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International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine



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Countdown to IFCC Worldlab Durban 2017

by **Tahir Pillay**

IFCC eNews Editor

Congress Co-president, WorldLab 2017

There are only a few more weeks left before IFCC Worldlab Durban 2017 takes place at the Durban International Convention Centre in South Africa.

The theme of the conference is “*Multi-omics, laboratory medicine and personalized medicine*”. WorldLab 2017 promises to be one of the best with a unique blend of innovative science, evidence-based laboratory medicine and an emphasis on personalized medicine. This reflects the changing directions of science and medicine with greater attention being paid to prevention and risk stratification.

Africa is traditionally associated with its magnificent wildlife and unique cultural diversity. South Africa provides an opportunity to discover both of them.

Durban, a melting pot for African and Indian cultures, is a coastal city with a tropical climate and pristine beaches and surfing. Durban is the site for various clinical trials and some of the major breakthroughs in the management of patients with HIV have been made here.

As a case in point, the opening plenary speaker is Professor Salim Abdool Karim (Columbia University and University of KwaZulu-Natal), one of the pioneers in the HIV prevention field. The closing plenary speaker will be Professor William Bishai (Johns Hopkins University and former and founding director of the HHMI KwaZulu-Natal Research Institute for HIV and TB) who is internationally known for his research on the mechanisms of tuberculosis. Thus the congress programme reflects two major challenges in laboratory medicine facing the African continent and the developing worlds.

Other plenary speakers include Professor Raj Thakker (Oxford University) who is renowned for his work on disorders of calcium regulation and Professor Serge Muyldermans (Belgium) who is a pioneer in the field of single chain antibodies.

This is the first time that this Congress will take place on the African continent and the Congress presidents



are grateful for the support of the IFCC Executive Board, the delegates and the sponsors from industry, as well as the exhibitors in spite of the economic challenges faced internationally and the challenges posed by having two major IFCC congresses in the same year, a problem faced every six years owing to the biennial cycle of Euromedlab and the triennial cycle of IFCC Worldlab overlapping every six years. The last time this happened, the problem was solved by combining Euromedlab and Worldlab in Berlin in 2011.

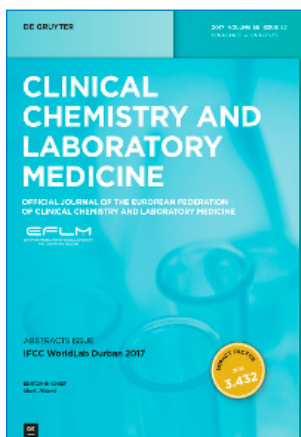
The next IFCC Worldlab will take place in South Korea in 2020 and, at the closing ceremony, there will be an official handover to the national society of Korea.

The congress has an exciting and innovative programme on offer. Further details are available on the website including the final programme (<http://www.durban2017.org/>).

Worldlab 2017 is also preceded and associated with a number of satellite meetings:

- **POCT meeting, 21 October 2017 (Durban ICC);**
- **International Congress of Paediatric Laboratory Medicine, 20-22 October 2017 (Blue Waters Hotel, Durban – near the Durban ICC);**
- **Biomarkers for Diabetes, 26-27 October 2017 (Grand Roche Hotel, Paarl, near Cape Town);**
- **Intelligent Clinical Laboratory Management: Impacts on Quality System Improvement, 22 October 2017 (Hilton Hotel, Durban).**

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WorldLab APP is ONLINE!



Download it now!



Android Version 

iOS Version 

Registration for the POCT meeting is free for all delegates registered for Worldlab2017. There will be poster prizes on offer and, for the first time, the poster PDFs will be made available on the Congress app. Congress delegates will now be able to browse the posters at leisure on their devices. The congress app is now live and can be downloaded.

The Worldlab abstracts will appear in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine. The Congress presidents and the organizing committee look forward to welcoming you to this groundbreaking meeting.

News from the IFCC Website



Register now and save your money!

Online registrations for IFCC WorldLab and Satellite Meetings will **close on October 9!** Last days to save your money. After Oct 9th, only ON-SITE Registrations will be available... by spending up to 100€ more. Why spend 100€ extra, if you can avoid it? Don't miss this exciting congress, themed Multi-omics, laboratory medicine and personalized medicine.

[Read more](#)

News from the IFCC Website

Download the IFCC App on your mobile

The IFCC app is available on both iOS and Android platforms. The IFCC App provides direct access to the IFCC website, the latest IFCC news and upcoming events, access to e-learning modules, and the latest eJIFCC and eNews publications. Everything is available in one place and accessible with a single click on your mobile phone or tablet. Download the app free from iTunes or Google Play today!

[Read more](#)

News from the IFCC Website



New series of JCTLM webinars

The JCTLM team has been busy over the summer period. Under the leadership of Prof Elvar Theodorsson, SE, a series of short webinars has been produced. Each webinar addresses a specific aspect of traceability in laboratory medicine and method standardization. These webinars are freely available through the IFCC eAcademy.

[Read more](#)



IFCC-Task Force for Young Scientists (TF-YS)

EuroMedLab 2017 - Athens, Greece

*by Miljan Savković
IFCC-TFYS Member
Pradeep Kumar Dabla
Chair, IFCC-TFYS*

The Congress was co-organized along with the 25th Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation (BCLF) meeting and the 15th National Congress of GSCC-CB, offering a fruitful exchange of opinions and visions among the Greek, European and International colleagues. As Congress President, Dr. Alexander Haliassos announced, the scientific programme contended an amalgamation of presentations, symposia, discussions, open sessions and workshops, describing recent state of the art innovations in 21st century Laboratory Medicine.

In a spirit of tradition and good practice IFCC-Task Force for Young Scientists, educational workshop took place on the morning of 11 June 2017.

IFCC-TFYS FUNCTIONAL MEET OPEN SESSION

Theme: "Young Scientists Workforce - Exchange of Experience"

Dr. Pradeep Kumar Dabla, TFYS Chair, in the opening session described functionality of TF-YS, obstacles that YS are facing and provided a report on past events and future programmes. Special emphasis was placed on the importance to have YS connected on a global basis and expanding YS network and knowledge in diverse areas of Clinical Chemistry. In addition, the overview and future steps and activities around new projects such as Mentorship Program project were presented on behalf of **Dr. Danni Li**, TFYS Core member.

