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International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine





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EDITORIAL

Message from the eNews Editor

by Katherina Psarra
eNews Editor

Dear colleagues,

Here we are with the last issue of the eNews for 2022. I am sure that you all agree that it was a really successful year for the IFCC. Not a single week (not to say 'every single day') has passed without a message, a link from the IFCC, announcing a webinar, a conference, a new activity, a new achievement or even a new request from the National Societies. All this culminated with the IFCC General Conference and the celebration for the 70-year anniversary of the society.

Don't forget to go through the artistic competition for the 70 years of IFCC. All is there: the winners and all the contributors.

In this issue you will find a really interesting article about EFLM achievements during 2022.

VLP reports are very "alive". They connect us with events from all over the world and the photos are amazing.

Information about the COLABIOCLI Congress on quality issues (CALILAB 2022) is there for you, as well as from the national congresses of the Croatian and the Spanish Societies.

Last, but not least, the descriptions of the UNIVANTS winning projects celebrate the successful collaboration between laboratories and clinicians leading to better health for everyone.

Enjoy reading of this final issue of 2022, dear colleagues!

With my sincere Season's Greetings,
Katherina



Katherina Psarra, MSc, PhD

IFCC WORLDFLAB DUBAI 2024

26th International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine

17th Congress of Arab Federation of Clinical Biology

10th Saudi Society for Clinical Chemistry Annual Meeting

THE VOICE OF IFCC

IFCC's Task Force on Outcome Studies in Laboratory Medicine (TF-OSLM): proposal selection announcement

by Zhen Zhao
Chair, IFCC TF-OSLM

IFCC's Task Force on Outcome Studies in Laboratory Medicine (TF-OSLM) is pleased to announce the selection of five research proposals that will receive funding to evaluate the impact of laboratory testing on health outcomes. The strategic objectives of the funding are to promote directed research evaluating the role of laboratory medicine on healthcare outcomes and to build awareness and understanding with regards to the critical role laboratory medicine plays in healthcare outcomes.

Eligible research proposals were retrospective and/or prospective studies seeking to evaluate, quantify and demonstrate **the effectiveness and impact** of any new and/or commonly available clinical laboratory tests and/or laboratory information on **patient outcomes in clinical practice**. Details of the selection criteria are available at: https://www.ifcc.org/media/479500/website-info_final.pdf.

The selected research proposals are:

	Title	Principal investigator	Institution
1.	Defining the importance and impact of clinical laboratory testing practices and result return on Covid-19 patients: a GENCOV study	Dr. Jennifer Taher	Mount Sinai Hospital/ University of Toronto, Canada
2.	The '70%' claim: finding the evidence base through big data analysis	Dr. Kay Weng Choy	Northern Health, Department of Pathology, Australia
3.	The research implementation of the clinical model for evaluation CYP2C19 alleles genotype guided clopidogrel treatment	Dr. Konstantine Liluashvili	Department of General Internal Medicine at the Tbilisi State Medical University (TSMU), Georgia
4.	Impact of clinical laboratory test profile on the clinical management and outcome of Acute Kidney injury at Livingstone University Teaching Hospital: The ICLaTA study	Dr. Sepiso K. Masenga	Mulungushi University, Akapelwa street, Mulungushi University School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Zambia
5.	Impact of NT-proBNP Guided Management of Chronic Heart Failure on patient outcome in a Nigerian tertiary Hospital	Dr. Lucius Chidiebere Imoh	University of Jos/ Jos University Teaching, Nigeria

The IFCC - Abbott VLP Program VLP report at the National Biochemistry Congress of the Turkish Biochemical Society

by Dr. Elie Fux

Chair, IFCC ETD Metabolomics Working Group (WG-M)



Elie Fux, Chair of the IFCC ETD Metabolomics Working Group (WG-M),
as VLP speaker

The 33rd National Biochemistry Congress from the Turkish Biochemical Society took place in Ilıca Congress Center, Çeşme, İzmir on the 26th to the 30th of October 2022. Çeşme is a Turkish town located west of İzmir, on the coast of the Aegean Sea.

I was deeply honored to be invited to represent the metabolomics working group at the opening lecture on the 28th of October 2022. The title of my presentation was “Metabolomics: Current and Future Clinical Applications”, which covered the concepts of metabolomics and the recent advances of analytical methods used to generate metabolomics data.

One aspect discussed, was that comprehensive metabolic profiling, using metabolomics, has become widely accepted as a dynamic and sensitive measure of the phenotype at the molecular level, placing the technology at the forefront of biomarker and mechanistic discoveries related to pathophysiological processes.

Article continued on next page

Different methodological approaches were covered:

1. Fingerprinting metabolomics, aiming at classifying samples according to metabolite signatures and using algorithms.
2. Targeted metabolomics, involving analysis of a selected set of metabolites from a single or multiple pathways that are associated with a particular pathology or clinical condition of interest.
3. Untargeted metabolomics, a data-driven and hypothesis-generating approach involving comprehensive profiling of as many metabolites as possible, to enable disease-associated patterns to be deduced for potential clinical use

One of the goals of the IFCC metabolomics working group is to monitor existing and emerging applications of clinical metabolomics. I was very happy to present for the first time the outcome of the scouting initiative from the working group, which was initiated in March this year. The following application examples selected by the working group were discussed:



(L-R): Elie Fux, VLP speaker,
Muhittin A. Serdar, speaker at the conference,
Doğan Yücel, President of the Turkish Biochemical Society

- Cardiovascular diseases
- Microbiological applications/
Antibiotics Resistance
- Seizure prevention/Epilepsy
- Oncology

On the 30th of October, I gave a second lecture entitled “The Role of Mass Spectrometry in Clinical Diagnostics”. The presentation provided an overview on the advancement of the technology, concepts of regulations of mass spectrometry-based assays and the current applications of mass spectrometry in routine clinical labs which included Newborn Screening (NBS), Microbiology Assays, Drug of Abuse Testing (DAT) and Therapeutic Drug Monitoring (TDM).

Both lectures led to great scientific debates, exchanges of ideas and experiences. I was thrilled by the warm welcome I received from the organizing committee. I especially would like to thank Dr. Doğan Yücel, Dr. Oytun Portakal, Dr. Mehmet Şenes and Dr. Muhittin A. Serdar for our great discussions and for introducing me to many scientists from the Turkish Biochemical Society. I was invited as part of the IFCC-Abbott visiting lecturer program which supports the international exchange of lecturers and aims to facilitate international educational exchanges within the IFCC. I believe that the educational exchange and the scientific networking was a great success!

The IFCC-Abbott VLP Program VLP report at the CNB Congress, Bucaramanga, Colombia 2022

by José Antonio Tesser Poloni

*Universidade do Vale do Rio dos Sinos (UNISINOS)
São Leopoldo, Brasil*



José Antonio Tesser Poloni,
VLP Lecturer

The audience gave a very positive feedback regarding both lectures, with several questions being made at the end of the presentations connecting the subjects explored on the classes with daily practice procedures.

In person congresses are very good opportunities to exchange knowledge, meet professionals from different places and with different backgrounds making possible connections that the recent pandemia prohibited.

I acknowledge the IFCC for the help with the travel scholarship because this kind of programme contributes to professionals connections and improves, at the end, the quality of the laboratory work worldwide.

The 20^o Congreso Internacional CNB Colegio Nacional de Bacteriología Bucaramanga (Colombia) was the second international congress that I had the chance to attend in the clinical chemistry/laboratory medicine field, the first as a speaker. I should mention that as a Brazilian speaker the preparation and the challenge to speak in Spanish was a key part of the journey.

