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It is a pleasure to welcome you to EuroMedLab Paris 2015 on 21-25 June. This 21st IFCC regional congress in Europe is one of the largest bi-annual laboratory medicine conferences worldwide and one of the major European trade show bringing together the largest number of IVD companies. It was established in 1974 (Munich, DE) as one of the first conferences for specialists in lab medicine facilitating exchanges between countries in Europe and also at an international level. The mission is to foster international understanding, to encourage co-operation within the laboratory medicine community, to promote high quality science and to bring together young and senior specialists in lab medicine, researchers, physicians, leading government officials and representatives from industry as well as from non-governmental organizations and health care systems worldwide to address the most pressing issues facing laboratory medicine and health care systems over the next decade and beyond.

The motto of the conference “R-evolution in Lab Medicine” emphasises the importance of Lab medicine in patient care and wellness in the 21st century. The scientific programme demonstrates the invaluable role that laboratory medicine plays in health care. Emphasis is put on a high quality scientific and educational program. This is realized in scientific sessions, educational workshops focusing on both open discussions and hands-on topics and lecture series that cover the most up-to-date topics in the expanding field of laboratory medicine and bringing together an array of leading international speakers and opinion leaders. The conferences, coordinated by Prof. Philippe Gillery, will cover various areas of laboratory medicine: the evolution of daily practice (relations with patients, laboratory organisation, preanalytical errors), perspectives in organ pathologies (cardio-vascular diseases, renal diseases, hematology), new technologies (proteomics, metabolomics, pharmacogenomics), new medical strategies (personalized medicine, rare diseases, addictions, autoimmune diseases) and research fields (microbiome, extracellular vesicles).

It is a tremendous privilege for the SFBC to organize the 21st IFCC-EFLM edition in the capital of France. Paris is constantly reinventing itself in its position as a global megapolis and leader in innovation. Recently it was rated world’s best city for students for the third consecutive year by QS rankings. Also, we would like to give the opportunity to the young scientists to present their research to the scientific community and an interested audience as well as to join the exciting networking party organized by Dr Guilaine Boursier, French YS coordinator! A number of bursary programmes have been planned to support their presence (see www.paris2015.org).

Paris is a magnificent city renowned in the world over for its heritage and savoir vivre. Paris also excels in innovation and intellectual capital and attractiveness to international investors, while remaining an engine for luxury, fashion and tourism. EuroMedlab Paris
2015 offers a new perspective on the capital and its monuments. Behind the scenes of the Opera Garnier, Montmartre, the Louvre or the Musee d’Orsay, there is an exceptional new musical jewel box “The Philharmonie de Paris”, which opened early this year designed by renowned architect Jean Nouvel. The futuristic concert hall is revolutionizing the codes of both architecture and music. Spectacular balconies, acoustics to rival the greatest international auditoriums, inspired programming, the institution is open to all audiences and all music from baroque to jazz and pop.

With the reopening of the Picasso Museum and the Louis Vuitton Foundation designed by Frank Gehry, located next to the Palais des Congrès in the bois de Boulogne, the famous park on the west side of the city, Paris has enjoyed a momentous year in the arts. Alongside Paris’s assured reputation in the fine arts, one of the city’s greatest assets is the excellence of the Paris Opera Ballet. It is considered today to be one of the world’s finest companies. Its repertoire is very extensive, ranging from the major romantic and classical ballets to creations by contemporary choreographers.

The prestige of Paris involves placing innovation and attractiveness front and center. Paris is reinventing itself as a major leader in supporting the talents. EuroMedLab Paris 2015 will be the fireworks of Laboratory Medicine. Do not miss the plenary lecture on: “Innate immunity: from insects to humans” by the Nobel Laureate Prof. Jules Hoffmann (Fr).

At this landmark conference, we look forward to sharing our thoughts in the hope of promoting rewarding discussions. With the high audience and participation of the specialists of laboratory medicine at EuroMedLab Paris 2015, The City of lights will shine even more brightly in 2015!
C'est un plaisir de vous accueillir du 21 au 25 juin prochain à EuroMedLab 2015 pour le 21ème congrès régional européen de l’IFCC. EuroMedLab Paris 2015 est l’une des plus grandes conférences biannuelles de biologie médicale et de médecine laboratoire dans le monde associée à l’un des plus grands salons européens de sociétés de diagnostic in vitro. Ce congrès a été créé en 1974 à Munich (Allemagne) comme l’une des premières conférences rassemblant les biologistes médicaux et les spécialistes en médecine de laboratoire afin de favoriser les échanges scientifiques et la coopération entre les pays au niveau européen. L’enjeu est d’encourager, au niveau international, la coopération au sein de la communauté de la biologie médicale et de la médecine de laboratoire, de promouvoir une recherche scientifique de haut niveau et de rassembler les jeunes, les biologistes, les chercheurs, les médecins, les responsables gouvernementaux, les représentants de l’industrie ainsi que les représentants des organisations non gouvernementales de santé pour répondre aux défis de la biologie médicale et des systèmes de santé au cours de la prochaine décennie et au-delà : tels sont les enjeux de cet événement.