As we are part of a dynamic world with ongoing changes, we are challenged every day to push our limits and extend our visions. TFYS identified knowledge and experience transfers on a global scale as an area with a wide range of opportunities for future development. "Exchange of Experience" workshop session



Left to Right:

Dr. Alexander Haliassos - EFLM Congress President,
Dr. Pradeep K. Dabla - TF-YS Chair,
and Dr. Praveen Sharma - Chief Editor, APFCB News

opened some very interesting ideas for cross-connecting young scientists, tools for distance learning and new career opportunities. **Dr. Guilaine Boursier** (TFYS Core member), presented results from global survey, showing a diversity of level and type of education among Clinical Chemists all over the world, deficit of exchange programmes followed by lack of communication among scientist. Project "LAB Surfing", was demonstrated by **Dr. Santiago Fares Taie** (TFYS Core member), and how it uses benefits of ICT (information and telecommunication technologies) to create professional social networks for Laboratory Medicine Scientists. The goal of this project is to satisfy needs of sharing and receiving new ideas and experience for Young Scientists worldwide. **Dr. Vaneesa Steenkamp**, EB-IFCC & Liaison TFYS stressed the extension of TFYS networking globally for education, training and explained how these current programmes can be of potential strength while achieving the same.

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There are various studies showing that mentorship in the academic health sciences has an important influence, not just on academic productivity, but also on personal development, and career guidance. As a result, there has been growing interest in developing mentoring programs for protégés at all levels of career development. Following this trend, we were happy to have, as a Chairman of the IFCC Mentorship Programme **Prof. Donald Young** (University of Pennsylvania). Prof. Young presented a new initiative of IFCC Mentoring Programme for Developing Countries (MENT). Selected laboratory directors from developed countries would make their knowledge and experience available to EMD aims. Associates are nominated by IFCC Member societies and are matched with the most suitable Mentor. The one-to-one support is provided using electronic communication. With this type of leveraged use of online communities, learners can gain a deeper sense of a discipline as a special “culture” shaped by specific ways of seeing and interpreting.

Providing a huge support to YS and putting an accent on sharing knowledge, **Dr. Damien Gruson**, Consultant

TFYS was speaking about a Powerful Tool for Distance Learning. He concluded that in these days of modern technologies and social networks, important and improved educational flow will have creative influence on new ideas and groundbreaking solutions between YS.

Prof. Vanesa Steenkamp, EB-IFCC & Liaison TFYS gave an overview of challenges that YS are facing at the beginning of their carrier, in perspective of designing the study, researching, defining, analyzing etc. In her talk with YS, she provided enormous support and advised focus on work, determination, and making the most of opportunities which will lead to success.

At last but not the least, the takeaway notes from TFYS sessions in Athens, as our session Chair **Dr. Miljan Savković**, TFYS Core member summarized in the following way: “*Focus, Focus, Focus*”; “*Take the most of your opportunities*” and “*Be a star in your area!*”, until we meet again.

MEET THE EXPERTS & YOUNG SCIENTISTS VOLUNTEERS

Young Scientists took part in co-organization of **six “Meet the Experts” Sessions**. Besides improving



TF-YS-Mentor: IFCC TF-YS members with Prof. Donald Young, IFCC Mentoring Programme Chair and Prof. Vanessa Steenkamp, TF-YS Liaison to EB

managing skills, YS had chance to be a part of interactive discussion with subject matter experts and lecture speakers. Creating sessions with specific areas of interest gives YS in opportunity to gain knowledge of latest accomplishments in respective subjects while learning leadership skills. We would like to express our gratitude to **“Young Scientist Volunteers”** for supporting the Congress. The passion and energy they shared on this great journey was quite inspiring.

IFCC-TFYS & ISE JOINT SOCIAL EVENT JUNE 13th, 2017

Finally, continuing the trend since EuromedLab Paris 2015 an Interesting young scientist social event was

co-organized with the IFCC Task Force of Young Scientists (TF-YS) and the International Society of Enzymology (ISE) on 13 Jun 2017. This excellent opportunity for young scientists was hosted to assist with their networking and create liaisons. A friendly and positive atmosphere was fulfilled with a charming view of Acropolis and Parthenon. This was followed by a musical performance of the well-known Mikis Theodorakis Orchestra and dinner organised with gracious support of ISE and Organising Committee, Euromed-Lab 2017.

IFCC-TFYS conveys special thanks to all those who were involved and supported the events throughout the Congress.



IFCC welcomes a new member: Panama!

Colegio Nacional de Laboratoristas Clínicos de Panamá (CONALAC)



CONALAC Executive Board members 2017 - 2020



The IFCC is happy to announce that the “Colegio Nacional de Laboratoristas Clínicos de Panamá” (CONALAC) joined the Federation as its 92th Member!

The “Colegio Nacional de Laboratoristas Clínicos de Panamá” is a Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine professional organization. Members relationships are excellent and this allows CONALAC Panama to develop activities for the benefit of health; the Colegio Nacional de Laboratoristas Clínicos de Panamá is well recognized by the community, by other professionals of the sector and by authorities.

Its mission is to strengthen the process of unity of Clinical Laboratories in a continuous way to reach, ensure and maintain the most profound principles of integrity and union improvement in order to contribute to the health of the community.

Genomic testing: the dilemma of disclosure

by Bernard Gouget

*Councillor for Public Health FHF, Chair-Human Health Care Committee-COFRAC
Chair IFCC-Nominations Committee, General Secretary-International Francophone
Federation of Clinical Biology and Laboratory Medicine (FIFBCML)
SFBC-International Relations Committee*



Bernard Gouget

Genomic medicine is no longer a promise. Recent technological progress in molecular biology and the development of new ultra-high-throughput sequencers mean that it is now possible to sequence whole human genomes faster and more cheaply. Analysis of whole genomes is taking an ever more important place in medical practice in the areas of prevention, diagnosis, establishing prognosis and treatment in a framework of precision medicine. Following the example of UK, USA, China, the France Genomic Medicine 2025 Plan was launched last year under the leadership of Prof. Yves Levy, President of Aviesan and CEO of Inserm, to investigate current approaches to genetic diagnosis. This is part of a ten-year vision to introduce precision medicine into the care pathway within the national healthcare system, in line with a similar process underway in Estonia, Slovenia and Netherlands. Genomic medicine is a stage for strong international competition, each country wanting to develop its own industry and attract scientific talent to bolster up its own advantages because it is a public health issue.

While such a business opportunity is attracting major business concerns such as those collectively called the GAFAMS (Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon, Microsoft and Samsung), in order to avoid the risk of technological dependence, it is fundamental that academic and public researchers do not miss the opportunity to develop national frameworks.

The Healthcare system cannot be separated from innovation and requires close coordination with the world of research. Educational programmes directed toward the development of clinical and medical laboratory professionals capable of meeting the challenges of analyzing and interpreting the data are key towards fostering a proper genomic health system. The demand is growing and there is a need to establish a generic care pathway with a clear common access to genomic medicine for patients affected by metastatic cancer, or a cancer that has been proven

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refractory to treatment or rare disease. Beyond 2020, the French system's capacity will be grown also to cover common diseases.

