



OUR MISSION IS TO BE THE LEADING ORGANIZATION IN THE FIELD OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE WORLDWIDE

eNewsLetter



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IFCC Executive Board Secretary Honored



Paivi Laitinen



From the left: Heidi Miettinen, LAL Secretary, Jari Lehto, LAL Executive Director and Päivi Hannele Laitinen.



From the left: Gunnel Sievers, Seppo Laitinen (Päivi's husband), Pirjo Tanner, Jari Lehto

The Finnish Union of Experts in Science has appointed Docent Päivi Hannele Laitinen "The Expert of Science 2009" for her work and merits in developing and advancing clinical chemistry in Finland as well as for her role as an expert and teacher in the field.

LAL, the Finnish Union of Experts in Science, is a union for all professionals who have obtained a higher education degree in science.

The Union's aim is to protect and improve the financial, professional and social interests of its members and to promote the employment of its members' professional skills in different social sectors. The Union counts over 7 000 members from different branches of science; chemistry, biochemistry, biology and genetics amongst others.

Docent Päivi Laitinen has worked as a clinical biochemist in the laboratory of Oulu University Hospital since 1991. She has also been a pioneer in making clinical chemistry better recognized in the country. She has lectured clinical chemistry in the university, in the school of polytechnics and she has hosted visits of school children in her laboratory.

Päivi Laitinen received her PhD in biochemistry in 1986 and she was appointed a Docent in clinical biochemistry in 2003. She has also a Master's Degree in Health Care Science, healthcare administration as her major. Päivi Laitinen has over 30 peer-reviewed articles and dozens of abstracts in congresses. Her main interest in science today is prenatal screening. She has also been an invited speaker in several domestic and international congresses and conferences. Since 1999 Päivi Laitinen has been a member of the Finnish nomenclature group for laboratory tests under the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities. This group develops and updates the Finnish nomenclature, which is used in all health care units in the country. In 2008 she was a member of the expert group of prenatal screening of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. This group wrote guidelines and instructions for local authorities on how to organize prenatal screening in Finland.

Päivi Laitinen has a long career in the societies of clinical chemistry at the national, Nordic, European and international level. She has been a member of the Board of the Finnish Society of Clinical Chemistry in 1992–1995, Vice-President in 1996–1997 and President in 1998–2002. While President of the Finnish Society she was also a member of the Board of the Nordic Society of Clinical Chemistry. In 2003 Päivi Laitinen was elected a Member-at-Large for the Executive Board of EC4. 2003–2005 she was also a member of the IFCC Awards Committee. Since 2006 Päivi Laitinen has been the Secretary of the IFCC.

News from Regional Federations and National Associations

Contributed by Dzintars Ozolins, President of the Latvian Society of Laboratory specialists and Chairman of the Conference Steering Committee



Professor Dzintars Ozolins

The European Conference of National Strategies for Chlamydia Trachomatis and Human Papillomavirus entitled “Shall be new challenge into screening of pathogens?” will be held May 26–27, 2011 in Jurmala, Latvia and will be chaired Prof. Aija Zilevica, leading microbiologist from the University of Latvia.



Prof. Aija Zilevica

The Conference stems from the project European Conference of National Strategies for Chlamydia Trachomatis and Human Papillomavirus–NSCP that has received funding from the European Union, in the framework of the Public Health Programme. Detailed information will soon be available in the conference webpage www.cthpv.org



Mario Milco D'Elios

Professor Mario Milco D'Elios from the University of Florence, and Chair of the Conference Scientific Committee mentioned that the anticipated result of the conference is to provide material and information that will serve as background to a guidance for national awareness and prevention programmes for Chlamydia trachomatis and HPV in European countries.

The Moroccan Society of Clinical Chemistry

Contributed By Edgard Delvin, eNewsletter Editor



Council Members. From the left: Mohammed Touimi-Benjelloun, Secretary General, Hicham Elannaz, Member, Abdelrhafour Guedira Vice President, Layachi Chabraoui, President, Youssef Bamou, Treasurer, Sanae Bouhssaine, member, Youssef Ala, Associate Secretary General.

The Moroccan Society of Clinical Chemistry held its 10th annual meeting (10ièmes Journées Nationales de Biologie Clinique) under the auspices of IFCC in the historical Marrakech situated at the foothills of the snow-capped Atlas mountain range. The Society Council Members have to be commended not only for the scientific program, but also for the Social and cultural aspects of the event. The symposia offered an array of subjects ranging from cardiovascular diseases to laboratory accreditation.

Professor Aziz Radi from Rabat opened the meeting by a masterful conference on the role of gerontology and geriatrics in the health management of the elderly. It was followed, in the course of the next 2 days, by 7 symposia ranging from diagnosis of dysglobulinemia, gammopathies of undetermined significance to the molecular diagnosis of infectious and haemostatic diseases, and the metabolic syndrome in paediatrics.