Le motto de ce Congrès, «R-evolution in Laboratory Medicine» souligne l’importance de la biologie médicale et de la médecine de laboratoire dans les soins et le bien-être des patients au 21e siècle. Le congrès met en avant le rôle incontestable que la médecine de laboratoire joue dans le système de santé. L’accent est mis sur un programme scientifique et pédagogique de haute qualité qui se compose de sessions scientifiques, d’ateliers éducatifs avec des débats ouverts et interactifs, et d’études de cas pratiques. Les conférences couvrent la plupart des sujets d’actualité dans le domaine en pleine expansion de la médecine de laboratoire avec un large éventail d’experts pointus et de leaders d’opinion internationaux. Les conférences, coordonnées par le Pr Philippe Gillery, abordent divers domaines de la biologie médicale: l’évolution de la pratique quotidienne (relation avec les patients, organisation des laboratoires, erreurs préanalytiques), les nouvelles perspectives dans le diagnostic et le traitement de pathologies lourdes (mal-
adies cardio-vasculaires, maladies rénales et hématologiques), les nouvelles technologies (protéomique, métabolomique, pharmacogénomique), les nouvelles stratégies médicales (médecine personnalisée, maladies rares, la toxicomanie, maladies auto-immunes) ainsi que les domaines de la recherche (microbiome, vésicules extracellulaires).

C’est donc un immense privilège pour la SFBC d’organiser cette 21ème édition du congrès de l’IFCCC-EFLM dans la capitale française. Paris ne cesse de se réinventer dans sa position de mégapole et de leader mondial en matière d’innovation. Paris a été récemment classée meilleure ville au monde pour les étudiants par le classement international QS pour la troisième année consécutive. C’est pourquoi, nous tenons vivement à la participation des jeunes biologistes pour qu’ils présentent leurs travaux de recherche devant la communauté scientifique et à un public intéressé. Ils ne manqueront pas de participer à la soirée passionnante organisée par Dr Guilaine Boursier, coordinatrice française de la Task Force des jeunes scientifiques! Un certain nombre de bourses ont été prévues pour soutenir la présence de ces jeunes scientifiques (voir www.paris2015.org).


Globally, cancer is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality with over 14 million new cases and 8 million deaths per year (WHO 2012). The number of new cases per year is predicted to rise to greater than 22 million by 2030. Cancer is an important public health problem with mortality around 50% and an increasing rate in countries with aging populations. Cancer genomics has rapidly progressed in the past 10 years from a research tool to a clinical test. Furthermore, traditional anatomic and histologic classifications of
cancer are becoming refined by molecular, pathway-driven definitions of disease. Therefore, characterization of genomic alterations which lead to uncontrolled cellular proliferation is critical. Ultimately, definition of normal and mutated pathways will pave the way for a more comprehensive approach to personalized medicine.

Throughout the world, there are now hundreds of clinical laboratories sequencing DNA from cancer patients. Patient germline and tumor DNA are routinely tested for dozens to thousands of variants. There are now clear clinical scenarios when DNA sequencing of tumors is required for appropriate patient management. Furthermore, there is emerging evidence that patient tumors may need to be tested for hundreds to thousands of DNA variants to determine the appropriate therapy.

The Working Group on Cancer Genomics (WG-CG) is an ideal venue for the exchange of ideas, experiences and solutions, and will assess current technologies, laboratory standards and regulations to develop a framework to guide clinical laboratories performing cancer genomic testing. Guidelines and recommendations for clinical testing of single DNA variants, copy number variation or single genes is still relatively new to many clinical laboratories, but we must press onward to establish the basic framework for clinical laboratory processes to ensure high quality testing of human genomes.

Sequencing of RNA also is a powerful tool with potential to play a major role in the clinical setting by revealing changes in gene expression profiling associated with cancer. Different technologies for analyzing RNA expression will also be evaluated, and we will suggest standard analysis methodologies in order to achieve accuracy and reproducibility. Ultimately, personalized medicine will not only include the DNA analysis of genomes, but will also include markers of the expression of DNA: RNA and protein.

The chair and co-chair of the WG-CG are Dr. Jason Park (USA) and Dr. Paolo Fortina (USA), respectively. Other working group members include Drs. Allen Chan (PRC), Peter Clark (USA), Tae Hyun Hwang (USA), Evi Lianidou (GR), Eric Londin (USA), Michael Neumaier (DE), and Stephen Master (USA). Drs. Deborah Payne (USA) and Parviz Ahmad-Nehad (DE) will serve as liaison members from the Committee for Molecular Diagnostics (C-MD).

NEWS FROM REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND MEMBER SOCIETIES

The history of laboratory medicine in Poland started in 1953 when the first consultant in this discipline was appointed by the Minister of Health. At the current time physicians constitute approximately 15% of all employees at medical laboratories. The current (eleventh) President of the Polish Society of Laboratory Diagnostics is Prof. Bogdan Solnica (Collegium Medicum, Jagiellonian University Krakow, second term). The Executive board includes three vice-presidents: Prof. Milena Dabrowska (Medical University Bialystok), Prof. Grazyna Sypniewska (Collegium Medicum, NC University Bydgoszcz), representing the Society at IFCC as a National Representative, and Prof. Maciej Szmitkowski (Medical University Bialystok). The number of active members of the Society accounts for around 500 persons but fluctuates from
time to time; actually every fifth person working in
the medical laboratory is a member of the Society.
On the other hand, the percentage of physicians em-
ployed in medical laboratories has decreased dra-
matically.

On 6-7 February 2015 the Polish Society of Laboratory
Diagnostics celebrated its 50th anniversary. The special
conference was held in Kielce Grand Hotel Best West-
ern and we were proud to host the Honorary Special
Guests: IFCC President Prof. Maurizio Ferrari and EFLM
President Prof. Mauro Panteghini. Both Presidents de-
ivered the lectures during an Opening Ceremony.

The main idea of the conference “Laboratory diag-
nostics: past present and future” was to get togeth-
er Polish diagnosticians of older and new genera-
tion, the Presidents of other cooperating Scientific
Societies such as Polish Society of Microbiologists,
and Polish Society of Oncology, the President of the
National Chamber of Diagnosticians and the Gen-
eral Director of EDMA Poland. Three main sessions
were organized : dedicated to the “Past”, “Present
and future” of laboratory medicine in Poland and
the last one was based on the short presentations
of scientific achievements of 12 different University
Centres representing laboratory medicine/clinical
biochemistry.