Specific measures include the setting up of a network of sequencing services, the establishment of a national center for intensive calculation, the generalization of standardized, interoperable electronic patient medical record and new regulatory frameworks according to Good Practices as well as judicial and ethical standards. It is also fundamental to ensure information, consultation and involvement of everyone in the society the general public, users and patient's association concerned.

Genetic technologies enable more and more people to access their own personal genomic information. The genomic information creates a kind of transparency of the human body to ourselves and possibly to the others. Genomics information changes the way to see the body and to embody life. Transparency is a threat to privacy. It is a revolution on the fields of prevention and healthcare but is not possible to develop personalized genomic medicine without answering numerous questions about patient consent, on anonymization of data, access to and exploitation of health data, when we know that at the same time, the genome can be sequenced on demand through direct-to-consumer gene test companies and the data are directly communicated to the customers and are stored and used somehow.

This will also give rise to huge ethical questions about what to do with the information. The fundamental relational feature of genetic knowledge shapes the questions of genetic responsibility and how to deal with genetic knowledge. The higher the impact of genetic knowledge on our own well-being, the greater is the responsibility we will have in dealing with this

knowledge. How does one manage secondary discoveries and unwanted incidents when the entire genome of the patients and family members are sequenced? Do we have to inform a patient about a genetic risk that happens to have been detected if the incidental findings are of uncertain significance. The right not to know is recognized at international level in the UNESCO declaration on the human genome: *"The right of every individual to decide whether or not to be informed of the results of genetic examination and the resulting consequences should be respected"*.

The right not to know is still heavily debated, some genetic professionals appear to think that to know is better than not to know, arguing that the progress in genomics make the right *"not to know"* obsolete because pathogenic mutations might be asymptomatic for long period of time and *"to know"* is better when information is actionable. Clinicians and laboratory professionals also have a fiduciary duty to prevent harm by warning patients and their families about certain incidental findings and this principle supersedes concerns about patient autonomy, just as it does in the reporting of incidental findings elsewhere in medical practice.

The question is still a controversial issue in various countries, but the evolution of knowledge in genomic medicine, in particular in many cancers, require definitive international guidelines. As Bjorn Hoffmann (Norway) wrote, the question is: *"Can I trust the results and will they make difference"*. In the case of incidental findings with uncertain significance when nothing can be done to improve my health, there is no compelling reason to be informed *"ignorance is bliss"* as the saying goes. When answering questions that are not asked, we need to think twice!



News from the IFCC Website

Join the IFCC Social Networking Community

Follow the IFCC on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn to get regular updates on IFCC news, events and activities. Start discussions, share yours news and information and be a part of the online clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine community!

[Read more](#)

NEWS FROM REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND MEMBER SOCIETIES



News from the Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQC^{ML})

VI International Clinical Laboratory and Quality Symposium

SEQC^{ML}

Sociedad Española de Medicina de Laboratorio

Barcelona, Spain – 30-31 May 2017

Leading national and international professionals participated in the VI International Clinical Laboratory and Quality Symposium in Barcelona organized by the Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQC^{ML}) and the Foundation for Quality Control in Clinical Laboratories (FPCQLC) on 30-31 May 2017. The event was a reference event in the field, both for its scientific programme and for the prestige of its speakers.

The field of clinical analysis is continually evolving, but it is nevertheless necessary to continue moving forward in the standardization of the entire clinical laboratory process. It is important that laboratory results be transferable between centres and countries so as to avoid confusion in their interpretation.

Similarly, despite continuing improvement in measurement procedures and the constant reduction of imprecision in analytic methods, there are still systematic deviations in measurement methods among the different manufacturers of in vitro diagnostic methods.

Therefore, the coordination and standardization of the entire analytic process will be key for the future in the clinical laboratory field.

This was one of the central themes of the VI International Clinical Laboratory and Quality Symposium that was held in Barcelona.

Leading national and international professionals presented their experiences and gave updates on the

latest news on topics such as quality in the sample extraction process, stability of biological tests, analytical and extra-analytical quality specifications, standardization, consensus on critical values, programs for external quality guarantees, and risk management.

Among the projects presented during the symposium -- all relevant for guaranteeing quality in clinical laboratories--, some that stood out were the project to create a database for the stability of biological tests and the project to establish critical values via the technological tool Health Consensus (a platform to facilitate consensus among health professionals by allowing them to consult online while at the same time receiving immediate replies with the opinion of all parties consulted. Thus, through an interactive process, a consensus on protocols or concrete initiatives can be reached).

Equally important is the project to improve the Database on Biological Variation that is being carried out by a recently created workgroup made up of professionals from Spain (the Commission on Analytical Quality of the SEQCML) and various representatives from the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) from Norway, the United Kingdom, Italy, Holland, Canada, Turkey, and Australia.

“We are making great progress to assure the launch and ongoing updating of the database, which will have a great impact on the quality of clinical analysis”,

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Speakers at the Symposium



Dr. M^a Antonia Llopis, President of the Committee on External Quality Programs for the SEQCML, one of the speakers at the Symposium

stressed Professor Sverre Sandberg, President of the EFLM and coordinator of the group.

For Professor Sandberg, *“Spanish laboratories contribute greatly to the European Scientific Society in many areas, such as monitoring methods, improvement of test requests, and work on biological variation, in which Spain is strongly represented”*.

THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTROL PROCEDURES AND PROGRAMS FOR EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE

“The end result of laboratory services depends not only on the analytical phase, which of course is important, but also on all of the different parts of the “chain”, from the request for the correct tests to the report of the results and their interpretation by doctors”, explains the president of the EFLM.

For her part, Dr. M^a Antonia Llopis, President of the Committee on External Quality Programs for the SEQCML, referred to the importance of quality in the pre- and post-analytic phases, as this is where the greatest percentage of laboratory errors occur.

“Much of the pre-analytic phase takes place outside of the laboratory, with participation from the patients themselves to professionals from various areas, both in healthcare and out, which makes control more difficult. The processes of extraction, collection of samples, and identification have a great impact on patient safety. That’s why it is so important to make laboratories aware of the importance of establishing proper control procedures as well as programs for external quality assurance”, she noted.

Currently there are few organizations that provide programmes for external guarantee of pre-analytic quality, and the SEQCML was a pioneer in Europe in the organization of these programs. With close to 20 years of experience, in 2014 it provided a new focus on this program by basing it on quality indicators.

DIAGNOSTIC CLINICAL TESTS FOR HEREDITARY DISEASES

Every year there is an increase in the number of hereditary diseases (generally monogenic) for which the genetic cause is known. This is why the number of requests for these studies increases daily, as does

their variety. In addition, as methodologies are becoming simpler, they can be done more rapidly. These advances also have their negative aspect, as they can bring about requests for genetic studies without the use of appropriate diagnostic criteria. Therefore, the Symposium addressed the External Quality Assurance Programs for hereditary diseases.

