

8. INTERVIEWS: CHAIRS OF THE IFCC DIVISIONS AND COMMITTEES

IFCC - SCIENTIFIC DIVISION (SD)



Prof. Philippe Gillery

MD, PhD
IFCC Scientific Division – Chair
2017-2022



Prof. Philippe Gillery, MD, PhD, is Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the Faculty of Medicine of Reims, University of Reims Champagne-Ardenne, France. He is the Chair of the Laboratory of Biochemistry- Pharmacology-Toxicology and of the Biology and Pathology Department of the University Hospital of Reims, France, and deputy Director of CNRS Unit "Extracellular Matrix and Cell Dynamics"

He is currently appointed as Chair of the Scientific Division of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC), and is Associate Editor of the Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine Journal. He is member of the National French Committee on Metrology.

His research interests are related to the effects of nonenzymatic post-translational modifications (especially glycation and carbamylation) on protein structure and functions, and to their involvement in the pathophysiology of diabetes mellitus and other chronic diseases. He has published more than 245 articles in peer-reviewed journals.

INTERVIEW

How have you seen the contribution of IFCC to Laboratory Medicine in the world from the Division that you lead?

The Scientific Division of IFCC is especially active in standardization and harmonization of laboratory tests, with the aim of participating in the optimal quality of patient care by promoting the use of common procedures worldwide. Several national or international organization, manufacturers, metrology institutes and reference laboratories as well as organizers of external quality assessment schemes are also involved in this process. IFCC Scientific Division has contributed as leader organization to coordinate these actions in order to allow a synergy of efforts and the best efficiency from the different stakeholders. In this regard, the Scientific Division has actively contributed to permanently increase the visibility of IFCC as

international leading federation in Laboratory Medicine.

How could your division contribute more in the coming years to the development of IFCC?

IFCC Scientific Division must continue to be a conductor in Laboratory Medicine working with other IFCC divisions and external partners (i.e. clinical societies) in order to identify domains of relevance and assist the transfer of research results to the profession. The Division must provide a guidance in all standardization and harmonization processes in classical but also new areas of activity in laboratories (genetic analysis and proteomics for example). A holistic view on how to advance test standardization must be established. The evolution of the Scientific Division under the direction of the incoming Chair Christa Cobbaert will contribute to this movement.

What do you consider the best achievements that the division you lead has had in these years of life of IFCC?

Over these last years, the Scientific Division of IFCC has strongly reinforced the links with the major partners involved in metrology, like National Metrology Institutes and BIPM. This strategy has allowed to start concrete collaborations and to accelerate standardization processes. IFCC Scientific Division has participated in several international metrology events, scientific meetings as well as events intended for the general public.

Significant advances have been made in the final steps (e.g. HbA2) or start of new projects (e.g. apolipoproteins) devoted to the standardization of important biomarkers in public health.

Besides, new fields of Laboratory Medicine have been explored like pharmacology or haemostasis, as well as novel approaches needing a standardization scheme, like the use of Continuous

Glucose Monitoring systems in the management of diabetes mellitus.

Many major papers have been published on different topics, dealing for example with bone metabolism or commutability of reference and control materials.

What is your message for IFCC in these 70 years of its foundation?

I wish IFCC a brilliant future in its different missions

under the leadership of enlightened officers, reaffirming its leading position internationally in all domains of Laboratory Medicine, including science, innovation, education and communication.

Thank you very much Prof. Philippe Gillery, for your time to conduct this interview.

Dr. Maria del Carmen Pasquel
Member CPR and WG-IANT/RIA/CPD-IFCC



SD Executive Committee Meeting as Conference Call - June 2021

From left to right - top to bottom:

Philippe Gillery - Chair; Michael Rottmann - Corporate Members Representative; Ian Young - ICHCLR Observer; Karen Phinney - NIST Consultant; Yang Zhen - NIFDC Observer; Chris Burns - NIBSC Consultant; Greg Miller - JCTLM Consultant; Christa Cobbaert - Vice Chair; Paola Bramati - IFCC Office; Barnali Das - Member; Konstantinos Makris - Member; Smeralda Skerendaj - IFCC Office; Garry John - Secretary; Liesbet Drepez - JRC Observer.

