



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

eNewsletter



Editor: Edgard Delvin Ph.D  
CHU Sainte-Justine  
Centre de Recherche  
3175 Côte-Ste-Catherine  
Montréal, Québec  
H3T 1C5, Canada  
e-mail: [edgard.delvin@recherche-ste-justine.qc.ca](mailto:edgard.delvin@recherche-ste-justine.qc.ca)

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The standard ISO 15189 (1), conceived to be applicable world-wide, states more or less explicitly that the clinical laboratory is a laboratory where examinations related with biology, microbiology, immunology, chemistry, immunoematology, hematology, biophysics, cytology, pathology or other, are done in materials derived from the human body for certain purposes related with health care.

**Xavier Fuentes-Arderiu**

One subject is scientific approach to a fact, and the other is the political or corporate approach to the same fact. From an epistemological point of view, there are two main sets of knowledge obtained by applying the scientific method: science and technology (technique, according some authors). Science and technology may be considered as the trunk of a tree that grows by means of the scientific method; and all the scientific and technological disciplines (academic view) or specialties (professional view) are branches, more or less distant of the trunk, of this unique tree. Defining the relations between branches developed by different ways is not a trivial issue. Thus, in many countries there is a controversy about the classification of the above disciplines or specialties.

Recently, the Spanish Government has answered and clarified the old question: is, for example, clinical (bio)chemistry a medical specialty? Or it is an independent specialty of health sciences, as pharmacy, dentistry or nursing are (in Spain as well as in other countries in the world)? Obviously, the same question applies for the rest of specialties forming the clinical laboratory sciences. This answer has been done by means a Royal Decree (an

Order in Council) (2). The aim of this Order, among other issues, is to establish and classify the specialties in the broad field of health sciences.

The Order divides the specialties of health sciences in five groups:

- Medical specialties
- Multidisciplinary specialties
- Nursing specialties
- Pharmacy specialties
- Psychology specialties

Regarding those specialties that may be considered related with the clinical laboratory, the Order classifies the following specialties of health sciences as multidisciplinary specialties [The “neutral” English nomenclature used in the European Parliament (3) is followed by the literary word-by-word translation of the Spanish terms]:

- Clinical Biology (Clinical Analyses)
- Biological Chemistry (Clinical Biochemistry)
- Immunology (Immunology)
- Microbiology–Bacteriology (Microbiology and Parasitology)

Pathological Anatomy (Anatomic Pathology) and Hematology–Hemotherapy (in part Biological Hematology), the other two specialties of health sciences directly related with the clinical laboratory, are classified as medical specialties.

As the above classification is more or less the same in many countries around the world, when talking or writing internationally (not for a specific country), it would be respectful to the clinical laboratory professional community to avoid the nouns or adjectives biology/biological,

chemistry/chemical, medicine/medical, and pharmacy/pharmaceutical in the classification of the different specialties of the clinical laboratory sciences

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3. European Parliament, Council of European Union. Council Directive 93/16/EEC of 5 April 1993 to facilitate the free movement of doctors and the mutual recognition of their diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications. EurLex - Access to the Uropean Union law. <<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm>>

## CHAMBER OF BIOCHEMISTS – BEGINNING THE NEW AGE OF LABORATORY PRACTICE IN SERBIA

Contributed by Dr. Snezana Jovicic, Institute of Medical Biochemistry, Belgrade, Serbia

For many years, the leading organization that dealt with the development of profession of medical biochemistry in Serbia has been the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia (formerly Society of Medical Biochemists of Yugoslavia). As part of the healthcare system reforms conducted in the last decade, the Law of Healthcare Workers Chambers was adopted six years ago. Medical biochemists were the first that completely implemented the law, constituted Assembly of the Chamber and five years ago delivered the first licenses. Prof. Dr Nada Majkic-Singh was the first elected president of the Assembly, and Dr Velibor Canic the first elected director of the Chamber.

The Chamber of Biochemists is professional organization of medical biochemists and clinical chemists with the mandatory membership for

colleagues working in public healthcare institutions and private practice. In accordance with the Law, the Chamber has a number of public authorities, including the definition of codex of professional ethics, keeping directory of all the members of the Chamber, issuing, renewing and depriving the licenses for independent practice to all of the members, representing and protecting professional interests of members, proposing the list of supervisors for external quality audit, organizing Court of Honor for determination of violation of professional duties and responsibilities of members, and many others.



