ejifcc-(journal)/e-journal-volumes/ejifcc2015vol26/ejifcc-vol-26-no-1/):

- Measuring the impact of laboratory medicine on clinical management and patient outcomes. Mike Hallworth
- Diagnostic errors and laboratory medicine – causes and strategies. Mario Plebani
- Towards better test utilization – strategies to improve physician ordering and their impact on patient outcomes. Danielle B. Freedman
- Collaborating with international clinical organizations. Howard A. Morris
- The impact for patient outcomes of failure to follow up on test results. How can we do better? Joanne Callen, Andrew Georgiou, Julie Li, Johanna I Westbrook
- The clinical and health economic value of clinical laboratory diagnostics Bruce Jordan, Cheryl Mitchell, Andy Anderson, Norbert Farkas, Richard Batrla
- Evaluating biomarkers for guiding treatment decisions. Patrick M. Bossuyt, Parvin Tajik

VOLUME 2/2015: regular (non-themed) issue: [http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-communications-publications-division-\(cpd\)/ifcc-publications/ejifcc-\(journal\)/e-journal-volumes/ejifcc2015vol26/ejifcc-vol-26-no-2/](http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-communications-publications-division-(cpd)/ifcc-publications/ejifcc-(journal)/e-journal-volumes/ejifcc2015vol26/ejifcc-vol-26-no-2/):

- Prostate cancer genetics: a review. Christopher J.D. Wallis, Robert K. Nam
- Metabolomics and its application to the development of clinical laboratory tests for prostate cancer. Jonathan E. McDunn, Steven M. Stirdivant, Lisa A. Ford, Robert L. Wolfert
- Testosterone deficiency – establishing a biochemical diagnosis. Yonah Krakowsky, Ethan D. Grober
- Clinical relevance of trace bands on serum electrophoresis in patients without a history of gammopathy. TanYa Gwathmey, Monte Willis, Jason Tatreau, Shaobin Wang, Christopher McCudden

VOLUME 3/2015: FOCUSING ON GUIDELINES FOR LABORATORY MEDICINE AND BIOMARKERS.

Guest editor of the issue: Andrea Rita Horvath (AU): [http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-communications-publications-division-\(cpd\)/ifcc-publications/ejifcc-\(journal\)/e-journal-volumes/ejifcc2015vol26/ejifcc-vol-26-no-3/](http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-communications-publications-division-(cpd)/ifcc-publications/ejifcc-(journal)/e-journal-volumes/ejifcc2015vol26/ejifcc-vol-26-no-3/):

- Are guidelines guiding us on how to utilize laboratory tests? Guest Editor: Andrea R. Horvath
- Defining the path forward: guidance for laboratory medicine guidelines Stephen E. Kahn, Patricia M. Jones, Alex C. Chin, Robert H. Christenson
- Grading evidence for laboratory test studies beyond diagnostic accuracy: application to prognostic testing Andrew C. Don-Wauchope, Pasqualina L. Santaguida
- Evidence and cost effectiveness requirements for recommending new biomarkers. Paul Collinson
- How useful are laboratory practice guidelines? S. Misra, K. Moberg-Aakre, M. Langlois, J. Watine, P.J. Twomey, W.P. Oosterhuis, J.H. Barth

VOLUME 4/2015 “LABORATORY MEDICINE PERSPECTIVES FROM LATIN AMERICA”.

The CPD 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) was presented to help publicize the journal among laboratory specialists in Latin American countries.

Guest editors: Rosa Sierra-Amor (MX) and Maria del Carmen Pasquel Carrera (EC): [http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-communications-publications-division-\(cpd\)/ifcc-publications/ejifcc-\(journal\)/e-journal-volumes/ejifcc2015vol26/ejifcc-vol-26-no-4/](http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-communications-publications-division-(cpd)/ifcc-publications/ejifcc-(journal)/e-journal-volumes/ejifcc2015vol26/ejifcc-vol-26-no-4/):

- Foreword of the editor. Gábor L. Kovács
- Prólogo del editor. Gábor L. Kovács
- Laboratory medicine in Latin America. Guest Co-editor: Rosa I. Sierra-Amor
- El laboratorio clínico en América Latina. Co-editor invitado: Rosa I. Sierra-Amor
- The XXII COLABIOCLI Congress. Guest Co-editor: María del Carmen Pasquel Carrera
- XXII Congreso COLABIOCLI. Co-editor invitado: María del Carmen Pasquel Carrera
- Quality management systems in the clinical laboratories in Latin America. Alba C. Garzon
- Sistemas de gestión en el laboratorio clínico en Latinoamérica. Alba C. Garzon

- External quality assessment schemes in Latin America. Gabriel Alejandro Migliarino
- Esquemas de evaluación externa de la calidad en América Latina. Gabriel Alejandro Migliarino
- Laboratory accreditation in Argentina. María Amelia Acuña, Cesar Collino and Gustavo A. Chiabrando
- Acreditación de laboratorios clínicos en Argentina. María Amelia Acuña, Cesar Collino and Gustavo A. Chiabrando
- The accreditation experience of clinical laboratories and blood banks in Mexico. Sandra Quintana
- Experiencia en la acreditación de laboratorios clínicos y bancos de sangre en México. Sandra Quintana
- Experience of implementing ISO 15189 accreditation at a university laboratory. Patricia Solis-Rouzant
- Experiencia en la implementación de la acreditación ISO 15189 en un laboratorio universitario. Patricia Solis-Rouzant
- Quality control in screening for infectious diseases at blood banks. Rationale and methodology. Amadeo Sáez-Alquezar, Pedro Albajar-Viñas, André Valpassos Guimarães and José Abol Corrêa
- Control de calidad en el tamizaje para enfermedades infecciosas en bancos de sangre. ¿Por qué? y ¿cómo? Amadeo Sáez-Alquezar, Pedro Albajar-Viñas, André Valpassos Guimarães and José Abol Corrêa
- Recent advances in the laboratory diagnosis of tuberculosis. Rommy Teran and Jacobus H. de Waard
- Recientes avances en el diagnóstico de tuberculosis en el laboratorio clínico. Rommy Teran and Jacobus H. de Waard
- Neonatal screening - Its importance and impact in Latin America. Graciela Queiruga
- Pesquisa neonatal - Porque es importante hacerla y su impacto en América Latina. Graciela Queiruga

• **Working Group on IFCC News (WG-eNews), by Tahir Pillay, Chair**

There are currently 25 representatives in the working group with 9 national society liaisons.

A working group meeting was held in Paris at Palais des Congrès de Paris on 22 June 2015. The next meeting of the eNews working group is likely to take place during WorldLab 2017 in Durban, although depending on how many members attend the IFCC general conference, we will attempt to schedule a meeting then.

At the last working group meeting in Paris, the following items were discussed.

1. Report-back from the CPD executive committee.
2. Format and presentation of the newsletter
 - a. There was a discussion of the uniformity of the layout of the newsletter. We have tended to divide the articles into section based on feedback received and this has been kept constant.
 - b. Occasional articles have also been published in Spanish and French.
 - c. Content: The newsletter now provides regular updates of the structure and strategy of the IFCC. Working groups and divisions and several of these have now appeared.
 - d. Issue of Book reviews: There have also been several book reviews in the journal.
 - e. We also discussed the issue of limiting the length of articles for future newsletters.
3. Corporate opinion is also being sought for the working group. Bruce Jordan is currently the corporate representative and will be invited to join the next meeting of the WG eNews.
4. There was a discussion of whether companies should be profiled. Many corporate members either advertise or are profiled when they become corporate members.

The newsletter is published bi-monthly and there is always a steady flow of articles; there is always a substantial number of items to publish and this often requires considerable editing. Requests for articles are sent out to all eNewsletter WG members, National Societies liaisons, Division Chairs and National Representatives. A regular and popular feature of the newsletter is still the IFCC Young Scientists task force, PSEP reports, as well as the IFCC Travel Scholarships. This helps to highlight the contribution of the IFCC to international clinical chemistry across the world and has also ensured that contributions from members continue to come to the newsletter.

RELATIONSHIP WITH LABMEDICA INTERNATIONAL

Arda Turac at LabMedica International (LMI) receives a regular supply of newsletters- LMI prints a selection of the articles. The eNews editor is on the editorial board of LabMedica which includes other members such as Jocelyn Hicks, Gerard Siest, Christopher Price, Bernard Gouget, Claus Christensen, Rosa Sierra-Amor and Andreas Rothstein. Membership in the board carries no obligation, but facilitates communication or input regarding various aspects of the publication's and website's editorial content. LabMedica is also starting a series of viewpoint columns where, a few times a year areas of significance can be addressed.

ENEWS FLASH

The WG will launch a bimonthly eNews flash to be sent to the IFCC mailing list subscribers to increase the flow of communications. It will include short news briefs and 1-line items with a hyperlink referring to the specific news item.

Working Group – Spanish (Ibero-American) Nomenclature and Translations, by Maria del Carmen Pasquel, Chair

The WG activities were focused on the update of the RIA section of the website, on the successful COLABIOCLI congress held in Quito, Ecuador, in September 2015. The logo was restyled and it is published on the IFCC home page.

DIAGNOSTICO IN VITRO (DIV)

The first issue was successfully launched in October 2015. It is completely in Spanish, it has the same format as the IFCC eNewsletter and eJournal; there will be two or three issues/year. Among its sections it will feature the best El Microscopio Radio interviews.

EL MICROSCOPIO

The online radio programmes are regularly broadcasted and some of them are in English, for a broader circulation.

Corporate Member Activities – Bruce Jordan

Bruce Jordan (Roche Diagnostics) is a very active participant in the CPD EC and has provided great support for development and design of PR tools/documents such as slide kits and brochures. He will help out with several communication tools for the IFCC GC such as posters on promotion of eAcademy and IFCC History.

Khosrow Adeli, CPD Chair

TASK FORCES

Task Force on Ethics (TF-E)

Achievements during 2015:

- Survey of teaching of ethics published Clin Chim Acta 2015;442:115-118
- Updated white paper on publications ethics on the IFCC website with more links to regional and local resources link.
- Produce a draft chapter on Ethics for the IFCC Handbook, in final editing stages now
- Created a symposium proposal on Ethics for the General Conference (Madrid, ES) and the next Euromedlab Congress (Greece 2017)
- Creating 3 ethics teaching modules “Pearls” for Clinical Chemistry Trainee Council website. One is completed, two are in progress.

Plans for 2016:

- ◆ Create Ethics “toolbox” for Member Societies

Points for attention of IFCC Executive Board:

- ◆ The TF requests feedback from the EB on its implementation of the EB’s new Policy on Conflict of Interest.

Ann Gronowski, Chair

Task Force on Paediatric Laboratory Medicine (TF-PLM)

Achievements for 2015

- 1) Planning for XIV ICPLM in Durban ZA: venue, Symposia topics, chairs and co-chairs determined
- 2) Circulation of Survey Monkey regarding laboratory management of paediatric critical risk results. Report to be presented in Madrid 2016.
- 3) Further discussion regarding Alkaline Phosphatase replacement therapy.
- 4) Discussion with Prof. Ichihara of Reference Intervals and Decision Limits (C-RIDL) regarding collaboration in regard to reference interval development held in Paris 2015.
- 5) Discussion with Communications and Publications Division (CPD) regarding p(a)ediatric focused issue of eJIFCC.
- 6) Discussion of preparation of webinars for eAcademy of the IFCC.

Michael Metz, Chair

Task Force on Pharmacogenomics (TF-PG)

ACTIVITIES 2015

Organisational: 1. Filling TF-PG vacancy by Prof Dr Mark Linder, Louisville, USA (approved by IFCC); 2. Establishment European Pharmacogenetics Implementation Consortium (Eu-PIC): 106 participants, 37 Institutes covering 18 European Countries (www.eu-pic.net); 3. Participation in the AACC Personalized Medicine Division; 4. European Medicine Agency (EMA) participation at the Pharmacogenetic Working Group: the IFCC/ESPT/Eu-PIC initiative was presented (June and December meetings); 5. IFCC representation at the ESPT Budapest meeting (http://www.esptcongress.eu/espt_auspi.php); 6. Representation of IFCC TF-PG at the IATDMCT Rotterdam (www.iatdmct.org); 7. Starting of a PGx network in the Netherlands (www.pgx-net.nl); 8. Participation in the KNMP Dutch Pharmacogenetic working Group on generating PGx dosing guidelines. This initiative will be broadend to Europe.

Education: 1. Organizing International PGx symposium under auspices of IFCC in Istanbul (April 1-3, 2015); <http://www.appm2015istanbul.org/scientific.html>; 2. Establishment of a TF-PG Session at IFCC EuroMedLab in Paris 2014 (130 attendees)

Research: 1. HORIZON2020 grant application for PGx implementation in Europe (€ 15 million), with IFCC as partner. Budget for IFCC use: € 150.000. Was not funded; **2.** Another HORIZON2020 application for implementing Pharmacogenetics was approved (U-PGX) (€ 15 million), and is lead by TF-PG Task Force member Prof Dr Guchelaar (NL) .

Guidelines: 1. Contacts with President of European Psychiatry Association for guideline PGx testing for Psychiatry; **2.** Invites to the Presidents of the European Society for Cardiology, Oncology and Internal Medicine were sent in April and May for drafting guidelines with IFCC on PGx implementation. No reply received yet; **3.** Drafting letter to the editor on the European Society of Cardiology Guidelines regarding PGx testing for clopidogrel; **4.** Participation as IFCC TF-PG in the international Nomenclature Committee ADME gene, published in 2015: Kalman et al CPT

ACTIVITIES 2016

Organisational: 1. Organizing Eu-PIC/IFCC/ESPT network meeting (Rotterdam (May 26-27)); **2.** Further collaboration with the IFCC C-MD (chair: dens Payne) on Expertcenters Pharmacogenetics and dissemination of knowledge; **3.** Investigating organization of a PGx seminar in Washington, involving/ accessible for US Congress members (with AACC PM Division); **4.** Extend the TF-PG with one young scientist; **5.** TF-PG meeting in Madrid during General Assembly (March)

Education: **1.** Organize a PGx Workshop at the IFCC 2016 Madrid meeting; **2.** Organizing speakers and topics for Athens 2017 EuroMedlab and Durban 2017 Worldlab for updating IFCC members on latest PGx developments

Research: 1. Investigate 2016 grant opportunities with IFCC as partner (Eu-PIC May 26)

Guideline development: 1. Publish guideline paper on CYP2D6/psychiatry in collaboration with EPA; **2.** Publish a guideline paper on standards for PGx testing; **3.** Investigate the feasibility of a guideline paper of CYP2D6/tamoxifen and with the European Society for Oncology; **4.** Reevaluate and update TPMT guideline for publication; **5.** Investigate the feasibility of a guideline paper as follow up to the ESC guidelines on clopidogrel/CYP2C19 testing recommendations; **6.** Investigating further collaborations with IUPHAR, Genomic medicine Alliance and IATDMCT (guidelines)

Expected publications 2016: 1. Comment EHJ on ESC guidelines involving CYP2C19 testing/ clopidogrel; **2.** Guideline for Capecitabine/DPYD testing with the European Soc Oncology; **3.** Guideline for TPMT/azathioprine testing; **4.** Guideline on PGx testing procedures

Points for attention of IFCC Executive Board: Approval to extend the TF-PG with one additional member, being a young scientist, currently missing from this committee.

Publications

- 1. Pharmacogenetic Allele Nomenclature: International Workgroup Recommendations for Test Result Reporting.** Kalman LV(, AgÃandez JA, Appell ML, Black JL, Bell GC, Boukouvala S, Bruckner C, Bruford E, Bruckner C, Caudle K, Coulthard S, Daly AK, Del Tredici AL, den Dunnen JT, Drozda K, Everts R, Flockhart D, Freimuth R, Gaedigk A, Hachad H, Hartshorne T, Ingelman-Sundberg M, Klein TE, Lauschke VM, Maglott DR, McLeod HL, McMillin GA, Meyer UA, MÃller DJ), Nickerson DA, Oetting WS, Pacanowski M, Pratt VM, Relling MV, Roberts A, Rubinstein WS, Sangkuhl K, Schwab M, Scott SA, Sim SC, Thirumaran RK, Toji LH, Tyndale R, van Schaik RH, Whirl-Carrillo M, Yeo KJ, Zanger UM. Clin Pharmacol Ther. 2015 Oct 19. doi: 10.1002/cpt.280.
- 2. European Society Cardiology (ECS) Guidelines for management of ACS on clopidogrel: a conflict with FDA and EMA recommendations?** RHN van Schaik, M Ingelman-Sundberg, J Stingl, A Llerena, GI Patrinos, M Ferrari, M Pazzagli, G Siest , M Paulmichl (submitted).

Ron van Schaik, Chair

Task Force on Chronic Kidney Disease (TF-CKD) (joint with WASPaLM)

No activities carried out in 2015; new Chair appointed in 2016: Flavio F. Alcantara (BR)

Task Force for Young Scientists (TF-YS)

ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2015:

- 1. Members Meeting:** TF-YS has a network of representatives in 30 countries, including 7 Core and 25 Corresponding members. They meet regularly 'online' to review progress and plan activities.
- 2. Education and Training:** TF-YS organised and presented sessions at five conferences during the year: 1. AFCC Congress in Harare - 'Training the next generation'; 2. Three sessions during EuroMedLab in Paris – 'Workforce preparation: invitation to contribute'; 'Collaboration between industry and research in the laboratory'; 'Youth network and social dinner'; 3. COLABICLI Congress in Quito – first networking session in Latin America; 4. Two sessions at ACBICON 2015 in Chandigarh – 'Medical writing and CME'; 'ACBI-IFCC Awards for research, based on papers presented by YS'; 5. WASPaLM Congress in Cancun – 'Young specialists in lab medicine of the future: preparing together.'; 6. In addition a webinar was organised in collaboration with the Croatian Society for Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine.
- 3. Web-based Activities:** The TF-YS webpage has been updated throughout the year to reflect the recent and forthcoming activities.
- 4. Networking:** To increase participation between TF-YS and IFCC activities and promote exchange of information networking has been undertaken, including: **1.** Social Media for networking: yahoo group, twitter, facebook, LinkedIn; **2.** Article, Newsletters published in IFCC, LabMedica, APFCB, ACBI news; **3.** Regular meetings and exchange of information; **4.** Team Online: www.infobioquimica.com
- 5. Other Projects: Global "IFCC TF-YS Survey":** An online questionnaire has been distributed globally to YS to learn about the diversity of opportunities and challenges in the profession. Results will be published in 2016; TF-YS Mentorship Programme: A phase I interview has been published. This project aims to emphasise the importance of mentorship and give examples of good practice; Research Booklet: A research booklet is in preparation with senior members of IFCC & APFCB to promote good practice in research in laboratory medicine. It will be published in both text and PowerPoint format in early 2016.

PLANS FOR 2016:

- 1. Education and Training:** TF-YS educational sessions will be presented at: 1. Two sessions at the IFCC General Conference in Madrid – 'Research as a career - YS perspective'; 'TF-YS meeting'; 2. ACBICON in India; 3. AMBICON in Guwahati, India; 4. In addition a session has been proposed for the APFCB Congress in Taipei
- 2. TF-YS Webinars:** A series of webinars to be initiated in education commencing before March 2016.
- 3. Website Update:** Second phase plans include an experts directory among YS; job opportunities; e-platform
- 4. El Microscopio Radio:** The TF-YS team will give an interview
- 5. Interview:** The TF-YS and YS in Latin American will give an interview that will be published YS to be published in DIV (Latin American magazine)
- 6. Financial Support:** TF-YS will examine ways to raise financial support for YS to enable more visibility and appreciation to their work. Considerations include travel support and registration fees.

Pradeep Kumar Dabla, Chair

Task Force on Clinical Applications of Cardiac Biomarkers (TF-CB)

Report of activities, year 2015

Following the topics contained in the previously redacted documents (Apple FS et al. Clin Chem 2012; 58:54-6; Apple FS et al. Clin Biochem 2015; 48:201-3), the TF-CB discussed and drafted a document that reviews the main features of both the high-sensitivity and the so-called “contemporary” cardiac troponin (cTn) assays. The aim of such document was to summarize in a very short format the existing evidence on the characteristics and clinical utilities of all currently existing cTn assays. The document is in its final round of discussion and once the content was fully agreed, it will be posted on the IFCC website.

At the same time, the TF-CB will discuss during the 2016 IFCC GC the appropriateness of developing a document, useful for diagnostic companies and laboratory professionals, which include the characteristics that a population should fulfill for being used in the calculation of a cTn 99th reference percentile. Up to date, this is a very confusing topic that could deeply affect the clinical utility of cTn assays.

Finally, two members of the TF-CB participated as speakers in the “IFCC PoCT International Symposium” held in Mexico on November 2015.

Jordi Ordoñez Llanos, Chair

Task Force on Point of Care Testing (TF-POCT)

Achievements in 2015: A POCT meeting was held as a satellite to the XXVIII World Congress of WASPaLM. This meeting was organised by TF-POCT in association with the IFCC Cardiac Biomarker Task Force, Mexican Association of Clinical Laboratory Sciences and the Federación Nacional de Químicos Clínicos (CONAQUIC). Although numbers were low the presentations will be uploaded to IFCC POCT web page making them available to all people interested in POCT. Excellent support was provided by industry making the meeting possible. Discussions have taken place on providing education for POCT Blood Gases and safe the use of POCT troponin assays. Regular teleconferences on improving POCT education and support for IFCC members.

Plans for 2016: Deliver comprehensive education on IFCC website on blood gases and how to set up a quality POCT framework. Publication on work performed by the How glucose meters should be evaluated in critical care working group. Establish guidelines on how POCT troponin should be used. Set up a group to establish a POCT adverse events database.

Rosy Tirimacco, Chair

Task Force on Proficiency Testing (TF-PT)

Achievements during 2015: 1. Second TF meeting during EuroMedLab 2015 congress in Paris; 2. Production of two draft documents: one entitled “Exploration and Clarification of Specifications for the TF-PT Project” containing analytically the terminology of the project and one entitled “Webpage IFCC Market Place Forum Supply and Demand EQA” describing the basic workflow diagram of the proposed application-database with various examples in a table form. 3. Meeting with EQALM in order to discuss our request of cooperation, to present the progress made from the TF-PT on his various projects, and to decide more common projects.

Plans for 2016-2017: **1.** To continue the implementation of the online **database - web application**, which for planning and implementation purposes, will be developed as two separate components: a. Database “*P*roviders – the list of all the Proficiency Testing (PT) providers’ information, entered directly by them or collated with help from the C-AQ, EQALM and maybe other partners (IVD companies etc). **b.** Database “*A*nalytes – comprising all the (orphan **or not**) *analytes* (i.e. parameters, tests) along with the corresponding matrixes (samples), measuring assays, instrumentation and methodologies, as updated, added and deleted from time to time. **2.** To co-organize along with EQALM a symposium on EQA issues at the next **EuroMedLab Athens 2017**. **3.** To further develop working relationships with the IFCC committees for Analytical Quality (C-AQ), Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (C-TLM) and Nomenclature, Properties and Units (C-NPU).

Alexander Haliassos, Chair

FEDERATIONS



APFCB

Asia-Pacific Federation of Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine

The APFCB has 17 Ordinary members, 4 Affiliate members and 19 Corporate members as of 1 January 2016.

Summary of APFCB activities

I. APFCB Education and Laboratory Management Committee (C-ELM)

Chair: Dr Tony Badrick (Australia)

i. IFCC-Abbott Visiting Lecturer for 2015 and 2016: Prof Howard Morris

Prof Howard Morris delivered his talks on vitamin D and bone disease in Hong Kong, Taiwan and Nanjing (China) in 2015.

ii. APFCB Travelling Lecturer for 2015 and 2016: Associate Prof Graham Jones

In 2015, Associate Prof Graham Jones spoke on the topic of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) in Singapore, Vietnam, India, China and Mexico (WASPaLM World Congress). He delivered his lectures in Hong Kong in January 2016 and will deliver a plenary lecture at the 14th APFCB Congress in 2016.

iii. Travel Scholarships

- a. Two APFCB-AACB Travel Scholarships were awarded to attend the AACB meeting in Sydney in 2015.
- b. Five APFCB-Siemens Travel Scholarships will be awarded to attend the 14th APFCB Congress in Taipei in November 2016 (see Young Scientists Competition).

iv. Future Courses and Congress Symposia and Workshops

- a. At the 14th APFCB Congress there will be a joint WASPaLM-APFCB Accreditation workshop, an APFCB Pre-analytical workshop and a hypothetical entitled "The Value of Pathology" organised by C-ELM and Roche to raise awareness of the importance of pathology testing.
- b. APFCB-Roche workshops/courses on Lean-Six Sigma for member societies, the first of which will be in Vietnam in 2016.
- c. Chemical Pathology Course, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2016.
- d. APFCB-sponsored symposium at the AACC 2016 Annual Meeting entitled "Addressing pre and post analytical issues in developing countries".

v. Interpretative comments programme

There were six cases in 2015. Another six cases are planned for 2016.

vi. Young Scientist Competition (coordinated by Dra Endang Hoyaranda)

This competition is open to all scientists under the age of 40 on 26 November 2016. Five short-listed young scientists based on their submitted scientific papers will be awarded APFCB-Siemens Travel Scholarships to present their papers orally at the 14th APFCB Congress. There will be first and second prizes awarded, sponsored by Siemens.