The number of Conference attendees was approxi-
mately 200 and 15 IVD companies were present. All
participants were given conference materials includ-
ing a golden coin with Polish Society logo prepared
for this special occasion by Polish Mint.

At the end of the conference all participants were in-
vited to attend the 4th EFLM-UEMS congress “Labo-
ratory medicine at the clinical interface” which will
be hosted by Polish Society of Laboratory Diagnos-
tics and organized in Warsaw between 21-24th Sep-
tember 2016.
OBJECTIVE:
The APFCB Young Scientist Award Competition is a scientific paper competition conducted by the APFCB through its Education and Laboratory Management Committee with the following objectives:
1. Foster scientific potential of young scientists within the Asia-Pacific region,
2. As a means of aiding and encouraging young scientists in written and oral communication of their research results

ELIGIBILITY:
1. Scientists under the age of 40 on 26 November 2016.(opening of the 14th APFCB Congress in Taiwan where the awarding will take place)
2. Researcher must reside in the Asia Pacific region (all Asian countries except Arab region), Australasia, Pacific islands

REQUIREMENTS:
The selection process will take place starting June 2015, with the following conditions:
1. Submitted scientific research papers shall be original works of one individual (single author) or as main author in a group research project
2. Research paper has not been published elsewhere or submitted at the same period/time for another competition or publication
3. Literary search or reviews are not acceptable
4. All research areas in laboratory medicine are welcome, but emphasis will be put to novel findings
5. Language will be English
6. Each researcher may submit more than one research paper
7. All papers must include a title page with the following information: title of the paper, name of scientist, affiliation name and address, researcher’s email address and name, address and email address of the sponsor who endorses the project.
8. The maximum length of the paper is 1,500 words, not including title page, abstract, references, figures, tables, and appendices. The body of the paper shall begin with the abstract so that it is not on a separate page.
9. Deadline for submission is 31 December 2015.
10. All submissions shall be addressed to:
    Dr. Tony Badrick
    APFCB Education and Laboratory Management Chairperson
    E-mail address: Tony.Badrick@rcpaqap.com.au

WINNERS AND PRIZES:
1. There will be 5 (five) winners selected from all submitted papers.
2. All 5 (five) winners will be invited to present their papers at the 16th APFCB Congress in Taipei, Taiwan, on 26-29 November 2016. Expenses of the winner will be covered to a limit of SGD 2,000
3. A dedicated symposium during this congress will be allocated for this competition award.
4. Besides being sponsored to attend the 14th APFCB Congress, the First Winner will also receive a first prize winner of USD 1,000.00 and the second best will receive a second prize winner of SGD 500.00.
5. A Juror Team chaired by the APFCB Education and Laboratory Management Committee will be in charge for determining the winners of this competition.

The APFCB encourages scientists under the age of 40 to participate in this competition, through which they will have unique opportunities to learn a crucial part of scientific work which is communicating their work to others. (Published March 2015)
Dirigido a Profesionales, Investigadores y Estudiantes de Ciencias y Medicina de Laboratorio Clínico

Premio Wiener Lab al mejor trabajo de Investigación
Premio SEBIOCLI y Fundación Wiener al mejor Poster

PRE CONGRESOS

TÉCNICAS AVANZADAS DE CALIDAD ANALÍTICA
Cuenca: 19 - 20 Septiembre 2015
Quito: 22 - 23 Septiembre 2015

"BIOMARCADORES EN LA ENFERMEDAD CARDIOVASCULAR Y CEREBROVASCULAR, FACTORES DE RIESGO"
Quito: 22 - 23 Septiembre 2015

CONGRESO

24, 25 y 26 Septiembre 2015
Sede: Hotel JW Marriott
Quito - Ecuador

Organizan:

Auspicio Institucional de:

Información e inscripción:

www.sebioclí-ec.org
congresocolabioclí2015@gmail.com
Secretaria: + 593 995 154 625
593 2 2253 723

"Desde la Mitad del Mundo hacia la Bioquímica del nuevo Milenio"
"From the Middle of the World to the Biochemistry of the New Millennium"
"A partir da metade do mundo à bioquímica do novo milênio"
At the Opening Ceremony of the XXII Latin American Congress of Clinical Biochemistry COLABIOCLI 2015, to be held in Quito (Ecuador’s capital), from 24-26 September 2015, an Award to the Best Research in the area of laboratory medicine will be conferred.

The Selected recipient will be granted Congress registration, a monetary prize of two thousand dollars and travel expenses. All these benefits are kindly offered by the WIENER LAB GROUP, serving the laboratory community in Latin America with its certified, high quality, and international regulations compliant equipment and reagents.

The Ecuadorian Society of Clinical Biochemistry SEBIOCLI, in charge of the organization of the scientific event, will also award a prize of five hundred US dollars to the Best POSTER, and a cup awarded by the Wiener Lab Foundation. These awards will be given during the Closing ceremony.

For both the contests the jury consists of experienced professionals in different areas of laboratory medicine, both foreign and Ecuadorian.

We invite all professionals and researchers to present their work and participate in these contests. All information is available on the conference website: www.sebiocli-ec.org, menu SCIENTIFIC AGENDA.