<https://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-scientific-division/>



INTERVIEWS: CHAIRS OF THE IFCC DIVISIONS AND COMMITTEES IFCC - EDUCATION AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION (EMD)



EMD Executive Committee

From left to right:

André Ziegler, Corporate Member and Secretary; Sedef Yenice, Member and VLP Chair; Silvia Cardinale, IFCC Office; Nader Rifai, EMD Chair; Vanessa Steenkamp, Vice Chair; Tomas Zima, Member.

<https://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-education-division/>



INTERVIEWS: CHAIRS OF THE IFCC DIVISIONS AND COMMITTEES IFCC - COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS DIVISION (CPD)



CPD Executive Committee meeting in Munich (DE), on occasion of EuroMedLab Congress April, 2022

From left to right:

Anthony Newman, Consultant; János Kappelmayer, CPD-EC Vice-Chair and eJIFCC Editor; Silvia Colli Lanzi, IFCC Office; Deniz Topcu, IFCC Web Editor; Tahir Pillay, CPD Chair, Tricia Ravalico, Corporate Representative; Eduardo Freggiaro, CPD EC Secretary, C-leL Chair; Rajiv Erasmus, C-PR Chair; Bryan Adriaanse, Consultant; Katherina Psarra, not portrayed here, News editor. Prof. Raul Girardi, not portrayed here, Chair RIA/WG-IANT, Director DIV e-magazine.

<https://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-communications-publications-division-cpd/>



Prof. Tahir Pillay's interview is in 7.3 of interviews with candidates for the presidency of IFCC

INTERVIEWS: CHAIRS OF THE IFCC DIVISIONS AND COMMITTEES IFCC - EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES DIVISION (ETD)



The IFCC Emerging Technologies Division (ETD) is a new Division proposed and formally ratified by the IFCC Executive Board in 2017. The ETD formally took effect from 1st January 2018.



ETD Executive Committee during their online meeting on 4 December 2020

From left to right:

Ronda Greaves, Secretary; Silvia Colli Lanzi, IFCC Office; Paolo Fortina, Vice-Chair; Larry Kricka, Consultant; Maurizio Ferrari, Consultant; Damien Gruson, Member; Helen Martin, Consultant.

Sergio Bernardini, Chair; Markus Roessler and Yin Peng, Members, not portrayed here, are part of the ETD EC.

<https://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-emerging-technologies-division/>



INTERVIEWS: CHAIRS OF THE IFCC DIVISIONS AND COMMITTEES IFCC - CONGRESSES AND CONFERENCES COMMITTEE (C-CC)



Päivi Laitinen

paivi.h.laitinen@hotmail.fi



Päivi Laitinen has retired from her position as the Head Chemist in HUS Diagnostic Center-HUSLAB, Laboratory of Helsinki University Hospital.

Päivi Laitinen obtained her PhD in Biochemistry and Master's degree in Health Care Administration from Oulu university, where she also has received the title of Adjunct Professor. She specialized in clinical biochemistry in Tampere university hospital. Her scientific interests focus presently mainly on prenatal screening and evaluation of laboratory methods as well as the use and implementation of cardiac markers.

Päivi Laitinen has been actively involved in the activities of the scientific societies of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine at the national, European and international level. She has been an active member of the Finnish Society of Clinical Chemistry since 1987 and served as a member of Board 1992-1995, Vice-President 1996-1997 and President 1998-2002 of the Society. She has been a member of the Finnish Clinical Chemistry Register Committee (EC4) 1998-2002, a member of the editorial Board of *Kliinlab* 2002-2012 and a member of the Working Group on Laboratory Nomenclature of the Finnish Union of Counties 1999-2013. Päivi Laitinen has also been a member of the Board of Directors of Labquality 1998-2002 and 2011-2013.

The international activities include memberships European Communities Confederation of Clinical

Chemistry (EC4) Board (2003-2005) and Scandinavian Society of Clinical Chemistry Board (1998-2002) as well as membership of the IFCC Awards Committee (2003-2005). At present she is chairing an EFLM Working Group on Cardiac Markers and IFCC Nominations Committee. Päivi Laitinen was the Secretary of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) Executive Board in 2006-2011. Presently she is the Chair of IFCC Committee on Congresses and Conferences.