My participation was only possible because I received one IFCC-Abbott Visiting Lecturer Programme travel scholarship to attend this event. I was invited by CNB to speak on Urinalysis/Urine microscopy subjects with two lectures entitled:

- Quality control in Urinalysis: emphasis on urine sediment;
- Urinary profiles and daily routine doubts.



José Antonio Tesser Poloni, VLP Lecturer
and Prof. Khosrow Adeli, IFCC President

The IFCC-Abbott VLP Program VLP at the Confederación Unificada Bioquímica de la República Argentina (CUBRA)

by *Maria Salinas*
Hospital Universitari Sant Joan d'Alacant, Spain



Presentations at the IFCC-Abbott VLP Program
at the Confederación Unificada Bioquímica de la República Argentina (CUBRA)

Prof. Mauro Panteghini,
VLP Lecturer

The usefulness of the visit was massive. As in any situation, the exchange of knowledge is very healthy for organizations, especially when they are so distant, so the habits and the way of working could be very different. And my opinion regarding the logistic of the visit, is that it was very well organized, the scientific level was very high, with many conferences and symposia, with a wide variety of different topics. The interest of the audience was massive. The organization was perfect, easy and worked perfectly.

Regarding my opinion on current and future needs of the National Society, we are now in such a big and new dimension of the Laboratory Medicine participation/contribution in the patient medical procedure, that any help is always small.

IT tools such as Artificial intelligence and Clinical Decision Support software are now fully immersed in the Clinical Laboratory, mainly to improve 3 aspects. First, any procedure in the laboratory and also in the hospital. Second, demand management interventions, and lastly, result management interventions. This is us, not just reporting lipase and/or amylase results in an emergency patient with abdominal pain, but also through these IT tools as CDS, reporting Sars and Ranson indices, and the severity of the pancreatitis.

To share knowledge is key, especially in these crucial times for Laboratory Medicine, that we are passing from a passive or traditional lab, to an active or leader lab. I think it is even more crucial to support the new requests for visiting professors and also the possibility to develop projects in common.



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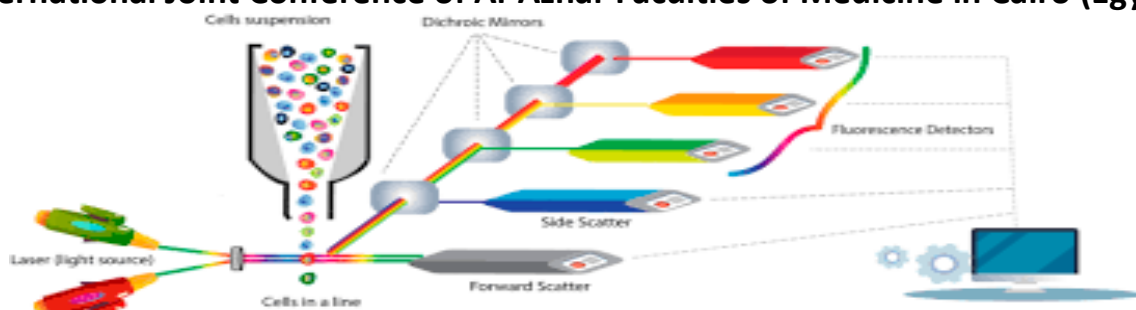


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The 3rd International Joint Conference of Al-Azhar Faculties of Medicine in Cairo (Egypt)



3rd International Course on Basics of Flow Cytometry

12th -14th of December 2022

By

Clinical Pathology Department, Faculty of Medicine (Girls), Al-Azhar University

In collaboration with

Dr. Claude Lambert (MD, PhD) (Saint-Etienne Univ. Hospital, IFCC, France)

Under the patronage of

Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Seddik, Vice President of Al-Azhar Univ. for Post-Graduate Studies and Research

Prof. Hanaa El Ebeisy, Dean of Faculty of Medicine (For Girls), Al-Azhar Univ., Cairo

Prof. Sawsan Abdelsabour, Deputy of Faculty of Medicine for Postgraduate and Research affairs

Prof. Dr. Eman Elshal, Deputy of Faculty of Medicine for Education and Student Affairs

Prof. Dr. Amal Abd Elaleem, Head of Clinical Path. Dept., Faculty of Medicine, Al-Azhar Univ.

Theoretical Topics	Wet Lab Hands-on Practice
1. Principle of Flow cytometry	1. Protocol of Direct Extracellular Staining, CD3FITC/CD19PE/CD45PC5.5/CD56APC
2. Fluorochromes and Compensation	2. Protocol for Direct Intercellular Staining, MPOFITC/CD45PC5.5
3. Setting panels and protocol optimization	3. RBCs & PLTs related experiments, CD41FITC/ CD235aPE/CD69APC
4. Basic Data analysis	4. Gating strategies
5. Cell cycle and Apoptosis	5. Extraction of data
6. Quantitative flow cytometry	6. Detection of florescence intensity
7. Introduction to Leukaemia phenotyping	7. Demonstration of leukaemia panels
8. Prognostic Factors of Acute Myeloid Leukaemia in Paediatric Age group	8. Trouble shooting in flow cytometry
9. Approach to analysis using Kaluza software	

Workshop Registration: Contact Organizer; Dr. Reham Hammad, Head of Haematology Unit, Clinical Pathology, Faculty of Medicine, Al-Azhar University. Reham.hammad@azhar.edu.eg . Tel: 01092837188.

Workshop fees: 800LE for theoretical lectures. 600LE for hands on practice. 1400LE for total course fees

Participants in wet lab are kindly asked to bring their white coats.

IFCC CELEBRATES 70 YEARS

First annual Global Art Competition in honour of IFCC's 70th anniversary



IFCC invited its members to submit artwork which could include paintings, digital photography or videography that relates to the field of laboratory medicine and the vital role of laboratorians, with subject: "Art competition for IFCC 70th anniversary celebration".

Judging and prizes:

All submissions were reviewed by a panel of judges consisting of IFCC leadership.

The winning submissions were announced at the IFCC General Conference in Brussels and were awarded with a monetary Award transferred to the winners after the event.

We are grateful to the many of you and of your members that took part into the IFCC's First Annual Global Art Competition.

We are glad to announce the winners:



URUGUAY



SINGAPORE



IRAN



INDONESIA



ITALY

The IFCC is pleased to recognize all the submissions received:

Croatia	Diana Ljubimir
Estonia	Evelina Gretško
Estonia	Sirje Sasi
Georgia	Laboratory Medicine Association of Georgia (GLMA)
India	Dr. Charu Yadav (ACBI)
Indonesia	Clinical Pathology, Medical Faculty Sebelas Maret Univ.
Indonesia	Dr. Dina Nurul Istiqomah
Indonesia	Dr. Sotianingsih
Indonesia	Dr. Amiroh Kurniati
Indonesia	Arwin Prasasto, Heni Isnaeni, Mauren F. Hunitetu
Indonesia	I Made Bayu Wiratama
Indonesia	Ferdy Royland Marpaung
Indonesia	Dr. Wimardy Leonard Wijaya
Indonesia	Dewi Astuti S. Si., M. Biomed
Iran	Maryam Sadat Mirlohi
Iran	Elahe Navaeian-Kalat
Italy	Marta Strollo
Italy	Dr. Mirela Balan
Italy	Carrer Maura, Perna Adriana
Singapore	Tay Xin Yi Peggy
Singapore	Julie WU Wei
South Korea	Hyeyoung Lee
South Korea	Sun Min Lee
Uruguay	Asociación Bioquímica Uruguaya (ABU)