II. Scientific Committee (C-Sci)

Chair: Prof Kiyoshi Ichihara (Japan)

i. Regional reference interval study (chaired by Prof Kiyoshi Ichihara)

Teams in Nepal, Malaysia and Bangladesh have begun to conduct a study for derivation of country-specific reference intervals. A web-site was developed in June 2015 which provides

interactive viewing of information on sources of variations of reference values for 72 analytes:
<http://c-sci-apfcb.net/eblm/index.html>

ii. **New regional project on building a case record database of haematological malignancy (chaired by Prof Kiyoshi Ichihara)**

A new project of building a well-defined, case-record database of hematological malignancy in collaboration with four Asian countries: Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, Japan is being planned to explore possible country-specific differences in clinical and laboratory test results of the disorders.

iii. **Urine steroid metabolomic studies by gas chromatography mass spectrometry to aid the diagnosis of disorders of sex development in Vietnamese children (chaired by Dr Ronda Greaves)**

The project with the National Hospital of Pediatrics (NHP) is progressing well. From July 2015 NHP has been enrolled in the SKML programme for urine steroids and the 2015 material supplied has been used for evaluation of the method. The 2016 SKML enrolment will be used as a formal EQA to confirm on-going method performance. Once this has been established the reference interval and ratio studies will be performed.

iv. **Annual Vietnam Chemical Pathology Course conducted under APFCB auspices (organised by Dr Ronda Greaves)**

The 7th Vietnam Chemical Pathology Course (CPC) was conducted on 6th June 2015 in Ho Chi Minh City and on 9th June 2015 in Hanoi.

v. **Annual Vietnam Point of Care Testing Workshop (organised by Dr Ronda Greaves)**

The 3rd Vietnam Point of Care Patient Testing Workshop was conducted in Ho Chi Minh City on 11th June 2015 at the RMIT Vietnam Campus in District 3. On 12th June 2015 a POCT half-day seminar was conducted to present quality management solutions for POCT to senior hospital officials.

vi. **Regional project for harmonisation of mass spectrometry-based steroid assays (chaired by Dr Ronda Greaves)**

The establishment of the dihydrotestosterone (DHT) pilot programme within the RCPAQAP Endocrine programme was the primary focus of the 2015 harmonisation initiative. The working group obtained help from Prof Stefan Wudy (University Giessen Germany) to establish targets for DHT and other steroid analytes using GC-MS. These targets were successfully applied to DHT for the second cycle of 2015. This is the first EQA scheme to offer DHT to our knowledge worldwide.

vii. **APFCB Chronic Kidney Disease (chaired by Associate Prof Graham Jones)**

Amongst the countries where Associate Prof Graham Jones delivered his lectures on chronic kidney disease (CKD) it was noted that there is a great need for action in the area of CKD. In many laboratories, creatinine assays are not standardised, although doctors are calculating the eGFR based on the assumption of standardisation. While there appears to be excellent co-operation between some laboratories and their local clinical renal colleagues, there does not seem to be as much activity at the national organisation level. It is hoped that some of the presentations and discussions obtained through the APFCB Travelling Lectureship may promote these activities.

III. **Communications Committee (C-Comm)**

Chair: Prof Praveen Sharma (India)

i. **APFCB website**

The APFCB website (www.apfcb.org) is regularly updated with comprehensive information on the organisation and activities of APFCB and its member societies. There was an on-line live telecast on the APFCB website of the Vietnam CPC on 6th June 2015 which was viewed by almost 200 people across the Asia-Pacific Region.

ii. **APFCB e-News:**

The APFCB e-News is published online on the APFCB web-site.

IV. **Congress and Conferences Committee (C-CC)**

Chair: Joseph Lopez (Malaysia)

i. **14th APFCB Congress**

The 14th APFCB Congress will be held in Taipei from 26 till 29 November 2016. The theme of the congress is “Laboratory Medicine in Cloud”. There will be symposia and workshops sponsored by the APFCB, IFCC, WASPaLM, EFLM, NACCCA, AACCC and APFCB member societies.

ii. **Turning Science into Caring (TSIC)**

Abbott Laboratories has held TSIC meetings in the Asia-Pacific region in conjunction with the IFCC and APFCB with the aim of bringing laboratory and other healthcare professionals together to exchange information on trends in laboratory medicine. The 2015 TSIC was held in Bali, Indonesia from 2nd till 3rd December with the theme “Elevating the standard of patient care”.

iii. **Asia Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (APFCB)-Beckman Coulter (BC) Scientific Symposia**

These scientific symposia were held in Ho Chi Minh City on 8 October 2015

Prepared by Leslie Lai, President



COLABIOCLI

Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry

JANUARY – MARCH

Several business meetings of the COLABIOCLI Board were conducted. Visits to Uruguay for reviewing the financial resources at the COLABIOCLI Bank Account to develop the Third Educational Forum for the region.

APRIL

III Forum of Faculties of Chemistry Sciences for preparing Biochemists with equivalent titles from Latin America and the Caribbean.

This event was part of the “XIX Scientific Conference of the Venezuelan Society of Bioanalysts Specialists”, held in Caracas - Venezuela, on April 23 and 24, 2015. It was sponsored by COLABIOCLI with the participation of speakers from Venezuela, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras and Argentina. A considerable progress was made based on the agenda of the first and second forums that took place in Argentine and in Colombia. As a result, a document was elaborated entitled “Declaration of Caracas” including all the Universities integrating the network and in charged of teaching and training Clinical Biochemistry and equivalent qualifications from Latin America and the Caribbean.. A follow up activity on this topic was discussed during the XXII Latin American Congress of Clinical Biochemistry “Quito - Ecuador on September 2015.

MAY

VII Congress o Clinical Biochemistry- VIII Congress of Chemical Sciences.

This event was held between 7 and 9 May 2015, in Asunción, Paraguay, being organized for the Federation of Paraguayan Chemists and the Association of Paraguayan Biochemists. Carlos Navarro, President of COLABIOCLI was invited to lecture the plenary conference: “Biochemistry in Latin America” There were many attendees with the participation of lecturers from Paraguay, Brazil, Colombia, Spain, Chile and Argentine.

AUGUST

Art. 55 of the Statutes were accomplished and the COLABIOCLI Hymn creation was enabled, under Dr. Felix Acuña’s initiative. Artists and musicians from Santiago del Estero Province were invited to help; joining disinterestedly and with great pleasure developed a Hymn for COLABIOCLI. Lic. Carlos Alberto Artayer and Prof. Rodolfo Martín Bunge were the lyrics and music authors. The COLABIOCLI Hymn Project was reviewed during the meeting of the Executive Committee, where the COLABIOCLI Audit Commission also attended, and was held in Caracas – Venezuela during the “XIX Scientific Conference of the Venezuelan Society of Bioanalysts Specialists” (Abril 2015). Changes to the lyrics were made and implemented immediately.

On August 22nd, in the Auditorium of the Bicentennial Cultural Center of the city of Santiago del Estero Republic of Argentina, in the context of an important cultural event, the official presentation of the COLABIOCLI Hymn was achieved, being declared of a municipal interest throughout ordinance No. 5132/15. Provincial and municipal authorities, as well as directives of professional Argentinian organizations were present. Congratulation and support notes from several areas were received and communicated to the General Assembly in Quito, Ecuador.

SEPTEMBER

XXII LATIN AMERICAN CONGRESS OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY SCIENCES - COLABIOCLI 2015”

From September 24 to 26, 2015, and with great success “XXII Latin American Congress of Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Sciences - COLABIOCLI 2015” took place.

The following activities were developed:

PRE-CONGRESS WORKSHOPS

It was held on September 19-20 in Cuenca, Ecuador.

1"Advanced analytical techniques"

Lecturers: Gabriel Migliarino (AR), Benjamin Fernandez (CL) and Evangelina Hernandez (AR).
Participants: 90 Ecuadorian with representation of several other countries of the region.

And a replica of this WK was also organized during the COLABIOCLI Congress in Quito from September 22-23, and with the participation of Argentina, Chile, Peru, Guatemala, Mexico and Ecuador colleagues.

2" Biomarkers in cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases - Risk factors. Lecturers: Lidia Morisoli (AR) and Stella Daniele (AR). With the participation of attendees from Ecuador, Cuba, Venezuela and the United States.

CONGRESS WORKSHOPS:

1"New concepts, immune diagnosis and associated diseases" Lecturers: Lasta Maria (AR) And Liliana Roquel (AR)

2 Quality assurance in Stage Pre – Analytical Lecturers: Graciela Pennacchiotti (AR.) Silvia Benozzi (AR) Unger and Gisela (AR)

3 Preparation of Internal Auditors PNCQ

- For Auditors in the analytical phase for the clinical laboratories (Accreditation of clinical laboratories by ISO 15189) Conducted by Gabriel Lima Oliveira (BR), José Abol (BR), Andrea Piazza (BR), Karina Chavez of Aban (BO).
- For internal auditors. Computerized tool for quality management and accreditation (PNCQ Manager)
- Theoretical and practical training of internal auditors.

4 Quality control in clinical laboratory equipment FBA - control instruments Lecturers: Rosana Acheme Hometown (AR)

5 Hematology Lecturer: Enrique de Jesús González Cruz (MX). The Workshop included the following topics:

- Interpretation of histograms of automated equipment in the area of diagnostic hematology
- Erythroid Series: anemias, hemoglobinopathies Thalassemias
- White Series: Pathologies.
- Leukemias myeloid and lymphoid leukemias

REPORT OF THE XXII COLABIOCLI CONGRESS

During September 24- 26 , from 09h00 to 18h00 developed an extensive scientific agenda that included round tables, symposiums, lectures, mini-courses and plenary sessions. Participants from 22 COLABIOCLI confederated countries, in America, Europe, as well Africa and Asia, attended five rooms simultaneously so had updated topics covering all sciences and laboratory medicine. It was carried out with the scientific support of 70 foreign exhibitors and 30 prestigious professionals from Ecuador. It was sponsored by international organizations as IFCC, PAHO / WHO, AACC, Wallace Coulter Foundation, Foundation Wiener Lab, Argentina Biochemistry Foundation and COLABIOCLI. National bodies like Ecuadorian Accreditation Service (SAE), Ministry of Public Health (MSP) and was the Academic Endorsement of the Faculty of Chemical Sciences of the Central University of Ecuador and the University of Cuenca. Within the agenda of the congress, a Symposium of Neonatal Screening was also issued. This topic is part of the lines of work that COLABIOCLI has been promoting in its countries together with Quality, Accreditation, etc. In this opportunity the symposium took place with the following contributions: "Neonatal Screening: Advances in Uruguay" Dr. Graciela Queiruga (UY), "Metabolic Congenital Errors" . Dr. Tania Morales (EC). "Right Foot program – Ecuador" . Dr. Indira Elizabeth Proaño. - Ministry of Health Representative.

OPENING CEREMONY

At the opening ceremony participants were welcomed. A letter from the Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Quito, Dr. Mauricio Rodas was addressed the audience with the presence of Dr. Maurizio

Ferrari - President of IFCC, Dr. Carlos Navarro - President of COLABIOCLI, QF. Maria Saldarreaga - President of National SEBIOCLI, Dr. Jean Marc Gabastou - PAHO / WHO Representative, Dr. María del Carmen Pasquel. - President Organizing Committee.

Wiener Lab Award for the best research work was granted to Dr. Ana Isabel Sánchez Bermúdez (ES), with the topic. **“RAD51C assessment as a predictor of genetic susceptibility in families with hereditary breast and ovarian cancer syndrome”**. The award was delivered by Dr. John Thomas Nesprías, Wiener Lab Manager Product Team.

Dr Maria del Carmen Pasquel declared officially opened the XXII Latin American Congress of Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Sciences COLABIOCLI 2015, “From Equator to the Biochemistry of the new millennium”. In an emotional ceremony, COLABIOCLI Hymn was **played and sang by all the attendees**.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

IV Forum of Universities: Representatives from the Latin American Universities and the Caribbean Region attended the meeting that was chaired by Carlos Navarro - President of COLABIOCLI. – continuity was given to the previous agenda and topics of interest, such as curriculum career, accent credits for courses, academic mobility and strengthening of the Latin American Network of Faculties of Biochemistry or equivalent qualifications.

Workshop of Traceability, PTB and IFCC Committee for Traceability for laboratory medicine were the sponsors of this important workshop that was attended by representatives from Latin America, the Caribbean and European countries, and chaired by Prof. Lothar Siekmann.

COLABIOCLI Assembly. The Executive Committee held its General Assembly on September 25, presenting an activity report for the term 2013 to 2015; elections were also held during the Assembly, being the URUGUAY delegation elected as the one to leader COLABIOCLI for the term 2016-2017.

COLABIOCLI CONGRESS 2019. Panama was the country voted to host the XXIV Congress COLABIOCLI 2019. The delegates from Panama presented a preliminary scientific program, also they had a stand for tourism and information from the Panama Chamber of Commerce. The Ambassador of Panama in Ecuador accompanied the delegation to promote Panama to be chosen for the XXIV COLABIOCLI congress.

CLOSING CEREMONY

Maria Saldarreaga - President of National SEBIOCLI thanked all participants, exhibitors, industry for their valuable support helping to achieve a successful event. Cecilia Paula. - President of SEBIOCLI-Chimborazo, thanked for the important contribution of the industry with the success of EXPOLAB COLABIOCLI 2015, all companies in the category of Sponsor PLATINUM, GOLD, SILVER and STANDARD were acknowledged. A special tribute was given to Dr. Roberto Chediak, for his national and international contributions, he was SEBIOCLI President, and during his term, ECUADOR was accepted as affiliated Member in COLABIOCLI, taking place 43 years ago.

Wiener Foundation awarded the best posters presentations and SEBIOCLI grants during the closing ceremony. The winner was selected among 60 candidates. The Catholic University of Quito team was the winner with the topic: “Molecular Epidemiology of Klebsiella pneumoniae producing the blaKPC gene in strains of invasive samples of Ecuador”, Authors: Carolina E. Satan, Cordova .D, Tama- yo, Villacís. J, Villavicencio.F, Zabala.A, Reyes. J.

Special recognition received Anita Perez. - Executive Secretary of COLABIOCLI Congress and Maria del Carmen Pasquel for all their hard work that contributed to the success of the Congress, the appreciation was also for Rosa Velez. - Member of the Congress Scientific Committee.

The delegation of Uruguay introduced the new COLABIOCLI congress venue in Punta del Este, inviting participants to attend the next Congress COLABIOCLI 2017.

As well, a Young Scientist, Santiago Fares Taie, member of the IFCC YS TF introduced Maria del Carmen Pasquel to officially declare the closing of the XXII Congress COLABIOCLI.

Social and Cultural Activities

COLABIOCLI dinner and International authorities developed a mini city tour in Quito by night. Exhibitors and international authorities together with the Organizing Committee enjoyed the charm of the colonial town.

Latin Night music, folk group and an environment full of light, was accompanied by typical Ecuadorian

food being the Water Museum “YAKU” the most beautiful one for such a closing party.

OCTOBER- DECEMBER

COLABIOCLI Executive Board Meetings were conducted to delegate to the new elected board the institutional activities that remained.

DECEMBER 22nd, FIRST EXECUTIVE MEETING IN URUGUAY

A new Executive Committee came up with the following integration:

President: Dra. QF. Graciela Queiruga, PhD (UY)

Vice President: Dra. Q.F. Stella Raymondo, PhD (UY)

Secretary: BC Cecilia Queijo (UY)

Treasurer: Mc BC Paola Audicio, MSc (UY)

Vocal I : Dr. Alvaro Justiniano (BO)

Vocal II: Dra. Rosa Isabel Sierra Amor, PhD (MX)

Vocal III: Lic. Angelita Angeles (DO).

This Regional Confederation is currently composed by 21 countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Spain, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela

In the Agenda the following items are to be addressed: COLABIOCLI Status revision, website management, online platform for internet based courses, activities of National Societies, IFCC relationship, and OPS collaboration, among others.

*Prepared by Stella Raymondo, Vice-President
Carlos Navarro, former President
in conjunction with Graciela Queiruga, actual President*



EFLM

European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine

GENERAL MEETING

EFLM held its Eight General Meeting (GM) during the Euromedlab in Paris (France) on Sunday 21 June 2015. During the GM EFLM President, Mauro Panteghini (MP), provided an overview of the recent EFLM activities since the last GM held in Liverpool. The importance of the EFLM's ongoing program supporting the presence of Executive Board (EB) members at NSs national congresses was emphasized as an excellent opportunity for EFLM to strengthen its connections with EFLM NSs. MP briefly reported on the outcome of the 1st EFLM Strategic conference held in Milan, 24-25 November 2014, and the subsequent formation of the Task Force on Performance Specifications in Laboratory Medicine and Task and related Finish Working Groups.

The role of young scientists in EFLM was promoted by opening full member positions in EFLM working groups (WG) and granting bursaries to support their attendance at EFLM meetings. For instance, EFLM had received 76 applications for bursaries for the Euromedlab 2015 congress, out of which 10 best applicants were granted EFLM bursaries. MP also provided an overview of the progress of the 2014-2015 EFLM Strategic Plan. At the end of his presentation, MP thanked all EFLM officers for their hard work.

Huib Storm (HS), EFLM Treasurer, gave financial report. Audit of the EFLM financial matters had been done in accordance with GAAP (General Accountant Audit principles). Two subsequent years were audited (2013 and 2014) by the certified auditor who checked whether the financial operations were in accordance with the existing legal rules and principles. The audit was successful and EFLM obtained a certificate proving that EFLM accounts were maintained fully in accordance with the Belgian law and GAAP. HS presented the balance sheets for 2013 and 2014 and explained each balance line. EFLM GM approved the balance sheet for 2013 and 2014 and the internal budget for 2014 and 2015.

During the GM elections were held and following EB members were elected:

- Mauro Panteghini re-elected as EFLM President
- Sverre Sandberg re-elected as EFLM Vice President
- Huib Storm elected for a second two-year term as EFLM Treasurer
- Ana-Maria Simundic elected for a second two-year term as EFLM Secretary
- Grazyna Sypniewska and Tomas Zima elected as Members-at-Large

The next GM will be held in Madrid in conjunction with the IFCC General Conference on 21st of March, 2016.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Through the EFLM program entitled EFLM Presence at NS meetings, during 2015 EB members participated in three EFLM NS meetings hosted by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Poland and Croatia.

EB has recently launched a call for nominations for the EFLM President and EFLM Vice President. Voting for these two EB positions shall take place in Madrid at the ninth GM.

EFLM EB has discussed on several occasions the IFCC proposal on the selection of regional representatives in the IFCC EB. EFLM EB in principle believes that an individual representing a Region should be selected and participate in the policies and actions of a Region, and should be elected within that Region using the Region agreed electoral process. This ensures a meaningful contextual representation of the Regional EB at the IFCC EB.

COMMITTEES

Committee – Communication (C-C)

A major effort of C-C during 2015 was dedicated to a re-arrangement of the EFLM website, where a great care was devoted to improve the document retrieval in the EFLM publication list and to a better organization of the educational material. Following the publication of the EFLM corporate policy, an agreement has been reached with a number of IVD companies to host in the EFLM web site their logo

and some news. To improve the services for the Member Societies, the Table of Content of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (CCLM) is regularly sent through the EFLM mass mailing list that includes now more than 4000 addresses. To increase the presence of EFLM within the professional community, a LinkedIn group was created to promote discussions on relevant themes.

Committee – Education and Training (C-ET)

EFLM has entitled C-ET to establish the EFLM continuing professional development (CPD) crediting system. To perform this task EFLM has decided to establish a specific Task and Finish group.

C-ET has been involved in the organization of 15th EFLM Postgraduate Course, 11th Symposium of Balkan region and in selection of the venues of 5th EFLM-UEMS Congress and 22nd EuroMedLab. WG-Distance education (WG-DE) produced five e-seminars in 2015.

Committee – Profession (C-P) and EC4 Foundation

Version 5 of the EC4 Syllabus for education and training of specialists in laboratory medicine across the EU community has reached its penultimate draft for circulation to EFLM EB and EC4 representatives early in 2016. Having accomplished this remit and the production of a Common Training Framework (CTF), the C-P WG on Syllabus/CTF was dissolved at the end of 2015.

WG on Recognition of professional qualifications continued its lobbying of the EU Commission for recognition of specialists in laboratory medicine under the EU Directive 2013/55/EU. EFLM and EC4 agreed to continue their subscriptions to CEPLIS (Council for the Liberal Professions in the EU) during 2016 as well as EU Commission lobbying activities on behalf of the profession. This second WG was also dissolved at the end of 2015, but its key leads has been invited to join an expanded C-P for 2016. Concern was expressed at C-P and EC4 meetings in 2015 of the diminishing infrastructure around EC4 as more and more Europe-wide leadership for laboratory medicine transfers to EFLM. This was noted to be manifested through decreasing numbers of individuals seeking to join the EC4 Register as specialists in laboratory medicine and decreasing numbers of “hits” on an out-of-date EC4 web site. There is broad agreement that the leadership for achieving recognition of specialists through presentation of a CTF supported by 10 EU member states should now come from EFLM. C-P chair was requested to seek to dissolve the current EC4 Foundation and create an EFLM Foundation by end 2016 to which the necessary human, capital and organizational resources could be dedicated to achieve recognition of specialists in laboratory medicine through a register across the EU.

Committee – Quality and Regulations (C-QR)

C-QR performed a survey on the accreditation status in the different European countries. C-QR members published a paper on flexible scope approach for accreditation. At the end of 2015, C-QR was restructured by closing the WG-IVD and adding one WG-IVD member into the WG-AISO.

Committee – Science (C-S)

The nine WGs under this C (Biological Variation, Cardiac Markers, Guidelines, Harmonization of the Total Testing Process, Patient Focused Laboratory Medicine, Personalized Laboratory Medicine, Postanalytical Phase, Preanalytical Phase and Test Evaluation) and the three Task and Finish Groups (Laboratory Testing for Dyslipidemia, Critical Results and Standardization of the Color Coding for Blood Collection Closures) constitute the backbone and substance of the C-S. All groups have been active in pursuing their terms of reference, by performing studies, publishing original research reports, reviews and position papers. Members of the groups have also lectured at numerous international conferences and courses.

MEETINGS

EFLM has organized five meetings during 2015:

1. 3rd EFLM-BD Conference on Preanalytical Phase, 20-21 March, 2015, Porto (Portugal)
2. EFLM Symposium on Education in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, 24-26 April, 2015, Prague (Czech Republic)
3. 11th EFLM Symposium for Balkan Region, 14-15 May 2015; Belgrade (Serbia)
4. EFLM Symposium Cutting Edge of Laboratory Management in Europe (CELME), 1-2 October 2015, Prague (Czech Republic)
5. 15th EFLM Continuous Postgraduate Course in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, 24-25 October, 2015, Zagreb (Croatia)

PUBLICATIONS

1. Boursier G, et al; Working Group Accreditation and ISO/CEN standards (WG-A/ISO) of the EFLM. Accreditation process in European countries - an EFLM survey. CCLM 2015, in press
2. Topic E, et al. How to assess the quality of your analytical method? CCLM 2015;53:1707-18.
3. Thelen MH, et al; Working Group Accreditation ISO/CEN standards (WG-A/ISO) of EFLM. Flexible scope for ISO 15189 accreditation: a guidance prepared by the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) Working Group Accreditation and ISO/CEN standards (WG-A/ISO). CCLM 2015;53:1173-80.
4. Watson ID, et al; EFLM Working Group on Patient Focused Laboratory Medicine. European views on patients directly obtaining their laboratory test results. CCLM 2015;53:1961-6.
5. Ajzner É, et al; Joint Working Group on Postanalytical Phase (WG-POST) of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) and European Organisation for External Quality Assurance Providers in Laboratory Medicine (EQALM). An international study of how laboratories handle and evaluate patient samples after detecting an unexpected APTT prolongation. CCLM 2015;53:1593-603.
6. Bartlett WA, et al; Biological Variation Working Group, European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM). A checklist for critical appraisal of studies of biological variation. CCLM 2015;53:879-85.
7. Malentacchi F, et al; European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM); European Society of Pharmacogenomics and Personalised Therapy (ESPT) Joint Working Group on Personalized Laboratory Medicine (WG-PLM). Is laboratory medicine ready for the era of personalized medicine? A survey addressed to laboratory directors of hospitals/academic schools of medicine in Europe. CCLM 2015;53:981-8.
8. Simundic AM, et al. Compliance of blood sampling procedures with the CLSI H3-A6 guidelines: An observational study by the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) working group for the preanalytical phase (WG-PRE). CCLM 2015;53:1321-31.
9. Lippi G, et al; European Federation for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine Working Group for Preanalytical Phase. Preanalytical quality improvement. In pursuit of harmony, on behalf of European Federation for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) Working group for Preanalytical Phase (WG-PRE). CCLM 2015;53:357-70.
10. Mancini I, et al; European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM)–European Society of Pharmacogenomics and Theranostics (ESPT) joint Working Group Personalized Laboratory Medicine (WG-PLM). Implementation of a companion diagnostic in the clinical laboratory: the BRAF example in melanoma. Clin Chim Acta 2015;439:128-36.
11. Simundic AM, et al. Colour coding for blood collection tube closures - a call for harmonisation. CCLM 2015;53:371-6.

Mauro Panteghini, President

Prepared by Ana-Maria Simundic, Executive Board Secretary



NAFCC

North American Federation Of Clinical Chemistry & Laboratory Medicine

The North American Federation for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (NAFCC) representing the American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC) and the Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists (CSCC) was formed in 2014 and was recognized as a Federation in 2015. The NAFCC was formed in response to proposed changes to the procedure for election to the IFCC Executive Board and to allow for representation and participation from North America in the IFCC. The NAFCC also serves to formalize greater communication and cooperation between the AACC and CSCC at the executive level. Dr. David Kinniburgh is the NAFCC Representative to the IFCC EB for 2015-2017.