Päivi Laitinen has experience in organizing small-to-large scale meetings. She has been a member of Scientific or Scientific Advisory Committees of several international congresses of clinical chemistry. At the national level she has been involved in organizing national meetings of the Finnish Society of Clinical Chemistry as well as Labquality Days.



Hybrid meeting during 2022 WorldLab Seoul

From left to right - top to bottom:
 W.H.Fang, Corresponding Member; A. Buño Soto, Member; A.Sepici Dincel, Corresponding Member; S.Robinson,
 Corresponding Member; M.Blanes, Member; H.Martin, Corresponding Member;
 P. Laitinen, Chair.

<https://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-congresses-and-conferences/congressesconferencescommittee/>



INTERVIEWS: CHAIRS OF THE IFCC DIVISIONS AND COMMITTEES INTERVIEW WITH DR. RAJIV T ERASMUS CHAIR PR COMMITTEE/ CPD-IFCC



Prof. Rajiv T Erasmus

MBBS(Ib), FMC.Path (Nig),
FWACP(W.A), FCPATH (SA),
DABCC (Am Board Certified),
DHSM(Natal), FC.Path (ECSA)



Prof. Rajiv T Erasmus is: Emeritus Professor Chemical Pathology, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University, Cape Town.

Vice President, College of Pathologists of East, Central and Southern Africa (COPECSA).

President, Africa Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC).

Editor-in-Chief, African Journal of Laboratory Medicine (AJLM).

Chair PR Committee/ CPD-IFCC.

Interview with Prof. Rajiv T Erasmus, Chair Public Relation Committee (CPR) of the Publications and Communications Division (CPD) of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC), to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the foundation of IFCC.

INTERVIEW

Dear Prof. Rajiv in this very special year for IFCC our readers want to know your answers in the following four questions.

1. In your position as Chair of CPR -CPD/ IFCC could you give us a short summary of What is and the objectives of CPR?

The IFCC is the biggest laboratory professionals' organization in the world. Thus, we have a great responsibility to the profession and our clinical colleagues that the highest standards with respect to training and education are maintained. We also believe that we need to advise health organizations

with respect to the ideal tests that must be used to diagnose diseases using the best available scientific evidence. In this regard the C-PR plays a critical role in supporting the mandate of the IFCC. Some of the objectives include the following:

Identifying key Public Relations tools that can advertise the contributions and mandates of IFCC and make recommendations to other committees and divisions within the IFCC.

Develop and update promotional materials that can be distributed through the CPD, on the IFCC organization and activities, as well as the discipline of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine for distribution worldwide.

Act as a link for distribution of IFCC brochures and other promotion material to all laboratory professionals in their country of residence, National Societies, and Regional Federations where it applies.

Assist IFCC in improving its visibility to all laboratory professionals in their country of residence, their respective National Societies and Regional Federations where it applies.

Act as IFCC ambassadors by promoting IFCC and the field of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine to laboratory professionals in their respective country of residence, their National Societies and Regional Federations where it applies.

To promote IFCC activities to National Representatives on a regular basis through the use of social media tools (e.g. WhatsApp/Telegram groups) such that these communications can be effectively communicated to their respective members.

To monitor how effectively are IFCC communications being shared by the National Representatives with their respective members.

Another key activity of the C-PR has been the development of promotional material which can be used by members to promote the IFCC and its activities to the Laboratory Medicine Community and the general public. A promotional slide set and a number of brochures (in multiple languages) are available for download from the Public Relations Resources Page of the website, including:

We believe that the corporate sector is important in complementing the role of the PR Committee in communicating the role and objectives of the IFCC at the grass roots level.

More recently members of the Committee are assisting the IFCC in making the public aware of the critical role of the profession and lab professionals in maintaining public health, ensuring:

Along with other colleagues. Even our clinical colleagues are sometimes ignorant of the critical role lab professionals play in ensuring that laboratory results are of the highest quality and are reliable and available to clinicians.