[Click here to see all the submitted pictures and drawings](#)



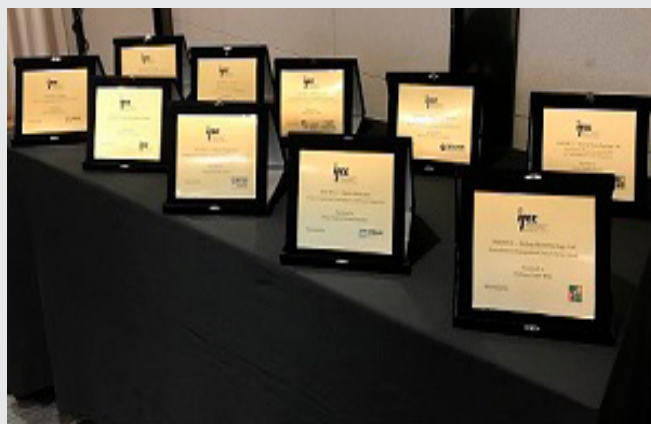
**First annual Global Art
Competition in honour
of IFCC's 70th anniversary**

[Click here to see the videos](#)



News from the IFCC Website

IFCC Distinguished Awards for WorldLab Congress Rome 2023



IFCC is proud to announce its Distinguished Awards, for presentation at the IFCC Congress in May 2023, in Rome, Italy.

The IFCC Distinguished Awards will be conferred to scientists and clinicians who work in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine or related disciplines to publicize their exceptional research and other contributions that have improved medical and healthcare, and to stimulate and encourage other scientists to accelerate their efforts in advancing clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine.

The closing date for the receipt of nominations is the 31st of December 2022.

[Read more](#)

TOPICS:
Newborn Blood Spot screening
Biomarkers of cardiac and renal disease
Emerging Technologies

SAVE THE DATE



ROMA
La Nuvola
20 May 2023

**International Congress of Pediatric
Laboratory Medicine - Satellite Meeting**



21-25 May



WORLDLAB · EUROMEDLAB ROMA 2023



25TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF CLINICAL
CHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

25TH EUROPEAN CONGRESS OF CLINICAL
CHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

55TH CONGRESS OF THE ITALIAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL
BIOCHEMISTRY AND CLINICAL MOLECULAR BIOLOGY



ORGANISING SECRETARIAT
Via Carlo Farini 81 - 20159 Milano (Italy)
Phone: +39 02 66802323
E-mail: info@2023roma.org



Congress Delegates are kindly invited to submit the abstract(s) of their scientific works.

Should you have any doubt or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the Organizing Secretariat.

HOW TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT

The abstract will be displayed in electronic format and available in the Congress App

The eJIFCC adopts the Editorial Manager (EM) system for manuscript handling

The IFCC is pleased to announce that it recently subscribed to Editorial Manager (EM), the well-known manuscript handling system, to be used for the eJIFCC. In the past years, the eJIFCC has become increasingly visible among laboratory specialists worldwide. To cope with the increase in submissions and advance our manuscript handling process it was decided to subscribe to the Editorial Manager. As a trial period, from January 1 to February 28, 2023, we request all contributing authors to submit their manuscripts both via the traditional email submission system as well as by uploading their submission via the Editorial Manager system. Starting March 1, 2023, only submissions via the Editorial Manager system will be allowed.

Read more in the eJIFCC – Vol 33 n°4

News from the IFCC Website

eJIFCC Vol 33 n°4 – December 2022

eJIFCC Vol 33 n°4 is now available!



In this issue, the adoption of the Editorial Manager (EM) system for the management of manuscripts is outlined, along with several articles covering different topics in Laboratory Medicine:

1. On the introduction of the Editorial Manager for eJIFCC manuscript handling;
2. Methods of low-density lipoprotein-cholesterol measurement: analytical and clinical applications;
3. The exposure to human breast cancer cells altered 14 post-translational modifications of human serum albumin;
4. Correlation between time to positive result of SARS-CoV-2 rapid antigen self-test and viral antigen concentration;
5. A macro-TSH: a clinical diagnostic dilemma;
6. Deletion in the BCL11B gene and intellectual developmental disorder with speech delay, dysmorphic facies, and T-cell abnormalities – a case report;
7. A case of clinical confusion due to erroneous M-protein quantifications: to splice or skim?
8. Anti-HMGCR myopathy without exposure to statins: a case report

Don't miss downloading the full issue or the articles you are interested in.

[Read more](#)

News from the IFCC Website

CALILAB 2022

Did you miss CALILAB 2022?



[Haz clic en la imagen y disfruta del vídeo.](#)

(Click on the image and enjoy the video)



News from the IFCC Website

IFCC Call for Nominations

Prof. Philippe Gillery, Chair of IFCC Scientific Division, is announcing the below call for nominations:

- ➔ **One Corporate Members Representative position at the SD Executive Committee.**
 - Deadline for applications: 12 December 2022.
- ➔ **One Member position at the Committee on Bone Metabolism (C-BM)**
 - Deadline for applications: 20 December 2022.
- ➔ **One Member position at the Committee on Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (C-TLM).**
 - Deadline for applications: 20 December 2022.
- ➔ **One Member position at the Committee on Reference Intervals and Decision Limits (C-RIDL).**
 - Deadline for applications: 6 January 2023.

SD applications should be sent to the IFCC Office (paola.bramati@ifcc.org).

Prof. Tahir Pillay, Chair of IFCC Communications and Publications Division, is announcing the below call for nominations:

- ➔ **One Member position within the Committee on Public Relations (C-PR).**
 - Deadline for applications: 31 December 2022.

CPD applications should be sent to the IFCC Office (colli-lanzi@ifcc.org).

Prof. Nader Rifai, Chair of IFCC Education and Management Division, is announcing the below call for nominations:

- ➔ **Two Member positions within the EMD C-KD.**
 - Deadline for applications: 13 January 2023.
- ➔ **One Member position within the EMD C-POCT.**
 - Deadline for applications: 20 January 2023.

EMD applications should be sent to the IFCC Office (cardinale@ifcc.org).

IFCC: THE YOUNG SCIENTISTS

XV LABCLIN 2022 – Residents Meeting addresses the need to help and guide young scientists during residency and future working life

SEQC^{ML}

Sociedad Española de Medicina de Laboratorio

*by Julia Maroto Garcia
Group of Residents and Young Scientists
of SEQC^{ML}*



XV LABCLIN 2022 Residents Meeting: the Young Speakers

Article continued on next page

- **The Residents Meeting is an annual meeting of residents and young specialists belonging to the Clinical Laboratory field, where members of the three national clinical laboratory societies (AEFA, AEBM-ML and SEQC^{ML}) collaborate.**
- **Synthesizing the sources in which to look for quality information during the residency, together with the contribution of guidelines to follow for their complete development as future Area Specialist Physicians (FEA), among the key messages.**

Madrid, October 28, 2022 – As part of the XVI National Clinical Laboratory Congress (LABCLIN 2022), the XV Meeting of Residents, an annual gathering of residents and young physicians involved in the Clinical Laboratory field, has been held. The meeting, which took place on October 19th, was attended by members of the three national clinical laboratory societies: the Spanish Clinical Laboratory Association (AEFA), the Spanish Association of Medical Biopathology (AEBM-ML) and the Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQC^{ML}). Throughout the day, the need to help control and manage stress during residency and in future working life, in order to avoid the so-called burnout syndrome, was discussed. Likewise, it was recommended to summarize the most complete sources in which to look for quality information to learn during the residency. In addition, guidelines have been offered to follow for their complete development as future Area Specialist Physicians (FEA), which will allow them to stand out among the majority.