“It’s not always clear when to request a genetic study. To know if one should be done or not, available diagnostic guidelines for the suspected disease should be consulted, as well as recent literature. The clinical history, a physical exam, and family history are particularly relevant in this context. In general, the most important points are the age at diagnosis, multi-focal or bilateral affectation, and alterations that are components of a syndrome”.

“To maintain a quality standard in genetic studies, these must be done in reference centres that participate in the External Quality Assurance Programs that exist specifically for each disease”, concluded the president of the SEQC^{ML} Committee on External Quality Assurance Programs.



Audience at the Symposium



News from Finland (FSCC)

Greetings from the Finnish Society of Clinical Chemistry

by Jonna Pelantii

*Board member and Secretary
Finnish Society of Clinical Chemistry*



The Finnish Society of Clinical Chemistry (FSCC), was founded in 1946, has 450 members and 15 supporting members (companies). Clinical doctors or clinical chemists/biochemist who work in the field of clinical chemistry are accepted as members.

FSCC is the major owner of the Finnish external quality assessment provider Labquality Ltd and is a member of the international organizations IFCC, EFLM and IUPAC and also a member of the Nordic Society of Clinical Chemistry.

FSCC provides grants for research and education, publishes the journal *Kliinlab* (www.skky.fi/kliinlab-lehti) and organizes two 1-2 day national congresses annually by itself or in collaboration with the other Finnish clinical chemistry societies or companies.

Labquality has a history of more than 45 years of providing high quality external quality assessment for laboratories all over the world.

Labquality organizes yearly a large international congress, ***Labquality Days for clients and experts working in the clinical laboratories and as quality management professionals***. The event is being held in wintery Helsinki in February. In 2017 almost 1000 participants came to learn more and to be inspired about

clinical laboratory sciences, bioanalytics and, this year, also about the innovations in health technologies and digital possibilities in the field.

The themes for 2017 were:

"Evidence-based laboratory medicine" and ***"Impact of total quality management"***.

There were participants from more than 20 countries who participated in the international part of the congress. An extensive exhibition with some 60 diagnostic companies as well as the new ePosters kept the congress attendees busy even during the lecture breaks. The exhibition area also had a Speaker's Corner where one could listen to the new and exciting things happening inside the fields like digital pathology, biomarkers and probiotics.

Next year, the congress will be held on **8-9 February 2018**.

The themes for 2018 are:

"Path to Perfect Quality" and ***"New frontiers in health and laboratory technology"***.

We warmly invite all of our colleagues to participate! You are most welcome! Learn more from the website www.labqualitydays.com.

The main future effort of the Finnish society is to organize **the biannual Nordic Congress in Clinical Chemistry** in Helsinki (www.nfkk2018.fi).

This congress is going to gather together colleagues on **12-15 June 2018** - to listen and to learn about ***"Information beyond numbers"***.

We have an interesting year ahead of us in Finland, with several intriguing congresses to come. We hope to see many of our international colleagues visiting us!



News from the Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists (CSCC)

Highlights and sound-bites from the 2017 CSCC Annual Meeting

by Jennifer Shea

Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists

The 2017 CSCC Annual Meeting was held jointly with the AACC in San Diego, California this summer. A stellar Canadian cast joined the annual meeting organizing committee to produce a high-quality scientific programme augmented by an enormous gathering of exhibitors, poster-presenters and attendees, totaling over 21 000 registrants.

The week was also not remiss of opportunities to reconnect with colleagues from around the globe, and offered trainees a chance to establish their own network of peers and future colleagues.

One of the highlights of the joint AACC/CSCC meeting was the CSCC “Canada Party” reception held in the



beautiful setting of Manchester Grand Hyatt hotel on the second full day of the conference.

The very successful gathering brought together a large group of Canadians out from the general

attendee crowd, allowed colleagues a time to relax, catch up and reconnect, in an atmosphere enhanced by live music, delicious food, and laughter amongst friends.

The scientific content of the meeting was top notch, with topics covering a wide variety of fields within laboratory medicine.

Some highlights from Canadian participants include:

- **an enlightening symposium on serum protein electrophoresis reporting practices** with presentations by **Dr. Ron Booth** and **Dr. Chris McCudden**;

- **the use of MALDI-TOF in clinical laboratories** including a presentation by Canada’s own **Dr. Mari DeMarco**; as well as
- **a symposium on high-sensitivity cardiac troponin rule-in and rule-out strategies** which included a presentation by another Canadian, **Dr. Peter Kavsak**.

A special mention also to the **Canadian representatives who were selected to present Brown Bag sessions this year:**

- **Dr. Lawrence de Koning** for “*Critically high Ammonia in an Adolescent: Review of a Clinical Case Study from the Clinical Chemistry Journal*”,
- **Dr. Janet Simons** for “*Troubleshooting Analytical Interferences*”, **Victoria Higgins** for “*Laboratory Assessment of Pediatric Metabolic Syndrome*”,
- **Dr. Nicole White-Al Habeeb** for “*Serum Free Light Chains (sFLC): Advantages and Disadvantages of Currently Available Assays*” and “*Methods to Detect Circulating MicroRNAs (miRNAs) in the Clinical Laboratory*”,
- **Dr. Jessica Gifford** for “*Harmonizing Reference Intervals – A Provincial Example*”,
- **Dr. Dorothy Truong** for “*Decreasing Barriers to Testing: HIV Point-of-Care Testing*” and “*Minimal Residual Disease in Multiple Myeloma: The Need for More Sensitive Assays?*”,
- **Dr. Danijela Konforte** for “*Strategies for Streamlining Analytical and Post-Analytical Processes in Clinical Urine Multi-Target Drug Testing Using LC-MS/MS Technology*” and
- **Dr. Angela Fung** for “*Sepsis Biomarkers and the Role of the Laboratory*”.

Finally, congratulations to the individuals who represented CSCC in the various AACC trainee awards this year:

- **Drs. Dorothy Truong, Angela Fung, and Albert Tsui** for SYCL travel grants,
- **Sarah Delaney** for oral contest honorable mention,
- **Dr. Felix Leung** for 1st place in the poster contest,
- **Dr. Uvaraj Uddayasankar** for 2nd place in the poster contest and
- **Victoria Higgins** for honorable mention in the poster contest.

Our Canadian trainees certainly swept the stage this year!

A special thank you to CSCC members who made contributions to this article: *Dr. Vilte Barakauskas, Dr. Danijela Konforte, Dr. Terrence Agbor, Dr. Dennis Orton, Dr. Michelle Parker, Dr. Josko Ivica, Dr. Fang Wu, Dr. Albert Tsui and Dr. Felix Leung.*



*by Ana-Maria Simundic
EFLM EB Secretary*

Presentations and documents referred to in these minutes can be viewed and downloaded from EFLM's website: <https://www.eflm.eu/site/page/a/1058/>.