The AACC and CSSC were active in a number of initiatives in 2015, some of which, while independent, are complimentary.

AACC:

- 2015 AACC Annual Meeting & Clinical Lab Expo in Atlanta, Georgia.
- Establishing of a Universal Sample Bank, with more than 700 healthy donors.
- Continued success and growth of the Lab Tests Online web site with increased usage and major reviews, updates and additions.
- Announcing a new Journal, The Journal of Applied Laboratory Medicine. An international, peer-reviewed publication that will showcase applied research on clinically relevant laboratory topics.
- Supporting the multinational effort to develop a model to define the value proposition for laboratory medicine in different national healthcare systems.
- AACC's US advocacy program covers a wide range of topics important to laboratory medicine, including the harmonization of clinical laboratory test results, laboratory developed tests, pediatric testing, and participation in payment deliberations that shape the direction of healthcare. AACC strategically identifies and takes action on issues of global significance and actively works within the legislative and regulatory realms to influence public policies affecting clinical laboratories; most recently the Association urged government officials to grant laboratory professionals access to residual specimens to develop new assays and improve the quality of testing. AACC collaborates with industry and other laboratory partners to promote policies that advance science, best practices, and the adoption of newer technologies worldwide.
- The AACC President (2015) Dr. David Koch, CSCC President (2015) Dr. David Kinniburgh and CSCC President Elect (2015) made presentations at the AACC Rocky Mountain Section Meeting in Calgary, April 27, 2015.

CSCC:

- 2015 CSCC Annual meeting with CAP in Montreal, Quebec.
- Supporting Appropriate Laboratory Utilization through presentations by CSCC members and working with partners such as the Canadian Association of Pathologists (CAP), the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technology in Health (CADTH), and Choosing Wisely Canada.
- Participation on the Canadian Leadership Council on Laboratory Medicine (CLCLM) to advocate in the areas of education, workload and quality assurance.
- Working with other laboratory medicine organizations and industry partners to identify a strategy to promote the value of laboratory medicine and bring stakeholders together in a unified response.
- Supporting the EPOCC initiative (Educating People on Clinical Chemistry) in its efforts to promote the CSCC and its members.
- Supporting initiatives in Alberta and Ontario to achieve regulation under provincial Health Professions Act, whereby clinical biochemists would be legally recognized as members of the healthcare team and better able to regulate their profession and maintain the highest standards of quality and patient safety.
- The CSCC modified its bylaws to allow for stronger continuing education requirements within the Canadian Academy of Clinical Biochemistry in anticipation of more stringent government requirements.
- The CSCC signed an MOA with the Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (ACB) to enhance the relationship and promote education exchanges between the two associations.

David W Kinniburgh, Representative

FULL MEMBER SOCIETIES



ARGENTINA

CONFEDERACIÓN UNIFICADA BIOQUÍMICA DE LA REPÚBLICA ARGENTINA (CUBRA)

National meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
"CUBRA XIII"	October, 07 – 10 (Catamarca, Argentina)	Biochemical National Congress.
"II Patagonian Workdays of Biochemistry"	November, 26 – 28 (Río Negro – Argentina)	Biochemical Workdays.

Education

- Some topics of CUBRA XIII: Hematology, Hemostasis, Clinical Chemistry, Endocrinology, Microbiology, Immunology, Molecular Biology, Quality Management and Toxicology.
- Some topics of the Patagonian Workdays: Celiac - Integral study of the infertile couple - Bacterial gastroenteritis - Parasitic zoonoses in Patagonia - Zoonotic intestinal parasites in Patagonia - Molecular epidemiology of echinococcosis in Argentina - The Third World intestine and environmental enteropathy - Preanalytical variables in the laboratory of endocrinology - Pediatric biochemistry - Latest developments of Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome - Detection of cardiovascular risk of arteriosclerosis.

Regional meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
"Official presentation of the institutional hymn of COLABIOCLI"	August, 22 nd (Santiago del Estero – Argentina)	Give institutional endorsement and support, disseminate information among our associates members.
"XXII Latin American Congress of Clinical Biochemistry"	September, 25 th (Quito – Ecuador)	Provide our facilities for meetings of Executive Committee of COLABIOCLI in order to organize this Congress.
"Handover Ceremony Executive Committee (term 2016-2017)"	December, 17 th (Buenos Aires – Argentina)	Shared ceremony with the last annual meeting of CUBRA.

Regional relations

Full Member of COLABIOCLI (Confederación Latinoamericana de Bioquímica Clínica)

International relations

Full Member of IFCC (International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine)

Additional information

"Unique Biochemical Nomenclature integrated by Biochemical Practices" - Law N° 27.232
The Permanent Technical Committee of Unique Biochemical Nomenclature (CTP-NBU), integral part of CUBRA, celebrated ten years of existence.
CTP-NBU has created the Unique Biochemical Nomenclator, which is continuously evaluated and updated.
This project has been presented at the Congress of the Argentine Nation and promulgated under the law N° 27232.



AUSTRALASIA
AUSTRALASIAN ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL
BIOCHEMISTS (AACB)

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date (2016)	Topic
Therapeutic Drug Monitoring Workshop	14 -15May	Update on TDM
Harmonisation Workshop - Sydney	18May	Various Harmonisation topics including reference interval for chemistry and endocrine assays
AACB Scientific Education Seminar - Sydney	14 September	Update on POCT in Australia
AACB Annual Scientific Meeting - Sydney	15 -17 September	Clinical Chemistry and Endocrinology – Partnerships in Testing
Keynote speakers included Prof Graeme Eisenhofer (Germany), A Prof Graham Jones (AUS, APFCB Travelling Lecturer) Prof Richard MacLissac (AUS), Prof Tony Badrick (AUS), Prof Chris Florkowski (NZ), Prof Ken Ho (AUS), Prof Aidan McElduff (AUS)		
Satellite Meeting post AACB Annual Conference – Sydney	18 September	Quality Control Workshop - Part 3

Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCPA AACB Chemical Pathology Course – Wellington, New Zealand, 9 – 13 February – covered exam curriculum topics for both the AACB and RCPA. • Monthly State Branch based CPD tutorials for MAACB and FAACB exam candidates • State Branch based monthly scientific meetings • Roman Lectures – Dr Penny Coates MAACB – Cases in Calcium Metabolism and PTH activity • Monthly webinars from February – December 2015 covering AACB Curriculum related topics

Regional meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
4th African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC) Congress, Harare, Zimbabwe	27 – 30 April 2015	Sponsored Ms May Siew to speak on POCT topics

Regional relations
<p>APFCB – AACB members on a number of APFCB committees both in chair and member roles:</p> <p>Education and Laboratory Management Committee Tony Badrick – Chair Graham Jones – Corresponding member</p> <p>Scientific Committee Ronda Greaves – Member Graham Jones – Member</p>

Congress and Conferences Committee

Peter Graham – Secretary

Communication and Publications

Sandra Klingberg – Corresponding Member

International relations

AACB members contributing to IFCC in 2015:

Executive Committees

Awards Committee (Chair) Peter Vervaart Communications & Publications Division, Publications & Distance Learning Coordinator

Task Force Membership

Graham Jones Task Force on Chronic Kidney Disease (Chair)
Michael Metz Task Force on Paediatric Laboratory Medicine (Chair)
Rosy Tirimacco Task Force on PoCT (Chair)

Committee Membership

Chris Florkowski Evidence Based Laboratory Medicine
Robert Flatman Nomenclature, Properties & Units (Chair)
Peter Vervaart Internet and e-Learning (Chair)
Janine Grant Internet and e-Learning (Web-editor)
Ronda Greaves Distance Learning
Cyril Mamotte Molecular Diagnostics
Lindsey Mackay Traceability in Laboratory Medicine
Jill Tate Standardisation of Cardiac Troponin I

Working Group Membership

Graham Jones Standardisation of Albumin Assays in Urine
John Whitfield Standardisation of Carbohydrate-Deficient Transferrin (Secretary)
Howard Morris Standardization of Bone Markers Assays (Chair)
Samuel Vasikaran Standardization of Bone Markers Assays (Secretary)
 Harmonisation of Interpretive Comments EQA (Chair)
Ken Sikaris Harmonisation of Interpretive Comments EQA
Rita Horvath eJournal IFCC

Corresponding Membership

James Davidson WG-Standardisation of Growth Hormone
 Standardisation of Albumin Assays in Urine
Graham Jones C-Reference Intervals & Decision Limits
David Gillis WG-Harmonisation of Autoantibody Tests
Paul Glendenning WG-Standardisation of Insulin Assays
Greg Ward WG-Standardisation of Pregnancy-Associated Plasma Protein A
Dorothy Kouzios WG- Standardisation of Carbohydrate-Deficient Transferrin
Paul Williams C-Standardisation of Thyroid Function Tests
May Siew Task Force - Young Scientists
Dale Kunde C-Clinical Molecular Biology Curriculum
John Whitfield C-Evidence Based Laboratory Medicine

National Society Liaison

Sandra Klingberg WG-IFCC eNews

Additional information

AACB member Rita Horvath, is also currently a member of the AACC Board of Directors



BULGARIA

BULGARIAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL LABORATORY

National meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
9th National Meeting of Clinical Laboratory	10-12 September 2015	Various

Education

1 one day course

Regional meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
23rd BCLF Meetinf	7-9 October 2015 Sarajevo	posters

International relations

Participation in EUROMEDLAB in Paris 2015



CANADA

CANADIAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL CHEMISTS (CSCC)
SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DE CLINICO-CHEMISTS

National meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
Canadian Laboratory Medicine Congress	June 20-24, 2015	Annual Meeting "Clinical Biochemistry on the Move: The interaction between clinical biochemists and the community"

Education

2015 Travelling Lectureship Series

Speaker: Dr. Robert A. Kyle, Professor of Medicine and Laboratory Medicine, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, USA

Topics:

- Monoclonal Gammopathy of Undetermined Significance (MGUS) and Smoldering Multiple Myeloma (SMM): What my patients have taught me
- Management of Multiple Myeloma in 2015
- An Overview of Amyloidosis

Dr. Kyle gave presentations in Vancouver, Edmonton, Toronto, Bromont (Montreal), and Halifax in the period October 5 – October 22, 2015

The lectureship is sponsored by Bio-Rad Laboratories

CSCC Webinar Lectureship on Critical Care Medicine
Speaker: Colleen S. Kraft, MD, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Emory University School of Medicine for the Emory Serious Communicable Diseases Unit (SCDU), USA
Topic: Laboratory Management of Patients with Ebola Virus Disease
February 12, 2015
Lectureship sponsored by Instrumentation Laboratory
CSCC Webinar Lectureship on Cardiovascular Disease
Speaker: Todd J. Anderson, MD, Director, Libin Cardiovascular Institute of Alberta Clinical and Academic Department Head, Cardiac Sciences Professor, University of Calgary
Topic: The Canadian perspective on the ACC/AHA Dyslipidemia Guidelines
February 26, 2015
Lectureship sponsored by Alere
2014-15 Webinar Series
14 CSCC "Education Roundtable" in webinar format were held twice a month from October 2014 to May 2015. Besides single participants, many members formed groups at their institution to attend the webinars. Sessions averaged about 50 phone lines and 200-250 participants.

Regional relations

CSCC has 7 Provincial Sections – British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. Each Section holds its own meetings and small conferences. The Sections report annually to the Society Council. A Provincial Grant is available for each section to help fund their activities.

International relations

CSCC paid the IFCC membership dues of the Cuban Society.

CSCC, with AACC, formed the North American Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (NAFCC) of IFCC. The NAFCC was represented at the IFCC Executive Board meetings in Paris and Quito in 2015.

Additional information

CSCC had a number of interactions with other Canadian pathology and lab medicine groups including:

- Canadian Leadership Council on Laboratory Medicine & Laboratory Utilization Sub-Committee
- Participation in 'Choosing Wisely Canada' <http://www.choosingwiselycanada.org/>
- Participation in 'Lab Tests Online' with AACC <https://labtestsonline.org/>

CSCC supports MEDEC, the national association for the Canadian medical technology industry, in their efforts to promote the value of laboratory medicine.

CSCC is celebrating their 60th anniversary this year.

CSCC has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (ACB). The two societies have established a reciprocal lectureship and Dr. Callum Fraser of ACB will be the first Canada/UK International Visitor at the 2016 CSCC annual conference to take place June 19-22 in Edmonton Alberta.

CSCC held a Trainee Review Course to help trainees prepare for their final oral exam leading to certification and fellowship. CSCC also provides support and professional encouragement for Trainees and Young Scientists, such as a special reception at the annual conference, an increase to the number of grants available, and a recent survey to determine their needs.



CHINA –PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC)
CHINESE SOCIETY OF LABORATORY MEDICINE (CSLM)

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
The 11th National Conference of Laboratory Medicine	Sep.9-12, 2015	better tests, better care
The 12th Chinese Laboratory Medicine Conference	Sep.10, 2015	New technologies and ideas for laboratory medicine
National Congress of Clinical Chemistry	Oct. 30-31, 2015	Clinical Symposium on virus hepatitis
National Congress of Laboratory Management	April. 21, 2015	High-end forum on total quality management
National Congress of Microbiology	April. 11, 2015	Automation solutions for microbiology laboratory

Education
<p>Management training course for Chinese young directors of the department of clinical laboratory:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aug.14-16, 2015 <Effective communication skills for medical personnel> 2. Nov.6-8, 2015 <Across-departments multidisciplinary optimization of management procedure and continuous improvement of medical quality> <p>Training course for doctors and technicians from primary hospitals;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Oct. 18, 2015 <Education plan on the laboratory diagnosis for urgent heart diseases in primary hospitals > 2. Oct. 31, 2015 <The prevention and control of chronic diseases in China> <p>IFCC visiting lecturer programs in National Conference of Laboratory Medicine</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sep.9-12, 2015 < Bone Markers and Their use>,<Standardisation and Harmonisation in Laboratory Medicine >

Regional meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Society’s contribution for the meeting
Training course for morphology of blood test	Nov.14-15, 2015	Hosted by the First Affiliated Hospital of Guangxi Medical University, co-hosted by Chinese Society of Laboratory Medicine (CLSM). CLSM is responsible for the development of teaching plan and the organization of teaching experts.
US-China clinical microbiology high-end forum	Jul.6-7, 2015	Jointly hosted by Chinese Society of Laboratory Medicine (CLSM) and Xijing Hospital, Fourth Military Medical University. CLSM is responsible for the development of teaching plan and the organization of teaching experts.
Chinese Clinical Biochemistry Zijin Forum	Dec.4-5,2015	Jointly hosted by Chinese Society of Laboratory Medicine (CLSM) and Jiangsu Medical Association. CLSM is responsible for the development of teaching plan and the organization of teaching experts.

Regional relations

Good relationships with AACC, WASPaLM and APFCB.

International relations

During the 11th "National Conference of Laboratory Medicine 2015" hosted by the Chinese Society of Laboratory Medicine, we have invited IFCC VLP speaker, Dr. Howard Morris to give lectures. Prof. Looi Laimeng, president of WASPaLM, Mr Jagdish Butany, secretary of WASPaLM, Mr David Donald Koch, president of AACC, and other leading experts in this field coming from United States, Canada, Australia, Germany, Malaysia and other countries and regions, attended to share their latest research findings. There were 1,655 participants in this conference.

During the 2015, CSLM also sent representatives to attend the AACC annual meeting(July. 26-30, Atlanta Georgia, USA), the 21st IFCC-EFLM Euromedlab Congress(June. 21-25, Paris, France), the IFCC PoCT International Symposium(Nov.16-17 ,Cancun, Mexico) and the 2015 WASPaLM biennial congress(Nov. 18-21, Cancun, Mexico).

Additional information

Chinese Medical Association experts have drafted the <Proposal for standardization of critical value reporting system of the department of clinical laboratory > and compiled an undergraduate textbook< clinical immunology testing > in 2015.



CROATIA

CROATIAN SOCIETY OF MEDICAL BIOCHEMISTRY
AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

National meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
Symposium LOKUS 2015	April 10-11, 2015	Project management
26th CSMBLM symposium	May 30, 2015	Laboratory diagnostics of blood-borne infections associated with blood transfusions and transplants
8th CSMBLM Congress with international participation	September 22-26, 2015	An overview of various relevant developments in the area of laboratory medicine in nine symposiums, three plenary meetings, industrial workshops, a poster presentation and an exhibition

Education

CSMBLM Committee for education provides free e-seminars for all CSMBLM members. Participants of e-seminars can earn credits granted by the Croatian chamber of medical biochemists (CCMB).

In 2015 CSMBLM provided 7 e-seminars granted by the CCMB:

Implementation of requirements from Standard HRN EN ISO 15189 in laboratory practice; 5.6 Ensuring quality of examination results

1. CLSI guidelines for evaluation of the linearity of quantitative measurement procedures

2. Implementation of requirements from Standard HRN EN ISO 15189 in laboratory practice; 5.9 Release of results
3. Interlaboratory comparison
4. Implementation of requirements from Standard HRN EN ISO 15189 in laboratory practice 5.10, Laboratory information management
5. Laboratory diagnostic of autoimmune diseases in clinical laboratories in Croatia
6. National recommendations for capillary sampling

In the 2015, CSMBLM Committee for the scientific and professional development performed their activities through several working groups for the specific areas in the laboratory medicine.

1. WG for preanalytical phase conducted a nation-wide survey on practices for samples with interferences (hemolysis, lipemia and ictericia) and published results in the scientific journal (CCLM).
2. WG for blood gas testing worked extensively on drafting the national recommendation for blood gas testing.
3. WG for extravascular body samples conducted a nation-wide survey on laboratory practices for pleural, pericardial, peritoneal, synovial, amniotic fluid, sweat and bronchoalveolar lavage.
4. WG for laboratory diagnosis of autoimmune diseases presented results from the nation-wide survey on practices employed in the autoimmune disease testing on a national congress and e-seminar.
5. WG for capillary sampling has issued a national recommendation for capillary blood sampling and published a document in the Biochemia Medica journal.
6. WG for harmonization of instructions for patients has published results of a nation-wide survey on patient preparation in the scientific journal (CCLM).
7. WG of CSMBLM and CCMB for uncertainty of measurement worked extensively on drafting the national recommendation for uncertainty of measurement.
8. WG of CSMBLM and CCMB for chronic renal disease has published results of a nation-wide survey on laboratory diagnostics of chronic renal disease in the scientific journal (Biochemia Medica).
9. New WG for coagulation testing was formed. WG has conducted a nation-wide survey on practices in coagulation testing.
10. A new WG for postanalytical phase was formed.
11. A new WG for point of care testing was formed.

CROQALM workshop - CSMBLM and Croatian Centre for External Quality Assessment CROQALM have jointly organized an educational workshop on 24 April, 2015 in Zagreb (Croatia) with international lecturers, who were experts in quality assessment: Annette Thomas, Barbara de la Salle, Egon Amann, Wim Coucke and Piet Meijer.

Regional meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
15th EFLM Continuing Postgraduate Course in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine "How to assess the quality of your method?"	October 24-25, 2015	Host Society and main organizer

Regional relations

CSMBLM provided travel grants for members of regional laboratory medicine societies for best poster abstract authors at Symposium LOKUS. In 2015 4 grants were granted to members of Association of Medical biochemists in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2) and Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia (1) and Society of Medical Biochemists of Macedonia (1).

International relations

CSMBLM representatives in international associations within new mandate
IFCC & EFLM national representative: Daria Pasalic, PhD, Associate Professor
CSMBLM representative in EQALM: Jasna Lenicek-Krleža, PhD, specialist in laboratory medicine
CSMBLM representative EC4 Register of the European specialist in laboratory medicines: Ivana Rako, PhD, specialist in laboratory medicine
Representative CSMBLM in European Association of Science Editors (EASE), Council of Science Editors (CSE), Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE): Prof. Ana-Maria Simundic, PhD, specialist in laboratory medicine, Biochemia Medica-Editor-in-chief
Representative CSMBLM in European co-operation for accreditation (EA): Ines Vukasovic, PhD, specialist in laboratory medicine

During 2015 CSMBLM national representative in EFLM and IFCC, and Committee for information and public relations, with support of CSMBLM Executive board regularly informed the membership about and IFCC and EFLM activities and forwarded all calls for nominations in EFLM and IFCC working groups and committees.

Representatives in working groups and correspondent members active till the end of the mandate which is defined by the particular international body

Secretary of the EFLM Executive Committee: Prof. Ana-Maria Simundic, PhD, specialist in laboratory medicine

Member of the EFLM Science Committee: Prof. Ana-Maria Simundic, PhD, specialist in laboratory medicine

Chair of the Working group Preamerical phase at EFLM Science Committee: Prof. Ana-Maria Simundic, PhD, specialist in laboratory medicine

Member of the Working group Postanalytical external quality assurance at EFLM Science Committee: Prof. Dunja Rogic, PhD, specialist in laboratory medicine

Corresponding member of the Working group Cardiac markers at EFLM Science Committee: Ana Stavljenic-Rukavina, Full Professor

Member of the Working group ISO/CEN and Accreditation at EFLM Quality and Regulations Committee: Ines Vukasovic, PhD, specialist in laboratory medicine

Corresponding member of the IFCC Commission for evidence based medicine: Prof. Dunja Rogic, PhD, specialist in laboratory medicine

CSMBLM representative and corresponding member of the IFCC and World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Task force for chronic renal diseases (TF-CKD): Vanja Radisic Biljak, PhD

Corresponding Member of the EFLM Working Group on Promotion: Adrijana Dorotic

Corresponding Member of the IFCC Task force for young scientist: Ivana Lapić

Additional information

Journal BIOCHEMIA MEDICA continues with activities for improving the quality and position of the journal among international scientific publications. Impact factor for 2014 was 2.667. Until the beginning of 2016 Biochemia Medica will be cited in Current Contents

Committee for information and public relations

Regularly cooperated and promoted CSMBLM in international associations with preparing newsletters and notifications for IFCC and EFLM bulletins.

Organised activities related to promotion of the CSMBLM activities in the public: promotion of the symposium LOKUS 2015, 26th CSMBLM symposium and 8th CSMBLM congress with international participation at the web portals, in daily newspapers and on radio stations.

Croatian Centre for Quality Assessment in Laboratory Medicine (CROQALM), member of EQALM, in 2015 performed three cycles of external quality control and introduced new module (sweat chloride test).

New members are involved and working groups were formed for the improvement of the quality of the sample, to create a new program of data processing, website and training.

Set up a new website in English and Croatian language (ink: <https://croqalm.com>)

In cooperation with the Croatian Institute of Transfusion Medicine, control samples for module of laboratory hematology were started preparation and were conducted in two cycles. Also, the "home made" samples for sweat chloride test was conducted in all three cycles same like modules for extra-analytical phase.

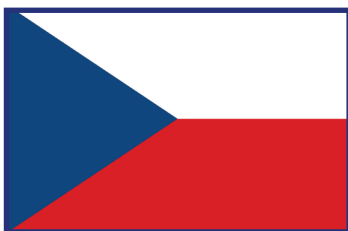
Applications for national program for quality control in 2016 (three cycles) is opened from December 20th, 2015.



CUBA
CUBAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL PATHOLOGISTS

Regional meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
XXII Congreso COLABIOCLI 2015, Quito, Ecuador.	September 24-26	Delivering a lecture.
XXVIII Congress WASPaLM, Cancun, Mexico.	November 24-29	Participation.
XVII National Congress of Laboratory Professionals, Punta Cana, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.	November, 26 – 29, 2015	Participation

Regional relations
The Society participated in the Workshop "Exchange of Experiences about the interpretation of ISO 15189:2012", organized and sponsored by PTB in Guatemala, May 12-15, 2015.



CZECH REPUBLIC
CZECH SOCIETY OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY (CSKB)

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
RANK 2015	4 – 5 February 2015, Pardubice	Routine analysis of nucleic acids by molecular biological methods
INDC 2015 – 15th International Nutrition & Diagnostics Conference	5 - 8 October 2015, Prague	Nutrition and human health
Atherosclerosis 2015	9 - 10 September 2015, Prague	Atherosclerosis – diagnostics, treatment and prevention in adults and children
XIIth National Congress of Czech Society of Clinical Biochemistry	20 - 22 September 2015, Brno	Advances in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine
XIVth Conference on Monoclonal Gammopathy	13 October 2015, Hradec Kralove	Monoclonal gammopathy
Pathobiochemistry of metabolic pathways - laboratory diagnostics	5 November 2015, Olomouc	Metabolic syndrome

Education

Co-operation on study courses of clinical biochemistry at 8 Medical Faculties in Czech Republic, cooperation with Institute of Postgraduate Training in Prague.

Co-operation with Ministry of Health in transformation of postgraduate education of medical doctors: Medical Faculties have been responsible for this education (instead of Institute of Postgraduate Studies in Prague) since the beginning of the year 2012, new educational programme was developed in 2015.

Active participation on the project Lab Tests Online – education of patients and their relatives as well as non-laboratory workers in health care in problems of laboratory medicine; finalization of translations (see web pages: <http://www.labtestsonline.cz>). All items from US web pages were translated and are available for Czech readers.

National E-learning project on clinical biochemistry “E-biochemistry” for students of medical schools (40 chapters, multimedial, bilingual) finished and finalized in 2015.