The Organizing Committee is working to make this scientific event a success in every field. We look forward to meeting you all in Quito – World Cultural Heritage Site.
Advanced Techniques in Analytical Quality

by Dr. María del Carmen Pasquel
President, Organizing Committee, XXII Congreso COLABIOCLI 2015

City: CUENCA
Núcleo SEBIOCLI Azuay
Date: 19 and 20 September, 2015
Time: 09:00 – 18:00H
Participants: 70 persons
Venue: to be announced

City: QUITO
Núcleo SEBIOCLI Pichincha
Date: 22 and 23 September, 2015
Time: 09:00 – 18:00H
Participants: 70 persons
Venue: Hotel JW. Marriott

Speakers
Dr. Gabriel Migliarino (Argentina)
Dr. Benjamín Fernández (Chile)
Dr. Evangelina Hernández (Argentina)

Learning objectives
After the workshop participants will be able to:
- Select a quality requirement for each measurement procedure
- Identify critical performance parameters for each measurement procedure
- Use simple tools to assess each critical performance parameter
- Judge the performance of a measurement procedure
- Select the Internal Statistical Quality Control for each correct measurement procedure
- Implement correctly the planned scheme of Internal Statistical Quality Control

Verification of measurement procedures for internal planning of statistical quality control
Biomarkers in Cardiovascular and Brain Vascular Diseases: Risk Factors

City: Quito
Núcleo SEBIOCLI Pichincha
Date: 22 and 23 September, 2015
Time: 09:00 – 18:00H
Participants: 30 - 50 persons
Venue: Colegio de QBFP

Speakers
Dr. Lida Morisoli (Argentina)
Dr. Stella Daniele (Argentina)

Topics
- Vascular endothelium dysfunction
- Distress
- Smoking habits - Hypertension: age, sex, predisposing genes - inflammation-injury of striatum muscles - heart muscle stress
- Peripheral Artery Disease (E.A.P)
- Coronary Artery Disease (E.A.C)
- Unstable plaque
- Atherosclerosis
- carbohydrate Profile - Lipid - Insulin Resistance
- Metabolic Syndrome - Obesity
- Glomerular endothelium - Cerebra-vascular accident (CVA)
- Biomarkers: specificity of each and determination
EFLM Consensus Statement from the 1st Strategic Conference of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine


To download the document, please visit the EFLM website:

EU Directive 2013/55/EU
Update of the recognition of professional qualifications

by Gilbert Wieringa
Chair of the EFLM Profession Committee

The unequal distribution of skills and resources across the 28 member states of the European Community is such that the areas of greatest need can be amongst those most poorly supported. A key objective of this Directive is to support free professional movement across EU borders without the need for individual countries to impose ‘compensation measures’ on each others’ professionals. Whilst there are some professions that already enjoy free migration (e.g., medical staff) there are over 600 professions across the Community whose practitioners cannot automatically cross EU borders. In supporting such migration when the Directive is transposed into national law in January 2016 there is also a recognition that safeguards need to be in place to ensure the safety of people is protected in host/receiving states. For specialists in laboratory medicine the key safeguard is to protect patient safety by providing assurances that knowledge, skills and competencies are practised at an equivalent, high quality level.

In this regard the Directive provides the opportunity for specialists in laboratory medicine to be recognised as unique professionals by inviting the inclusion of a Common Training Framework during transposition. Crucially this framework needs the support of a minimum 10 EU member states to be accepted as representative of all 28. Whilst EC4’s Equivalence of Standards provide a recommended template for education/training that includes length of training, qualifications, a syllabus, competencies to practice and a code of conduct, it is for governments to shape a framework such that the needs of individual countries can still be met but without loss of quality that may adversely affect patient safety.

For EU national leads in laboratory medicine there is a tight timeline to engage with government coordinators to raise awareness of the infrastructure behind specialists in laboratory medicine. The opportunity to participate extends to countries with established as well as evolving training programmes. If a country can show good intent to meeting the requirements of a
Common Training Framework then potentially it can be one of the 10 in support of the framework. This is a key issue for several countries whose training programmes are still under development and/or en route to government recognition. In effect national governments and national societies can catalyse each other’s participation in adoption of the Common Training Framework.

Achieving a Common Training Framework is a key objective on several fronts:

- It supports free professional migration of specialists in laboratory medicine across EU borders
- It ensures recognition of the role and contribution of the specialist
- It raises awareness of, and promotes the contribution of laboratory medicine to better health and best care
- It promotes enlargement and extension of the EC4 register of specialists across the EU Community and beyond

Whilst there is recognition that achieving a Common Training Framework may be of more importance to the profession than the professional at this time, the opportunity to support the aspirations of future generations as well as the profession is here and now. Whilst opportunities will arise in future, 2015 is the year when the Commission will value early exemplar professions during the transposition of the Directive into national law. Laboratory Medicine is well placed to take advantage of this.

Further information about the Directive, the proposed Common Training Framework and initiatives being pursued to recruit the minimum 10 countries as signatories may be accessed from the EFLM web site at http://efcclm.eu/index.php/eu-directive-201355eu.html

The site invites participation in the project and will include further updates/communications/ progress reports as they happen.

First report from the EFLM Task and Finish Group (TFG) for the Biological Variation Database (BVD)

By Sverre Sandberg
Chair of the EFLM TFG on Biological Variation

Terms of Reference for the TFG-BVD are to use a critical appraisal list to evaluate literature on biological variation, to extract essential information and summarise the information in the papers.

Deliverables:

1. Generate a database on the EFLM website with essential information about the biological variation and derived performance specifications for different measurands as well as the evidence behind.
2. Write papers dealing with these concepts.

The TFG consists of members from the WG on biological variation of EFLM and from the Analytical Quality Commission of the Spanish Society of Clinical Chemistry as well as people with experience in theoretical and practical aspects of generating data on biological variation.
The first meeting of the TFG took place in Milan directly after the Strategic conference in which the way forward was discussed. The first and most important task was to develop a practical checklist for evaluating papers on biological variation for inclusion into the database. A first draft of this checklist was developed through email correspondence, and participants used this initial checklist to evaluate 25 biological variation papers, before meeting up for the meeting in Barcelona in the beginning of March.