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

The EFLM President, Sverre Sandberg (SS), greeted the audience and welcomed delegates to the General Meeting (GM) in Athens. SS pointed out that IFCC proposal shall not be discussed, because it will first be elaborated in more details within IFCC. Once EFLM receives a well elaborated proposal, it will be discussed among EFLM members.

SS announced a small break before the elections, to allow all delegates who were out at other meetings, to come for voting.

SS reminded all attendees that EFLM is 10 years old and that one of the founders of EFLM was Vic Blaton, who sadly passed away earlier this year and who had the idea that there should be one organization within Europe and that therefore EC4 and FESC should be merged.

SS called for one minute of silence to memorize the legacy of Vic Blaton.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS GM

No matters arising from the minutes of the last GM in Paris, June 2015. Minutes were approved.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SS provided an overview of the recent EFLM activities, since the last GM in Paris. SS said that EFLM is representing laboratory medicine in Europe and that EFLM is doing what national societies (NSs) want it to do. SS called all participants to send their proposals for future actions and activities to EFLM.

Furthermore, SS pointed out that the goal of EFLM is to include representatives from all EFLM NSs in different functional units. SS encouraged all NSs to engage more in the work of EFLM and invited all countries

who are not represented yet within the EFLM, to send their nominations to various WGs.

SS again reminded NSs why there was a change in by-laws. He continued by emphasizing that EFLM is trying to make a new image. SS called all participants to let us know if there are some things which we need to do better.

The inclusion of EC4 into the EFLM structure was successfully managed and SS explained how it was done and why is it important. Furthermore, he gave a brief overview of the ongoing and future projects within EFLM.

At the end of his presentation, SS thanked all EFLM officers who voluntarily contribute to EFLM for their hard work. There were no comments. The report was endorsed.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Huib Storm (HS), EFLM Treasurer, gave a report on the following:

1. Audit
2. Balance sheet 2016
3. Internal budget 2016

Audit of the EFLM financial matters for 2016 had been done in accordance with GAAP (General Accountant Audit principles) by the certified auditor. The audit was successful and EFLM has obtained a certificate proving that EFLM accounts are maintained fully in accordance with the Belgian law and GAAP.

HS presented the Balance sheet for 2016 according to Belgian GAAP and invited EFLM NSs for its approval. GM has approved the accounts by General Meeting (which constitutes the discharge for EB members).

HS has also presented the Internal Budget 2017 and asked for its formal approval.

EFLM GM approved the Internal budget with 25/25 votes in favour.

5. ELECTION EXECUTIVE BOARD 2018-2019

Mauro Panteghini, the Past President (MP) has briefly explained the procedure of elections for the EB members. According to current EFLM membership, the quorum is 21 members. During the voting procedure there were 25 NSs present. Majority represents 13 votes.

All decisions are made by a simple voting (majority of votes present).

- Ana-Maria Simundic was the only candidate and was elected by acclamation as EFLM President-elect.
- Giuseppe Lippi was the only candidate and was elected by acclamation as EFLM Secretary
- Huib Storm was the only candidate and was elected by acclamation for a second two-years term as EFLM Treasurer (third term)

Candidates for 2 Member-at-large positions were:

- Prof. Tiago Guimaraes (Portugal)
- Prof. Grazyna Sypniewska (Poland)
- Prof. Michel Langlois (Belgium)
- Prof. Tomas Zima (Czech Rep)

Thus, for Member-at-large there were 4 candidates and a candidate needs more that 50% of votes. If nobody has the majority, the candidate who has the lowest number of votes is left out and there is another round of voting, until some candidate gets a majority of votes.

As there were 4 candidates for 2 Member-at-large positions, MP invited GM members to first vote for a first position.

1. Member-at-large position

Candidate	Number of votes (1st round)	Number of votes (2nd round)
Grazyna Sypniewska	5	left out
Tiago Guimaraes	9	14
Tomas Zima	6	11
Michel Langlois	5	left out

Two candidates had the same lowest number (5) of votes (SYPNIEWSKA and LANGLOIS). MP said that according to the procedure there should be another voting round, but he said that NSs could also decide to exclude two last candidates with the least number of votes.

NSs voted for the preferred choice and 20/25 NSs were in favour of dropping last two candidates. As Tiago Guimaraes had received the majority of votes, out of the two remaining candidates, he was elected for the first Member-at-large position.

2. Member-at-large position

Candidate	Number of votes
Grazyna Sypniewska	3
Tomas Zima	13
Michel Langlois	9

As Tomas Zima had received the majority of votes, he was elected for the second Member-at-large position (third term).

6. MEMBERSHIP - NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Application of the Kosovan Association for Clinical Chemistry as Full IFCC Member

Kosovo has been accepted as IFCC Full Member. Therefore their membership is, in accordance with the EFLM bylaws, automatically upgraded from Affiliated to Full membership. AMS has briefly informed the NSs about that.

Slovak Society for Laboratory Medicine (SSLM) has requested to become a Provisional Member

Slovak Society for Laboratory Medicine has applied for Provisional membership and has submitted all necessary documents. This is a subject to voting by the EFLM NSs.

This decision has been voted for by 25/25 votes.

7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Reports about the past and ongoing activities within the EFLM functional units were given by the Science Committee (E. Kilpatrick, C-S Chair), Profession

Committee (G. Wieringa, C-P Chair), Quality & Regulations Committee (W. Huisman, C-Q-R Chair), Education & Training Committee (R. Lichtinghagen, C-ET Chair) and Communication Committee (M. Graziani, C-ET Chair). Power point presentations with reports can be viewed and downloaded from EFLM's website: <https://www.eflm.eu/site/page/a/1058/>.

There were several questions asked from the audience.

Q: Hans Janssen (NL) asked how C-S chair is seeing the necessity to have internationally acceptable standards and documents. How do we plan to work with the rest of the world?

C-S chair replied that producing standards and recommendations is viewed as an important activity within EFLM. He stated he was due to meet Philippe Gillery, Chair of the IFCC Scientific Division, later during the Athens meeting to ensure a co-ordinated approach to these activities and where there was any overlap that this be approached jointly. The EFLM will hopefully also be able to 'adapt or adopt' some existing excellent guidelines from its constituent national societies.

Q: Ian Young (UK) – asked about the position of C-P and EFLM regarding the Brexit?

GW: replied that we should stop talking about EU and start talking about Europe.

Q: Ferruccio Cerriotti (IT): asked whether EFLM Syllabus is published.

C-P chair replied that version 5 is almost complete and shall soon (within not more than 4 months) be made

available to all NSs. It will be submitted for publication by the end of 2017.