Regional meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
8th Central-Moravian Regional Days	22 – 23 January 2015, Kouty nad Desnou	Varia, Czech Society of Clinical Biochemistry was the principal guarantor
Regional meeting of clinical biochemists – West Bohemia	26 March 2015, Plzen	Varia, Czech Society of Clinical Biochemistry was the principal guarantor
Working day of section of laboratory technicians	29 April 2015, Prague	Varia, Czech Society of Clinical Biochemistry was the principal guarantor
XIth Regional conference Nejedly's Kladno	8 April 2015, Kladno	Clinical chemistry and complex diagnostics, Czech Society of Clinical Biochemistry was the principal guarantor
33rd Regional meeting of clinical biochemists (South and Eastern Bohemian region)	22 – 23 May 2015, Hradec Králové	Interdisciplinary cooperation, Czech Society of Clinical Biochemistry was the principal guarantor
Regional meeting of Moravian-Silesian Region	8 – 9 June 2015, Zemanice	Varia, Czech Society of Clinical Biochemistry was the principal guarantor
Working day of section of laboratory technicians	7 October 2015, Prague	Preanalytical phase, Czech Society of Clinical Biochemistry was the principal guarantor
34th Regional conference of clinical biochemistry	2 – 4 December 2015, Karlova Studanka	Varia, Czech Society of Clinical Biochemistry was the principal guarantor

International relations

- Our representatives (Prof. Zima and Prof. Racek) participated at IFCC and EFLM General Assembly in Paris
- Prof. Racek participated at the EC4 Register Commission
- Prof. Zima worked as Member-at-Large, EFLM Executive Board
- Prof. Zima, prof. Jabor, prof. Prusa, Dr. Kocna, Dr. Kotaska, Dr. Cibicek, Dr. Rajdl, Dr. Franekova and Ing. Sprongl worked as members of various IFCC and EFLM committees and working groups
- EFLM symposium Education in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, Prague, April 24-26, 2015
- Symposium CELME, Cutting Edge Laboratory Management in Europe, Prague, October 1-2, 2015

Additional information

Approval of four new various national clinical biochemistry guidelines in 2015.

Editing the national scientific journal “Klinicka biochemie a metabolismus”, co-editing journal “FONS”, publishing news in clinical biochemistry and activities of the Czech Society of Clinical Biochemistry.

Expert guaranty of EQA system in Czech Republic.



ECUADOR
SOCIEDAD ECUATORIANA DE BIOQUÍMICA CLÍNICA
(SEBIOCLI)

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
Extraordinary General Meeting	7/02/2015 Guayaquil	- XII Ecuadorian Congress of Clinical Biochemistry Inform
Extraordinary General Meeting	7/02/2015 Guayaquil	- 1. Progress of Activities of the Scientific Committee of Congress COLABIOCLI 2015. 2. Final adoption of the Rules of Procedure of PEEC
Extraordinary General Meeting	13/06/2015 Machala	- 1. Annual report of the activities of the Presidency, period 2013-2015 by QF. Maria Saldarreaga Z 2. Annual Report of the National SEBIOCLI financial situation by the treasurer QF. Amalia Suarez.
Extraordinary General Meeting	29/08/2015 Quito	- Progress in the XXII Congress COLABIOCLI 2015. Dr. Maria del Carmen Pasquel. President of the organizing committee
Extraordinary General Meeting	12/12/2015 Guayaquil	- 1. Economic Report of the financial situation of SEBIOCLI NATIONAL by the treasurer QF. Amalia Suarez. 2. Report of the Interim Committee PEEC 3. Reports of travel to Istanbul and Caracas by QF. María Saldarreaga, National President and International Representative IFCC.

Education
<p>PICHINCHA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event: Conference Date: February 12, 2015 Topic: Verification of Analytical Methods Lecturer: Dr. Sergio Salazar • Event: Conference Date: February 24, 2015 Topic: Integrated Waste Management biohazardous Lecturer: Ing Carolina Paredes (EMGIRS). • Event: Conference Date: March 11, 2015 Topic: Environmental Registry Tab and Infectious waste generator Lecturer: Ing Rosa Garcia. • Event: Conference Date: April 30, 2015 Topic: Menopause and Osteoporosis Lecturer: Dr. Pilar Mosquera. • Event: Conference Date: June 3, 2015 Topic: chikungunya Lecturer: Dr. Marcelo Chiriboga • Event: Conference Date: July 14, 2015 Topic: amebiasis, current situation in Ecuador and diagnostic methods Lecturer: M.Sc. Thamara Andrade

- Event: Conference
Event: Conference
Date: July 21, 2015
Topic: Incidence of HAI infections in the service of Neonatology Children's Hospital Baca Ortiz in Quito.
Lecturer: Bioq. Roberto Arias
- Event: Conference
Date: July 28, 2015
Topic: Item 3.5 of ISO 15189 laboratory equipment
Lecturer: Atty. Lourdes Álava
- Event: Pre Congress Workshop Seminar XXII COLABIOCLI CONGRESS 2015
Date: 22 and 23 September 2015
Topic: Cardiac Biomarkers
Lecturer: Dr. Lida Morisolli (Wiener Lab).
- Event: Congress
Date: from 22 to 26 September 2015
Topic: XXII Latin American Congress of Clinical Biochemistry COLABIOCLI 2015
Exhibitors: several national and international
- Event: Conference
Date: November 26, 2015
Topic: Assessment Tools Analytical Quality measurement of thyroid hormones
Lecturer: Dr. Sergio Salazar

CHIMBORAZO

Event: Workshop Course
Date: February 28 to March 1, 2015
Topic: "Internal Control and External Quality in the Clinical Laboratory" under the auspices of the International Federation of Clinical Biochemistry
Lecturer: Dr. Ana Lucia Aguirre Mejia - 28 February-1 March 2015.

EL ORO

- Event: Conference
Date: March 6, 2015
Topic: Biosecurity and Hospital Waste Management
Lecturer: Dr. Maria del Carmen Santillán (MSP).
- Event: Workshop
Date: March 7, 2015
Topic: Advanced Techniques for planting different biological liquids in microbiology
Lecturer: Dr. Ximena Villalba Valencia.
- Event: Conference
Date: May 2015
Topic: Clinical, epidemiological surveillance, prevention and control of Dengue and Chikungunya
Lecturers:
- Atty. Janeth Eras (MSP)
- Dr. Robinson Jaramillo (MSP)
- Event: Conference
Date: May 2015
Topic: Best Practices in the clinical laboratory during the pre analytical phase in the area of microbiology.
Speaker: Dr. Patricia Ochoa.
- Event: Conference
Date: May 2015
Topic: Role of the clinical laboratory in the diagnosis of brain diseases and cardiovascular
Lecturer: Dr. Maria Alvarez Herrera.
- Event: Conference
Date: May 2015
Topic: Relationship of dyslipidemia and kidney disease
Lecturer: Dr. Rosa Velez Pazmiño

- Event: Workshop Hematology
Date: May 2015
topics:
- Cytology, morphology of peripheral blood elements
- Interpretation of hematologic values
- Haemostasis
Lecturer: Dr. Nardo Vivar
- Event: Conference
Date: May 2015
Topic: Quality Control
Lecturer: Dr. Maria del Carmen Pasquel.
- Event: Conference
Date: November 2015
Topic: Quality control in clinical laboratory: Control Charts Commemoration eighteenth anniversary of creation of the League
Lecturer: Dr. Maria del Carmen Pasquel.

TUNGURAHUA

- Event: Workshop Theoretical - Practical
Date: May 16 to June 27, 2015
Topic: Verification of Analytical Methods and Planning Statistical Quality Control.

AZUAY

- Event: VI Continuing Education Course
Date: From April 24 to June 6, 2015
Topic: Phase One: Microbiology / Second Phase: Hematology
Lecturers:
- Dr. Ximena Villalba.
- Dr. Lourdes Jerves.
- Dr. Nardo Vivar
- Dr. Zulma Zamora.
- Event: Pre Congress Workshop Seminar 2015 COLABIOCLI
Date: 19 and 20 September 2015
Topic: Advanced Techniques Analytical Quality
Lecturers:
- Dr. Gabriel Migliarino (Argentina)
- Dr. Benjamin Hernandez (Chile)
- Dra. Evangelina Hernandez (Chile)

GUAYAS

- Event: Conference update
Date: July 11, 2015
Topic: Operating Permits and licensing of medical laboratory
With the support of:
- Ministry of Public Health
- GADERE S.A.

XXII LATIN AMERICAN CONGRESS Clinical Biochemistry COLABIOCLI 2015

On 24, 25 and 26 September 2015, it was held in the city of Quito the XXII Latin American Congress of Clinical Biochemistry COLABIOCLI 2015.

The event, organized by the Ecuadorian Society of Clinical Biochemistry with the help and support of the Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry, took place at the JW Marriott Hotel in the capital of the republic, with an excellent reception and extensive scientific agenda.

Five simultaneous rooms, one in English, presented 26 lectures, 23 symposia, 2 round tables, 4 plenary. The conference presented: 3 pre congresses, 5 Intra congresses and two mini-courses with the scientific support of 70 foreign exhibitors and 30 prestigious professionals from Ecuador. As attendees and exhibitors from Europe, Asia, Africa, North America and also of the 22 Latin American countries. They included nearly 1,000 professionals, scientists, entrepreneurs, exhibitors and students.

Auspices:

- IFCC
 - COLABIOCLI
 - PAHO / WHO
 - AACC
 - Wallace Coulter Foundation
 - Foundation Wiener Lab
 - Argentina Biochemistry Foundation
 - Ecuadorian Accreditation Service
 - Ministry of Public Health of Ecuador
- AEFA
Universidad Nacional del Sur (Argentina)

Academic Endorsements:

- Central University of Ecuador
- University of Cuenca

Pre Congress:

- Advanced Techniques Analytical Quality
Location: Hotel Oro Verde Cuenca
Sponsorship: AACC, Wallace Coulter Foundation
Speakers: Dr. Gabriel Migliarino (Argentina)
Dr. Evangelina Hernandez (Argentina)
Dr. Benjamin Fernandez (Chile)
 - Advanced Techniques Analytical Quality
Location: JW Marriott Hotel
Sponsorship: AACC, Wallace Coulter Foundation
 - Biomarkers in cardio and cerebrovascular diseases
Location: College of Chemical and Biochemical Pharmaceutical Pichincha
- Speakers
- Dr. Lida Morisolli (Argentina)
 - Dr. Stella Daniele (Argentina)

Intra Congress:

- Celiac Disease
Location: JW Marriott Hotel, living Amazonas exhibitors:
 - Dr. Maria Lasta.
 - Dr. Liliana Roquel.
- Quality Assurance in Analytical Pre stage
Location: JW Marriott Hotel, living Amazonas exhibitors:
 - Dr. Graciela Pennacchiotti.
 - Dr. Silvia Benozzi.
 - Dr. Gissela Unger.
- Preparation of Internal Auditors PNCQ
Location: JW Marriott Hotel, living Amazonas exhibitors:
 - Dr. Gabriel Lima
 - Dr. José Abol
 - Dr. Andrea Piazza.
 - Dr. Karina Chavez.
- Quality Control in Clinical Laboratory Equipment
Location: JW Marriott Hotel, Esmeraldas room
Speaker: Dr. Rosana Acheme.
Sponsor: Argentina Biochemistry Foundation
- Hematology
Location: JW Marriott Hotel
Speaker: Dr. Enrique González Cruz
- COLABIOCLI Workshop
"Implementation of the Concept of Traceability in Clinical Laboratories in Latin America"
Speaker: Lothar Siekmann, Germany; Gerhard Schumann, Germany, Anja Kessler, Germany; Raúl Girardi

(FBA, Argentina), Patricia Gatti (INTI Argentina) Sandra Quintana (México) Mauro Barrantes (Costa Rica) , Leonardo Aguirre (Chile): Wagner Wollinger (INMETRO, Brazil), Melina Pérez (CENAM, México), Ana Inés Silva Terra (LATU, Uruguay), Ana Piana (Asoc. Bioquímica Uruguaya, Uruguay) René Gómez (ISPCh., Chile) Jeremías Gómez – ONAC – Colombia and Imilce Zuta (Peru)
Sponsor. IFCC/PTB

Regional relations

The Ecuadorian Society of Clinical Biochemistry, represented by QF Maria Saldarreaga Zambrano, currently ranks second vocalía of COLABIOCLI, representation that made possible their participation in the meetings of the executive board and constant communication with its members to discuss various topics of interest to the society..

International relations

Thanks to the ongoing work of its members, the Ecuadorian Society of Clinical Biochemistry has very good relations with active members of the IFCC and former representatives, who have collaborated actively in various events organized by the society, such as COLABIOCLI 2015 congress.

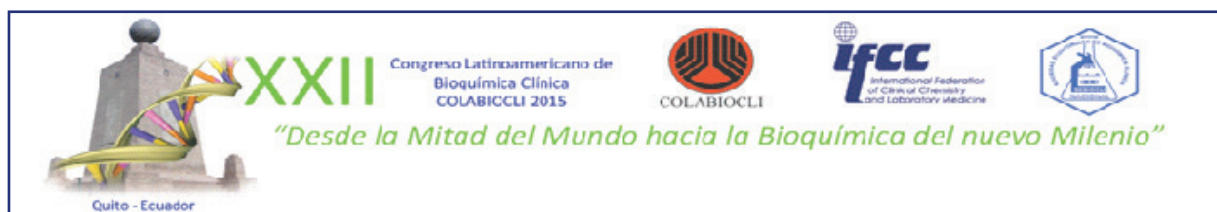
It is also worth mentioning the representation of Ecuador by Dra. Maria del Carmen Pasquel as IFCC WG- IANT Chair

Regional meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
COLABIOCLI EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING	22/04/2015	Inform of progress about Latin American Congress 2015
III FORUM - FORMING SCHOOLS BIO-CHEMICAL OR EQUIVALENT TITLES LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN	23-24/04/2015	Support in the name of biochemical titles – Ecuador experience
IFCC,CPD meeting	20,21/06/2015	EUROMEDLAB Paris 2015
WG-IANT/CPF/IFCC meeting	22 /06 /2015	EUROMEDLAB Paris 2015
IFCC Editors meetings	22/06/2015	EUROMEDLAB Paris 2015
eJIFCC Meeting	22/06/2015	EUROMEDLAB Paris 2015
IFCC CCC Meeting	21/06/2015	EUROMEDLAB Paris 2015
IFCC CPR Meeting	21,23 /06/07	EUROMEDLAB Paris 2015
IV FORUM LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN UNIVERSITIES	26/09/2015	XXII Congress COLABIOCLI 2015 Quito
Workshop Traceability	25-26 /09/2015	XXII Congress COLABIOCLI 2015 Quito/ IFCC/PTB
WG-IANT/CPF/IFCC meeting	24 /09 /2015	XXII Congress COLABIOCLI 2015 Quito
GENERAL ASSEMBLY COLABIOCLI.	25/06/2015	XXII Congress COLABIOCLI 2015 Quito

Additional information

XXII CONGRESS COLABIOCLI 2015 QUITO-ECUADOR





Dr. Roberto Garcia, FBA President; Dr. Maurizio Ferrari, IFCC President; Dr. Carlos Navarro, COLABIOCLI President; Dr. Isabel Fierro Universidad Central del Ecuador, QF Maria Saldarreaga, SEBIOCLI Nacional President; Dr. Maria del Carmen Pasquel, President of the organizing committee congress.COLABIOCLI 2015 Quito.



Part of the Organizing committee congress: Dr. Cecilia Paula, Dr. Sonia Dominguez, Dr. Isabel Fierro, Dr. Patricia Ochoa, Dr. María del Carmen Pasquel, Dr. María Alvarez, Dr. Ana Delgado, Dr. Reina López, Dr. Rosa Velez, Dr. Hernán Silva, Dr. Myriam Granizo

AWARDS FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

1)Prize for best research work WIENER LAB 2015:DRA. ANA ISABEL SÁNCHEZ BERMÚDEZ -
Topic: RAD51C ASSESSMENT AS PREDICTOR OF GENETIC SUSCEPTIBILITY IN FAMILIES WITH SYNDROME AND OVARIAN CANCER HEREDITARY BREAST

2) Poster Award

The Foundation Wiener Lab and SEBIOCLI Prize for research in the form posters presented at the closing ceremony, the winner was selected from 61 participants work and won the group at the Catholic University of Quito and the ISPI, with the theme “molecular Epidemiology of Klebsiella pneumoniae producing the blaKPC gene in samples of invasive strains of Ecuador”, authors: Carolina E. Satan, Cordova .D, Tamayo.Villacís. J, Villavicencio.F, Zabala.A, Reyes.J, one of the reasons the jury considered for designation, was the immediate application of research in the raised serious health problem.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

1)Dinner COLABIOCLI and International authorities, was the night of September 24 in Room Grade which is part of the Company Church of Jesus emblematic church, baroque seventeenth century, impressive for its coating with gold leaf almost all of its internal part,

2) On September 25 took place “Latin American party”, presented music, folk group games and artificial lights, there were snacks with food and drinks from Ecuador, from the Museum of Water “YAKU” place from which you could enjoy an extraordinary view of the historic center and south of the capital city.



Authorities: IFCC, COLABIOCLI and the Organizing Committee in the YAKU

EXPOLAB

excellent expolab was presented with the best technology for clinical laboratory



EGYPT

THE EGYPTIAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY SCIENCES (ESCC)

National meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
58th Congress of ESCC	16th & 17th of September 2015	Laboratory Medicine Update

Education

Workshop on Laboratory Accreditation in collaboration with Egyptian Accreditation Council (EGAC)

Regional meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
The 14th Conference of Arab Federation of Clinical Biology (AFCB) at Sudan	4th till 6th of December 2015	Plannery Lectures: 1. Genomics Medicine, Present and Future (Prof.M.Shaarawy) 2. Effect of Long-term Use of DPMA as Hormonal Contraceptive on BMD and Biochemical Markers of Bone Remodeling (Prof. Samira El Mallah)

Regional relations

Arab Federation of Clinical Biology

International relations

- IFCC
- WHO EMRO
- EFLM (Euromedlab, Paris, 2015)
- Royal college of Pathologist, London UK



FINLAND

FINNISH SOCIETY OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY (SKKY)

National meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
Spring meeting	23.-24.4.2015	Newborn metabolic disorder screening, the methodology for metabolic screening, POC and e-learning, laboratory logistics, IT services for the laboratory and qc
Fall meeting	19.11.2015	SFS-EN ISO 15189 – From paper to practice, HbA1c from % to mmol/mol, non-invasive trisomy screening from the mother's blood sample, recommendation for the drug testing in the health care system

Education

At spring meeting the topics of the lectures were: Newborn metabolic disorder screening, the methodology for metabolic screening, POC and e-learning, laboratory logistics, IT services for the laboratory and qc. The total number of participants was 82.

At fall meeting the topics of the lectures were: SFS-EN ISO 15189 – From paper to practice, HbA1c from % to mmol/mol, non-invasive trisomy screening from the mother's blood sample, recommendation for the drug testing in the health care system. The total number of participants was 67.

During the year 2015 FSCC has continued to financially support the participation of its members in domestic and international meetings. FSCC has also admitted grants to its members to be used for scientific research.

During the year 2015 FSCC has started preparations for the 2018 NFCK (the Nordic Society for Clinical Chemistry) congress which shall be held in Helsinki, Finland.

Klinlab is a journal published by FSCC. The journal published 6 issues in 2015 and it was freely distributed to all members of the FSCC.

Regional meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
NFCK Board Meeting	30.10.2015	Hosting the meeting in Helsinki

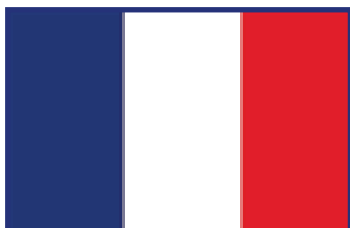
Regional relations

FSCC is a member society of the Nordic Society for Clinical Chemistry (NFCK = Nordisk förening för Klinisk kemi). Finnish members in the board of NFCK during year 2015 have been Tommi Vaskivuo and Petra Anttila. Klinisk Biokemi i Norden is a journal published by NFCK. The journal published 4 issues in 2015 and it was freely distributed to all members of the NFCK member societies.

International relations

Päivi Laitinen was the national representative of FSCC in IFCC.

Kari Pulkki was the national representative in the board of EFLM.



FRANCE

SOCIÉTÉ FRANÇAISE DE BIOLOGIE CLINIQUE (SFBC)

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
SFBC National congress integrating the Journées Internationales de Biologie (JIB) – in conjunction with 2015 EuroMedLab IFCC/EFLM Meeting	June 21st – 25th, 2015	European lab medicine event

Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational Committee chaired by Dr C. Augereau and Dr F. Guerber <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Continuous professional development (DPC) and continuous medical education (CME) through SFBC scientific meeting sessions • Committee on Evaluation of Professional Practices (C-EPP) : chaired by Dr I. Aimone-Gastin (Nancy) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › National Agreement SFBC as Validating Society for “EPP” › Relations with the Federation of Medical Specialities (FSM) • Topics of EPP and CME actions in 2015: - New Generation Sequencing and Digital PCR

Regional meetings		
Name of the meeting	Location and Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
2015 EuroMedLab IFCC / EFLM Meeting “Revolution in Laboratory Medicine”	Paris (France), June 21st-25th, 2015	General organization All sessions and meetings
Satellite meetings		
6th International Symposium “Critical Care Testing and Blood Gases	Versailles (France) June 18-19th, 2015	Organization in cooperation with Association pour l’Innovation en Science et Analyse (AISA)
HbA1c and Management of Diabetes Mellitus in the 21st century	Reims (France) June 26th, 2015	Organization in cooperation with Société Francophone du Diabète (SFD)
State of the art in the Biology of Trace Elements and Vitamins	Paris (France) June 26th, 2015	Organization in cooperation with Société Francophone d’Etude et de Recherche sur les Eléments Toxiques et Essentiels (SFERETE) and Société Française des Vitamines et Biofacteurs (SFVB)
2015 AACC Annual Meeting	Atlanta (USA), July 26th – 30th, 2015	Meetings with AACC and LTO
EFLM symposium, Education in Clinical chemistry and Lab Med	Prague (Czech Republic), April 24th, 2015	Education and accreditation of the future specialist in Lab Medicine
2015 LTO Europe	Paris (France) , June 19th, 2015	European LTO meeting
3rd EFLM-BD European Conference on Preanalytical Phase,	Porto (Portugal) , Mars 20th-22nd, 2015	French experience and International comparisons
11th EFLM symposium for BCLF	Belgrade (Serbia), May 14th- 15th, 2015	Celebrating the 60th anniversary
Cutting Edge Lab management in Europe	Prague (Czech Republic), October 1st, 2015	Lab Medicine: economics, financing and organization in the French/ European environment
X Congresso Uruguayo de biochimica Clinica (IFCC-VLP)	Montevideo (Uruguay), October 23rd, 2015	Automation, new developments and strategies for implementation

Regional relations

- Organization of EuroMedLab 2015 in Paris
- Organization of 3 satellite meetings of EuroMedLab 2015 (Versailles, Reims, Paris)

International relations

- Coordination by SFBC Committee on International Relations:
 - Prof.P. Gillery
 - Dr B. Gouget
- SFBC representatives:
 - IFCC: Prof. P. Gillery
 - EFLM: Dr B. Gouget
 - WASPaLM : Prof. J. Goudable
- Participation in the International Advisory Board of next IFCC/EFLM meetings:
 - EFLM/IFCC Paris 2015 : Organization
 - IFCC General Conference Madrid 2016
 - EFLM / IFCC Athens 2017 (Dr B. Gouget (COC), Michel Vaubourdolle (ISAB))
 - IFCC Durban WorldLab 2017(Pr P. Gillery)
- SFBC: founding member of the FIFBCML : Fédération Internationale Francophone de Biologie Clinique et de Médecine de Laboratoire.
Participation in 4 meetings in 2015 :
 - Lebanon: Congrès des Biologistes Libanais (SBL), April 15th-18th, 2015
 - Morocco: Journées Nationales de Biologie Clinique (SMCC), June 4th-6th, 2015
 - France: Paris, June 21st-25th, 2015
 - Algeria: 1st National Congress ALAM, November 24th-25th, 2015

Additional information

Participation of SFBC members in IFCC Committees and Working Groups

IFCC-SD EC P. Gillery, Vice-Chair, 2014-2016
IFCC-SD

Committees

- Nomenclature, properties and units (C-NPU) (Silver book (WG))	F. Scherrer, Member, 2015-2017 (G. Féraud, Chair)
- Molecular diagnostic (C-MD)	K. Peoc'h, corresp. Member
- Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (C-TLM)	A. Vassault, corresp. Member
- Standardization of thyroid function tests (C-STFT)	P. Carayon, corresp. Member

Working groups

- Clinical Quantitative Mass Spectrometry Proteomics (WG-cMSP)	S. Lehmann, Chair, 2014-2016
- Standardization of Carbohydrate-Deficient-Transferrin (WG-CDT)	F. Schellenberg, Member
- Parathyroid hormone (WG-PTH)	J.C. Souberbielle, Member
- Commutability (WG-C)	V. Delatour, Member
- Standardization of Troponin I (WG-TNI)	G. Lefèvre, corresp. Member
- Harmonization of antibody tests (WG-HAT)	P. Carayon, corresp. Member
- Standardisation of Hemoglobin A2 (WG-HbA2)	M. Arock, corresp. Member
- Standardisation of Pregnancy-Associated Plasma Protein (WG-PAPPA)	R. Garnotel, corresp. Member
- Standardisation of Albumin Assay in Urine (WG-SAU)	E. Caussé, corresp. Member

