Prerequisites for founding the Bulgarian Society of Clinical Laboratory (BSCL) were the inauguration of the medical faculties in Sofia (1918) and Plovdiv (1945) as well as the pioneering work of clinicians, like Dr. I. Pavlovitch who introduced in 1918 the homonymous test for CSF protein, Prof. Mollov who launched in 1910 the hypothesis that in malaria patients, treated with quinine blackwater fever results from defective red cell proteins preventing hemolysis/40 years later this hypothesis was confirmed by the discovery of G6PD defects), Prof. Chilov whose “ClinicalNotes”in 1945 forerun the development of evidence-based medicine; the five editions of a hand book on Clinical Laboratory Medicine had a strong impact on Bulgarian clinical laboratory. His collaborator - Dr. Y. Todorov laid the groundwork of clinical laboratory as a separate discipline by defining in 1949 the term “Clinical Laboratory” as a synthesis of two disciplines - Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Hematology. In 1957 prof. Tododrov founded the first Chair of Clinical Laboratory at the Postgraduate Medical Institute/ Sofia/ and in 1961 - the Bulgarian Society of Clinical Laboratory with affiliations in Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna and Pleven. The consolidation of the network of clinical laboratories in Bulgaria was implemented by his highly esteemed Handbook on Clinical Laboratory in pediatrics (6 Bulgarian, two Russian and one German editions) as well as monographs on Pathobiochemistry, CSF testing, Pharmacobiocchemistry and Functional Diagnostics published in collaborations with eminent Bulgarian teachers.

The next decades boosted a steady progress of BSCL and its international integration under the chairmanship of professors M. Hlebarova, D. Dotchev, S. Danev and K. Tzatchev, supported by a strong team of specialists.

In 1978 BSCL joined the IFCC. In 1992 cascade courses on good laboratory management coordinated by IFCC experts prof. P. Broughton and H. Pandov involving specialists from Bulgaria and other Balkan countries initiated the founding of Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation (BCLF) in Sofia (chairman S. Danev, secretary K. Tzatchev).

During the next 22 years of rotating chairmanship among the Balkan countries BCLF organized yearly meetings and symposia in Istanbul, Athens, Ioannina, Bucharest, Plovdiv, Sofia, Sinaya, Budva, Belgrade, Tirana, Ohrid and other remarkable Balkan sites providing excellent conditions for close collaboration with very successful scientific and social programs.

The upgrading of Bulgarian Clinical laboratory was boosted by international TEMPUS, CEPUS and WHO projects. As a whole the evolution of clinical laboratory in Bulgaria during the last 50 years gave rise to the establishment of network of more than 400 laboratories, including about 80 highly centralized ones.

They are involved in the National External Quality Assessment Scheme directed by prof. K. Tzatchev and his team.

Notwithstanding the difficulties related to financial restrictions high-tech and “OMIC” methods continue to evolve in the field of therapeutic drug monitoring (Prof. D. Svinarov), flowcytometry (Prof. Tzvetkova), leukemia, blood coagulation, DNA methods, vitamin D, renal markers, hepsidin in iron deficiency etc.