Assembly of the Chamber of Biochemists of Serbia

What are the first and obvious benefits of the work of such an organization? First of all, with the introduction of licenses, which have to be renewed every seven years, professional development has achieved continuity. Medical biochemists and clinical chemists in Serbia today are more focused to continuous education after graduation – in order to keep their license they need to collect 24 credits per year minimum. Thanks to attendance of various courses, seminars, symposia, congresses, more colleagues are now up-to-date with latest developments in the practice of laboratory medicine, which enable them to implement this new knowledge in their every day workload. Also, more educational courses are organized throughout the year

than before. In addition, with one of the major activities of the Chamber – the enhancement of control of the work of laboratories throughout the whole territory of Republic of Serbia, quality of their work is significantly improving, which is evident in results of our national external quality assessment scheme (SNEQAS). Furthermore, all laboratories, both in private and in public healthcare system, are encouraged and advised by the Chamber to commence the accreditation process according to standard ISO 15189.

The Chamber of Biochemists of Serbia has been created five years ago. Every four years delegates for the Assembly, Supervisory Board, Steering Committee, Commission for Mediation, Director and Court of Honor are elected. Last year we had elections and the first convening, the session of the constituent assembly, handed over its duties to new delegates. We are all confident that they will continue the fruitful work of their predecessors.

#### News from the Canadian society of Clinical Chemists

##### A Quality Meeting in Mexico City – CSCC Links with Latin America

Contributed By Dr. David M Parry, Department of Clinical Biochemistry, St-Boniface hospital, Manitoba, Canada

The first International Meeting on Quality in Clinical Laboratories was held in Mexico City in November, 2010. This meeting, organized by the National University of Mexico (UNAM) and the Program for the Quality of Clinical Laboratories (PACAL), gathered lab professionals together to present and discuss experiences in establishing and maintaining quality in clinical laboratories. I was pleased to represent the CSCC at the invitation of Dr Andres Romero Rojas, Head of the University Diagnostic Center.

The conference was held in the lovely Centro Cultural Universitario Tlatelolco. To my delight, this building was built immediately adjacent to an expanse of Aztec ruins, which could be viewed from an overlooking balcony. This was the site of the last stand of the Aztecs in the war against their Spanish conquistadors in the 1500s. While this was fascinating for a first timer like me, it seemed to attract little attention from others attending the conference, presumably since it was simply part of everyday life in Mexico City.

The meeting started with an assembly of some 800 participants. The speakers were paraded in to welcoming applause. There were eight of us from countries outside of Mexico, representing Canada, Chile, Cuba, El Salvador, Spain, USA and Venezuela. As the proceedings were in Spanish, I was always unsure what to expect next. After a few speeches, award presentations to honored individuals and speaker introductions, a video was presented featuring Pacalito, a Mayan God as protagonist (this video can be viewed on YouTube [pacalito 2.mp4](#)). While the significance of this animated God escapes me, it was clear from audience reaction that he represents an important symbol to the laboratory community in Latin America.

After opening ceremonies, participants scattered throughout the centre and speakers were ushered to different presentation rooms. Vincent Gallicchio from South Carolina and myself were the only ones who gave presentations in English (with simultaneous translation into Spanish). We each gave two presentations, the titles of which are shown in the box below to give you a sense of overall content.

Promotion of Laboratory Best practices World-Wide: Focus on Publications and Educational Programs	<i>Vincent Gallicchio</i>
Our Experience with Using an External Quality Assessment Program for Monitoring and Improving Quality	<i>David Parry</i>
Improving Quality in Laboratory Medicine	<i>Vincent Gallicchio</i>
Exploring Use of Standardized Control Charts and Procedures in a Canadian Lab	<i>David Parry</i>

Our presentations spanned the entire day and after each talk and questions, a half hour session was devoted to handing out awards to individuals who had successfully completed some earlier training. Hence, following my talks, my role changed to handing out Quality Tree Statues to recipients. There were many dozens of these awards handed out over the course of the day and these interludes were a pleasant break between talks.

While our talks were translated into Spanish, our presentation slides were, of course, in English. Based on questions from the audience however, it was apparent that our messages reached receptive ears. After one of my talks, I was besieged by a group seeking more information about Canadian

laboratory practices. Most of their queries though, were not in English and communication required help of a translator.

My hosts, Alfredo and Armando made sure I was well fed and already started talking about organizing their next conference in a couple of years. They were definitely pleased with the outcome of this conference and I assured them the CSCC would be pleased to participate in future events like this one. I can honestly say this conference was very well organized and attended and judging from the hustle and bustle of participants, it was an exciting event.

I was hoping to learn more about what was happening in laboratories in Mexico by attending other presentations, but the opportunity for this was minimal. My time there was limited and my hosts were intent on assuring my visit was full. During a tour of Mexico City on a double-decker bus, open to the cool evening air, I learned about the complex history of Mexican independence and revolution. Traffic was mind boggling; it never seemed to let up.

We had a very enjoyable evening dinner and shared stories about our different worlds of work and play. Perhaps the tequilas and enticing Mexican food platters we also shared helped liven it up a little. I found this to be the highlight of my trip, since it gave me a glimpse into what life in Mexico was really like.