IFCC-EMD	
– Committee on Analytical Quality (C-AQ)	A. Vassault, corresp. Member
– Committee on Evidence Based Laboratory Medicine (C-EBLM)	J. Wils, corresp. Member
IFCC-CPD	
– IFCC News and WG-IFCC News	D Gruson, Member
IFCC-TF and IFCC-IP	
– Task force for Young Scientists (TF-YS)	G. Boursier, Member, 2014-2016
– Task force on Proficiency testing (TF-PT)	A. Perret-Liaudet, Member, 2014-2016
– Task force on point of care testing (TF-POCT)	P. Pernet, Member, 2012-2014
– Task force on chronic kidney disease (integrated project) (TF-CKD)	J.P. Cristol, corresp. Member
– Task force on implementation of HbA1c standardization (integrated project) (TF-HbA1c)	P. Gillery, SD Liaison
– Task force on the impact of laboratory medicine on Clinical management and outcomes (TF-ICO)	P. Gillery, SD Liaison
IFCC-CCC	P. Carayon, corresp. Member
IFCC-Nominations Committee (2015-2017)	B. Gouget , chair

SFBC Board	2015	2016
Executive Board:		
• President	Pr Joëlle GOUDABLE	Pr Marc DELPECH
• Vice-President	Pr Marc DELPECH	Pr Vincent SAPIN
• Past-President(s)	Pr Philippe GAMBERT Pr Alain LEGRAND	Pr Joëlle GOUDABLE
• General Secretary	Pr Vincent SAPIN	Dr Véronique ANNAIX
• Assistant General Secretary	Dr Véronique ANNAIX	Pr Bruno BAUDIN
• Treasurer	Dr Philippe CHATRON	Dr Philippe CHATRON
Scientific Committee :	Pr Sylvain LEHMANN Dr Katell PEOC'H	Pr Sylvain LEHMANN Dr Katell PEOC'H
Editor in Chief ABC :	Pr Jean-Louis BEAUDEUX	Pr Jean-Louis BEAUDEUX
Educational Committee :	Dr Christine AUGEREAU Dr Fabrice GUERBER Dr Isabelle AIMONE-GASTIN	Dr Christine AUGEREAU-VACHER
Lab Test Online :	Dr Véronique DUCROS Pr Jean-Pierre BALI	Dr Véronique DUCROS Pr Jean-Pierre BALI
International Relations :	Pr Philippe GILLERY Dr Bernard GOUGET	
National Relations :	Dr Marie-Françoise GAUDEA-TOUSSAINT Dr Carole POUPON	
Meetings and Conferences :	Dr Michel VAUBOURDOLLE	
E-learning :	Pr Damien GRUSON	
Young Scientists :	Dr Guilaine BOURSIER	



GERMANY

DEUTSCHE VEREINTE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR KLINISCHE CHEMIE UND LABORATORIUMSMEDIZIN e. V. (DGKL)

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
Annual Meeting of the DGKL, Leipzig	Oct 14-17, 2015	Challenges of laboratory medicine in health maintenance and early disease detection
Annual meeting of the DGKL Division Molecular Diagnostics	June 11-12, 2015, Tutzing, Germany	
Annual meeting of the DGKL Division Endocrinological Diagnostics	April 24, 2015, Fulda, Germany	Mass spectrometry in endocrinology. Update proteo-hormones
Annual meeting of the DGKL Working Group LC-MS/MS in Laboratory Medicine	November 26-27, 2015, Bad Staffelstein, Germany	Traceability. Mass spectrometry in endocrinology

Education
Revision course Clinical Chemistry, Hannover, November 11 – December 12, 2015

Regional meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
EuroMedLab, Paris (France)	June 22-24, 2015	Symposium Current status of the internal and external quality control in laboratory medicine exemplified by diabetes mellitus, Chairs: B. Isermann, M. Neumaier Symposium lectures, exhibition

Regional relations
Active participation in EFCC (including Board Membership) Active participation in the EC4 Register Commission (including Board Membership) "LaboratoriumsMedizin" (J. Lab. Med.), official journal of the German and the Austrian Societies of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine

International relations
Active Participation in IFCC (including Working Groups, Task Forces, etc.) Supporting Society of Mass Spectrometry Application to the Clinical Laboratory (MSACL) 2nd European Congress MSACL 2015 EU, Sept 8-11, 2015, Salzburg, Austria



HONG KONG HONG KONG SOCIETY OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY (HKSCC)

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
IFCC-Abbott Visiting Lecture	9 January 2015	Is Vitamin D Critical for Improved Health Outcomes? When to Assess Vitamin D Status?
IFCC-Abbott Visiting Lecture /HKSCC Annual Scientific Meeting	10 January 2015	1. Strategies for Interpretation and Commenting on Clinical Laboratory Results. 2. Bone Markers and Their Use: 2015. 3. Vitamin D Analytical Service by Mass Spectrometry in Hong Kong.
Dinner Lecture I	15 April 2015	Saving Children's Lives and Improving Outcomes by Newborn Screening for Metabolic Diseases.
Evening Lecture II	9 July 2015	1. Practical Applications of Sigma-metrics in QC Design. 2. QC as the Corner stone of Quality Lab Results
Evening Lecture III	25 August 2015	Quality Control in Blood Gas Analysis and Its Relationship with Patient Safety at the Light of the Latest CLSI EP23 - Laboratory Quality Control based on Risk Management.
Evening Lecture IV	8 September 2015	Risk Stratification of Your Laboratory Test Menu and Supportive QC Practices.
Evening Lecture V	10 September 2015	Nature Has Arranged an Experiment.

Education
<p>The year 2015 education activities kick-started with the Society's first IFCC-Abbott Visiting Lecture on 9th January 2015. The IFCC-Abbott Visiting Lecturer, Professor Howard Morris (Division of Health Sciences, University of Australia) presented the lecture "Is Vitamin D Critical for Improved Health Outcomes? When to Assess Vitamin D Status". The lecture was attended by over 60 members.</p> <p>The 2015 Annual Scientific Meeting /Annual General Meeting was held on 10 January 2015. The scientific event was joint ventured with the second and third IFCC-Abbott Visiting Lectures with Professor Howard Morris delivering two enlightening talks: "Strategies for Interpretation and Commenting on Clinical Laboratory Results" and "Bone Markers and Their Use: 2015". Dr Jeffrey Kwok, Council Member, also presented on "Vitamin D Analytical Service by Mass Spectrometry in Hong Kong". The 13 industrial booth exhibitions and lectures were well attended by over 155 members and guests.</p> <p>Five scientific meetings were organized/co-hosted with other academic institutions in 2015:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. On 15 April, Professor Michael Bennett of the University of Pennsylvania, USA presented a lecture entitled "Saving Children's Lives and Improving Outcomes by Newborn Screening for Metabolic Diseases". The event was attended by 169 members and guests.2. A seminar on Laboratory Quality Control, co-hosted with BioRad Pacific Ltd (Hong Kong) was held on 9 July, 2015. Two speakers: Dr Jeremie M Gras (Clinique Saint-Luc Bouge, Belgium), and Professor Michael A Noble (University of British Columbia, Canada) presented on the topics "Practical Applications of Sigma-metrics in QC Design" and "QC as the Corner stone of Quality Lab Results" respectively. The meeting was attended by over 270 members and guests.3. Werfen Hong Kong co-hosted with the Society on 25 August in presenting a lecture "Quality Control in Blood Gas Analysis and Its Relationship with Patient Safety at the Light of the Latest CLSI EP23 - Laboratory Quality Control based on Risk Management". The speaker was Mr Francesco Ranieri, Critical Care Consultant, Werfen China. The lecture was attended by 150 members and guests.

4. BioRad Pacific Ltd (Hong Kong) organized a quality control seminar under the society's auspices on 8 September, 2015. Dr Valerie Ng of the University of California, San Francisco, USA delivered the lecture titled "Risk Stratification of Your Laboratory Test Menu and Supportive QC Practices". The event was attended by 180 members and guests.
5. A joint seminar with the Hong Kong College of Pathologists was held on 10 September, 2015. The speaker was Dr Penelope Coates of SA Pathology, South Australia. Dr Coates spoke on the topic "Nature Has Arranged an Experiment". The talk was attended by more than 60 members.



HUNGARY

HUNGARIAN SOCIETY OF LABORATORY MEDICINE (MLDT)

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
MOLSZE meeting	11-13 June, 2015, Bük	National Meeting of Medical Technologists
National Training of MLDT, Invited speaker: Prof. Marc Thelen, title of his talk: The development of quality management standards and accreditation for medical laboratories in the Netherlands. Impact of the implementation of ISO 15189:2012 standard.	4 September, 2015, Budapest	Quality Assurance
'Start-up and spin-off companies in the national health system – National Workshop	23 September, 2015, Budapest	Management, biotechnology
EGVE Symposium: Laboratory medicine in focus	7-9 October, 2015, Debrecen	Management, general financial issues

Education
<p>Education in laboratory diagnostics in allergology in association with the Hungarian Society of Immunology (MIT) (22 April, 2015, Budapest)</p> <p>Postgraduate training program for laboratory medicine residents (2-4 November, 2015, Pécs)</p> <p>There were several other national courses organized by in vitro diagnostic companies in different areas of laboratory medicine, such as laboratory diagnostics in sepsis.</p> <p>Articles published in our national language in relation to laboratory medicine:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Hetyésy K., Kővári O., Ajzner É. Laboratóriumi diagnosztika a csúcstechnológia és a hazai finanszírozás kettős szorításában (http://www.imeonline.hu/article/2309/45_51.pdf) Medical Tribune Laboratóriumi Medicina szakmai különszáma (megjelenés MOLSZE Szakdolgozói Konferencián, 2015.06.11) IME - 2015. október: Kővári Orsolya, Dr. Dózsa Csaba, Dr. Pál Miklós: A laborkassza helyzete Magyarországon. IME – 2015. december: Dr. Ajzner Éva, Dr. Seres Erika: Egységes álláspont a nemzeti laboratóriumi koncepció készítői, a gazdasági és laboratóriumi vezetők között: a laboratóriumi diagnosztikai szolgáltatások elégtelenül finanszírozottak hazánkban.



IRELAND

ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTS IN IRELAND (ACBI)

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
ACBI 38th annual conference, Dublin	16-17th October 2015	Men's Health: Androgens + Type 2 DM, Male Osteoporosis Mother and Baby: Gestational Diabetes Neonatal hypoglycaemia-screening Pre-eclampsia Femal Reproductive Health and Pathology: Ovarian Cancer AMH Gestaional Trophoblastic Disease Light and Health

Education
ACBI members attended national and regional meetings throughout the year Tutorials were held for candidates preparing for Royal College of Pathologists examinations in Clinical Biochemistry.

Regional meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
ACB Republic of Ireland region annual scientific meeting, Dublin	16th January 2015	Dr Graham Lee, Principal Clinical Biochemist, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, presented a case on Thyrotoxicosis Factitia
Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (ACB) Northern Ireland Region and Association of Clinical Biochemists in Ireland (ACBI) Joint Spring Scientific Meeting, Belfast	24th April 2015	Dr Ophelia Blake, Consultant Clinical Biochemist, Mid-Western Regional Hospital, Limerick, presented on the National Cancer Control Programme PSA harmonisation project
ACBI Margaret Sinnott memorial Conference, Dublin	12th June 2015	Ms Caroline Joyce, Principal Clinical Biochemist, Cork University Hospital, presented on the genetics of Thyroid Cancer

Regional relations
The ACBI liaised with other regional societies and participated in meetings and educational events hosted by other organisations e.g. Royal College of Physicians in Ireland, Academy of Clinical Science and Laboratory Medicine, Irish Endocrine Society, National Cancer Control Programme, Irish national Accreditation Board, and the Irish External Quality Assurance Scheme).

International relations
ACBI members continued to support the activities of the IFCC through participation in various Working Groups e.g. POCT, CKD, Distance Education and e-learning



ITALY

ITALIAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND CLINICAL MOLECULAR BIOLOGY (SIBioC)

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
47° CONGRESSO NAZIONALE SIBIOC - MEDICINA DI LABORATORIO - L'ARMONIZZAZIONE NELLA MEDICINA DI LABORATORIO	FIRENZE, 26-28 OTTOBRE 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Point-Of-Care Testing: New Challenges;• Diagnosis of Liquid Biological Not Blood• Communication of the Value of diagnosis to the citizen• Harmonization, Preanalytical Phase• Clinical cases selected by Poster• Laboratory and targeted therapy in ovarian cancer• Harmonization, analytical phase• Harmonization in hematologic diagnostics• Mass Spectrometry: diagnostic applications and innovations• Harmonization, post-analytical phase

Education

The "School for continuous education in Laboratory Medicine" (SPML, Scuola di formazione permanente in Medicina di Laboratorio) in 2015 organized 13 courses (practical and theoretical) on the following topics:

1. Point of care
2. Haematology
3. Mass spectrometry
4. Molecular biology
5. Thrombosis and haemostasis
6. Systematic Reviews: how to read a meta-analysis
7. Immunometric Technologies

Regional meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
LA MEDICINA DI LABORATORIO NELL' ETÀ GERIATRICA	FIRENZE SESTO FIORENTINO (FI), 12 FEBBRAIO 2015	
LA MEDICINA DI LABORATORIO IN SCENA	BERGAMO, 10 APRILE 2015	
AGGIORNAMENTI IN TEMA DI CONTROLLO DI QUALITÀ E APPROCCI METODOLOGICI NEL PROCESSO DI ARMONIZZAZIONE NEL LABORATORIO CLINICO	BARI, 24 APRILE 2015	
LE TECNICHE CROMATOGRAFICHE E LA SPETTROMETRIA DI MASSA NEL LABORATORIO DI ANALISI CLINICHE	GENOVA, 8 MAGGIO 2015	
UP DATES IN AUTOIMMUNITY 2015: THE NEED OF HARMONIZATION	MODENA, 15-16 MAGGIO 2015	
30° CONVEGNO DI STUDIO: IL LABORATORIO NELLA TERAPIA ANTICOAGULANTE	VICENZA, 28 MAGGIO 2015	

APPROPRIATEZZA PRESCRITTIVA DEGLI ESAMI DI LABORATORIO	PERUGIA, 30 MAGGIO 2015	
IL RUOLO PROATTIVO DELLA MEDICINA DI LABORATORIO NELL'APPLICAZIONE DEGLI ATTI COGENTI: L'APPROPRIATEZZA DALLA TEORIA ALLA PRATICA	ALESSANDRIA, 10 GIUGNO 2015	
LE MATRICI NEL LABORATORIO DI PATOLOGIA CLINICA	AGRIGENTO, 24 SETTEMBRE 2015	
COME CREARE VALORE AGGIUNTO ALL'AGIRE PROFESSIONALE: LA MOTIVAZIONE E IL RUOLO DELLE PROFESSIONI SANITARIE NELLA ORGANIZZAZIONE	MILANO, 7 OTTOBRE 2015	
XIX CONGRESSO REGIONALE MULTIDISCIPLINARE DI MEDICINA DI LABORATORIO	CHIETI, 13-14 OTTOBRE 2015	
CORSO PRECONGRESSUALE - AGGIORNAMENTI SULLA SINDROME DA ANTICORPI ANTIFOSFOLIPIDI	FIRENZE, 26 OTTOBRE 2015	
LE TECNOLOGIE IMMUNOMETRICHE	MILANO, 4 NOVEMBRE 2015	
INDAGINI TOSSICOLOGICHE PER LA VALUTAZIONE DELL'ATTUALITÀ DI CONSUMO: SANGUE, FLUIDO ORALE, ESPIRATO	SARZANA, 12 NOVEMBRE 2015	
PERCORSI DI MIGLIORAMENTO DELLA MEDICINA DI LABORATORIO	ROMA, 18 NOVEMBRE 2015	
TOSSICOLOGIA FORENSE NELL'AMBITO DEGLI INCIDENTI STRADALI	ROMA, 2 DICEMBRE 2015	
ARMONIZZAZIONE IN MEDICINA DI LABORATORIO	ANCONA, 16 DICEMBRE 2015	

Regional relations

SIBioC has a permanent contact with the Italian Regions by means of a network of 20 Regional delegates. The Regional delegates meet constantly with the Executive Board, at least twice a year.

International relations

Several speakers from all over the world attended the meeting in Florence in October, and gave oral presentations and took active parts to Educational Workshops.

Additional information

Besides the National Congress, SIBioC organized several regional or inter-regional events in Italy.



JAPAN

JAPAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY (JSCC)

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
The 55th Annual Meeting of Japan Society of Clinical Chemistry (JSCC)	2015/10/30-11/01	2 Special Lectures: The future of laboratory diagnostics, Omics sciences
		Society Award Lecture: Science to Sphingosin-1P
		4 Educational Lectures: Metabolomics, miRNA, Big data analysis, Lipid metabolism
		Project Report
		6 Symposia: The future of clinical chemistry, The safety evaluation of drugs, Preventive healthcare and biobank, Young researchers, Mass spectrometry, The development of human resources in genomic medicine

Regional meetings			
Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting	
Hokkaido branch : The 25th branch regular meeting	2015/9/26	Each branch supervises the meeting of each region	
Tohoku branch : The 26th branch general meeting	2015/7/25		
Kanto branch : The 32nd branch regular meeting	2015/12/19		
Koushinetsu branch : The 33rd branch general meeting	2015/6/6-7		
Tokai & Hokuriku branch : The 26th branch general meeting	2015/11/22		
Kinki branch : The 68th branch regular meeting	2015/9/26		
Chugoku & Shikoku branch : The 11th joint regional meeting	2015/2/21-22		

Education	
<p>In all annual meeting of JSCC and regional meetings in Japan, educational lectures on various clinical chemistry related subjects, such as standardization, analytic methods, and laboratory related trouble shootings were performed by the specialists of clinical chemists. In addition, clinical chemistry related companies held various types of symposiums and educational meetings in all over Japan all the year round.</p> <p>Clinical Chemistry Workshop on Medical technologists' for Immunological and Clinical Chemistry: Nov 1, 2015 Board Examination on for Medical technologists' for Immunological and Clinical Chemistry, Dec 12, 2015</p>	
Kyushu branch: The 26th branch general meeting	2015/3/7

Regional relations
Representative to APFCB Council: Masato Maekawa Scientific Committee: Kiyoshi Ichihara (Chairs of Committees) Education Committee: Susumu Osawa (Corresponding Members) Communications: Hitoshi Chiba (Corresponding Members) Congress and Conferences: Yuzo Kayamori (Corresponding Members)

International relations

IFCC Activity

Scientific Division (SD), Executive Committee (EC): Tsutomu Nobori, Member

SD Committees:

- Reference Intervals and Decision Limits (C-RIDL):
Kiyoshi Ichihara, Chair
Aki Takahashi corresp. Member, nominated by Corporate Members
- Nomenclature, Properties and Units (C-NPU):
Donchon. Kang, Member
Masayuki Totani, corresp. Member
- Molecular Diagnostics (C-MD):
Masato Maekawa, Member
- Reference Systems of Enzymes (C-RSE):
Shigeru Ueda, Member
Shin-ichi Sakasegawa, corresp. Member
- Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (C-TLM):
Takashi Miida, corresp. Member
- Standardization of Thyroid Function Tests (C-STFT):
Akira Hishinuma, corresp. Member

SD Working Groups

- Clinical Quantitative Mass Spectrometry Proteomics (WG-cMSP)□:
Yukio Ando, Member
- C-NPU, Working group on the Silver Book revision:
Dongchon Kang, Member
- Standardization of Albumin Assay in Urine (WG-SAU):
Yoshihisa Itho, Member & corresp. Member
- Standardization of Hemoglobin A2 (WG-HbA2):
Tadao Hoshino, corresp. Member
- Standardization of Carbohydrate Deficient Transferrin (WG-CDT):
Fumio Nomura, corresp. Member
- Standardization of Troponin I (WG-TNI):
Junichi Ishii, corresp. Member
Education Management Division (EMD) Committees
- Clinical Molecular Biology Curriculum (C-CMBC):
Atsushi Watanabe, Member
Tadao Funato, corresp. Member
- Analytical Quality (C-AQ):
Kyoichi Totsuka
Japan Society of Clinical Chemistry
- Distance Learning (C-DL):
Kuniaki Saito, corresp. Member
- Education in the Use of Biomarkers in Diabetes (C-EUBD):
Asako Sato, corresp. Member
Communications and Publications Division (CPD) Committees
- Internet and e-Learning (C-leL):
Hideo Sakamoto, Member
Task Forces/Special Projects
- Task Force on Implementation of HbA1c Standardization (Integrated Project) (TF-HbA1c):
Izumi Takei, Member
- Task Force on Young Scientists(TF-YS)
Ryunosuke Ohkawa, corresp. Member

International Journal Editor

Editorial Board for Annals of Clinical Biochemistry:

Katsuyuki Nakajima

Editorial Board of Clini Chimi Acta:

Nobuo Okumura, Masato Maekawa, Takashi Miida,
Minoru Tozuka, Katsuyuki Nakajima, Akihiro Inazu

Additional information

About 1,450 members including MD and PHD belong to JSCC and 9 blocks were divided as the each centre of JSCC.

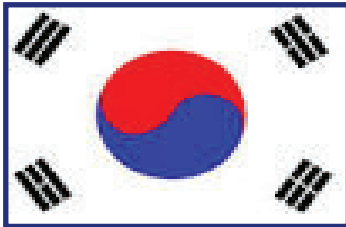
The annual meeting is held once a year and more than 300 papers are discussed in the meeting and the regional meetings were held once a year in each region and interesting symposiums and special lectures are planned by an annual president of the meeting.

Standing Committees

- Publications Committee
- International Relations Committee
- Education Committee
- Liaison board for Scientific Committees
- Academic Meetings and Public Relations Committee
- Awards Committee
- Judicial and Ethical Affairs Committee
- Future Directions Committee

Scientific Committees

- Committee on Quality Management
- Committee on Enzymes and Analytical Reagents
- Committee on Laboratory Systems and Instruments
- Committee on Point-of-Care Testing
- Committee on Diabetes Mellitus Indices
- Committee on Plasma Protein Testing
- Committee on Nutrition Testing
- Committee on Animal Clinical Pathology
- Committee on Genetic Testing
- Committee on Thrombosis and Hemostasis Testing
- Committee on Lipoprotein Testing
- Committee on Common Reference Intervals
- Committee on Pitfall Research



KOREA
KOREAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY (KSCC)

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
Annual Meeting of KSCC (I)	2015. 5. 14.	Symposium 1; Comparisons and suggestions about procedure manuals of clinical chemistry laboratory
		Symposium 2; Research highlights
		Symposium 3; Recent advances in hormonal testings
		Symposium 4; Industry workshop (New tests in the field of clinical chemistry)
Quality Assurance Workshop	2015. 10. 30.	Quality Assurance workshop for neonatal screening tests
Annual Meeting of KSCC (II)	2015. 10. 30.	Symposium 1; The basic requirements of accredited laboratory
		Symposium 2; Health insurance benefit standard – about clinical chemistry tests
		Symposium 3; Introductions for updated homepage of KSCC
		Symposium 4; Industry workshop (New tests in the field of clinical chemistry)
		Symposium 5; CLSI guidelines applied to clinical chemistry

Education
1> Procedure manuals of clinical chemistry laboratory 2> Hormonal testings 3> Neonatal screening tests 4> The basic requirements of accredited laboratory 5> Health insurance benefit standard – about clinical chemistry tests 6> New tests in clinical chemistry 7> CLSI guidelines applied to clinical chemistry

Regional relations
In addition to the annual meetings of KSCC, several times of regional meetings were held. To facilitate the regional communications and to fasten the regional relationship, regular meetings on clinical chemistry were held all over Korea. - KSCC Council meetings: 2 times - KSCC Standing committee meetings: 2 times - KSCC Organizing committee meetings: 9 times

International relations
1. Attended 'EuromedLab Paris 2015' and promoted the 'IFCC WorldLab Seoul 2020' to the participants of the Congress 2. Working APFCB committee members (2016) - Pf. Yong Hwa Lee for the education and laboratory management committee - Pf. Hwan Sub Lim for the communications committee 3. IFCC Network Laboratory for HbA1c in Korea (2012 - present) 4. Pf. Junghan Song was working as a member of the 'International Scientific Advisory Board of IFCC World-Lab Durban 2017' 5. Pf. Hyung-Doo Park was working as a member of the 'IFCC C-STFT (Standardization of FT4 and Harmonization of TSH Measurement)' 6. Dr. Eun-Hee Lee participated the 'AACC ICHCLR Council meeting and HOG of 2015'

Additional information

Current Officer Bearer of KSCC (2016)

1. President : Pf. Gye Cheol Kwon (Chungnam National University College of Medicine)
2. New Secretary General : Pf. Sang-Hoon Song (Seoul University College of Medicine)
3. Treasurer : Pf. Hwan Sub Lim (Yonsei University College of Medicine)
4. International Committee : Dr. Sung Eun Cho (LabGenomics Clinical Laboratories)



LITHUANIA

LITHUANIAN SOCIETY OF LABORATORY MEDICINE

National meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
7th Annual Conference of the Lithuanian Society of Laboratory Medicine	17-04-2015	Role of laboratory medicine in chronic diseases management
International conference	10-10-2015	Complete blood count – current topics
International conference	12-11-2015	Immunohematology and testing of blood components – solutions and newest scientific tendencies

Education

1. IFCC-Clinical Molecular Biology Curriculum (CMBC) Beginner's Course in Molecular Diagnostics; July 12-17, 2015 Vilnius, Lithuania (19 participants from Lithuania and Estonia).
2. Workshop "Six Sigma Design and Error Budgets; Introduction to Risk Analysis and Risk Management"; April 16, 2015 Vilnius, Lithuania. Held in collaboration with "Westgard QC" (USA) (66 participants from Lithuania and Latvia).
3. Training course "Understanding and application of standard LST EN ISO 15189:2012 "Medical laboratories – Requirements for quality and competence"; March 12-13, 2015 Vilnius, Lithuania, and May 29-30, 2015 Klaipeda (56 participants in total).
4. Training course "Basics of evidence based medicine", March 16, 2015, Vilnius, Lithuania (35 participants)

Regional relations

Lithuanian Society of Laboratory Medicine (LLMD) is member of Baltic Association of Laboratory Medicine (BALM). Other 2 members of BALM are: Latvian Society of Laboratory Specialists and Estonian Society of Laboratory Medicine. The main task of the Association – organization of Baltic Congresses of Laboratory Medicine held every second year in one of the Baltic Countries.