Q: Ferruccio Cerriotti (IT): reiterated the request to NSs to respond to surveys. SS added that EFLM needs feedback from its members. EFLM NSs members are kindly requested to respond to various EFLM requests and share with EFLM their views and needs. No further questions were raised.

8. REPORT FROM IFCC

Maurizio Ferrari (MF) has given a report about the past and ongoing activities within the IFCC. Power point presentation with this report can be viewed and downloaded from EFLM's website: <https://www.eflm.eu/site/page/a/1058/>.

He emphasised the intense activity of various IFCC units and difficulties in managing and supervising their work. The number of Task forces has increased and they are not under strict control. It was therefore decided to maintain very few task forces and move all other under the divisions. To achieve that, some new divisions shall be created. One new division shall be Emerging technology division. The chair will be Sergio Bernardini. IFCC shall communicate all these changes with its members in a timely manner. No questions were raised.

9. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT EFLM GM

The next GM shall take place in October 2018 in Antalya.

The exact time and date shall be communicated soon. GA was closed at 18:00.



Updates on EFLM publications

by Maria Stella Graziani

Chair, EFLM Communications Committee

Three more impressive articles by EFLM Working Groups have been made available, attesting once more to the engagement of EFLM functional units in valuable scientific activity.

They are summarized below, with authorship information.

1) Defining a roadmap for harmonizing quality indicators in Laboratory Medicine: a consensus statement on behalf of the IFCC Working Group "Laboratory Error and Patient Safety" and EFLM Task and Finish Group "Performance specifications for the extra-analytical phases"

Sciacovelli L, Panteghini M, Lippi G, Sumarac Z, Cadamuro J, De Olivera Galoro CA, Del Pino Castro IG, Shcolnik W, Plebani M.

Clin Chem Lab Med 2017;55:1478-88

This joint paper by the IFCC Working Group “Laboratory Error and Patient Safety” and EFLM Task and Finish Group “Performance specifications for the extra-analytical phases” reports on the outcomes of the 2016 Consensus Conference held in Padova (Italy). The aim of the Conference was to achieve a consensus for effective harmonization of quality indicators (QIs) that are needed to evaluate the performances of Clinical Laboratories and to recognize the critical aspects where improvement actions are necessary. A general agreement was obtained; the main outcomes are:

1. the release of a new version of model of quality indicators (MQI),
2. the approval of a criterion for establishing performance specifications and
3. the definition of the type of information that should be provided within the report to the clinical laboratories participating in the QIs project.

This consensus is particularly important because, despite the large number of papers published and the many presentations during international scientific meetings, a large and steady participation of clinical laboratories in the MQI project has been difficult to achieve. The two main strategies identified by the experts at the Conference are the involvement of national scientific societies, accreditation bodies and EQA/PT providers of different countries, as a means for disseminating the MQI project and promoting the participation of laboratories and the selection and appointment of a National Leader, who should coordinate and manage the MQI project in each country.

2) A survey of patients’ views from eight European countries of interpretive support from Specialists in Laboratory Medicine

Watson ID, Oosterhuis WP, Jorgensen PE, Z. Dikmen ZG, Siodmiak J, Jovicic S, et al. on behalf of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine Working Group on Patient Focused Laboratory Medicine

Clin Chem Lab Med 2017;55:1496-500

The study was established to determine whether patients are interested in receiving their laboratory medicine results possibly with explanatory notes. For the scope, a survey was carried out in eight European countries (Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Turkey) interviewing 1084 individuals. A significant proportion of subjects (65%) are interested in receiving the laboratory results and a very large percentage of these (72%) are willing to obtain individualized comment and interpretation on the reports as well. Furthermore, a specialist in Laboratory Medicine is an acceptable professional for such a purpose for a mean percentage of 62% of those responding positively. Considering that a previous work by the same group (*Clin Chem Lab Med* 2015;53:1961–6) demonstrated a willingness by Laboratory Medicine professionals to engage in such practice, there is an opportunity to progress such an initiative. This is a very interesting chance to make Laboratory Medicine directly connect with patients offering a new paradigm for the provision of laboratory medicine activities. This challenge needs to be addressed with active engagement by the profession.

Interested professionals wishing to proceed are invited to visit the Working Group on Patient Focused Laboratory Medicine webpage at the EFLM website; they could find there a productive advice. (<https://www.eflm.eu/upload/docs/Basic%20Guidance%20for%20PFLM%202017.pdf>).

3) The EuBIVAS project: Within and between-subject biological variation data for serum creatinine using enzymatic and alkaline picrate methods and implications for monitoring.

Carobene A, Marino I, Coşkun A, Serteser M, Unsal I, Guerra E, et al. on behalf of the European Biological Variation Study of the EFLM Working Group on Biological Variation.

Clin Chem 2017 doi 10.1373/clinchem.2017.275115

This is another important paper carried out by the EFLM Working Group on Biological Variation reporting on the biological variation (BV) indices for serum creatinine using both enzymatic and alkaline picrate measurement methods in the frame of the EuBIVAS (European Biological Variation Study) that was established to deliver rigorously determined BV indices.

The study involved 91 healthy subjects from six different European Centres while the tests have been performed centrally at the S. Raffaele Hospital in Milan (Italy). The within-subject BV estimates were similar for enzymatic (4.4%) and alkaline picrate (4.7%) methods, and lower than the estimate presently available online (CVI=5.9%).

The analytical variation for alkaline picrate methods indicates that this method fails to fulfil analytical performance specifications for imprecision.

The BV estimates obtained in this study are widely applicable and they may be used to determine the analytical performance specifications for imprecision at

international levels in the absence of suitable clinical outcome studies. The alkaline picrate method failed to meet these specifications, raising questions regarding its future use.

This interesting and rigorous study apart from offering robust BV indices, adds another tile in the worldwide debate on the methods to be used to measure serum creatinine to obtain accurate estimates of glomerular filtration rate.

The list of the EFLM publications is available online, under EFLM Publications, where you can download the full papers:

www.eflm.eu



EFLM Webinars

by Daniel Rajdl

Chair, EFLM WG Distance Education and e-Learning

Speaker: Ana-Maria Simundic (HR)
Moderator: João Tiago Guimarães (PT)

19 December 2017 at 18h00 CET

- **Laboratory haemostasis (European Syllabus Course)**
Speaker: Giuseppe Lippi (IT)

23 January 2018 at 18.00 CET (*preliminary date*)

- **Faecal Haemoglobin: Newer Approaches to Screening and Diagnosis of Colorectal Disease**
Speaker: Callum G. Fraser (UK)
Moderator: Sally C Benton (UK)

6 March 2018 at 18.00 CET (*new final scheduled date compared to the first one announced*)

- **Reliable estimates of biological variation – the way forward**
Speaker: Aasne Karine Aarsand (NO)
Moderator: Bill Bartlett (UK)

27 March 2018 at 14.00 CET (*preliminary date*)

- **M-protein diagnostics of Multiple Myeloma patients treated with biologics**
Speaker: Hans Jacobs (NL)
Moderator: Jillian Tate (AU)

The EFLM WG “Distance Education and e-Learning” in collaboration with the EFLM WG “Congress and Post-Graduate Education” are pleased to inform about forthcoming EFLM webinars. The attendance at these EFLM webinars is free of charge. For those not able to attend, the recording of all EFLM webinars is available on at the new EFLM e-learning platform:

<https://elearning.eflm.eu>.