In the Barcelona meeting 21 people participated. The first day of the meeting was dedicated to the checklist. Questions as well as statistical problems that had emerged by evaluating the 25 papers were discussed, and a new draft of the checklist was developed. The participants were then divided into small groups in order to evaluate the new checklist draft by reviewing three different papers. The results from this exercise were discussed in plenum, and the papers were now mostly given the same rating by the different groups. Following some further refinement, in the present version of the checklist, papers are categorized as A, B, C and D depending on their methodological quality, with category A papers indicating high-quality and D poor quality. In the second day of the meeting the way forward was planned, and included the establishment of groups that will evaluate and categorize biological variation papers using the checklist for different areas of laboratory medicine, such as kidney-related measurands, enzymes etc. The checklist now contains 14 items, and 22 items will be extracted from each paper and presented in the database.

The Analytical Quality Commission of the Spanish Society of Clinical Chemistry hosted the meeting and provided excellent facilities. We had a wonderful evening visiting the old Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Paul from which the picture below is taken.
11th EFLM Symposium for Balkan Region

Programme

11th EFLM Symposium for Balkan Region
Laboratory Medicine Specialist
Focuses on the Patients Well-being
&
60th SMBS Anniversary

Under
Auspices

May 14–15, 2015, Belgrade, Serbia
Hyatt Regency Beograd
www.dmbj.org.rs
MEETING ORGANISERS

Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia
European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM)
Department of Medical Biochemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade

AUSPICES

11th EFLM Symposium for Balkan Region

is organized under the Auspices of the

International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC)
Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation (BCLF)
Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of Serbia
Ministry of Health of Serbia

2 11th Symposium for Balkan Region
Dear colleagues and friends,

The Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia has the pleasure to welcome you to the 11th EFLM Symposium for Balkan Region being held under the title »Laboratory Medicine Specialist Focuses on the Patients Well-being«. European Federation for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) appointed Belgrade (Serbia) and the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia as the organizer of educational symposia for clinical chemists in the Balkan region and as a result of these decision ten symposia have been organized thus far very successfully.

The 11th EFLM Symposium for Balkan Region is organized under the auspices of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry (IFCC), Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation (BCLF), Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of Serbia and Ministry of Health of Serbia.
The Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia as a member of the IFCC and EFLM greatly appreciates the role it has in the continuing development of our discipline according to the IFCC and EFLM mission and the Strategic Plan.
Special thanks go to Simone Zerah, who helped to design the program of this symposium by suggesting topics and lecturers and who enabled the laboratory professionals in the Balkan region and our country to learn about this very important area of laboratory medicine.

The 11th EFLM Symposium for Balkan Region is organized on May 14 and 15, during the celebration days of 60-year anniversary with participation of the European and domestic specialists in field of education, accreditation, quality management, quality indicators, continuing medical education and patients safety in laboratory medicine.
On behalf of the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia and the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM), we would like to welcome all our distinguished lecturers and thank them for their participation in the 11th EFLM Symposium for Balkan Region. Their presence gives very high recognition and prestige to this Meeting, which will influence the development of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine in the Balkan region.
Special thanks are addressed to the participants, whose presence is the main stimulus and only reward for those of us who have worked hard in organizing this meeting. We would like to thank all the industrial companies and local representatives participating in the exhibitions and sponsoring the organization of the Symposium.
We hope that the EFLM Symposium in Belgrade will continue its successful progress like in previous years, striving to focus on the new data in the field of laboratory medicine.
To all of you, we wish that you may enjoy these days of science, friendship and hospitality. We hope you will have a happy and pleasant stay in Belgrade.

Symposium President

Prof. Dr Nada Majkić-Singh
How to assess the quality of your method?
4th Joint EFLM-UEMS Congress

„Laboratory medicine at the clinical interface”

WARSAW
September 21-24th 2016
Venue : Double Tree by Hilton, Warsaw

Important dates :
Early bird registration: May 30th 2016
Registration deadline: July 15th 2016
Abstract deadline : April 30th 2016
Main Topics:

1. Cancer and tumor immunology; malignancies arising from the immune system
2. Challenges of doing research in clinical laboratory
3. Challenges of thyroid function tests
4. HRM In Medical Labs
5. Laboratory and chronic kidney diseases
6. Laboratory and Diabetes
7. Laboratory and nosocomial infections
8. Laboratory and the environment Laboratory specimen referral: Opportunities and challenges
9. Law and ethics: Civil and criminal responsibilities
10. Medical laboratory in present and in future
11. New methods in diagnosis of inherited metabolic diseases
12. Pathology of clinical laboratory education and the curricula
13. Research in Laboratory Sciences: Clinical Biochemistry
14. Research in Laboratory Sciences: Clinical Immunology and Serology
15. Research in Laboratory Sciences: Clinical Microbiology
16. Research in Laboratory Sciences: Diabetes
17. Research in Laboratory Sciences: Hematology
18. Role of human resource in laboratory accreditation and management
19. Screening of Fetal Abnormalities in Pregnant Mothers: Double, Triple, Quadruple Marker and Sonography
20. Technology Management in Clinical Diagnosis Laboratory
The X Congress of Clinical Biochemistry organized by Uruguayan Association of Biochemistry, (ABU):

“Automation - Evolution, Technologies and Strategies”

will take place on 22-24 October, 2015 at the Telecommunications Tower, Montevideo, Uruguay.