For the president of the SEQC^{ML} Commission of Residents and Young Scientists and moderator of the XV Meeting of Residents, Dr. Julia Maroto, this meeting between residents from different hospitals and young scientists is very enriching: “It helps to learn from others to be able to apply to ourselves how we want to continue to develop and also helps to generate new contacts that will serve us in our future work”, she explains. She also highlights the importance of these conferences in guiding them on how to prioritize a type of training, course or other activity “depending on the year of residence in which they are in order to get the most out of it”.



XV LABCLIN 2022 Residents Meeting: the Organizing Group

More in detail, the first of the three sessions pointed out burnout syndrome as the “silent enemy of the resident”. According to the specialist, the lecture presented different scales capable of evaluating the level of stress perceived by the worker and encouraged their use in the different services or departments to improve the work environment. “It has been shown that the level of stress increases with the years of residency and they propose to carry out a more in-depth study to evaluate stress according to the year of residency, as well as the workload of each hospital,” she said. As the expert asserts, there are numerous ways to evaluate stress, but none has been standardized for this specific purpose. “Their use can be interesting to determine the severity and try to minimize the problem,” she points out.

CLINICAL SERVICES ROTATION

In the presentation, “Where can I study during residency? Courses, journals, books and congresses for each rotation”, residents were invited to look for information beyond societies and laboratory manuals, and to collaborate with other clinical societies. According to Dr. Julia Maroto, in general terms, they have recommended taking continuing education courses from the different national and international scientific societies, “which are more general at the beginning and more specific at the end of the residency”, she indicates. On the other hand, the president of the Commission of Residents and Young Scientists of the SEQC^{ML} stressed the excess of information that residents receive and the difficulty of knowing how to filter it and how to choose the highest quality information.

Finally, during the session “From residents to FEA, tips to stand out”, it was recommended that residents and young physicians leave the laboratory to rotate in clinical services such as Endocrinology or Nephrology, for example, in order to achieve, as Dr. Maroto states, “a multidisciplinary vision of their work and to favour relationships with other specialists”. Other advice to be followed is “not to stop training even after the residency and to be proactive, teaching and humble when we do not know something. As well as immersing oneself little by little in the world of research, doing quality studies. We have to start by making posters or oral communications that lead to publications,” she concludes.

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

The Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQC^{ML}) —founded in 1976— is an active member of the international and European Federations of Clinical Laboratory, IFCC and EFLM.

It currently encompasses almost 3,000 professionals and its main objective is to bring together all interested scientists in the Clinical Laboratory field, promote the dissemination of scientific and technical publications, organize national and international meetings, courses and congresses, and cooperate with other scientific societies.

The Society also wants to contribute to the study and recommendation of standardized methods and to establish guidelines and recommendations for training in the field of Laboratory Medicine.

For more information:
www.seqc.es.



[@SEQC_ML](https://twitter.com/SEQC_ML)



[Residentes del Laboratorio Clínico - SEQC](https://www.facebook.com/ResidentesdelLaboratorioClinico-SEQC)



[SEQC-ML](https://www.linkedin.com/company/SEQC-ML)



[seqresidentes](https://www.instagram.com/seqresidentes)

CONTRIBUTE TO IFCC eNews



Achieving Clarity: A Multi-disciplinary Best Practice for Diagnosis, Follow-up, and Monitoring of Multiple Myeloma

Hampshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust



UNIVANTS
OF HEALTHCARE EXCELLENCE

Multiple myeloma (MM) is a blood cancer of mature plasma cells and is notoriously difficult to diagnose as symptoms are often non-specific. Consequently, diagnosis may take a long time, which in turns delays action and intervention, often only occurring when the disease has progressed to advanced stages and patients are symptomatic. Accordingly, the ability to identify and diagnose MM at early stages is critical to ensuring appropriate treatment and improving patient outcomes.

With these challenges in mind, the International Myeloma Working Group (IMWG) has developed clear and specific criteria for the diagnosis of MM. Recognizing the importance of properly applying the IMWG criteria, an integrated clinical care team from at Hampshire NHS Foundation Trust performed an internal audit to determine their performance in meeting the IMWG diagnostic testing criteria, when appropriate.

The first finding was that many test requests missed appropriate tests, and the second was that referrals to hematologists were often unnecessary or conversely, referrals were missed entirely. With this new information as guidance, Hampshire NHS Foundation Trust formed a multi-disciplinary myeloma working group, consisting of laboratory medicine, Clinical Immunology, IT, Hematology, and Clinical Biochemistry, that focused on redesigning the MM patient pathway.

The team subsequently introduced an electronic request profile with all the required tests standardizing the patient pathway for MM diagnosis and care. Thereafter, the second (and largest) change was developing and implementing a complete interpretation algorithm with supporting IT rules and a risk category escalation protocol. The changes aim to ensure every sample has all appropriate tests performed using auto-reflex testing. When appropriate, the algorithm automatically sends critical result reports to the on-duty hematologist, enabling immediate specialist review and therapeutic action. Interpretive comments were also implemented to provide clinicians with corresponding relevant guidance. Additional minor IT improvements were also implemented, including patient flags, the ability to quantify multiple paraproteins, and therapy flagging.

The strategic overhaul of the MM diagnostic pathway drastically improved the speed at which critical laboratory findings are reviewed by a hematologist, with an average reduction from 2 weeks to 24 hours. This improvement coincides with a 13% improvement in first-pass completeness for patients with suspected MM. Together, these changes have reduced wait-times for patients, reduced the need for redraws and overall reduced delays in care.

Since implementation, the hospital has also seen a 10% reduction in inappropriate secondary care hematology referrals and queries, thus positively impacting not just patient flow but the day-to-day of hematologists.

Article continued on next page



Pictured from left to right: Simon Whitehead, Kate Fenna and Noel Ryman

The clinical interpretations and comments have also decreased the need for the primary care clinician to seek advice and guidance from the hematologists, Dr. H Sheldon, General Practitioner, states “not only has it reduced appointments, repeat testing, and referrals, but [it] has improved our confidence in diagnostic exclusion of these hematological malignancies for non-specific presentations.”

With such impressive improvements in streamlining care, it is unsurprising that a reduction in overall healthcare costs would be realized. Shaun Goldsmith, Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust IT Lead, remarks that “building minimum retesting intervals and request profiles directly into the IT prevents unnecessary repeat testing and all of the associated costs, such as phlebotomy, transport services, testing and follow-up.”

For the impressive work towards improving the diagnostic pathway for multiple myeloma, the integrated clinical care team from Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust was recognized by the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Award program, 2021 Recognition of Achievement. Congratulations!

THREE KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Highly governed patient care pathways, in which clear diagnostic criteria and guidelines exist, can improve patient care and prevent missed diagnoses.
- Test order groups can streamline patient care pathways reducing time to diagnosis and initiation of treatment plans, improving outcomes.
- Interdisciplinary input into order sets and interpretive comments can standardize diagnostic algorithms and help ensure appropriate referrals to specialist care.

To learn more about this initiative or other global best practices, please visit www.UnivantsHCE.com.