International relations

LLMD is the member of IFCC, EFLM and Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI); partner of The Global World Thrombosis Day Movement.



MEXICO
MEXICAN ASSOCIATION
OF CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
I Regional Symposium: Diagnosis and Clinical Aspects of Diabetes (DIABETES&OBESITY)	March 27-28, 2015	Impact of Obesity in México Polymorphisms associated to Obesity and Diabetes in adults from Chiapas. Diabetogenes in Maya population. Polymorphisms associated to Obesity and Diabetes in adults from Chiapas. Diabetes type 2: from the Clinic to Molecular Polymorphisms and Anthropometry in children with Obesity
9o International Conference of Quality, Mexico City and other venues in Latin America	November 24-25, 2015	From Quality Control to Risk Management in laboratory medicine and blood banks.

Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hematology and Coagulation overview, LICON Institute, México City • Specialized Course on Quality Control, CEL-TEC, Mexico City, • XV Course on Genetics, BIOGEN Laboratory, México City. • Internal Quality Control planning and implementation, Tapachula. • The importance of doing quality control. Veracruz.

Regional meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
21 EuroMedLabParis 2015	June 21-25, 2015	Creatinine Standardization Project. Oral presentation.
XXII Latin American Congress In Clinical Biochemistry, Quito Ecuador	September 24-26, 2015	Proficiency testing based on ISO 17043 Lab Accreditation ISO 15189: 2012. Oral presentation. Poster presentation.
XII National Congress of the Uruguayan Biochemistry Society.	October 22-24, 2015	Pilot Project for Creatinine Standardization. The Mexican Experience. Oral presentation.
3rd Annual Meeting on Clinical Chemistry	October 18-22, 2015	Board certification in clinical chemistry process. Oral presentation
XXVIII WASPaLM congress	November 18-22, 2015	CKD Round Table Discussion. Oral presentation, YS TF IFCC/WASPaLM Chairmanship.

Regional relations
<p>Latin American Award on Point of Care. ALERE and National Society of Bacteriologist of Colombia. Workshop on Accreditation. PTB and Chilean Society of Clinical Chemistry. Workshop on Adding Value to Patient Care using Quality Control, American Association for Clinical Chemistry. Member, Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry, COLABIOCLI</p>

International relations

WG-eJIFCC editorial board member, IFCC
WG-eNews corresponding member, IFCC
WG-IANT member, IFCC
C-CLM corresponding member, IFCC
C-MB corresponding member, IFCC
C-TLM corresponding member, IFCC
EB Member, IFCC
Latin American Working Group, Emerging Countries Program, American Association for Clinical Chemistry, AACC

Additional information

MUTUAL AGREEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE MEXICAN ACCREDITATION ENTITY TO IMPROVE LABORATORY ACCREDITATION AWARENESS.

BLOOD BANK WG AND NATIONAL PANEL OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS IN CLINICAL LABORATORY OF THE MEXICAN ACCREDITATION ENTITY.

ISO 15189 WG, MEXICAN INSTITUTE OF STANDARDIZATION AND CERTIFICATION-

CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY STUDENTS' SECTIONS AND STATE CHAPTERS (GUERRERO)

UNIVERSITIES –FACULTY OF CHEMISTRIES ADVISORY ACTIVITIES FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDIES.



PARAGUAY

ASOCIACIÓN DE BIOQUÍMICOS DEL PARAGUAY (ABP)

National meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
Course pre-congress at the VIII National Chemical Science Congress & VII Paraguay Congress of Biochemistry with the auspices of IFCC	May 6, 2015	Three Course pre-Congress: Microbiology, Clinical Laboratory Accreditation, Hematology and Clinical Biochemistry
VIII National Chemical Science Congress & VII Paraguay Congress of Biochemistry with the auspices of IFCC	May 7- 9, 2015	Five intra-Congress Course: *Principles of Management and Quality in Health Laboratories. *Magnitudes related to Biological- Medical Emergency Laboratory. Symposium: *Quality Assurance in the Laboratory IQA EQA. *Hematology and Hemostasis. *Analytes Molecular in diagnostic, *Treatment and prognosis of disease.
X Paraguayan Congress on Infectious Diseases & IV Conference of Clinical Microbiology. VIII Nursing Conference	November 5-7, 2015	Three Intra-Congress- Course: *Importance of proper sampling for microbiological diagnosis. Symposium: *Surveillance in Bacteriology, Virology and Mycology. *Molecular Biology

Education

Educational activities were made possible by international speakers from different associations (IFFC, COLABIOCLI, American Society for Microbiology), Centres and Universities in countries with which the ABP maintains close relations of cooperation and national speakers from the Faculty of Chemical Sciences and Medical Sciences (UNA), Central Laboratory of Public Health-Ministry of Public Health, Central Hospital of the Social Security Institute (IPS) and the Institute for Research in Health Sciences (IICS), and several hospitals and public and private laboratories in our country. And also we appreciate the support of foundations, scientific societies and companies related to our profession for the implementation of activities, like the PNCQ from Brazil.

The following educational activities were undertaken:

1. November 3, 2015. Toxoplasmosis Excellence in Diagnosis and Avidity Test .

Speakers: Vanessa Gogliota and María Noel (Uruguay) Molecular Biology- At the Chemical Federation of Paraguay

2. November 25, 2015. ISO 9001 Accreditation vs Certification Labs

Speaker: Laura Mujica (Paraguay). At the Chemical Federation of Paraguay

3. December 3, 2015. Technical Course Laboratories- Phase preanalytical

Speaker: Juana Ortellado (Paraguay). At the Auditorium Laboratory LASCA ASM.

International Speakers at different ABP Education Activities in 2015 (Congress & Courses)

ARGENTINA: Carlos Navarro (Pdte COLABIOCLI), Gustavo Giusiano, Gabriel O. Gutkind, Emilia Cattana, Luis Merino, Gerardo Deluca, Gustavo Velasco, María Cecilia López

BOLIVIA: Karina Chavez de Aban

BRASIL: Ana Claudia Perón, Andrea Piazza, Amadeo Sáez Alquezar

COLOMBIA: Marta Vives, Diana Marcela Tabares

CHILE: Leverton Ortiz

URUGUAY: Silvia González, Patricia Esperón, María Noel, Vanessa Gogliota

SPAIN: Luis García de Gadiana Romualdo.

Regional meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
Exchange of Experiences about the Interpretation of the Standard ISO 15189:2012	12th – 15th May 2015, Guatemala City	One Delegate with the Support of IAAC and PTB
“Implementation of the Concept of Traceability in Clinical Laboratories in Latin America” on	September 25 – 26, 2015, in Quito, Ecuador	One Delegate with the Support of IAAC and PTB
“COLABIOCLI Congress 2015”	September 24 to 26th, 2015	One Delegate
28 Brazilian Microbiology Meeting	October 18 to 22, in Florianópolis, Brasil	One Speaker at the Education Symposium

Regional relations

RELATION WITH COLABIOCLI

The composition of the Board of Directors of the ABP 2015-2017 was officially communicated.

There was a continuous communication with the President of COLABIOCLI, Dr. Carlos Navarro and the authorities of COLABIOCLI.

The Director of the Relationship Department of ABP participates at the Ecuadorian Meeting in Quito, Ecuador.

The cooperation agreement between ABP and the Argentine Association of Microbiology continue.

International relations

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LABORATORY Clinical Biochemistry and Medicine (IFCC):

The composition of the Board of Directors of the ABP 2015-2017 was officially communicated.

The VIII National Chemical Science Congress & VII Paraguay Congress of Biochemistry was under the auspices of IFCC.

Members of ABP in IFCC:

1. Congresses and Conferences Committee (C-CC)- M.Blanes G corresponding Member since 2013
2. Analytical Quality (C-AQ), Educational Management Division (EMB)- G. Velazquez, Member 2nd term 01/2015 -12/2017
3. Molecular Diagnostic Committee (C-MD), Scientific Division (SD)- G. Russomando, Member first term 01/2013 -12/2015
4. International and Learning (C-IEL) Publication and Communication Division (CPD)- M.Blanes G, corresponding member 2nd term 01/2015 -12/2017

PBL Members integrating Working Groups

1. Iberoamerica Nomenclature and Translation (WG-lant) CPD- G.Velázquez, Member since 2008
2. e-new (WG-e news) CPD
G. Blanes, Member 2nd term 01/2015 -12/2017

ABP members in Task Force- Specially Projects.

Glucose Meters How 1. Should be Evaluated in Critical Care (WGU MECC). Task Force on Point of Care Testing (POCT-TF).- E. Guillen Barua, Member first term 03/2013 -12/2015

2. Standardization of Thyroid Function Tests (C-STFT), Scientific Division Current Projects: Phase IV Method comparison studies for FT4 and TSH on Clinically Relevant samples: FT4 is Intended as technical standardization and harmonization process TSH, FT4 by Which Will Become Assays traceable to the conventional reference measurement procedure.- M. Blanes G, first term member 01/2015 -12/2017

Additional information

On Friday May 8, 2015 was held a Gala Dinner at the National Chemist Congress for the start of the celebrations of the 100th Anniversary of our National Chemist Federation, where ABP is with other Chemist Associations, at the local of the Excelsior Hotel.

On 15 December 15, 2015 was held a Gala dinner closing of the activities of the 100th anniversary celebrations at our renovated building.



POLAND

POLISH SOCIETY FOR LABORATORY DIAGNOSTICS (PTDL)

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
50th Anniversary of The Polish Society of Laboratory Diagnostics	February 6th-7th	"Laboratory diagnostics – the past, the present and the future"; special guests - The Presidents of IFCC and EFLM
Lubuski Branch of PSLD	April 9th-10th	"Hemostasis disorders – interdisciplinary challenge"
Jurata Meeting of Laboratory Diagnostics	April 23-24th	Laboratory medicine in elderly patients, anemias, EQAS, internet services for laboratory professionals.
Conference at Lysomice	May 28-29th, 2015	Glomerular filtration rate; new guidelines for managing dyslipidemia,
Women's health; Interpretation of hematology results, Preanalytical phase.		
Krakow Branch of PSLD	May 28-29th.2015	Therapeutic Drug Monitoring, Coagulation Testing, POCT
Bialystok Branch of PSLD	May 28th-29th 2015	Regional meeting in Augustow, various topics
Co-organization of the POCT Conference – Silesian Medical University, Sosnowiec	June 11th 2015	POCT – technology, regulations and diagnostic significance
Rzeszow Branch of PSLD	June 11-12th 2015	Laboratory tests in the diagnostic process, coagulation testing
Conference at Szklarska Poreba	June 12-13th 2015	Cardiovascular diseases, malignancies – lab testing, interpretation of lab tests results, analytical quality
Co-organization of 12 International Congress of Polish Neuroscience Society; Gdansk	September 6-8th, 2015	
Lodz Branch of PSLD	September 10-12th 2015	Aging, laboratory testing in the elderly, contemporary lab medicine
Szczecin Branch of PSLD	September 23rd-25th 2015	"Obese patient – the role of the laboratory in prevention and therapy"
Conference on POCT, co-rganized with Werfen	September 30th-October 1st 2015	POCT: guidelines for laboratories, new tests; practical use of new POCT devices.
International conference co –organized by Polish Society of Laboratory Diagnostics "Vitamin D- minimum, maximum, optimum"; Warsaw	October 16-17th 2015	Vitamin D deficiency and its association with different diseases; methods for vitamin D measurement; DEQAS
Poznan Branch of PSLD	October 22nd-23rd 2015	"The most frequent misunderstandings in laboratory medicine"
Conference on POCT, co-rganized with RADIOMETER	November 19-20 2015	"POCT – organization, clinical significance

Education

The above mentioned conferences and meetings, with one exception (GDANSK) had educational character.

Regional meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
EFLM-BD Conference on Preanalytical phase in Porto	March 20-21, 2015	Participation in the final debate (Bogdan Solnica); 6 posters were presented
EFLM Symposium Education in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, Prague	April 24-26th 2015	Lecture " Postgraduate Training in Laboratory Medicine in Poland and the EC-4 European Syllabus 2012" presented by Bogdan Solnica
Euromedlab Paris	June 21-25, 2015	Scientific symposium organizer and chair (Grazyna Sypniewska), during this symposium on June 22nd Dr Magdalena Krintus presented a lecture on diagnosis of cardiovascular risk.
Conference of Hellenic Society of Laboratory Medicine, Heraklion Crete	October 29-30, 2015	Lecture on "How to diagnose prediabetes" presented by Grazyna Sypniewska

International relations

- Prof. Grazyna Sypniewska has been elected as EFLM EB Member at Large for the second term.
- Dr Joanna Siodmiak has been selected as YS in the EFLM-WG : Patient-focused laboratory medicine.
- Dr Katarzyna Bergmann has been selected as YS in the EFLM-WG :Congresses and Postgraduate Education, starting from January 1st 2016
- Dr Magdalena Krintus has been selected as a member in the IFCC-CPD.
- Prof. Bogdan Solnica – a member of the EC-4/EFLM Registration Commission
- Prof. Bogdan Solnica – a member of the IFCC WG "How should Glucose Meters be Evaluated for Critical Care"

Additional information

Prof. Grazyna Sypniewska is a member of EFLM-European Atherosclerosis Society Task and Finish Group "Laboratory Testing for Dyslipidemia".

Polish Society of Laboratory Diagnostics is a local organizer of the 4th Joint EFLM-UEMS Congress "Laboratory Medicine at the Clinical Interface" to be held in Warsaw September 21-24th 2016

www.eflm-uems.warsaw2016.eu

Prof. Bogdan Solnica (PSLD President) and prof. Urszula Demkow are members of the Scientific Committee, prof. G.Sypniewska is chairing the Organizing Committee.



ROMANIA

ROMANIAN ASSOCIATION OF LABORATORY MEDICINE (RALM)

National meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
1st RALM Congress with international participation	May 20-23 2015 Sighisoara	Clinical Laboratory (Hematology, Microbiology, Clinical Chemistry)

Education

In order to support our young colleagues, two awards are granted every year at the annual conferences, one for the best poster presentation and one for scientific activity. As the attendance of residents to the annual conferences is strongly encouraged, AMLR has preferential conference fees for residents and is also offering conference sponsorship for few residents every year.

International relations

The Romanian Association of Laboratory Medicine is a full member of IFCC and EFLM. IFCC and EFLM representatives (Prof. Maurizio Ferrari, prof Graham Beastall, dr. Paivi Laitinen) as well as other invited speakers from abroad - prof. Janos Kappelmayer (University of Debrecen, Hungary), prof. Vladimir Palicka (Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Medicine, Czech Republic) attended the 1st RALM Congress in 2015

Additional information

- Laboratory medicine professionals in Romania were previously organized in two societies: the Romanian Society of Laboratory Medicine (Romanian abbreviation SRML), member of IFCC, EFLM, WASPaLM, and the Romanian Association of Medical Laboratories (Romanian abbreviation ALMR) affiliated member of IFCC and member of EFLM.

The members of both the organizations are medical doctors (specialists in Laboratory Medicine), biologists, biochemists, chemists, biophysicists.

As their goals were similar, in 2014 at the annual conferences of the two societies a huge step forward has been achieved by taking the decision to merge the two societies and to create a unique, stronger society, named the Romanian Association of Laboratory Medicine RALM (Romanian abbreviation AMLR). A temporary board was nominated, until the 1st RALM congress, when at the general assembly elections were organized for the new executive board of RALM, which includes the following positions:

President: Associate Prof. dr. Ioana Brudașcă

Vicepresidents: Prof. dr. Minodora Dobreanu
Dr. chem. Constanța Popa

Member: Dr. Adrian Man

Secretary: Dr. Daniela Miricescu

Treasurer: Biol. Ariadna Radulescu

The national representatives are:

Associate Professor dr. Ioana Brudasca – NR for IFCC

Dr. chem. Constanța Popa - NR for EFLM

- As former ALMR already had its own publication, the Romanian Review of Laboratory Medicine (RRML), this journal became RALM's publication, providing the opportunity for laboratory professionals to update their knowledge in the areas addressed.
- 1st RALM Congress abstracts were published in a supplement of Romanian Review of Laboratory Medicine (RRML).
- An important event at the congress opening session was the presentation of the 3rd edition of the book "Clinical Chemistry - practical implications" by Minodora Dobreanu (editor), published by University Press Târgu Mureș in 2015. The book is a comprehensive clinical chemistry textbook, very useful to all medical laboratories professionals, as well as to clinical practitioners.



RUSSIA

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

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
<p>Scientific and practical conference "Achievements and Prospects of Development of Laboratory Service of Russia". Moscow 1 902 participants, 47 participants from foreign countries</p>	March 24 - 26, 2015	<p>Lab Diagnostic of infection diseases, Immunochemistry, hematology, Quality Assurance, all-clinical investigation (urinalysis, sputum, CSF), innovations in Lab Medicine, molecular biology, immunoassay, coagulation, Lab management, education and training in Lab Medicine, clinical postanalytics, Flow Cytometry, blood transfusion, emergency and POCT, election to RSPSSLM</p>
<p>XIX FORUM "NATIONAL DAYS LABORATORY · MEDICINE OF RUSSIA – 2015: Consolidation laboratory medicine and clinical practice. Traditions and innovations", Moscow 2 037 participants, 60 participants from foreign countries</p>	September 23-25, 2015	<p>Clinical interpretation of the results of laboratory investigations, information technology, modern trends of development of Russian laboratory Medicine, lab diagnosis of kidney diseases, clinical aspects in diagnosis of tuberculosis, diagnosis of infection diseases, microbiological investigation, Pediatric Laboratory Medicine, Lab Medicine in obstetric and gynecology, quality management and centralization, cardiovascular diseases, molecular biology, lab medicine in internal diseases, autoimmune diseases, immune-dependent diseases, lab diagnostics in oncology, microelements in lab medicine, lab diagnostics in traumatology, orthopedy and stomatology, lab medicine in clinical mycology.</p>
<p>Russian Congress of Laboratory Medicine, Moscow. 4 500 participants, 50 participants from foreign countries</p>	September 30 th – October 2nd, 2015	<p>Laboratory diagnostics in cardiovascular diseases, in obstetric and gynecology, lab diagnostics of antibiotic resistance, immunoassay markers; Healthcare politics and economics or health protection?; molecular biology in oncology; lab diagnostics in sepsis; laboratory management, quality assurance; coagulation; herpes infection; critical care and POCT; automatization of preanalytical stage like an instrument to reduce laboratory errors; education in laboratory medicine; clinical-laboratory guidelines in different diseases.</p>
<p>All-Russian scientific-practical conference «Laboratory diagnostics in solution of the problems of modern clinical medicine», Saint-Peterburg, Russia, 800 participants</p>	December 8-9, 2015	<p>Lab diagnostics of infection diseases, microbiology, immunopathology, autoimmune disease, cardio-vascular disease, reference laboratories, EQA, endocrinology, toxicology, oxidative stress, automation, Urindianalysis.</p>

Education

Master class on cytology, Scientific and practical conference "Achievements and Prospects of Development of Laboratory Service of Russia". Moscow, March 24 - 26, 2015.

Master class on Flow Cytometry, Medical Military Academy, February 2015, October 2015.

Trainings in Laboratory diagnostics for specialists in Laboratory Medicine in Nizhniy Novgorod, St.-Petersburg, Moscow.

Postgraduate education in Laboratory Medicine in High Medical Schools of Russian Federation.

Regional meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
"Interaction of science and practice in development of laboratory service", city Nizhniy Novgorod, Russia	November 18, 2015	Organization of the meeting
"Modern trans in Laboratory diagnostics and treatment of cardio-vascular diseases", city Nizhniy Novgorod, Russia	November 11, 2015	Organization of the meeting, lecturing programm
"Lab diagnostics of osteoporosis", city Ivanovo, Russian Federation	February 19, 2015	Lecturing program
"Biosystems of Preanalytical stages", city Ivanovo, Russian Federation	April 16, 2015	Lecturing program
"Proteomics for routine laboratory", city Ivanovo, Russian Federation	May 21, 2015	Lecturing program
"Profilactic of Virus infection for laboratory personal", city Ivanovo, Russian Federation	September 9, 2015	Organization of the meeting
"Cytometry for medical laboratory", city Ivanovo, Russian Federation	October 20, 2015	Organization of the meeting and Lecturing program
"Lab diagnostics of HIV infection in Ivanovo's region and in Russian Federation"	November 17, 2015	Organization of the meeting
"Lab Diagnosis of Blood Gases and Alectrolites in Emergency", city Lipetsk, Russian Federation	February 17, 2015	Lecturing program
"Coagulation aspect in Lab Medicine", city Lipetsk, Russian Federation	March 17, 2015	Lecturing program
"Cytological investigations in Thyroid diseases", city Lipetsk, Russian Federation	April 17, 2015	Organization of the meeting
"Lab diagnostic in oncohaematology" city Lipetsk, Russian Federation	May 19, 2015	Organization of the meeting
"Automation in lab biochemistry investigations", city Lipetsk, Russian Federation	June 18, 2015	Organization of the meeting and Lecturing program
"Interpretation in Haemetology", city Lipetsk, Russian Federation	Sept 18, 2015	Organization of the meeting and Lecturing program
Laboratory diagnostics in Liver diseases, city Lipetsk, Russian Federation	Sept 25, 2015	Organization of the meeting
Quality Assurance in Laboratory Medicine, city Lipetsk, Russian Federation	October 20, 2015	Organization of the meeting and Lecturing program
Laboratory Diagnostics of Acute Coronary Syndrom, city Lipetsk, Russian Federation	November 24, 2015	Organization of the meeting
Novelty in Guedelines for Laboratory Medicine, city Lipetsk, Russian Federation	December 15, 2015	Organization of the meeting
Safety and risk assesment in Laboratory Medicine, city Saratov (for Saratovsky region), Russian Federation	February 19, 2015	Organization of the meeting

Innovation in Laboratory Medicine, clinical informativity of laboratory tests and interpretation, city Saratov (for Saratovsky region), Russian Federation	June 26, 2015	Organization of the meeting
Modern Technology in Laboratory Coagulation, city Saratov, Russian Federation	April 21, 2015	Organization of the meeting
Lab monitoring of Immune Status and lab diagnostics in parasitology, city Saratov, Russian Federation	May 19, 2015	Organization of the meeting
Laboratory diagnosis of Anemia	July 16, 2015	Organization of the meeting
Economics and financial aspects in Laboratory Medicine, efficiency of lab personnel in system of Quality Management, city Saratov, Russian Federation	October 15, 2015	Organization of the meeting
Laboratory Neonatal Screening, , city Saratov, Russian Federation	November 19, 2015	Organization of the meeting and lecturing
Republic conference on endocrinology, city Petrozavodsk (Republic Karelia), Russian Federation	November 23-24	Plenary lecture

Regional relations

Participation of regions in National Meetings, presentations of regional leaders in in National meetings. City Kazan, Russia, February 17, 2015. School for leaders in Laboratory Medicine: Laboratory Management and innovations in Russia, for specialists from different regions of Russian Federation. City Saratov, Russia, March 16, 2015. School for leaders in Laboratory Medicine: Education and certification for specialists in Laboratory Medicine. Review of present situation in Laboratory Diagnostics of Tuberculosis in region of City Ivanovo. Russian Federation, January 2015. Election of delegated to National Meetings in Regions.

International relations

Professor Mario Plebani (Italy), plenary lecture "Management of Pre- and postanalytical stages in Laboratory Medicine" in frame of Scientific and practical conference "Achievements and Prospects of Development of Laboratory Service of Russia". Moscow, March 24 - 26, 2015.

Ralf Thomae (Germany) plenary lecture "Presepcin in Sepsis diagnosis" in frame of Scientific and practical conference "Achievements and Prospects of Development of Laboratory Service of Russia". Moscow, March 24 - 26, 2015.

Dr Mario Berth (Belgium), plenary lecture "Innovative approaches in EBV testing driving high quality and accurate results with cost efficiency" in frame of Scientific and practical conference "Achievements and Prospects of Development of Laboratory Service of Russia". Moscow, March 24 - 26, 2015.

Dr. Alexandra Maroz (Germany), plenary lecture "RET-He and IPF for haematology" in frame of Scientific and practical conference "Achievements and Prospects of Development of Laboratory Service of Russia". Moscow, March 24 - 26, 2015.

Paula Fernandez (Switzerland, Aarau, the Kantonsspital Hospital) Standardization in Flow Cytometry - an example from a Swiss lab, in frame of Scientific and practical conference "Achievements and Prospects of Development of Laboratory Service of Russia". Moscow, March 24 - 26, 2015.

Desiree Meyer, PhD, (L & L Application Specialist, BD Biosciences Eastern Europe, Middle East, Africa) Examples of clinical cases using EuroFlow Panels), in frame of Scientific and practical conference "Achievements and Prospects of Development of Laboratory Service of Russia". Moscow, March 24 - 26, 2015.

Dr Suresh Jivan Gadhur (USA), Plenary lecture "Disease related Investigational Approaches Using Immunoassay Solutions" in frame of XIX FORUM "NATIONAL DAYS LABORATORY · MEDICINE OF RUSSIA – 2015, 23-25 Sept, 2015.