We have had challenges in ensuring that communication is maintained between the PR Committee. Because of the COVID pandemic the Committee has not been able to have face to face meetings that we now realise are as important as ever in ensuring that regular communication is taking place.

Even before COVID pandemic there were challenges in communicating with our members but this became worse as conferences and workshops that were organized on a regular basis and were a source of networking virtually disappeared and left a vacuum in the education of colleagues. Innovations in technology allowed for some gaps to be filled but could not replace the personal interaction that normally used to take place at such gatherings.

2. How have you faced the challenges of meeting the CPR' objectives in these times of pandemic?

It's been extremely difficult to meet the objectives of C-PR committee in the last 18 months when no one could travel and there was great fear amongst many of our colleagues. That fear still exists with us. Many meetings were cancelled at great

economic loss. Plans were disrupted. Connectivity became critical for our survival and proved to be one of the tools we could use to connect with colleagues. Many meetings and conferences utilised this. Webinars were organized and there was increased usage of tele messaging but again some worked and some didn't. However, in many developing countries this was not possible or too expensive. Power outages also had an impact on connectivity. It also meant that colleagues lost out on important information. The pandemic magnified the inequality gap that is so evident everywhere.

3. What recommendations You would give laboratory medicine professionals after what they have faced in these times of pandemic?

I want lab professionals to educate their families, distant relatives and social colleagues and what they do and how they are contributing to the health security of the world. It is up to us to define who we are. No one will do for us. Technology has given us the tools and now we must use them effectively to make everyone realise our key role in protecting the planet. Charity begins at home so let's start from there.

4. Something additional that you want to say to our readers?

We believe that the lab professionals are the guardians of the planet. Recent events such as Ebola, Mers and the recent COVID pandemic have all emphasized the key role of lab professionals in the diagnosis and follow up of these infectious diseases that are a threat to human existence. Without lab diagnostics the clinician is in the dark. We all need to educate our clinical colleagues and the public at large about our immense contribution to maintaining good health and wellness and contributing through this to the global economy. Our professionals are at the helm of technological innovation. Let us acknowledge and give lab professionals the due credit and accolades they deserve. Together we can preserve and conquer.

On behalf of the PR Committee, we appreciate your time and willingness to conduct your interview and we appreciate your excellent work as chair of this IFCC Committee.

Dr. Maria del Carmen Pasquel
Member CPR and WG-IANT/RIA/CPD-IFCC.



Dr. Rajiv Erasmus presiding over one of the zoom meetings held in 2021

From left to right:

Dr. Mónica Spalviere, Consultand (AR); Dr. María del Carmen Pasquel, Member (EC); Dr. María Schroeder-Castagno, Corr.Member (UY); Prof. Rajiv Erasmus, Chair C-PR (ZA); Peter Vervaart, (AU); Silvia Colli, IFCC-office; A.Karabulut, Corr.Member (TR); Endang Hoyaranda, Advisor AFCB.

Name	Position	Country	Term	Time in Office
R. Erasmus	Chair	ZA	2 nd	2022 01- 2024 12
E.O. Agbedana	Member	NG	2 nd	2020 01- 2022 12
MdC Pasquel Carrera	Member	EC	1 st	2021 01- 2023 12
K. Patel	Member	US	1 st	2020 11- 2023 12
P. Vervaart	Member	AU	2 nd	2022 01- 2024 12
C. Grigore	Corr. Member	RO		
A. Karabulut	Corr. Member	TR		
R. Lichtinghagen	Corr. Member	DE		
C. Oleschuk	Corr. Member	CA		
M. Schroeder-Castagno	Corr. Member	UY		
R. Stonys	Corr. Member	LT		
M. Spalvieri	Consultant	AR		
T. Ravalico	Consultant	US		
To be nominated	Advisor	AFCB		
A.B. Okesina	Advisor	AFCC		
E. Hoyaranda	Advisor	APFCB		
H. Fares Taie	Advisor	COLABIOCLI		
D. Rajdl	Advisor	EFLM		
D. Kinniburgh	Advisor	NAFCC		