The Organizing Committee of the X Congress of ABU:

**President:** Rossana Pirotto

**Vice president:** Mercedes Castro

**Secretary:** Cecilia Queijo

**Secretary:** Lucila Pirez

**Treasurer:** Graciela Queiruga

**Treasurer:** Paola Audicio

**Members:** Laura Yametti, Beatriz Varela, Laura Godnjavec, Natalia Amor

**Scientific Committee:**

**Chair:** Graciela Borthagaray

**Members:** Cristina Servetto, Patricia Esperon, Stella Raymondo, Graciela Queiruga and Ana Lena

**Themes:**

- Assisted reproduction
- Drug Abuse
- Quality Management
- Microbiology
- Microarrays and sequencing of the genome
- Standardization
Canadian Laboratory Medicine Congress
June 20-24, 2015, Montréal, Québec

More information: www.clmc.ca

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Joint Congress of the:
Canadian Association of Pathologists (CAP-ACP)
Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists (CSCC-SCCC)
Held jointly with l’Association des pathologistes du Québec (APQ)

April 30, 2015
☐ Oral and Poster Presenter Registration Deadline
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CLMC 2015 Congress Secretariat
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New Romanian Association of Laboratory Medicine (RALM) was founded from the two former professional societies

by Ioana Brudasca, MD, PhD
RALM President

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

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

As their goals are similar, in 2014, at the annual conferences of the two societies, a step forward was achieved by taking the decision to create a unique, stronger society.

A preliminary meeting took place in September 2014 and it was decided that the name of the new society will be the Romanian Association of Laboratory Medicine (RALM).

A temporary board was nominated, which will be in charge until the first RALM Congress in 20-23 May 2015, when elections will be organized.

The members of the temporary board:
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ioana Brudasca (president)
Dr. Camelia Grigore (vice-president)
Dr. Ileana Funduc (vice-president)
Dr. Cristina Florescu Moraid (member)
Dr. Daniela Miricescu (secretary)

Dr. Camelia Grigore (RSLM president) and the board of RAML at the 8th RAML conference in Sibiu 2014
From right to left: Dr. Camelia Grigore-RSLM President, Dr. Ioana Brudasca-RAML President, Dr.chem Ariana Radulescu-RAML Treasurer, Dr. chem. Ileana Funduc-RAML Vice-president, Dr. Minodora Dobreanu-RAML Board member

Article continued on next page
The main goal of RALM is to support a high quality healthcare management, thus establishing standards for scientific, technical and ethical aspects of good laboratory practice.

As the clinical laboratory is an essential tool for clinical medicine, RALM will focus on the development and implementation of diagnostic tests.

In order to fulfill these objectives, RALM will continue the activity of the two former societies.

RALM will organize annual conferences and congresses under the auspices of IFCC and EFLM, in partnership with the Medical Faculties in Romania and with visiting lecturers supported by IFCC and EFLM. These meetings are an excellent opportunity for laboratory medicine specialists to benefit from the expertise of leading scientists, to identify issues they are confronted with in current practice and to provide solutions and guidelines on how to solve them. In order to stimulate our young colleagues, RALM will continue to grant two awards at every conference for the best poster presentation and for meritorious activity in the field of laboratory medicine.

The Continuous Medical Education (CME) training courses for laboratory professionals organized until now will be continued, allowing our members to stay connected to the most recent professional issues.

The former ALMR already had its own publication, the Romanian Review of Laboratory Medicine (RRML), which publishes peer-reviewed original papers, general and professional reports of laboratory medicine. RRML is indexed in the ISI Web of Knowledge - Web of Science - Science Citation Index Expanded (Thomson Reuters Scientific), in the SCOPUS and EMCARE databases since 2008, and in Index Copernicus since 2009, and a member of COPE since 2012. This journal will become RALM’s publication, providing the opportunity for laboratory professionals to update their knowledge in the areas addressed.

We are hoping that the new association will be more effective in accomplishing its tasks and will contribute to a stronger and more visible profession in Romania.
The Zimbabwe Association of Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (ZACB) is ready and greatly honoured to host the historic 4th African Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine Congress at the Rainbow Towers, the Harare International Conference Centre in Harare from 25-30th April 2015. Harare is the capital city of Zimbabwe known as the “Sunshine City” of highly educated, skilled, peaceful and welcoming 1.5 million inhabitants. It is a cosmopolitan city with 5 universities, the oldest being the University of Zimbabwe celebrating 60 years of its existence and the growth of Clinical Laboratory Medicine this year.

The 4th AFCC Congress theme is “Integrating Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine in Evidence Based P4 Medicine. It will have a scientific programme with three workshops and the main congress from 25th to 30th April 2015.

ZACB has organised the Point of Care Testing “Hands ON’ Practicals with the support of the Australian Association of Clinical Biochemistry (AACB) and diagnostic industry.

The IFCC Committee on Laboratory Management has organised a workshop on Essentials of Quality Management in Clinical Laboratories”.

A Scientific Writing Skills and Grand Funding Application workshop organised by the AFCC will also be taking place. An exciting main congress will take place on 28th – 29th April 2015.

There will be five plenary lectures from outstanding AFCC experts on: P4 Medicine, Omics in Clinical

The Congress will have 7 symposia which will include Genomics, Metabolic Medicine and Emerging Biomarkers, Cancer and Cytomics, Advances in Renal Disease Research, Infectious Disease and Nanomedicine, Point of Care Testing and Networks, an IFCC organised Young-Scientists and Networkings and Quality Control and Quality Assurance.

Participants from four IFCC Federations namely Arab Federation of Clinical Biology (AFCB), AFCC, Asian-Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (APFCB) and European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) have contributed high quality scientific abstracts. From these abstracts, we will be having 45 oral communications.

Many diagnostic companies in the industry from the AFCC, APFCB and EFLM will be exhibiting at the Congress.