Sherry Faye (UK), plenary lecture "AMH – clinical application and interpretation" in frame of Russian Congress of Laboratory Medicine, Moscow, Sept 30th – Oct 2nd, 2015.

Giorgio Da Rin (Italy), plenary lecture "Quality and Safety:the strategic reorganization of laboratory process" in frame of Russian Congress of Laboratory Medicine, Moscow, Sept 30th – Oct 2nd, 2015.

Fabio Sgarabottolo (Italy), plenary lecture "Safety tools to improve quality of laborarory's outcome", in frame of Russian Congress of Laboratory Medicine, Moscow, Sept 30th – Oct 2nd, 2015.

Hubert Palumbo (France), plenary lecture "Increasing of economical efficiency of medical laboratories", in frame of Russian Congress of Laboratory Medicine, Moscow, Sept 30th – Oct 2nd, 2015.

Sattelite Simposium of the Russian Society of Cytology in frame of th 39th Congress of Cytology, Milan, Sept 20-23, 2015. Topics: liquid-based citology and micro-rNA profiling and BRAF testing in thyroid diseases, immunocytochemistry of serous flued, cytology findings in Progressive Multifocal Leucoencephalopathy, cytology in breast tumours, EUS-FNA of cystic and pancreatic lesions, cervical cytology in HSIL cases, PAP tests and p16/Ki67 coexpression in triage of HPV-positive woman, gastric cytology in neoplastic and non-neoplastic lesions, diagnostic value of laboratory methods for detection of Trichomonas vaginales in the males population, cytology trainings in Russia.

Participation of Russian specialists in Laboratory Medicine in International Meetings:

1. 21nd IFCC – EFLM European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, Paris, 22 – 24 June, 2015.
2. 22nd World Congress "Ozone and advanced Oxidation. Leading-edge science and technologies", 28 June – 3 July 2015, Barcelona, Spain
3. 31 International Congress "Fetus as a Patient", Saint-Petersburg, Russia, 11-13 June, 2015
4. Pediatric congress «Child and society», city Sochi, Russian Federation, Sept 23-24, 2015
5. 3d EFLM European conference on Preanalytical Phase, Porto, Portugal, March 20-21, 2015



SAUDI ARABIA

SAUDI ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL CHEMISTRY

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
One day siminar, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	23 May 2015	Newborn screening
1 st Annual Meeting Saudi Society for Clinical Chemistry, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia,	5-6 December 2015	National yearly meeting of the society
One day siminar, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	Tuesday 8th December 2015	Ognized by the society during the 1 st Saudi Lab exhibition

Regional meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
Advances in Clinical Chemistry Symposium	16 March 2015 at Movenpick Hotel, Qassim (Buraidah) Saudi Arabia.	The secentific meeting was orgnized by the Saudi Society for Clinical Chemistry (SSCC)
Seeding Knowledge	7-8th Nov 2015 at Intercontinental Hotel (Jeddah) Saudi Arabia	the Saudi Society for Clinical Chemistry (SSCC) participated as partner of the symposium

Regional relations
Establishment of the local "preanalytical working group" with partnership of BD company and the first meeting was on 11 May 2015 including 15 members from different regions in the Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates. (see attached for objectives of this group) The second meeting was done on 29th of October 2015.



SERBIA

SOCIETY OF MEDICAL BIOCHEMISTS OF SERBIA (DMBS)

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
11th EFLM Symposium for Balkan Region	May 14-15, 2015, Belgrade	Symposium is organised together with EFLM under IFCC Auspices under the title:
		Laboratory Medicine Specialist Focuses on the Patients Well-being (www.dmbj.org.rs)
Eighteenth Annual Ivan Berkeš Scientific Conference	December 4, 2015, Belgrade	Presentations of doctoral and master thesis from previous year (www.dmbj.org.rs)

Education

Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia in 2015 organized four CME educational seminars for the members on the following topics:

1. Quality Indicators: pre-preanalytical and pre-analytical phases of laboratory diagnostic investigation
2. Laboratory Management
3. Novelties in Laboratory Medicine
4. QM development and application in accredited laboratory
5. Laboratory safety

Regional meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
23rd Meeting of Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation	Sarajevo, October 7-9, 2015	Members of the Society participated with three invited lectures and many posters (www.bclf.info)

Regional relations

Cooperation with all Societies from Balkan region, members of Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation (BCLF) (see www.bclf.info)

International relations

Cooperation with other Societies members of IFCC and EFLM
 Participation in EFLM activities
 Participations in Meetings organised by IFCC and EFLM

Additional information

The Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia published international JOURNAL OF MEDICAL BIOCHEMISTRY, the Official Journal of the Society, in which many scientists from region published own papers (www.dmbj.org.rs/jmb; www.degruyter.com/view/ijjomb)



SLOVENIA
SLOVENIAN ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL CHEMISTRY
(SZKK)

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
Symposium Slovenian Association for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine	Ljubljana, 22nd January 2015	Experience in POCT supervision
Symposium Slovenian Association for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine	Ljubljana, 11th March 2015	Laboratory medical genetics in the treatment of pediatric patients
Symposium Slovenian Association for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine	Maribor, 5th, 6th June 2015	Reference values, Alzheimer's disease, Emergency tests.
Symposium Slovenian Association for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine	Ljubljana, 08th October 2015	Parenteral nutrition and laboratory diagnostics
Symposium Slovenian Association for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine	Ljubljana, 12th November 2015	The meeting users of the national external quality assurance schemes SNEQAS
Symposium Slovenian Association for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine	Ljubljana, 04th December 2015	6th International Conference on Quality of Medical Laboratories
The Slovenian Laboratory Medicine Day	2nd October 2015	Celebration of the "Slovenian Laboratory Medicine Day"

Education
1. from April to May 2015; Continuous Education Courses for the Medical Laboratory Technicians (5 different topics) 2. February 2015; Workshop: Peripheral Blood: Differential Leukocyte count/ Peripheral Differential White Blood Cell Morphology; For Specialist in Laboratory Medicine

Regional meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
15th EFLM Continuing Postgraduate Course in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine	Zagreb, Croatia October 24-25, 2015.	in organization of EFLM, Croatian Society of Medical Biochemists and Slovenian Association for Clinical Chemistry and laboratory Medicine



SPAIN

SOCIEDAD ESPAÑOLA DE BIOQUÍMICA CLÍNICA Y PATOLOGÍA MOLECULAR (SEQC)

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
Course, Barcelona	January 19-20th, 2015	Hematological Biology.
Web Seminar	January 27th, 2015	Personal management according to ISO 15189:2013.
Web Seminar	February 3th, 2015	Newborn Screening for Primary Immunodeficiencies.
Course, Zaragoza	April 17-18th, 2015	How to write a Scientific Article.
Course, Barcelona	April 23th, 2015	Myth or Reality in the Preanalytical Phase.
XIII Meeting of Scientific Committee, Valencia	May 11-12th, 2015	Phosphocalcic Metabolism. Quality in Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory. Vitamin B12 and Folic Acid. Deficiency and Toxicity. Risk management in the Clinical Laboratory. Cardiac Disease Risk: Laboratory Evaluation. Alcohol and Drugs abuse in saliva.
VI Meeting on Trace Elements	June 18th, 2015	Trace Elements and Magnesium: from Health to Disease.
IX National Congress of Clinical Laboratory	October 7-9th, 2015	
Web Seminar	November 5th, 2015	Angiogenic and Anti-angiogenic markers in pregnancies with suspicion of preeclampsia.
Web Seminar	November 25th, 2015	Newborn Screening for Sickle Cell Anemia.
Course, Barcelona	November 26th, 2015	Hormonal Changes during Pregnancy.
Course, Sevilla	December 11th, 2015	Circulating cell-free DNA. Liquid Biopsy. Present and Future.
Web Seminar	December 17th, 2015	SCC for Improving Lung, Cervical and Larynx Cancer Management.

Education
Annual Educational Programme: - XVIII General Educational Programme 2014-2015.....783 participants - II Genetics Educational Programme 2014-2015 401 participants - I Clinical Cases in Hematology Programme 2014-2015 267 participants

Regional relations

SEQC has relationships with:

- the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM)
- the Federation of European Societies on Trace Elements and Minerals (FESTEM)
- the Ibero-American Working Group WG IAN through "Radio Microscopio"

International relations

SEQC has relationships with the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC).

Additional information

SEQC organizes the following EQAS programs:

- Extranalytical processes : Preanalytical and Indicators
- Biochemistry : General biochemistry tests in serum and urine, Hormones, TDM, Proteins, Blood gas, POCT, Cardiac markers, Tumour markers, Trace elements, Autoimmunity, Monoclonal components and Drug abuse.
- Microbiology and Serology

Nowadays there are 700 centers participating in these programs with a total of 5000 inscriptions.

SEQC maintains the Spanish version of Lab Tests Online with more than 322 tests and a glossary with more than 495 contents.

Avedis Donabedian SEQC Award. This award recognizes the Best Spanish Scientific Society of Quality Excellence 2016



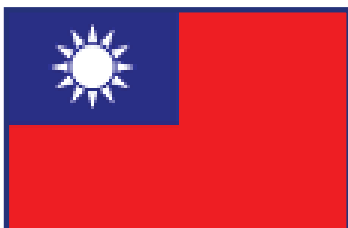
SWITZERLAND
SWISS SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL CHEMISTRY (SSCC)

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
Annual Assembly of the Swiss Society of Clinical Chemistry	23.-25.09.2015	Biobanks; preanalytics and automated biobanking workflows; automation in general; neurological diseases and laboratory including multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, vitamin B6 deficiency and autoimmunity in children epilepsy, and stroke. In addition topics on new generation anticoagulants; pulmonary embolism; update on the ESC 2015 guidelines on acute coronary syndromes; acute kidney injury and preeclampsia.
Molecular Diagnostics 2015	05.-06.03.2015	Next-generation sequencing to investigate the human microbiome to study its alteration in disease; DEB126 and male infertility; FMR1, HD and DM1 repeat screening by LightCycler; experiences with noninvasive prenatal testing; MRSA virulence from the genome; pathogenicity of Naegleria Fowleri, a brain eating amoeba; Ebola outbreak and the Spiez laboratory; diagnosis and therapy of melanoma; the future of DNA diagnostics using single molecule sequencing; bioinformatics and evaluation of mutations; personalized genomics and the future of genomic DNA-analysis: the scientist's perspective; personalized genomics and the consumer need: the ethical perspective.

Education
Annual education program: 10 one or two day courses in general laboratory management and in some specific topics.

Regional relations
Collaborative working groups for diagnostic pathways and for pre-analytics with the Deutsche Vereinte Gesellschaft für Klinische Chemie und Laboratoriumsmedizin e.V. (DGKL) and the Austrian Society of Laboratory Medicine and Clinical Chemistry (ÖGLMKC).

International relations
Member of the IFCC Task Force on Paediatric Laboratory Medicine (TF-PLM).



TAIWAN - REPUBLIC OF CHINA (ROC) CHINESE ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY

National meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
The 30th Joint Annual Conference of Biomedical Science (JACBS)	March 21-22, 2015	Current Trend in Clinical Biochemistry

Education

CACB annual conference and scientific symposium, in conjunction with 30th JACBS

This brief report summarizes some of the highlights of activities for CACB during the Year of 2015. CACB held annual conference on March 21st and a new Board of Directors and Board of Supervisors were elected by the General Assembly of CACB. In the regular Board meeting held on June 1st, Dr. Woei-hong Fang was re-elected as the President of CACB with the term from May 2015 to June 2017. Dr. Fang reaffirmed the commitment of CACB to advocate the establishment and education of professional clinical chemistry medical technologist.

The 12th CACB Board of Directors and Supervisors



During the 30th Joint Annual Conference of Biomedical Science (JACBS) held at the National Defense Medical University Campus on March 21-22, 2015, we invited applied IFCC-Abbott VLP for Dr. Howard Arthur Morris, Joint appointment Professor of Medical Sciences, University of South Australia and Senior Medical Scientist, Chemical Pathology Directorate, SA Pathology, to deliver a special lecture on "Vitamin D: Molecular actions across a variety of biological systems". He shared valuable experiences in bridging the basic biomedical research and clinical application with his thorough studies of Vitamin D in osteobiology and physiological homeostasis. CACB also organized a symposium "Current Trend in Clinical Biochemistry" continuing the special lecture. Three speakers shared the experiences and achievement in their research in advancing the field of clinical biochemistry. Dr. Jing-Long Huang, MD, Professor of Pediatrics, Chang Gung University, Taiwan, also the Vice Superintendent of Ghang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taiwan, presented "The Prediction of Allergies in Taiwanese Children (PATCH) Study". Sandy Huey-Jen Hsu, Medical Technologist, Department of Laboratory Medicine, National Taiwan University Hospital, presented "Recent Advances in Biochemical Bone Markers," echoing the topic of special lecture from the clinical point of view. Professor Tsan-Zon Liu, Consultant Professor in Translational Research Laboratory, Cancer Center, Taipei Medical University, presented "The potential impact of hydrogen as a preventive and therapeutic medical gas." Following the symposium, a student's research poster contest was also held. Overall, the two-day conference was very successful and truly an enjoyable academic gathering for the attending members of CACB.

CACB is actively communicating and collaborating with other scientific societies in Taiwan. On 4 Nov 2015, with support of MSACL, CACB and Department of Laboratory Medicine of Chang-Gung Memorial Hospital jointly host a symposium of 'Application of Mass Spectrometry in Clinical Diagnosis' at Linkou. The symposium was chaired by Dr. David Herold, UCSD. The speakers and titles of the talk include: 'From prediabetes to diabetic complications: what metabolomics can tell' by Dr. Ming-Shi Shiao, Chang-Gung U.; 'Advancing Alzheimer disease diagnostics using mass spectrometry' by Dr. Mari L. DeMarco, U. British Columbia; 'A mass spectrometry toolbox for measuring immunoglobulins' by Dr. John R. Mills, Mayo Clinic; and 'Clinical quality control for multiplex assays' by Dr. Stephen R. Master; Weill Cornell MC. The symposium was attended by more than 50 CACB members and students.



Dr. Fang at welcome dinner with MSACL Board Chair Dr. David Herold and CACB symposium speakers of 'Application of Mass Spectrometry in Clinical Diagnosis' at Linkou, Taiwan (5 Nov 2015). MSACL will sponsor Mass Spec Symposia series containing six symposia and one plenary lecture in APFCB Congress 2016.

Regional relations

Promotion and preparation of APFCB Congress 2016, Taipei, Taiwan 26-29 November 2016.



Dr. Morris, Dr. Zhang, Dr. Koch, Dr. Fang, Dr. Wang, and Dr. Jones at the 12th Chinese Conference of Laboratory Medicine (Nanjing, 9-12 Sep 2015). Dr. Graham Jones (the rightmost) is a plenary lecture speaker in APFCB Congress 2016. Dr. Yan Victoria Zhang is the President of North American Chinese Clinical Chemists Association (NACCCA) and NACCCA will sponsor a symposium in APFCB Congress 2016. Dr. Koch, is the President of American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC) and AACC will sponsor a symposium in APFCB Congress 2016.



APFCB President Dr. Lai and C-CC Chair Dr. Lopez visit Taipei (24 Oct 2015) for the inspection of APFCB Congress 2016 preparation.

Progress report of APFCB Congress 2016

APFCB President Leslie Lai and Dr. Joseph Lopez, Chair, APFCB C-CC met the Organizing Committee on Saturday 24 Oct to discuss the progress of preparations for the 14th APFCB Congress to be held from 26th-29th November 2016, in Taipei. The meeting was presented by Prof. Woei-hong Fang, Chair of the Congress Organizing Committee (COC), Prof. Shu-Chu Shiesh, Chair, Scientific Organizing Committee (SOC) and other colleagues from the COC. Also present were representatives from the professional conference organizer (PCO). The EB representatives considered overall preparations appear to be on course.

The following are some key points of the progress:

1. Scientific Program:
 - a. There are 4 plenary lectures and 24 Symposia have been arranged and the speakers and titles are in place.
 - b. We invited Dr. Kuo, Director-General of Centres for Disease Control Taiwan, as Keynote speaker with the talk Title: "Laboratory Medicine in Cloud."
 - c. The abstracts submission system was opened in December 2015 and closing date is 31 May 2016.
 - d. APFCB Travelling Lecturer Dr. Graham Jones is invited to be one of the plenary speakers.
 - e. Some APFCB national societies have not yet confirmed the themes of their talks and speakers and we are actively tracking them and reserve some rooms for last addition of symposium.
2. Taiwan Society of Laboratory Medicine (TSLM) accepted our invitation to include their annual conference as a satellite meeting of the APFCB Congress. The time frame of this satellite meeting will be on 26th-27th, November with a title of "Asia-Pacific Chinese Conference of Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine" and mandarin Chinese will be used in this conference. This satellite meeting is expected to attract more participants from China, Hong Kong, Macao, as well as a bulk of local medical technologists. An effort is being made to attract the local clinical pathologists to participate in the congress.
3. Registration: USD550 (same as Bali) for foreign participants; free registration for scholarship holders. Daily registration will be USD100 and extra for banquet. The registration system will be open in early 2016.
4. Corporate Sponsorship:
 - a. There are 2 diamond sponsors – Roche and Siemens.
 - b. However some of the well-known vendors who are APFCB Corporate Members have yet to register their interest in the congress. APFCB will assist the COC in contacting these prospective sponsors.
 - c. Local sponsors will be actively contacted in the coming months. Good local vendor support is expected because of the participation of the TSLM.
 - d. There are still slots available for industrial workshops and it is expected that these will be taken up in the coming months by the major vendors.
5. Venue: the venue of the congress will be the Taiwan International Convention Centre (TICC). The entire building of the TICC is available for the period of the APFCB Congress. The trade exhibition will be held at the Taiwan World Trade Centre which is just across the road from the TICC. The TICC, TWTC and the Grand Hyatt are all within the vicinity of the iconic 101 Building and within walking distance of each other and metro stations.
6. Professional Conference Organizer (PCO):
 - a. The local Enjoy-PCO will act as the congress's contact point. It manage everything such as registration, communication with speakers and participants, accommodation arrangements, etc.
7. Social:
 - a. The reception for the opening will be held at the TICC.
 - b. Packed lunch will be provided to all registered participants on each day of the congress
 - c. The congress banquet to held at the Grand Hyatt hotel will be open to all registered participants. This venue can hold 800 guests.
8. Promotions:
 - a. The official web-site <http://www.apfcbcongress2016.org/> will be progressively updated.
 - b. It will be used for registrations and submission of abstracts.
 - c. A major promotional effort will be made at the IFCC General Conference in Madrid.
9. We are ready to provide venues for meetings of the APFCB EB and committees, and the IFCC and its Divisions, Committees if requested and other joint meetings (e.g. APFCB-IFCC; APFCB-WASPaLM) that are held in conjunction with the APFCB Congress.



TURKEY
TURKISH BIOCHEMICAL SOCIETY (TBS)

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
Symposium on Anemia and Cell Count systems	February 25, 2015, Ankara	DXH systems Nalan Sezer Diagnosis of Anemia Gülsüm Özet CBC-Preanalytic, analytic, postanalytic phases Mesude Falay
ExpoMED LABTECHMED	26-29 March 2015, İstanbul	Quality starts with me Aparna Jha Ahuja The dark side of the moon: Preanalytical Phase Prof.Dr.Giuseppe Lippi Preanalytic Problems in Emergency Laboratory Dr. Nedim Albayrak Analytical Interferences in Clinical Laboratories Dr.Nora Nikolac Comments on Laboratory Results Prof.Dr.Yahya Laleli
Hemostasis Laboratory Symposium	June 3, 2015, Ankara	Hemorrhagic diathesis and anticoagulant therapy Prof. Dr. Yahya Büyükaşık Introduction to Online Education System Kerem Osman Akgün Platelet function tests Asc.Prof.Dr.Z.Gunnur Dikmen Evaluation of Coagulation Laboratory Tests Asc.Prof.Dr. Murat Ormen
XXVII. National Biochemistry Congress	November 3-6, 2015, Antalya	Medical Biochemistry
Co-peptin Symposium	December 10, 2015, Ankara	Fast-rule out, risk stratification and prognosis with Troponin and Copeptin in ACS patients Dr. Joern Ole Vollert Copeptin-ongoing activities and Outlook Dr. Carlo Simonelli

Education

1. Advanced Theoretical and Practical Course
31 July – 1 August 2015, ARLAB Cellular, Molecular and Analytical Methods Course, İzmir
2. Advanced Theoretical and Practical Course (IFCC and EFLM Auspices)
January 15-16, 2015, Validation of the Performance of Medical Laboratory; with Case Studies, İzmir
3. How to Write a Project? (by using End-Note program)
Ferhan SAĞIN
November 2, 2015, Antalya
4. Optimization in Clinical Laboratories
Muhittin A. SERDAR, Mehmet ŞENEŞ, Taner ÖZGÜRTAŞ, Doğan YÜCEL
November 2, 2015, Antalya
5. Flow Cytometry Course
Mesude FALAY, Güzin AYKAL
November 2, 2015, Antalya
6. New Trends in Cancer Research
Hilal KOÇDOR, Dicle GÜÇ, Safiye AKTAŞ
November 2, 2015, Antalya

Regional meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
Monthly Scientific Meeting	15 December 2015, İzmir	Killing Effect of Non-Dying Cel: Apoptosis and Cancer Relation Prof. Dr. Engin Ulukaya (40 attendees)
International Visitor Scientist Conference	23 December 2015, İzmir	Cellular Stress Pathways' Influences on Cancer; Clinical Indications Prof. Fahri Saatçioğlu, Oslo University (200 attendees)
Monthly Scientific Meetings	18 November 2015, İzmir	Investigation of RhoC and extracellular Proteolysis in Aspect of Invasion and Metastasis in Colon Cancer cells Didem Keleş, PhD The Effect of Mitochondrial Citrate Transfer Inhibition on Cancer Cells PhD. Ali Burak Özkaya (40 attendees)
International Visitor Scientist Conference	07 October 2015, İzmir	Improving Targeted Therapy in Cancer; EF-2 kinase as a Target Dr. Bulent Ozpolat - MD Anderson Cancer Center Department of Experimental Therapeutics (50 attendees)
Turkish Biochemistry Society, izmir Branch, General Assembly	6 April 2015, İzmir	Turkish Biochemistry Society, izmir Branch, Board Elections
International Visitor Scientist Conference (Hacettepe University, Faculty of Medicine)	14 May 2015, Ankara	Lysosomal Sphingolipid Storage Diseases Prof. Dr. Konrad Sandhoff, Bonn University, Germany (200 attendees)

Regional relations

1. TBS supported a reference ranges study in all regions of Turkey.
2. TBS participated in working groups of Ministry of Health and Turkish Chamber of Physicians.
3. Guideline on “Laboratory in Chronic Renal Failure” was prepared by Asc.Prof.Dr.Doğan Yücel, the president of TBS.
4. Guideline on “Venipuncture” was prepared by “Pre-analytic working group” of Turkish Biochemical Society.

International relations

1. XXVII. National Biochemistry Congress, November 3-6, 2015 Antalya, 41st FEBS CONGRESS 2016-Preliminary Organisation Meeting
2. 40th FEBS Congress, July 4-9, 2015 Berlin, 41st FEBS CONGRESS 2016- Preliminary Organisation Meeting / Young Scientist FORUM 2016 Preliminary Meeting
3. TBS participates in studies of working groups and task forces of IFCC committees.
4. TBS represents other scientific or professional bodies in Turkey such as EFLM, BCLF, IUBMB, FEBS, and WASPaLM.

Additional information

FEBS 2016 Congress will be held by TBS in Izmir (September 3-8, 2016).



UK

**THE ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY
& LABORATORY MEDICINE (ACB)**

National meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
Frontiers in Laboratory Medicine (FiLM) in Birmingham	26-27 January 2016	Leading edge innovations in the delivery of laboratory medicine services
FOCUS in Warwick	18 – 21 April 2016	Scientific and Clinical presentations on leading topics by international experts

Education

In addition to the above, training courses for trainees and a training day prior to the FOCUS meeting

Regional meetings

Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
All nine regions hold scientific and clinical meetings at least twice a year on a wide variety of topics	Multiple	All organised by the ACB

Regional relations

While the ACB represents the UK, the country is divided into four administrations and the ACB is engaged with the devolved governments. There is also national collaboration with other laboratory organisations on a variety of political issues.

International relations

The ACB has engagement in a variety of positions. As an organisation we have formal relations with other Laboratory Medicine associations, particularly in the area of publication of our journal and discounted rates for our publications to them and theirs to us. We also have reciprocal arrangements for presenting prestigious lectures at our National Meetings.



URUGUAY
ASOCIACIÓN BIOQUÍMICA URUGUAYA (ABU)

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
X Uruguayan Congress of Clinical Biochemistry.	24 to 26 October 2015	“Automation: Trends, Technologies and Strategies

Education
24-25 April 2015: “Transfusion Safety, Emerging and Reemerging Pathogens” - Course. Lecturer: Dr. Jorge Rey. Argentinian Organization: Wiener Foundation. Coordination: Biochemistry Uruguayan Association Venue: Hall Píriz Prof. Mc Coll. Faculty of Chemistry ,Montevideo. Uruguay 50 attendees.