Evidence-Based Electronic Alert Best Practice Leads to Measurably Improved Acute Kidney Injury Care in India

Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital and Medical Research Institute



Acute kidney injury (AKI) is an episode of sudden onset kidney failure, that can be reversible, if identified and treated early. AKI is characterized by a sudden decrease in kidney function over hours or days, resulting in the accumulation of creatinine, urea, and other waste products. AKI can be a common complication for inpatients receiving critical care and left untreated, can be deadly. It is estimated that up to 50% of AKI episodes do not get diagnosed due in part to patient demographic factors and the confounding effects of physiologic changes associated with critical illnesses on the primary biomarker of AKI diagnosis: serum creatinine.

Early identification of AKI can enable treatment, thus, mitigating potential long-term health effects, mortality, and associated care costs for patients who suffer AKI. With this in mind, the Biochemistry & Immunology department at Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital and Medical Research (KDAH) sought to improve recognition of AKI within their institution. With key leadership within Nephrology, Laboratory Medicine, and Hospital Administration, this integrated clinical care team implemented evidence-based e-alerts for AKI. Their solution involved the creation of an automated electronic alert system using the laboratory information system (LIS) to run an evidence based (KDIGO criteria) algorithm with the results of creatinine tests. This algorithm automatically compares the current creatinine result to previous results for patient > 18 years of age with a baseline serum creatinine less than 4 ml/dL. If the change in creatinine level meets the alert threshold, as dictated by KDIGO guidelines, the algorithm generates an alert to inform physicians of the potential of AKI diagnosis for that patient.

RECOGNITION

by 3 global laboratory medicine award programs

INCREASED IDENTIFICATION

of Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) by 59.8% over baseline.

“Elegant example of an old laboratory test with new data analytics that **IMPROVES PATIENT CARE.**”

Judge Commentary

Critical to the success of the clinical care initiative was the engagement of physicians. The program engaged clinicians early as partners and provided extensive education about the algorithm and the benefits of the alert generated when appropriate. The partnership and education increased clinician compliance with the new best practice protocol and consequently improved recognition of AKI. Within 45 days of implementation, over 4400 patients met inclusion criteria for the algorithm, with alerts generated for 214 patients with possible AKI. This represents a 59.8% increase in recognition of AKI and further enables rapid treatment and improved outcomes for patients.

Improved recognition and treatment weren't the only benefits. Dr. Santosh S Shetty, CEO & Executive Director, KDAH notes that "with early detection of AKI via the E-Alert System, we are certain that the burdening costs associated with AKI will depreciate. Our game-changing alert system's ability to detect, monitor, and prevent progression of AKI to life-threatening stages, in the early stages of the disease cycle, reliance on costly and debilitating interventions is avoided."

The AKI alert system had a profound impact on both treating physicians and the health system. Notably, the e-alert system is seen as a tool for decision related to improving patient care and subsequently improving outcomes. Dr. Kiran Shetty, Consultant Intensivist, ICU in Charge, remarks that "the AKI alert also contributes to the assessment of drug-dosage modifications, informing primary consultants on early identification of AKI, and potential necessary action." Further, the initiatives impressive outcomes and improvement received recognition by the Global Investigator Award in Laboratory Medicine Exhibition (LMCE) and at the 62nd Korean Society of Laboratory Medicine. Most recently, the AKI e-alert initiative and its innovative leaders were recently recognized through the 2021 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Award Program, recognition of Achievement.

THREE KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Early and reliable recognition of AKI in hospitalized patients can enable treatment changes that improve patient outcomes and mitigate potential chronic renal complications.
- Creating analytic data algorithms following evidence-based guidelines to create an electronic alert can improve early recognition of acute disease incidence and decrease morbidity and mortality.
- Widespread education and early stakeholder engagement drives clinical adoption.

To learn more about the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award program, please visit: www.UnivantsHCE.com.





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NEWS FROM REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND MEMBER SOCIETIES

The XVI National Clinical Laboratory Congress (LabClin 2022) October 19-21, Malaga

SEQC^{ML}

Sociedad Española de Medicina de Laboratorio

by Mercè Ibarz Escuer, PhD
SEQC^{ML} - IFCC National Representative
Laboratori Clínic ICS Lleida
Hospital Universitari Arnau de Vilanova
Lleida, Spain

Experts highlighted the importance of early identification of non-neoplastic diseases, which comprise more than 80% of the activity of the Clinical Laboratory:

- **These pathologies include infections or anemia, extremely serious situations such as thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura or moderate/severe deficiency states, diseases that, if not detected in time, can lead to a very unfavorable prognosis in some patients**
- **Peripheral blood cytology contributes significantly to the differential diagnosis between different non-neoplastic diseases.**
- **Precision medicine is the paradigm for improving survival in cancer patients**

Non-neoplastic diseases such as anemias, infections, or platelet disorders are not malignant and, therefore, with adequate treatment, exhibit a good response and favorable evolution. However, if not detected in time, they could result in a very unfavorable prognosis for some patients. The XVI National Clinical Laboratory Congress (LabClin 2022), organized jointly by the Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQC^{ML}), the Spanish Medical Biopathology-Laboratory Medicine Association (AEBM-ML), and the Spanish Clinical Laboratory Association (AEFA), addressed the role of the Hematology laboratory in early identification of these conditions so as to reach a correct diagnosis and thus address the treatment and monitoring of this group of patients. In turn, experts presented the new advances of Laboratory Medicine in cancer management and highlighted the work of the clinical analyst in the diagnosis of oncological disease and the selection of the most appropriate treatment, carrying out massive sequencing of biopsies.

Dr. Anna Merino, member of the SEQC^{ML} Hematological Biology Commission, explained in her presentation, 'Non-neoplastic pathological groups and their cytological characteristics', the three most important non-neoplastic pathological groups: "Firstly, we talked about the anemias, covering the most important from the point of view of their differential diagnosis in the laboratory, and we detailed the morphological keys for their identification." Secondly, Dr. Merino continued, all those infections that can give rise to morphological changes in peripheral blood and that allow their origin to be identified by observing a smear were presented. "Finally, we talked about some alterations of platelets that affect their morphology", reported the specialist.

Article continued on next page

Inadequate diagnosis of any of these non-neoplastic pathological groups can result in inadequate therapeutic measures with an undesirable effect on patients. As pointed out by Dr. Anna Merino, “the meticulous observation of the morphological characteristics of blood components and other relevant data can contribute to the accurate diagnosis of these diseases”. As she stated, peripheral blood cytology contributes significantly to the differential diagnosis between different non-neoplastic diseases. “The detection of certain morphological alterations in blood cells allows for the interpretation of the clinical-biological findings of numerous non-neoplastic diseases”, she added.

The detection and diagnosis of non-neoplastic diseases in the laboratory is key. As was stated by Dr. María José Alcaide, member of the SEQC^{ML} Hematological Biology Commission, neoplastic diseases, due to their severity and prognosis, are usually the ones that most concern emergency and routine laboratory personnel. “However, non-neoplastic pathologies such as infections occupy more than 80% of our time and activity. It is vitally important that routine and emergency laboratories identify them early in order to reach the correct diagnosis and thus address the treatment and monitoring of this group of patients”, noted the physician.

The diagnostic techniques that have more weight in the detection of non-neoplastic pathology in the Hematology laboratory are the complete blood count and the morphological observation of a peripheral blood smear. In the words of Dr. María José Alcaide, the blood count is one of the tests that contributes the most to clinicians in the diagnosis and evolution of the patient. In her presentation, ‘Role of hematology analyzers in the detection of non-neoplastic pathology’, she reported on the current availability of “state-of-the-art hematology analyzers that allow for the study of all cell populations, with greater efficiency, precision and accuracy of results, and also incorporate new research parameters that allow for the expansion of diagnostic capacity”.