18 October 2017 at 18h00 CET (*new final scheduled date compared to the first one announced*)

- **Hepatic fibrosis assessment using multiparametric biomarker tests**
Speaker: Ralf Lichtinghagen (DE)
Moderator: Merve Sibel Gungoren (TR)

7 November 2017 at 18h00 CET

- **The development of guidelines and recommendations for peripheral blood film review internationally (European Syllabus Course)**
Speaker: Anna Merino (ES)

14 November 2017 at 18h00 CET

- **Harmonization of preanalytical phase in Europe**

Secure your place and make your registration now at <https://elearning.eflm.eu>.

IFCC PROFESSIONAL SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE PROGRAMME (PSEP)



My experience in Zimbabwe

*by Ronald Khunga
Malawi*

INTRODUCTION

My name is Ronald Khunga and I was awarded a Scholarship to attend a three month PSEP training in External Quality Assurance (EQA). The Malawi government has adopted the SLMTA (Strengthening Laboratory Management towards Accreditation) as a means to get its public and private laboratories accredited by International bodies such as ASLM. EQA is one of the requirements when it comes to international laboratory accreditation. Malawi does not currently have a National EQA program which has made access to EQA material difficult and expensive for most public and private laboratories, hence the failure to participate in such has been the result. This has had a negative effect on individual laboratories and the nation as a whole as we seek to attain accreditation.



Ronald Khunga

My visit to Zimbabwe was aimed to have an experience and gain knowledge on how to organize an EQA program so I can assist coordinate the birth and function of a national program in Malawi.

During my stay, I was attached to Zimbabwe National Quality Assurance Program (ZINQAP) which is a Regional Centre of Excellence according to SANAS (South African National Accreditation System) and at the department of Chemical Pathology at University of Zimbabwe. I was under the Supervision of Mr. Cuthbert Musarurwa (Chairman of the department of Chemical Pathology), Prof. Hilda Matarira and Mrs. Sibongile Zimuto (Director at ZINQAP). I spent 8 weeks (13th March to 12th May) at ZINQAP and the remainder at the Chemical Pathology laboratory.

OBJECTIVES

- To acquire in depth knowledge of running an External Quality Assessment programme
- To be oriented in the day to day routine laboratory and administrative activities
- To participate in Proficiency testing activities

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Gained knowledge in the requirements in running an EQA program
- Participation in technical and planning meetings
- Participation in the preparation and dispatch of PT samples (April and May shipments)
- Participation in in-house orientation training on Quality Management Systems (QMS) in a PT laboratory.
- I was given an opportunity to present an overview about my attachment at the department of Chemical Pathology.

Article continued on next page

CHALLENGES

- Limitation of time meant some of the in-house QMS training was not done
- Training on some equipment was not possible as machines had not yet been installed
- An initial challenge in the place I was accommodated in meant I had to move to a new house which was much better.
- A bench fee was requested though it had not been initially negotiated. But the request was later withdrawn.

ACTIVITIES

1. Preparation and dispatch of PT samples

I participated in the shipments of April which was the Haematology shipment and May which was the Serology shipment. My responsibility was to shadow the PT team in all steps of preparation and dispatch. I had experience in preparing samples (such as FBC, blood grouping), homogeneity testing, packaging of samples, checking of packages and delivery of PT samples.

2. Planning of PT Scheme

Before every shipment there is a need to plan the shipment. My responsibility like the first activity was to shadow the team and perform any other assigned activities. I had experience in using the PT Assist software in planning for a shipment, collecting action packs from FedEx and stock management.

3. Data entry and Management

With the use of PT Assist, I was able to enter data from previous shipments and also generate a report from the same software.

4. Orientation in QMS and ISO 17043

The Director and the Quality Officer briefly took me through the requirements in running a PT program according to ISO 17043. I was privileged to gain a valuable insight on this standard and also get a copy of ZINQAP's Quality Manual.

5. Participation of Meetings

I was privileged to take part in three planning meetings chaired by the Director and assigned personnel and also a Quality Assurance Technical Working Group meeting where I interacted with some of the key stakeholders.

6. Presentation of Attachment Period

I was given an opportunity to present at the department of Chemical Pathology where my supervisors, other key members of staff and Masters in Science students were in attendance. (I have attached the presentation).

WAY FORWARD

As we plan to form a National Quality Assurance program in Malawi, there is a lot of work to be done. Though by my experience, I am confident that we are not very far behind as a country. As we charter forward we intend to do the following:

1. Develop an EQA Establishment Work plan

This is the framework that will guide us in all the activities and resources we would need to establish and implement a functional EQA program. I intend to work with the Malawi College of Medicine, Malawi Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists (MAMLS) and the Ministry of Health.

2. Establish an EQA Technical Working Group – Steering Committee

This will be a valuable way to allow the Ministry and various stakeholders to contribute to the national EQA program. This will be done under the guidance of the Diagnostics department at the Ministry of Health.

3. Involve all key stakeholders to ensure buy-in and effective operation

This cannot be overemphasized. As a team we intend to find ways in which to constantly involve key stakeholders so as to commit their technical and financial support to the project.

CONCLUSION

I have learnt much during my stay and I believe I will be able to use this knowledge to help my country as we set up a similar program. I would like to express my appreciation again to the President of IFCC, my supervisors and my family and friends for making the exchange programme a success.