Regional meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Society’s contribution for the meeting
XXII Congreso de COLABIOCLI. Ecuador	25/9/2015	Neonatal screening. Advances in Uruguay. Lecturer: Dra. Graciela Queiruga (UY) Moderator: Dra. Graciela Borthagaray (Ur)
XXII Congreso de COLABIOCLI. Ecuador	26/9/2015	Vaginal dysfunction: Moderator: Dr. Paola Audition (UY)
XXII Congreso de COLABIOCLI. Ecuador	26/9/2015	Interpretation of susceptibility testing of aerobic bacteria Lecturer: Dra. Graciela Borthagaray (UY)

Additional information
<p>9 June 2015: Extraordinary General assembly called with the following agenda: 1- Change the normal statutes in terms of requirements to apply for the scholarship system. 2- Basic Salary negotiation for Clinical Biochemists.. BC Natalia Amor was designated to coordinate this work with other related unions at the Ministry of Labour . 3- Consultation on how to disseminate and promote the career of Clinical Biochemist through marketing activities organized by a professional in the field.</p> <p>July 2015: ABU decides in this session to apply for the position of President of COLABIOCLI . 24 -26 September 2015 ABU was chosen to preside the Confederation for one period of two years since December 2016. XXII Congress of the COLABIOCLI, General Assembly , Ecuador</p>



USA

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL CHEMISTRY (AACC)

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
2015 AACC Annual Meeting & Clinical Lab Expo	July 26 – 30, 2015 Atlanta, GA	Multiple topics in laboratory medicine
The Clinical Pathology of Inflammation and Immunity: DACC Spring Meeting	April 24, 2015 King of Prussia, PA	Inflammation and immunity
Professional Practice in Clinical Chemistry: Supporting Patient Care from Cradle to Grave.	April 26-30, 2015 Philadelphia, PA	Professional practice
Clinical and Analytical Perspectives on Biomarkers for Acute Kidney Injury	May 4, 2015 & July 28, 2015 Philadelphia, PA/Atlanta, GA	Acute kidney injury
Transforming Patient Care with Molecular Testing: Current and Future Impacts	July 28, 2015 Atlanta, GA	Molecular testing
Exploring Risk Management Strategies for Quality Assurance Throughout the Total POC Testing Process: POCC Forum.	July 30, 2015 Atlanta, GA	Quality assurance
Mass Spectrometry and Separation Sciences for Laboratory Medicine	October 1-2, 2015	Mass spectrometry
Emerging Clinical and Laboratory Diagnostics: Pushing the Envelope	November 4-5, 2015 Los Angeles, CA	Emerging diagnostics
Practical Solutions for Patient Centered POCT	April 8, 2015 Virtual Conference	POCT
Laboratory Solutions Summit: Value-based Clinical Lab Models	September 16-16, 2015 Virtual Conference	Laboratory practice
Acute Cardiac Biomarkers Update: Laboratory Guidelines Focused on Clinical Need	November 12, 2015 Virtual Conference	Acute cardiac biomarkers

Education

Online Education

3/18/2015	How to avoid unnecessary testing
3/26/2015	Time for primary cervical cancer screening by molecular HPV testing?
5/27/2015	The need for a new type of lab leader
7/15/2015	The Agilent StreamSelect LC/MS System
8/20/2015	Increasing patient, provider, and payer value through test utilization
8/26/2015	LabacoEconomics: The lab's role as the epicenter of integration Part 1
10/20/2015	The ABCs of hepatitis
10/21/2015	LabacoEconomics: The lab's role as the epicenter of integration Part 2
11/4/2015	Using HbA1c Test Wisely in Clinical Practice
11/10/2015	LC-MS/MS analysis of steroid hormones in clinical research
12/3/2015	What Does Point-of-Care Look Like in the Laboratory of the Future?
5/26/2015	Measuring the impact of lab medicine on patient care
7/7/2015	Understanding and developing quality metrics
8/21/2015	Using biomarkers in heart failure diagnosis and management
9/22/2015	Managing your lab in the retail revolution: strategies for financial success
10/29/2015	Critical values: Cutoffs, communication, and impact on patient care
11/17/2015	Studies in achieving Six Sigma quality through automation
1/29/2015	Molecular diagnostics 2015: Market trends and reimbursement outlook
2/5/2015	Best practices in DNA/RNA sample preparation
2/26/2015	Direct to consumer genetic testing: Opportunities and challenges
3/11/2015	Viral load testing: Diagnostic principles and clinical practice
4/22/2015	The future of LDT oversight
4/23/2015	Preanalytical variation: strategies for detection and prevention
5/7/2015	Troubleshooting the liquid chromatography phase of LC-MS/MS
5/21/2015	Detecting and managing interferences and contamination in mass spec
6/3/2015	Using LC-MS/MS for toxicological analysis in the ED
6/16-17-18/15	Quick takes: Immunoassay interferences series
6/23/2015	Making the transition from gel to capillary electrophoresis
6/25/2015	Utilization management in medical microbiology
8/13/2015	Emerging technologies in clinical microbiology
8/25-27/15	Quick takes: Testing body fluids series
9/24/2015	Procalcitonin: Current use and future possibilities
9/29/2015	Quick takes: Lab testing for thyroid conditions
10/8/2015	Solving hCG testing mysteries
10/14/2015	Essential knowledge for the POCT director and POCC (free)
10/15/2015	Reducing errors in blood specimen labeling
10/22/2015	CLIA update 2015: What's in the works
10/27/2015	When gender doesn't equal sex
11/3/2015	Emerging models for regulating laboratory developed tests
11/5/2015	An IQCP development road map
11/18/2015	Current controversies in monitoring patients on anticoagulants
12/1/2015	Modernizing the clinical lab fee schedule: what your lab needs to know
12/10/2015	New developments in testing for chlamydia trachomatis and gonorrhea

Regional meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
Adding Value to Patient Care Using Quality Control	April 24-25, 2015 San Salvador, El Salvador	Colegio de Profesionales en Laboratorio Clínico de El Salvador (COPLACES)
Adding Value to Patient Care Using Quality Control	June 5-6, 2015 Guatemala City, Guatemala	Asociación de Químicos Biólogos de Guatemala (AQBG)
Verification of analytical methods. Steps to verify the specifications of the manufacturers	November 5-6, 2015 Santiago, Chile	Sociedad Chilena de Química Clínica (SChQC)

Regional relations
Partner with CSCC in the NAFCC

International relations
Maintain multiple MOUs with IFCC member organizations for scientific and educational programming



VIETNAM
VIETNAMESE ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTS (VACB)

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
5th Congress of the Society of Clinical Biochemistry of Hanoi and Northern Vietnam	20-21 August 2015, in Ha Long, North Vietnam	Clinical Chemistry, Molecular Biology, Immunology, Tumor Markers, Pediatrics, QA&QC
Annual Scientific Conference of the Vietnamese Association of Clinical Biochemists (VACB)	11-12 September 2015, in Hue, Central Vietnam	Clinical Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Tumor Markers, Immunology, Enzymology, Endocrinology, Diabetes, QA&QC

Education
7th Vietnam Chemical Pathology Course 2015 in Hanoi and HoChiMinh-City, 6 -9 June 2015, with the collaboration of Roche Diagnostics

Regional relations
Good and frequent relations between VACB and APFCB, especially in education

International relations
Good and frequent relations between VACB and IFCC. The VACB has contributed the VACB history to the IFCC history, presented candidate to the Committees of IFCC (but not accepted). The VACB National Representative will be present at the IFCC General Conference in Madrid, Spain. The Informations of IFCC have been frequently informed to VACB members.



ZIMBABWE
ZIMBABWE ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTS
(ZACB)

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
POCT Hands on Practical	25/04/15	National Workshop

Education
<p>ZACB held the following national Journal Club topics:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Prevalence of HIV/HBV infection and abnormal liver function tests in HAART experienced patients in Harare 2.Biotyping of Cryptococcus species as an alternative method to molecular typing in a resource limited area in Sub-Saharan Africa 3.FIB-4 Index : A predictor of liver fibrosis in HAART – experienced Zimbabweans 4.Pharmacogenomics of HIV Therapy 5.Utility of prostate health index in the early diagnosis of prostate cancer 6.Determination on the association between serum uric acid levels and metabolic syndrome in HIV patients on antiretroviral therapy 7. Liver and kidney response to acute and sub-acute exposure to Fadogia Ancyrantha extracts in mus musculus domesticus model 8. TP53 tumour suppressor gene codon 72 polymorphism and cervical cancer susceptibility in Zimbabweans 9. Evidence of tumour necrosis factor – alpha interleukin-10 and high sensitivity C-reactive protein as possible risk marker for coronary heart disease among HIV infected individuals

Regional meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Society’s contribution for the meeting
4th AFCC Congress	27/04/15	Facillitating Workshop
	28/04/15	Facillitating Congeress
	29/04/15	Facillitating Congeress & Workshop
	30/04/15	Facillitating Congeress
	01/05/15	Facillitating Workshop
	28-30/4/15	Presented four conference papers

Regional relations
ZACB is networked to all fifteen AFCC Council Members

International relations
ZACB is a member of the IFCC

Additional information

ZACB is active in the south to south cooperation and networking with Australian Association of Clinical Biochemists and Congreso Latinoamericano de Bioquímica Clínica u Ciencias de Laboratorio

Regional Conferences

28/4/15 Chemical Dualism in Integral Rehabilitation Medicine: An approach to Diagnosis, Treatment and Management of Cancer and Infectious Disease

28/04/15 Breast Cancer

28/04/15 Bioinformatics Opportunities in Zimbabwe

29/04/15 Differential Outcomes of HIV Infection, Disease Progression and Treatment: Lessons from the H (Host)

International Conferences

4/05/15 Biotyping of Cryptococcus species as an alternative method to molecular typing in a resource limited area in Sub-Saharan Africa

19th International Society of Human and Animal Mycology, Melbourne Australia

4 /08/15 Physico-Chemical Dualism in Personalised, Preventative, Predictive and Participatory Integral Rehabilitation Medicine, Birmingham, UK

28/08/15 Primary Hepatocellular Carcinoma Research and co-infections , Dubai, United Arab Emirates

6/10/15 Prevalence of HIV/HBV infection and abnormal liver function tests in HAART experienced patients in Harare, Frankfurt, Germany

19/10/15 FIB-4 Index : A predictor of liver fibrosis in HAART – experienced Zimbabweans, UNESCO-MERCK Research Summit, Geneva, Switzerland

21/09/15 Pharmacogenomics of HIV Therapy, Genomics 2015, San Antonio, Texas, USA

AFFILIATE MEMBER SOCIETIES



BRAZIL

SOCIEDADE BRASILEIRA DE PATOLOGIA
CLINICA / MEDICINA LABORATORIAL (SBPC/ML)

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
50th Brazilian Congress of Clinical Pathology/Laboratory Medicine	September, 27th to 30th 2016, (Rio de Janeiro)	50 years of Congress adding knowledge and technology in favor of clinical practice
2nd Brazilian Congress of Laboratory Information Technology	September, 28th to 29th 2016, (Rio de Janeiro)	

Education
<p>1) Distance Learning: monthly courses with 1:30 duration transmitted by Internet on topics related to laboratory medicine. Dates: April, 20th; May, 18th; June, 22nd; July, 20th; August, 24th; October, 19th; November, 23rd; December, 7th</p> <p>2) Once a year, during Brazilian Congress of Clinical Pathology/Laboratory Medicine, SBPC/ML launch free books (printed and electronic) about important topics for laboratory medicine for use by physicians, laboratory professionals and students.</p>

Regional meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
Clinical-Lab Interaction Meetings: quarterly events with 2 days, held in different cities of Brazil. Speakers are clinical pathologists experts and physicians from other specialties. Lectures cover topics from the laboratory point of view and from the clinical point of view.	Dates and locations will be confirmed soon.	The Scientific Director of the SBPC/ML and the Regional President of the region where the meeting will be held choose the topics according to their technical and scientific interest and relevance.

Regional relations
<p>AMB – Brazilian Medical Association CFM – Brazilian Federal Medicine Council CNS – Brazilian National Health Confederation ABRAMED - Brazilian Association of Medical Diagnostics SBAC - Brazilian Society of Clinical Analyses ABBM - Brazilian Association of Biomedicine</p>

International relations
<p>IFCC – International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine AACC - American Association for Clinical Chemistry EFLM - European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine WASPALM – World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine ALAPAC/ML – Latin American Association of Clinical Pathology/Laboratory Medicine ASCP – American Association for Clinical Pathology ISQua – International Society for Quality in Health Care</p>

Additional information

50th Brazilian Congress of Clinical Pathology/Laboratory Medicine - During the Congress an exhibition is held with the participation of about 100 companies from Brazil and other countries that provide equipment, products and services to clinical laboratories. It is hoped the presence about 5,000 participants, mainly from Brazil and Latin America. The lectures will be presented by about 100 Brazilian and foreign speakers. During the congress SBPC/ML will launch printed and electronic books on topics of interest to clinical laboratories professionals.

During the 50th Congress of SBPC/ML will be held the 23rd Latin American Congress of Clinical Pathology and international symposiums.

Lab Tests Online BR (BR LTO) - Launched in 2010, this website is maintained and updated by the SBPC/ML under license from AACC, which coordinates the network Lab Tests Online (LTO) in 17 countries. Currently, LTO BR is the second LTO in total visits (the first is the United States). In 2015, LTO BR received 2,512,701 visits.

Clinical Laboratory Accreditation Program (PALC) - Launched in 1998, based on the requirements of the program of the College of American Pathologists (CAP), PALC is the most important clinical laboratory accreditation program in Brazil. Today, nearly 1 billion tests are done each year in Brazil. About 30% of these are made by laboratories accredited by PALC.

PALC standard currently in use is the 2013 version, accredited by the International Society for Quality in Health Care (ISQua). Laboratory accreditation in Brazil is voluntary.

Laboratory Indicators Program - Launched in 2006, is a management program developed through a partnership between SBPC/ML and the Brazilian company ControlLab to stimulate continuous improvement in laboratory processes. Once a year is held the Laboratory Indicators Forum, when are discussed results of monitoring methods and made evaluation of the Program.

Proficiency Testing Laboratory (PELM) - Launched in 1977 in partnership with the Brazilian company ControlLab, PELM is an interlaboratory comparison program results of qualitative and quantitative analysis, open to all laboratories in Latin America. It is considered an extremely important tool for laboratory performance management in relation to their analytical processes (equipment, reagents, technical operators, calibrators, controls, etc.), enabling greater security and reliability for released reports.



INDIA

ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL BIOCHEMISTS OF INDIA (AMBI)

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
AMBICON – Annual conference of AMBI held at Rohtak, Haryana	19th Workshops 20th – 22nd November 2015 (3 day conference)	4 Workshops – Pre conference 6 Orations Guest lectures – 18 Symposium on Quality Management Award papers of youngsters – 12 Platform presentations & posters Oral presentations – 71 Poster & Platform – 103

Education
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CME were conducted at all State Chapter meets 2. Hands on workshops 3. Undergraduate quiz for 3rd year Medical students – prize winners to be hosted at Annual Conference, this will be an annual event, which started in 2014. 4. Dr.Maheshwar Reddy – Treasurer AMBI attended RCPA – Chemical Pathology course and some educational programmes were based on ideas after his return. 5. Point of care testing regulations – lecture delivered by Dr.Rajiv Erasmus on his visit to India 6. Posters presented at International conference 7. Dr.Rameshwari T – was awarded young travel fellow at IFCC Paris (could not attend for visa reasons)

Regional meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
Approach to de-arrangements	15th February, 2015	AMBI chapter, Odisha, Bhubaneswar
Moving from basics to advanced bio-chemistry	27th & 28th February, 2015	AMBI chapter, Maharashtra, Mumbai
Emerging role of Biochemistry in Medical diagnosis and management	5th & 6th April 2015	AMBI chapter, Punjab, Faridkot
Lab QC and Internal Audit as per ISO 15189:2012	13th – 16th April, 2015	AMBI chapter, Chandigarh
Quality management and automation in clinical chemistry, laboratory essentials and beyond	30th July to 1st August 2015	AMBI chapter, Tamilnadu, Chennai
Chapter, 3rd Annual conference	10th – 12th September, 2015	AMBI chapter, Karnataka, Bangalore
Chapter Annual conference	December, 2015	AMBI chapter, West Bengal, Kolkata
New chapter inaugurated with CME	29th April, 2015	AMBI chapter, Telangana, Warangal
New chapter inaugurated with CME	13th October, 2015	AMBI chapter, Assam, Guwahati

Regional relations

All state chapters invite members from not only their area but an open invitation is there to all members of the association.

Members from other states are invited to deliver talks and conduct workshops.

Interaction between state activities discussed and meetings on how to improve academic sessions with new ideas is an important feature.

All meetings have one executive member of AMBI present to enlighten all activities on a national level.

Exchange of students and teachers for workshops and training to different centres is done.

International relations

Dr. Shanthi Naidu Kamatham Corresponding member on the Task Force CKD & C-CLM

Dr. Sanjeevi Rao Corresponding member Web editor

Dr. Pradeep Dabha, Chairman – Task Force Young Scientists

Dr. Shanmuga Priya Corresponding member – Task Force Young Scientists

Dr. Animesh Bardoli Corresponding member – APFCB C-CC Committee

Dr. Jasbinder Kaur Corresponding member – APFCB – Education Committee

Regularly at all Annual conferences we try to invite speakers from other countries to deliver lectures and take part in the deliberations.

Dr. Graham Jones the APFCB, Travel fellow of 2015 was invited at the Tamil Nadu state chapter of AMBI held in Chennai. He also visited CMC, Vellore. His talks and participation in the programme was deeply appreciated by one and all.

Dr. Rajiv Erasmus from Cape Town, South Africa delivered two talks on “Point Of Care Testing” at Chandigarh and Hyderabad in the month of November and December. He also delivered a talk by audio visual at AMBI-CON 2015 at Rohtak, Haryana.

We deeply appreciate the encouragement given by IFCC to include some of us as corresponding members in the Task forces and hope that we are able to contribute to IFCC.

Additional information

The association will be celebrating its Silver Jubilee in 2017 and is extremely proud to say the association of medical doctors specializing in clinical chemistry has reached approximately 1200 in number.

This year we plan to have a Young scientist meet, in all probability at Hyderabad and Chandigarh and looking forward to have IFCC members in our midst in the programme.

We also hope to apply to IFCC to help us conduct a chemical pathology course, but logistics are proving difficult for us and hopefully our representative member attending the IFCC conference 2016 will be able to discuss in detail in person.



MEXICO
FEDERACIÓN NACIONAL DE QUÍMICOS CLÍNICOS
(CONAQUIC A.C.)

National meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Topic
XXXIX Congreso Nacional of Chemistry - SEDE Bocal del Río, Ver.	September 11 and 16th, 40 hrs	Colegios afiliados de la Federación Nacional de Químicos Clínicos CONAQUIC, A.C.
XVIII Congreso para el análisis de la garantía de la calidad en el laboratorio clínico y Expoquim	March 13-15th, 2015	IFCC, CONAQUIC

Education		
First module of the diploma course "Evaluation of the urinary system". Quim. Samuel Tremiño Mora	June 19, 20 and 21st, 25 hrs.	Colegio de Químicos Clínicos de Aguascalientes, A.C.
Second module of the diploma course "Urinary sediment assessment by the laboratory" Quim. Samuel Treviño Mora	July 17, 18 and 19th, 25 hrs	Colegio de Químicos de Aguascalientes, A.C.
Last module of the diploma course "Diagnostic hematology" EHDL. Emmanuel Hernandez	July 17, 18, and 19th, 25 hrs	Colegio de Químicos del Estado de Nayarit, A.C.
Sixth module of the diploma course selected topics of endocrinology Dr. C Jesus Norberto Lozano Ruiz Esparza	August, 1 and 2nd, 20 hrs	Colegio de Químicos de Campeche, A.C.

Regional meetings		
Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
Workshop. interpretation of the NOM-007-SSA3-2011 and how to fulfill the requirements.	17-18, April. La Paz City, Baja California Sur.	Colegio de Químicos de Baja California Sur, A.C.
Course of general heses exam	24--25, April, Mérida City, Yucatán.	Colegio de Químicos de Yucatán, A.C.
Clinical bacteriology	24-25, April, Villahermosa, Tabasco.	Colegio de Químicos de Tabasco.
Quality control in the clinical bacteriology laboratory	April 30-May 1-2, Gómez Palacio City, Durango.	Colegio de Químicos Clínicos de Durango, A.C.
Molecular diagnostic and Flow Citometry	24-25, April, San Luis Potosi City, SLP.	Colegio Potosino de Químicos Farmacobiólogos
Endocrinology	18-19, April, Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas.	Colegio de Químicos de Chiapas, A.C.
Molecular diagnosis Theoretical Pratical	6-9, April, Zacatecas City, Zac.	Colegio de Químicos de Zacatecas, A.C.

Course, The microbiology laboratory in the surveillance and control of nosocomial infections. Quim. Miguel Ruiz Jiménez.	June 12-14	Colegio de Químicos de Campeche, A.C.
Course "Cytogenetic and molecular aspects in hematological malignancies" M. en C. Carlos Alonso Muñoz	June 27-28	Colegio de Químicos de Yucatan, A.C.
Course Standarizacion of the urinary system Quim. Maria de los Angeles Jimenez M.	June 5-7	Colegio de Profesionistas de laboratorio clínico de San Juan Del Río, Querétaro.
Course "Enzymology clinic, Fifth module of the diploma course selected topics of the clinical laboratory" Dra. Esperanza Sanchez Aleman	July 4-5	Colegio de Químicos de Campeche, A.C.
Course "Biological reference values, verification and adoption" MAE Maria del C Castillo Fregoso	July 2, 9 and 16	Colegio de Químicos Farmacéutico Biologicos de Tijuana, A.C.
Course "Update in haemostasis" Quim. Carlos Virgen Cruz	July 17-18	Colegio de Químicos de Oaxaca, A.C.
Course "Quality tools and business strategies to transform the clinical laboratory" M en C. Alejandra Cano Huizar	July 17-18	Colegio de Químicos Clínicos del Carmen, A.C.
Course "Endocrinology"	July, 23-25	Colegio de Químicos del sur de Jalisco, A.C.
Course "Standarization of the procedure and interpretation of the urianalysys" Q. Maria de los Angeles Jimenez Montiel	July 31-August 1, 2	Colegio de Químicos de Hermosillo, A.C.
Course "Handling HBIW" Q. Jose De Jesus Rodriguez Escobedo	August 6	Colegio de Químicos Farmacéutico Biológicos de Tijuana, A.C.
Course "Actualization of clinical topics QFB Juan Manuel Vargas Morales Dra. Claudia Peña Zepeda Dra. Carla Santana Torres Quim. Raul Nieto Camacho	August, 28-30	Colegio Potosino de Químicos Farmacobiólogos
Theoretical and Practical Course: "Standardization of the pick up and interpretation of the General Urine Exam Speaker: Chem. Ángeles Jiménez Montiel	December 4-6	Colegio de Químicos de Mazatlán A.C
Course: "Progress, prospect and perspective in sexually transmitted infections Speaker: Chem. Roberto Sanchez Campuzano	December 11-13	Colegio de Químicos de Baja California Sur A.C.
Course: "Internal Quality control in the Chemist study of the Urine" Speaker: EBC Juan Manuel Vargas Morales	December 19	Colegio Potosino de Químicos Farmacobiologos A.C.
Course: "Academic timeof the Chemist Day" Speakers: Dr. Luis Alberto García Parra Dr. Jorge Alfredo Calzada Martínez	December 3	Colegio de Químicos Clínicos de Izúcar de Matamoros
Course: Clinical Biochemistry Speaker: Chem. Abel Suárez Castro	October 9-11	Colegio de Químicos Farmacéuticos Biólogos de la Ciudad de Mexicali B.C.
Course: "Fundamental aspects in Bacteriology Diagnostics" Speaker: Chem. Esperanza Olivares González	October 15-17	Colegio de Farmacobiólogos al Servicio de Jalisco, A.C.
Curse of the Second Congress of the Clinic Laboratory Profesionistas Speakers: Chem. Guadalupe Lastenia Díaz Flores Chem. Bany Ariel Gonzalez Moreno	October 22-23	Colegio de Profesionistas del Estado de México A.C.

Regional relations		
"Clinic Laboratory Profesionists Congress"	October 24-25	Colegio de Profesionistas del Laboratorio Clínico del Estado de México A.C

Additional information		
Name of the meeting	Date	Society's contribution for the meeting
Hematology analysis of scientific information HBIW urianalysis clinical biochemistry, microbiology, parasitology	16-18 April, Querétaro City, Qro.	Certification counsel CONAQUIC, Preparation course for the unique exam of professional certification.
Hematology analysis of scientific information HBIW urianalysis clinical biochemistry, microbiology, parasitology	17-19, April, Toluca City of Lerdo, México State.	Certification counsel CONAQUIC, Preparation course for the unique exam of professional certification.
Conference "Diagnostic Hematology"	June 6	Colegio Duranguense de la Química
Conference "Biological reference values, verification and adoption" MAE. Maria del C Castillo Fraguero	June 18 and 25	Colegio de Químicos Farmacéutico biológicos de Tijuana, A.C.
Conference "Update an leprosy" Dra. Saira Yadira Magaña Gtz.	June 29	Colegio de Químicos Farmacéutico biológicos de Tijuana, A.C.
Workshop, Immunoassays, Quim. Roberto Antonio Ocampo.	July 24-26	
Conference "Oxidative stress levels in serum and eating behavior. Dra. En C. Mónica Navarro Meza	July 30	Colegio de Químicos del sur de Jalisco
Workshop, Interpretation of clinical lab tests Dr. Moisés Rodríguez Lomelí Dr. C. Jonathan Arauz Cabrera	August 28	Colegio de Químicos Farmacéuticos Biólogos de la ciudad de Mexicali, A.C.
Conference: Innovation that creates value Quim. Miriam Lugo Tavera	August 14	Colegio de Químicos de Campeche, A.C.

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