The doctor stressed the need to know the technology used by the analyzer in the clinical laboratory. In addition, it is necessary to know how it generates alarms regarding the existence of abnormalities or warnings “and how to take them into account when evaluating the results,” she added. Finally, she highlighted the importance of integrating the numerical results, the observation of alarms, and the interpretation of the graphs produced by the analyzer and, with all this information, “make a good correlation with the peripheral blood microscope study, to carry out a correct diagnostic orientation of the patient”.

LABORATORY MEDICINE, KEY IN THE APPROACH TO CANCER

Beyond the field of Hematology, Laboratory Medicine plays a fundamental role in the approach to cancer, since it allows for guiding or ruling out some pathologies, thus helping in the planning of tests of high complexity, morbidity, and high economic cost. In addition, thanks to current treatments based on molecular alterations in the tumor, it is necessary to know these alterations in order to carry out a correct treatment.

The critical review of current evidence-based recommendations is one of the main innovations in this field. As explained by the president of the Commission on Biological Markers of Cancer of the SEQC^{ML}, Dr. Jaume Trapé, “it can provide an improvement in certain types of cancer, especially in very specific situations of managing patients with specific characteristics”.

Also, this expert stressed that precision medicine in the Clinical Laboratory “will allow for the most appropriate choice of drugs for each patient.” Besides, in his opinion, rapid diagnostic units can facilitate the choice of other complementary tests depending on whether patients are at high or low risk.

In his presentation, 'Role of tumor markers in decision-making in rapid diagnosis units', the doctor stressed that until now there has been no recommendation to use tumor markers in diagnosis. As he stated, "published studies with more than 5,000 patients show that if several tumor markers are used with clinically controlled cut-off points (pathology-specific), we can have high sensitivity and a very high specificity that will allow us to classify patients at high risk."

On the other hand, he explained, with broad combinations of tumor markers "we can obtain negative predictive values that are good enough to identify patients with symptoms or signs of low-risk cancer, which together with other laboratory tests and clinical characteristics will permit greater planning and reduction of high-cost complementary tests".

MASSIVE SEQUENCING OF BIOPSIES

For his part, Dr. Samuel Martín Rodríguez of the Clinical Analysis Service of the Hospital San Pedro de Logroño, explained that the clinical analyst carries out massive sequencing of biopsies. In his presentation, 'Sequencing of solid tumors by means of NGS: experience of a Clinical Analysis Service', he stated that "massive sequencing techniques for solid tumors allow the simultaneous analysis of multiple genes and the study of different types of genomic alterations in a single test."

In particular, next-generation sequencing (NGS), by characterizing tumor alterations at the molecular level, allows for the selection of a personalized treatment, which is known as precision oncology. For some types of tumor, clinical guidelines already recommend the routine use of NGS to save time and optimize resources. "The participation of the clinical analyst in hospital tumor commissions allows for molecular advice to be provided to the rest of the professionals", highlighted Dr. Martín.

For Dr. Trapé, the critical review of recommendations makes it possible to update treatments, and the use of diagnostic tests can improve quality of life. "By allowing better planning of diagnostic tests, it improves the time between the different tests and therefore the quality of life."

Precision medicine, the expert stressed, is the paradigm for improving survival in cancer patients. "The main challenge to face is the collaboration between different hospital services to apply the new knowledge".

For more information:
www.seqc.es.



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10th Congress of the Croatian Society of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine

by CSLBLM



The opening ceremony

The 10th Congress of the Croatian Society of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (CSMBLM) with international participation organized by the Branch of Slavonia and Baranja was held in Zagreb, Croatia from September 28th to October 1st 2022. An honorary lecture by one of the most famous Croatian astronomers Korado Korlević was held at the Opening Ceremony. At this occasion, awards of the CSMBLM were given to Professor Ivana Čepelak, Professor Ana-Maria Šimundić and Assist. Prof. Lorena Honović.

Nearly 300 participants attended the Congress, which during the four days of the duration of the Congress, offered a rich scientific program comprising plenary lectures, eight distinct symposiums and six "Meet the expert" sessions, as well as 11 industrial workshops. Pre-congress program included two symposiums, one dedicated to scientific writing while the other was a Young Scientists session.

The symposiums and lectures covered a wide variety of topics, including the use and possibilities of new technologies, application of data science in laboratory medicine, novel approaches in the field of laboratory hematology,

Article continued on next page

the role of a laboratory professional in a contemporary laboratory, pediatric laboratory medicine and challenges in diagnostics of thyroid disorders. Plenary lectures were given by Professor Sverre Sandberg who talked about the usefulness of external quality control, and Professor Ana-Maria Šimundić who dealt with leadership in laboratory medicine.

The “Meet the expert” sessions were a great opportunity for Congress participants to discuss the following topics: editorial process of a biomedical journal, external quality assurance program in Croatia, biostatistics, auto validation, public procurement procedure and human infertility.

A dedicated Congress mobile application was available to all participants and included all the information about the Congress, as well as the possibility to view all posters and listen to accompanying audio presentations. In addition, all posters were available on LCD screens in the exhibition area for the entire duration of the Congress.

The award for the best poster by the Scientific Committee was given to Vesna Šupak Smolčić, while the participants voted the poster by Ida Taradi as the best one. In total, 124 abstracts were submitted to the Congress and were published in the supplementary issue of the *Biochemia Medica* journal (32/Suppl 1).

The Congress was rated by the participants through an online survey, and the highest overall score was given by more than 60 % of them. This proves that the Congress was a successful event with an attractive and interesting scientific program which gave the opportunity for laboratory professionals from Croatia and the region to acquire new knowledge but also interact and connect with colleagues and renowned experts in various fields of laboratory medicine and medical science.



Lecture of Prof. dr. sc. Jasmina Lovrić, President of Croatian Chamber of Medical Biochemists



Organizational Board and CSMBLM Accolades



Organizational Board, President of CSMBLM and students



Organizational Board, President of CSMBLM and Honorary Lecturer



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European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine in 2022



by Tara Rolić

Member, EFLM Working Group Promotion and Publication

Harjit Pal Bhattoa

Chair, EFLM Working Group Promotion and Publication

Holidays are perhaps best celebrated by expressing gratitude and reflecting on the happening of the past year. During the challenging two years of the COVID-19 global pandemic, we learned how to adapt to online work and conference style.

The year 2022 showed us the light at the end of the tunnel, where science and innovation prevailed and helped us thwart the pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the enormous role that laboratory medicine plays in responding to global public health emergencies. This challenging time has been an opportunity to demonstrate the extraordinary value and significant contribution of our profession in the global joint battle against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Although online events proved to be convenient during the pandemic travel restrictions, the opportunity to resume in-person meetings was cherished in April 2022 at the 24th IFCC-EFLM EuroMedLab Congress in Munich. The joy of meeting with old and new colleagues was precious, confirmed by the huge turnout of over 3,000 participants at the event.

On the other hand, online activities continued: the 6th EFLM conference on the pre-analytical phase, the 3rd EFLM Strategic conference "SMART and GREEN LABORATORIES, EFLM webinars at the e-learning platform with topics encompassing various fields of laboratory medicine, special-edition ones 'Lesson in Immunochemistry' as well as extraordinary and most comprehensive online course in laboratory medicine - the EFLM Syllabus course with more than 43 modules and 300 distinguished expert speakers. EFLM Academy keeps growing and offering an exclusive platform for education, continuous professional development, and benefits for members.