Participants and visitors are encouraged to visit the industry exhibition which will be opposite the Congress venue from 25th – 30th April 2015 from 09.00-17.30 hours.

The Congress has attracted many local and international delegates who will be joining the AFCC in Celebrating the 6th Anniversary and growth of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine on the African continent particularly now as AFCC is preparing for the first time IFCC WorldLab Durban 2017 in South Africa.

The Congress, the first to be held in Harare, Zimbabwe, promises to be richly interactive, productive and highly enjoyable as old friendships are renewed and new ones and networks are established.

In the evenings, there will be a social programme for delegates, their families and friends. The Opening Ceremony of the Congress will be held on the evening of 27th April 2015.

Visits will be organised to breathtaking tourist attractions including the UNESCO World Heritage Site, The Great Zimbabwe Monument (housing historic Zimbabwe), the Eastern Highlands and The World Wonder,
The Mighty Majestic Victoria Falls “The Motsi Watunya” which is an hour away by air from Harare. The visits to these tourist attractions will offer delegates an opportunity to experience the abundant natural wild life and an exciting African experience to remember for a life time.

On behalf of the Zimbabwe Association of Clinical Biochemists' Local Organising Committee, I look forward to sharing this historic and indeed great 4th AFCC Congress 2015 in the sunny, “smiling” and peaceful city of Harare, Zimbabwe.

The Eastern Highlands

Professor Hilda Tendisa Marima-Matarira

IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists Educational Symposium
ACBICON-2014, Jodhpur, India

“Research Design & Methodology—Identification of Need”

by Dr. Pradeep Kumar Dabla
Chair IFCC-TF YS

Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India - 11th December 2014.

Research in common parlance refers to a search for knowledge. Once can also define research as a scientific and systematic search for pertinent information on a specific topic. Thus, the purpose of research is to discover answers to questions through the application of scientific procedures.

IFCC-Task Force Young Scientists (IFCC-TF YS) in collaboration with Association of Clinical Biochemists of India (ACBI) conducted a 5th Symposium on 11th December 2014 for young colleagues from laboratory medicine.

The programme was well attended by more than one hundred participants from India & abroad including senior members from the IFCC, APFCB & ACBI. The event was hosted by organising committee ACBI Conference (ACBICON) 2014 & Dr. Praveen Sharma (Organising Secretary). It was organised at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Jodhpur, India.

This workshop covered the research process, an overview of qualitative and quantitative methods, data collection, recording and analysis and final output of a research proposal. It helped students to understand the basics of research process including the identification of a topic, preparation of a research proposal and final research report, assessment criteria for this and associated timelines.

Article continued on next page
The concept of these activities is to encourage interactions & networking between young scientists along with education in the field of laboratory medicine & research. In India, with collaborative efforts of ACBI & IFCC, the IFCC-TFYS has organised educational workshops/symposium every year in the National Conference, meaning in 2010, 2011, 2013 & 2014.

Addressing the conclave, Dr. Graham Beastall (President-IFCC) praised the Task Force initiatives and stressed upon the need to share experiences and strong networking activities. Dr. Jayashree Bhattacharjee (President ACBI) gave a welcome addresses and summarised the ACBI initiatives for the young biochemists. Dr. Pradeep Kumar Dabla (Convener and Chair IFCC-TF YS) summarized the Task Force objectives, members & activities conducted. He assured the commitment of focused training and education to strengthen the future prospects of young laboratorians.

The first session was chaired by Dr. Maurizio Ferrari and Dr. Howard Morris. Dr. Graham Beastall initiated the session by sharing his academic experience in UK & worldwide as researcher & granting authority. He explained the increasing role of Health authorities in medicine. The future specialist in Lab Medicine will require a strong background in the basic medical sciences as well as highly developed clinical skills. It is needed to develop the robust Laboratory Medicine and clinical research programmes to improve health care and wellness of the population.
Next, Dr. Pradeep Kumar Dabla (Chair IFCC-TFYS) gave a basic *Introduction to Research Design*, explaining what research is and its various steps in brief. Research process consists of series of actions or steps necessary to effectively carry out research and the desired sequencing of these steps. Research comprises of defining and redefining problems, formulating hypothesis or suggested solutions; collecting, organising and evaluating data; making deductions and reaching conclusions; and at last carefully testing the conclusions to determine whether they fit the formulating hypothesis.

Prof. Venkat Parameswaran (School of Medicine, Univ. of Tasmania) continued detailing *Literature Review using the Internet Support & Theoretical Approaches*. He said “One of the most difficult steps when considering research is to choose a right topic of interest”. This job of locating the background information through systematic literature review nowadays has been made easier through web-based “virtual library” facilities. Experimental approaches and analysis defines the information that is obtained.

Second session was chaired by Dr. Endang Hoyaranda & Dr. Jayashree Bhattacharjee. Dr. Archana Singh (Asst. Prof., Biochemistry, AIIMS Delhi) described various quantitative and qualitative methods in detail. Generally, health science research follows the empirical approach, i.e. based upon observation and experience and deals with information of a quantitative nature. In either approach, statistical reasoning using the laws of probability guides the inferential process. Based on these calculated probabilities, the hypothesis is accepted or rejected.

In the end, Dr. Graham Beastall guided how to draft a research proposal and fine details required. He said: “The way in which a research proposal is structured and worded will have a significant impact on its likely acceptance”. He stressed on allowing plenty of time to prepare the submission. Formulate your research proposal into a hypothesis or series of questions informing the ‘Aims, Objectives and Outcomes’ of your proposal to submit in time.