Acknowledgements: IFCC, University of Zimbabwe - Chemical Pathology Department, ZINQAP

IFCC's Calendar of Congresses, Conferences & Events

Calendar of IFCC Congresses/Conferences and Regional Federations' Congresses

Oct 20 - 22, 2017		<i>XIV International Congress of Pediatric Laboratory Medicine WorldLab Durban 2017</i>	Durban, ZA
Oct 21, 2017		<i>IFCC-POCT Satellite Meeting WorldLab Durban 2017</i>	Durban, ZA
Oct 22, 2017		<i>IFCC Intelligent Clinical Laboratory Management: Impacts on Quality System Improvement</i>	Durban, ZA
Oct 22 - 25, 2017		<i>XXIII IFCC WORLDLAB - DURBAN 2017</i>	Durban, ZA
Oct 26 - 27, 2017		<i>IFCC Satellite Meeting "Biomarkers for Diabetes" - WorldLab Durban 2017</i>	Cape Town, ZA
May 19 - 23, 2019		<i>IFCC - EFLM EUROMEDLAB 2019</i>	Barcelona, ES
May 24 - 28, 2020		<i>XXIV IFCC WorldLab - Seoul 2020</i>	Seoul, KR
May 16 - 20, 2021		<i>XXIV IFCC - EFLM EUROMEDLAB - MUNICH 2021</i>	Munich, DE
May 21 - 25, 2023		<i>XXV IFCC - EFLM WORLDLAB - EUROMEDLAB - ROME 2023</i>	Rome, IT

Calendar continued on next page

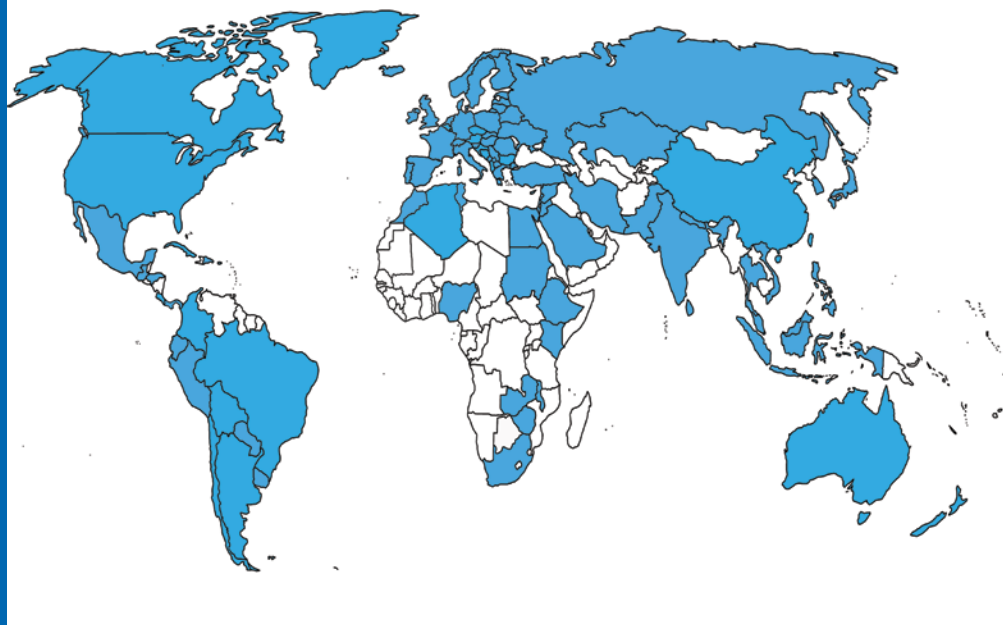
Calendar of events with IFCC auspices

Oct 1 - 31, 2017	<i>Workshop and Course in clinical microbiology update 2017</i>	Quito, EC
Oct 11 - 12, 2017	<i>3rd National Congress from Laboratory Medicine to Medicine in the Laboratory</i>	Riva del Garda, IT
Oct 11 - 13, 2017	<i>III Russian Congress of Laboratory Medicine</i>	Moscow, RU
Oct 11 - 14, 2017	<i>14th Annual Congress of the German Society of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (DGKL)</i>	Oldenburg, DE
Oct 13 - 16, 2017	<i>17° Congreso Internacional del Colegio Nacional de Bacteriología</i>	Cali, CO
Oct 16 - 18, 2017	<i>49th National Congress of S.I.Bio.C.-Laboratory Medicine</i>	Firenze, IT
Oct 16 - 17, 2017	<i>Journées Nationales 2017 de la Société Française de Biologie Clinique</i>	Paris, FR
Oct 18 - 20, 2017	<i>LMCE 2017 & KSLM 58th Annual Meeting</i>	Seoul, KR
Oct 26 - 28, 2017	<i>Biochemistry Clinic and Hematology Workshop</i>	Machala, EC
Oct 26, 2017	<i>International Conference on Laboratory Medicine "Uncertainty, quality, safety and accreditation in Laboratory Medicine"</i>	Padova, IT
Nov 1 - 4, 2017	<i>Congreso Nacional Bioquímico Cuba XIV</i>	Rio Negro, AR
Nov 8 - 11, 2017	<i>2nd International Conference on Natural Products for Cancer Prevention and Therapy</i>	Kayseri, TR
Nov 15 - 17, 2017	<i>XI Congreso Nacional del Laboratorio Clínico</i>	Málaga, ES
Nov 21 - 23, 2017	<i>3rd Annual Meeting, Saudi Society for Clinical Chemistry</i>	Jeddah, SA
Nov 30, 2017	<i>11th International Scientific Meeting of the Centre of Metrological Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (CIRME) "Measurement Uncertainty in Medical Laboratories: Friend or Foe?"</i>	Milan, IT
Dec 1, 2017	<i>51e Journée de Biologie Praticienne (JBP 2017)</i>	Paris, FR
Dec 4 - 5, 2017	<i>JCTLM Members & Stakeholders Meeting 2017</i>	Paris, FR
Dec 12, 2017	<i>7th International Conference on Quality of Medical Laboratories</i>	Brdo Pri Kranju, SI
Dec 19 - 21, 2017	<i>1st International Congress on Biomedicine</i>	Tehran, IR
Feb 8 - 9, 2018	<i>International Congress on Quality in Laboratory Medicine</i>	Helsinki, FI
Jun 12 - 15, 2018	<i>XXXVI Nordic Congress of Clinical Chemistry</i>	Helsinki, FI
Jun 21 - 22, 2018	<i>7th International Symposium on Critical Care Testing and Blood Gases</i>	Antibes, FR
Sep 30 - Oct 3, 2018	<i>Santorini Conference "Systems medicine and personalised health & therapy" - "The odyssey from hope to practice".</i>	Thira Santorini, GR

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Mexico: Federación Nacional de Químicos Clínicos (CONAQUIC A.C.)
Nepal: Nepalese Association for Clinical Chemistry (NACC)
Philippines: Philippine Council for Quality Assurance in Clinical Laboratories (PCQACL)
Russia: Regional Association for Clinical Laboratory Diagnosis, St. Petersburg
Spain: Asociación Española de Farmacéuticos Analistas (AEFA)
Turkey: Society of Clinical Biochemistry Specialists (KBUD)
Ukraine: Association for Quality Assurance of Laboratory Medicine (AQALM)

Regional Federations

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

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- submission deadline: [March 23](#)

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- submission deadline: [May 25](#)

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- submission deadline: [July 13](#)

September-October Edition

- submission deadline: [September 22](#)

November-December Edition

- submission deadline: [November 23](#)

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