New and continuing EFLM endeavors such as the EFLM Academy awards, Research Grants, Prof. Vic Blaton scholarship program, EuroMedLab bursary program, LabX program, new EFLM Biological Variation database website, and celebration of the first European Laboratory Day are a few gemstones of the EFLM in 2022.

With great commitment, EFLM has supported, under its patronage, numerous National Congresses throughout Europe, e.g., Croatia, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, France, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovak Republic, Sweden, United Kingdom and Turkey. Dedicated EFLM members of the Task and Working Groups and Committee Chairs led by EFLM President Prof. Tomris Ozben and Executive Board showed continuous cooperation in 2022.

The laboratory medicine community is reinforced by exchange of experience between IFCC, EFLM, national societies, and all colleagues around the world reiterating our profession role in healthcare. Common guidelines are directed toward recognizability, and the joint celebration of the LabWeek is an example of fruitful cooperation. Moreover, laboratory medicine professionals eagerly await the upcoming WorldLab-EuroMedLab conference in Rome, anticipating opportunity for networking and keeping abreast with the latest professional developments.

On my personal behalf and on the EFLM's behalf, I would like to wish readers a peaceful festive season and a joyous and prosperous 2023!

CALILAB
SHERATON
MAR DEL PLATA
7, 8 y 9 NOV. **2022**



30
ANIVERSARIO

by Rosa Sierra Amor
COLABIOCLI WG-GA Chair
IFCC Nominations Committee Member



CIDCAM

Comisión Interinstitucional para el Desarrollo de la Calidad de la Atención Médica

COLABIOCLI and CIDCAM were present at the XI Argentine Congress of Quality in the Clinical Laboratory and the IX Latin American Conference on Quality in the Clinical Laboratory - CALILAB Expo were held in the beautiful city of Mar del Plata, Argentina, from November 7 to 9, 2022, as organized by the Argentine Biochemical Foundation (FBA).

On this occasion, COLABIOCLI was present through the accreditation management working group coordinated by Dr. Rosa Sierra Amor (Mexico), who together with Dr. Sandra Quintana and TM Leonardo Aguirre participated in the Accreditation symposium organized by Dr. Carlos Peruzzetto, member of the working group and coordinator of the symposium. Also present were QF BC Beatriz Varela and Ana-Ma. Piana, member of the COLABIOCLI working group. On behalf of CIDCAM, Dr. Gustavo Velasco (C3-Argentina), Dr. Cecilia Ghisolfi (Coordinator of C3-Argentina), and Dr. Mariano Fernandez Lerena (Ministry of Health of the Nation-Argentina) spoke at this symposium.

This Congress, which is held regularly every two years and whose first version was in 2000, had to be suspended in its 2020 version due to the pandemic, returning to the current one on 2022. The particularity of this Congress, which makes it unique in its specialty, is that its agenda deals only with issues related to quality. And, with Quality as main objective, CALILAB 2022 convened professionals from the region and positioned itself as the most important Biochemical Congress with a call that exceeded one thousand seven hundred attendees. Organized by the Argentine Biochemical Foundation -FBA-, the meeting focused at the objective of professional training and continuous improvement within the Clinical Laboratory

The Inter-institutional Commission for the Development of the Quality of Medical Care – CIDCAM -, together with other entities, collaborates since its inception with Health Institutions and Professionals from both the public

Article continued on next page



At the Opening ceremony (L-R): Dr. Alvaro Justiniano-Grosz, COLABIOCLI President, Eduardo Freggiaro (Chair C-IDC CPD IFCC), Nilda Fink (CALILAB 2022 Scientific Committee Chair), Prof. K. Adeli, IFCC President, Rosa Sierra-Amor (COLABIOCLI WG-GA Chair and IFCC Nominations Committee Member), and Eduardo Aranda (SCHQC)



Accreditation Symposium (Monday, November 7, 2022)
L-R: Dr. Sandra Quintana (Mexico); Dr. Rosa Sierra Amor (Mexico – Coordinator of the Accreditation Management Group COLABIOCLI); Dr Gustavo Velasco (C3-Argentina); Leonardo Aguirre, MT (Chile); Dr. Cecilia Ghisolfi (Coordinator of C3-Argentina); Dr. Carlos Peruzzetto (Coordinator of the Symposium-Argentina); Dr. Mariano Fernandez Lereña (Ministry of Health of the Nation-Argentina)

and private spheres, to achieve greater Quality in Medical Care by certifying processes through periodic evaluations and works together with the institutions under program in the development of their Organizational Quality Systems.

Commitment was assumed by FECLIBA -Federation of Clinics of the Province of Buenos Aires-, ACLIBA -Association of Hospitals, Clinics and Establishments of High Private Complexity of the Province of Buenos Aires-, FEMEBA -Medical Federation of the Province of Buenos Aires-, FEMECON -Medical Federation of the Buenos Aires Nonurban-, ACLIFE -Association of Clinics and Sanatoriums of the Province of Buenos Aires Federated-, FABA -Biochemical Federation of the Province of Buenos Aires.

The scientific event had a central agenda that was complemented by the development of numerous other courses (both virtual and face-to-face), symposia, discussion tables, conferences and presentations of the industry and of various fundamental contents for professional practice.

There were also a record number of 21 foreign speakers in person and virtually, with the participation of the President of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) Dr. Khosrow Adeli (Canada), Profs. Dr. Borge Nordestgaard (Denmark), Dr. Mauro Panteghini (Italy), Dr. Tomris Ozben (Turkey), Dr. Damien Gruson (Belgium), Maria Salas and Jordi Trafi-Prats (Spain), Rosa Sierra-Amor, Elias Miranda and Sandra Quintana (Mexico), and Leonardo Aguirre (Chile). Also, the presence of Prof. Rajiv Erasmus, Annalise E. Zemlin, Cecil J. Weale, Tandi E. Matsha, Don M. Matshazi (South Africa) and Alberto Caminero (Canada).

The COLABIOCLI Accreditation Management Working Group participated in the symposium entitled “Accreditation was a success”.

On behalf of COLABIOCLI, the group presented the Activities of the COLABIOCLI Accreditation Management Working Group, the Pathway to accreditation, difficulties and advantages, and the Results of the survey sent to clinical laboratories in the Latin American region by COLABIOCLI Affiliated professional societies.

On behalf of the Quality Commission of CUBRA (C3), the topics were about “Walking towards quality without limits or borders” and the National Health Quality Plan 2021-2024 of the Ministry of Health of the Nation, with Virtual audits for renewal accreditation.

“Although we had been working focused on biosafety issues, since 2015 there was an interest from the WHO to provide measures with the aim of reducing climate change and began by making proposals to have sustainable hospitals, initially aiming at reducing energy consumption,” said Dr. Nilda Fink, Chair of the Scientific Committee. Along with sustainable laboratories, issues such as the disposal of reagents, single-use plastic material, among others, were incorporated.

Dr. Raúl Girardi, Secretary of the Scientific Committee stressed that “the Scientific Committee worked to offer the highest possible scientific level, as we are accustomed to the CALILAB congresses, covering numerous areas of clinical biochemistry with recognized representatives, both nationally and internationally”. The tables and panels with high-level exhibitors resulted in a great experience for the attendees.