To summarize, the workshop has provided attendee’s sufficient understanding of the major paradigms of qualitative and quantitative research and to provide a basis for further examination using preferred method. This session has provided a vision to understand the research process including the identification of a topic, preparation of a research proposal and final research report and associated assessment criteria to prepare research proposal. Following the success of this symposium the IFCC Executive Board is considering a new project to support YS to become involved with clinical and scientific research.

For more information and queries:
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Assistant Professor  
Head, Department of Biochemistry  
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and Assistant Professor  
Department of Biochemistry  
G.B. Pant Hospital & Institute of Postgraduate  
Medical Education Research  
Delhi, India  
Email: pradeep_dabla@yahoo.com  
091-9643308236
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The IFCC eNewsletter is issued in English, and it is free-of-charge to all registered readers.

We feature useful information for IFCC and not IFCC members and we include a calendar of the major events in the Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine field.

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The online pre-registration is now open. Order now your free badge to visit the EuroMedLab exhibition! Come and visit your partners and future suppliers, discover the most innovative technologies and find the best equipment for your needs.

Read More

2015.03.19 - El Microscopio - March 2015 programme on air

A new El Microscopio programme in English is on the air. Listen to the latest news & interviews with Prof. Ana-Maria Simundic, Croatia national representative, and Prof. Mario Plebani, of the IFCC Working group on “Laboratory errors and patient safety” (WG LEPS).

Read more

2015.03.10 - eJIFCC 2015, Vol 26 n°2

A new issue of the eJIFCC is now available. Featured articles in Vol 26 (2) include: a review on prostate cancer genetics; metabolomics and its application to the development of clinical laboratory tests for prostate cancer; testosterone deficiency; clinical relevance of trace bands on serum electrophoresis in patients without a history of gammopathy; and the organisation of the POCT unit. A letter discussing knowledge on the theory of biological reference values in Latin America and a software review on a new database on the “Effects on Clinical Laboratory Tests”, complete the issue.

Read more

2015.03.08 - Register of Experts

We are pleased to announce that a "Register of Experts" is now available on the IFCC website. This new tool has been compiled to assist members of National Societies, particularly in developing countries, to contact an expert in a particular area of laboratory medicine.

The Expert database is accessible from the Resources and Downloads page now.

Read more

2015.03.27 - NPU database March 2015 Edition

The March 2015 Edition of the NPU terminology is available for download and can be searched using the search function included on the web page.

Read more
### IFCC's Calendar of Congresses, Conferences & Events

#### Calendar of IFCC Congresses/Conferences and Regional Federations' Congresses

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<td>Sep 24 - 26, 2015</td>
<td>COLABIOCLI 2015 - XXII Congreso Latinoamericano de Bioquímica Clinica</td>
<td>Quito, EC</td>
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<td>Dec 1 - 2, 2015</td>
<td>ArabMedLab 2015 - 14th Arab Congress of Clinical Biology (AFCB)</td>
<td>Khartoum, SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 26 - 29, 2016</td>
<td>14th Asia-Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine Congress</td>
<td>Taipei, TW</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 22 - 25, 2017</td>
<td>XXIII IFCC WorldLab 2017</td>
<td>Durban, ZA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 22 - 25, 2015</td>
<td>8th International &amp; 13th National Congress on Quality Improvement in Clinical Laboratories (IQC13)</td>
<td>Tehran, IR</td>
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<td>May 5 - 6, 2015</td>
<td>8th European Symposium on Clinical Laboratory and In Vitro Diagnostic Industry &quot;Point of care testing&quot;</td>
<td>Barcelona, SP</td>
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<td>May 6 - 10, 2015</td>
<td>Second World Congress on Water Channel Proteins (Aquaporins and Relatives) Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Discovery of the First Water Channel Protein</td>
<td>Cluj-Napoca, RO</td>
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<td>May 7 - 9, 2015</td>
<td>8th Congress of Chemical Sciences: &quot;Looking sustainable future&quot;</td>
<td>Asuncion, PY</td>
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<td>May 11 - 12, 2015</td>
<td>XIII Meeting of the SECH Scientific Committee</td>
<td>Valencia, ES</td>
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<td>May 14 - 15, 2015</td>
<td>11th EFLM Symposium for Balkan Region</td>
<td>Belgrade, SRB</td>
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<td>1st Congress of Romanian Association of Laboratory Medicine</td>
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<td>Canadian Laboratory Medicine Congress</td>
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<td>Jun 20 - 20, 2015</td>
<td>Role of the laboratories in personalized medicine</td>
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<td>Aug 21 - 23, 2015</td>
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<td>1st International Conference on Natural Products for Cancer Prevention and Therapy</td>
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<td>6th International Conference and Exhibition on Analytical &amp; Bioanalytical Techniques</td>
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<td>8th Congress of the Croatian Society of Medichal Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine</td>
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<td>Palestine</td>
<td>Palestinian Medical Technology Association (PALMTA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>Philippine Council for Quality Assurance in Clinical Laboratories (PCQACL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>Regional Association for Clinical Laboratory Diagnosis, St. Petersburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Asociación Española de Farmacéuticos Analistas (AEFA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>Association of Clinical Chemistry &amp; Laboratory Medicine of Ukraine (ACCLMU)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Regional Federations

- Arab Federation of Clinical Biology (AFCB)
- African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC)
- Asia-Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (APFCLB)
- 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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January-February Edition
● submission deadline: January 22

March-April Edition
● submission deadline: March 26

May-June Edition
● submission deadline: May 21

July-August Edition
● submission deadline: July 16

September-October Edition
● submission deadline: September 24

November-December Edition
● submission deadline: November 20

If you want to submit an article or advertisement to be published in the e-NewsLetter, send them to:

Tahir Pillay, Editor, IFCC e-NewsLetter
e-mail: ifccnewsletter@ifcc.org

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