The symposium bearing on the reform of the practice of medical biology and laboratory accreditation being of worldwide interest is particularly worth of comments. Drs. Layachi Chabraoui, President of the Moroccan Society of Clinical Chemistry, and Bernard Gouget, IFCC Executive Board Member, coordinated this symposium that covered many aspects of the process. Drs. Michel Ballereau, Anne-Marie Gallot and Élodie Benhayoun, from the French Ministry of Health, explained clearly the process of converting the role of the laboratory from a test provider to medical advisor. Dr. Daniel Pierre, President of ILAC and Executive Director of COFRAC, explained the role and mission of ILAC in the process of clinical laboratory accreditation. Finally, Ms Khadija Meshak and Mr Abdellah Nejjar, respectively from the Moroccan Ministry of Health and of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Novel Technologies, summarized the evolution of the field of medical biology and the clinical laboratory accreditation process in Morocco.

I cannot close without mentioning the warm hospitality and friendship shown to the delegates by the Council Members and all our Moroccan colleagues.

Guidelines for obtaining Auspices of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine

The IFCC is committed to maintaining and promoting a worldwide exchange of information in Clinical Chemistry and all disciplines of Laboratory Medicine. The Strategic Plan of the IFCC specifically states that a major effort should be made in the academic, clinical and industrial setting to create links of communication for clinical laboratory scientists and physicians through highly qualified professional meetings which the IFCC may support in a variety of ways.

With the above in mind, congress and conference organizers, both of IFCC-associated conferences and outside the IFCC, are encouraged to contact the IFCC to express a request for assistance in promoting, advertising and supporting their meetings.

The IFCC, for its part, is greatly interested in lending as much support as it can towards the success of high quality meetings, which will contribute to the awareness, and appreciation of Laboratory Medicine and its contribution to the delivery of appropriate health care. To help congress and conference organizers in obtaining the "Auspices", the IFCC has prepared a set of guidelines.

Organizers may obtain further information by contacting the Chairman of the IFCC Committee on Congresses and Conferences Prof. Dr Tomris Ozben, at Akdeniz University, Medical Faculty, Department of Biochemistry, 07070 Antalya Turkey
E-mail: ozben@akdeniz.edu.tr

Obituary

David L Williams



David Williams was born in Wrexham in 1937, and after National Service in the Artillery stationed in Munster he studied Natural Sciences in Cambridge, going on to complete a PhD at the National Institute for Research into Dairying in Reading. After moving to Liverpool and from there studying Medicine as a remote student of Oxford University, he joined the Department of Biochemistry at the University of

Surrey where he was one of the Lecturers for the new MSc in Clinical Biochemistry. David showed an early interest in publishing, joining the Editorial Board of the *Annals of Clinical Biochemistry* and going on to become its Executive Editor. He became Consultant Chemical Pathologist at St Peter's Hospital in Chertsey in 1978, and returned to Reading in 1983 when a new Chemical Pathologist post was created. Continuing his University links, he took over responsibility for the Pathobiology degree module initiated by Andras Tarnoky at the University of Reading. He held many important positions at the Royal Berkshire Hospital and elsewhere, but with his dislike of confrontation was perhaps unlucky in that his term of office as Clinical Director of Pathology coincided with a wave of staff cuts and voluntary redundancies. He was involved in laboratory accreditation at an early stage, and became Chairman of the UK Clinical Biochemistry Specialist Advisory Group on accreditation. The book David edited with Vincent Marks: 'Scientific Foundations of Biochemistry in Clinical Practice'; was published in 1983 and became quite a standard textbook, a second edition being produced in 1994. Although he retired in 2002 he continued an interest in Clinical Biochemistry,

joining the Communications and Publications Division of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and editing its web-based Journal; he had earlier developed international links with Mexico.

These are the bare bones of a distinguished career, and few within our profession knew anything about David's outside life. During his National Service he competed in the Winter Olympics as a member of the British cross-country skiing team, but did not pursue this, preferring to spend time fixing classic cars in his driveway sometimes to the irritation of his neighbours: he would always prefer to buy a tool and learn how to use it than pay someone else to use it. He was a great proponent of computers and would spend hours exploring their potential and passing this information on to others. Very important to him, he was a licensed Methodist lay preacher and had a passionate love of hymns: Fanny Crosby's 'Blessed Assurance' played at his funeral was one of his favourites. Perhaps most important was his love for gaining and imparting knowledge, and at the beginning of his lectures he would put up a slide and say 'This is why I am teaching you, and this is the reason I am a doctor. These are my grandchildren'. His abiding legacy to us must be the many members of our profession who were inspired by his teaching to follow a career in Clinical Biochemistry. Our sympathy goes out to his wife Janis and to his family, of whom David was so proud.

Gordon S Challand