Accreditation Management Working Group of the Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI)
L-R: Leonardo Aguirre (Chile), Rosa Sierra Amor, Coordinator (Mexico), Ana María Piana (Uruguay),
Sandra Quintana (Mexico), Carlos Peruzzetto (Argentina) and Beatriz Varela (Uruguay)

One of the big topics was Machine Learning. In that sense, Dr. Eduardo Freggiaro, Secretary of the Communications and Publications Division and President of the Internet and Digital Communications Committee of the IFCC, coordinator of PROECO of the Argentine Biochemical Foundation, highlighted the role of artificial intelligence (AI) when applied to the clinical laboratory, a topic that “in the coming years will gain more and more space”. “The applications in the clinical laboratory are many, there are works that use AI to predict laboratory results, to help in the ordering and interpretation of analysis” he explained and pointed out that “there is a whole development referred to the automatic validation of laboratory results, validation of quality controls and a very fashionable topic is the generation of personalized reference intervals accompanying a trend known as personalized medicine”.

Dr. Carlos Peruzzetto, Secretary of CIDCAM, spoke at the course “Training of auditors (internal and external) of Quality Management System in Clinical Laboratories”, in addition, he coordinated a Symposium on Accreditation of Clinical Laboratories in Latin America with the participation of the Accreditation Management group of COLABIOCLI), the C3 (Quality Commission CUBRA - Unified Biochemical Confederation of the Argentine Republic) and the Ministry of Health of the Nation, sharing experiences with Dr. Álvaro Justiniano Grosz, President of the Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI).

The trade show was well attended, and gave in vitro diagnostic products companies the opportunity to present the new lines of reagents, systems and analyzers for the clinical laboratory. The city of Mar del Plata was the perfect setting to achieve a harmonious coexistence and full of life, meeting in person after two long years of pandemic, undoubtedly made this congress a success.



CALILAB 2022 Organizing Committee and invited speakers

IFCC WELCOMES A NEW AFFILIATE MEMBER

National Federation of Professional Colleges of Clinical Chemistry A.C. (FENACQC)

*by QFB Doris Yadira Arcila Sosa
President, FENACQC*



The National Federation of Professional Colleges of Clinical Chemistry, AC (FENACQC), was born in the year 2000, integrated by the colleges of Northern Mexico, given the manifest need to have a National Non-profit Organization, with the ideal vision, mission and objectives. In the search to provide an honest, affordable and comparable certification process to international standards, in addition to representing the professionals in the area before the authorities and society in general to contribute to the improvement of the professional and the health of our country, it is duly Constituted as a Mexican civil association based on article 44 of the General Law of Professions, of the free association of professionals. It currently groups Colleges and Associations of Clinical Chemistry Professionals from all over the Mexican country.

VISION

To be a responsible, honest, humane and effective national entity, through which Clinical Chemists develop ethics and professional quality. To help improve the health of our country through academic and managerial support offered to our associates.

MISSION

Integrate and update Clinical Chemists through associated schools and academic programs in line with technological advances. Providing advice aimed at solving the problems of our profession.

OBJECTIVES

- to promote widely the academic, scientific and technological improvement of Clinical Chemistry professionals;
- to define with other institutions the norms and the designs of study plans for their training and educational updating;
- to disseminate advances in this science, through Congresses, Symposiums, Round Tables, etc.;
- to promote participation in activities of collective benefit coordinating and collaborating with the Public Authorities as consultants to propose modifications and updates to the laws and regulations related to Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine;

- to form lists of professional experts by specialties that will be the only official ones;
- to fight for public positions that require knowledge of clinical analysis to be performed by duly certified professionals in the area;
- to serve, at the request of the interested party, as a friendly mediator or arbitrator in the conflicts that are raised;
- to push for the accreditations of clinical laboratories to meet the requirements of the Accreditation Council;
- to certify professionals in accordance with the regulations of the Certification Council;
- to request, negotiate or hire the services of individuals or legal entities that collaborate in the effective fulfillment of the purpose of the FENACQC;
- to promote awards and other recognition to distinguished researchers or professionals in the area of clinical chemistry.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- to provide Academic Update
- to certify Clinical Chemistry Professionals
- to reward:
 - Researchers of the area
 - Professionals of Excellence
- to support the continuous improvement of the profession

*QFB Doris Yadira Arcila Sosa
President FENACQC*



FENACQC Professional Certification event



Assembly of the management committee 2018



Attendees to XVIII National Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine
EXPOLAB – Monterrey, 2018

IFCC'S CALENDAR OF CONGRESSES, CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Calendar of IFCC Congresses/Conferences and Regional Federations' Congresses

Dec 12 - 14, 2022	 <p>International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine</p>	<i>3rd International Course on Basics of Flow Cytometry</i>	Cairo, EG
May 20, 2023	 <p>Emerging Technologies in Pediatric Laboratory Medicine</p>	<i>International Congress of Pediatric Laboratory Medicine - Satellite Meeting</i>	Rome, IT
May 21 - 25, 2023	 <p>21-25 May</p>	<i>XXV IFCC - EFLM WorldLab EuroMedLab - Rome 2023</i>	Rome, IT
May 26 - 30, 2024	 <p>IFCC WORLDLAB DUBAI 2024 MAY 26-30</p>	<i>XXVI IFCC WORLDLAB - Dubai 2024</i>	Dubai, UAE
Jun 28 - Aug 31, 2024		<i>XXVI COLABIOCLI 2024</i>	Cartagena, CO
Oct 31 - Nov 3, 2024	 <p>APFCB CONGRESS Asia-Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (APFCB) Congress 2024 19-22 October 2024 ICC Sydney, Australia</p>	<i>APFCB 2024 Sydney</i>	Sidney, AU

Calendar continued on next page

2025 Date TBA		XXVI IFCC-EFLM EUROMEDLAB 2025	Venue to be selected
2026 Date TBA		XXVII IFCC WORLDLAB 2026	Venue to be selected
2027 Date TBA		XXVII IFCC-EFLM EUROMEDLAB 2027	Venue to be selected
2028 Date TBA		XXVIII IFCC WORLDLAB 2028	Venue to be selected
2029 Date TBA		XXVIII IFCC-EFLM EUROMEDLAB 2029	Venue to be selected
2030 Date TBA		XXIX IFCC WORLDLAB 2030	Venue to be selected

Other events with IFCC auspices

Aug 1, 2022 - Apr 30, 2023	<i>5th International program in control of analytical quality in the clinical laboratory</i>	Quality Academics, online event
Dec 9 - 10, 2022	<i>1° Conferencia Latinoamericana de Jóvenes Profesionales del Laboratorio Clínico</i>	Cochabamba, BO
Dec 10, 2022	<i>International Conference on Immunoassay</i>	Lima, PE
Dec 11, 2022	<i>International Conference on Immunoassay</i>	Snibe Dubai, UAE
Jan 1 - Jul 31, 2023	<i>Inter-QC Topics</i>	Quality Academics, online event
Feb 9 - 10, 2023	<i>Labquality Days 2023</i>	Helsinki, FI
Feb 15 - 18, 2023	<i>The International Laboratory Diagnostics Congress</i>	Online event
Mar 7 - 10, 2023	<i>CIM2023 - International Metrology Congress</i>	Lyon, FR
Mar 9 - 10, 2023	<i>BIOMEDJ 2023</i>	Paris, FR
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Oct 12 - 13, 2023	<i>5th Symposium – Cutting Edge of Laboratory Medicine in Europe – CELME 2023</i>	Prague, CZ
Jun 20 - 21, 2024	<i>9th International Symposium on Critical Care Testing and Blood Gases</i>	Saint-Malo, FR



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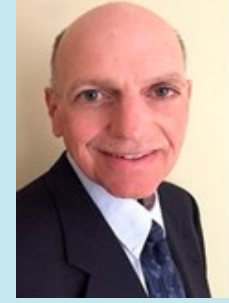
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