On the next day, I was taken to where there was a fascinating street display of huge paper mache sculptures, hundreds of them lining both sides of the boulevard. These were created by artists in celebration of 200 years of independence and 100 years since revolution.

After a heartfelt goodbye at the airport, I left Mexico, content with my contribution to the conference, happy to have shared a fun time with my new Mexican friends and pleased to have had a chance to visit this delightful city. I feel confident that I helped reinforce links between the CSCC and the laboratory community in Latin America. My thanks to the CSCC and PACAL for this opportunity.



Dr. David Parry and his Mexican hosts Armando Esparza, Alfredo Aranda and Andres Rojas posing with Pacalito



Dr. David Parry helping handing out awards

## Clinical Chemistry Trainee Council: A New Initiative

Contributed by Nader Rifai, Editor in Chief, Clinical Chemistry

During the IFCC WorldLab–EuroMedLab meeting in Berlin, the journal *Clinical Chemistry* launched a new initiative entitled *Clinical Chemistry* Trainee Council. This initiative is an extension of the educational program of the journal that is meant to reach trainees in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine throughout the world. The journal currently publishes a variety of educational materials including Clinical Case Studies, Q&A (a virtual roundtable discussion among a group of experts about a hot topic), and the Guide to Scientific Writing (a series of 14 articles). In addition, the journal periodically publishes interviews with world scientific leaders and articles about prominent clinical chemists (Inspiring Minds) that can be of great interest and serve as an inspiration to young scientists. Through the Council, the journal will make these materials available to trainees free of charge. The materials can be accessed via a special website that has been specifically designed for this purpose. The website will also enable the journal to provide the trainees with Webcasts (lectures by leading international scientists), Pearls of Laboratory Medicine (10–15 minute presentations about a laboratory test), and Council Chat (a chat room directed by 6 junior faculty members from around the world). In addition, the trainees will have access to our more than 70 popular podcasts, which have been downloaded over 230,000 times in the last 2 years. To access the website go to [www.traineecouncil.org](http://www.traineecouncil.org)

The recently launched English version of this program targeted over 7,000 MD/PhD trainees and future leaders in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine in 25 countries. In November of 2011, this initiative will be launched in Spanish during COLABIOCLI in the Dominican Republic and in 2012 in Russian, Arabic and Chinese. In the near future, we hope to produce a Portuguese version of the program.

The future of laboratory medicine: the researchers are looking for new possible sources of error in order to guarantee patient safety.

Contributed by: Gabriel Lima-Oliveira Brazilian Society of Clinical Analyses on Sao Paulo State, Brazil & MERCOSUL: Sector Committee of Clinical Analyses and in Vitro Diagnostics



Nowadays important organization like World Health Organization - WHO and International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine - IFCC are intensively working to decrease laboratory error thus guaranteeing patient safety. Many laboratory professionals think that to eliminate laboratory error is enough to make internal quality controls and proficiency tests. The problem is that most frequently errors in laboratory occur in extra-analytical phases (i.e. pre and post analytical). Moreover, there are only few routine procedures for the detection of non-conformities in this field of activity. In the pre analytical phase the procedures involving phlebotomy, critical to the obtainment of diagnostic blood specimens, are poorly studied as regards the major sources of errors and the procedures related to quality control process. Personally, I did study during my master degree the impact of tourniquet application time during diagnostic blood specimen collection and was able to find a new way to eliminate this problem by trans-illumination. From a practical point of view, the tourniquet-induced venous stasis promotes the exit of water, diffusible ions and low molecular weight substances from the vessel thereby increasing the concentration of various blood analytes at the punctured site thus potentially influencing the laboratory results interpretation. More so, when the vascular microenvironment is subjected to both hypoxia and concurrent stasis, accumulation of some bioproducts ensues such as the protons that have the potential to promote changes in laboratory parameters. Thus, the use of tourniquet has the potential to generate false positive results and prospectively induce the caring physicians to adopt undue treatments. On the contrary the trans-illumination is able to eliminate or greatly reduce these risks on haematological, biochemistry and coagulation laboratory tests. The use of trans-illumination device, is based on cold near infrared light-emitting diodes (LEDs) whose light is absorbed by intra-erythrocyte haemoglobin flowing along the veins. During my PhD program I am presently

dealing with the pre-analytical issues both at Verona University – Italy and at Federal University of Parana – Brazil. The work group consists of Prof Gian Cesare Guidi and Prof Giuseppe Lippi, Prof Martina Montagnana and Dr Gian Luca Salvagno and is helping me to identify the new source of error to guarantee the patient safety. I am very lucky because I am a young scientist and this very important work group has opened the doors to me. With this working group I learn, work and help to improve the patient safety. If *Labs are vital*, young scientist are essential to study new source of laboratory error to both guarantee the patient safety and improve the future of laboratory medicine!

#### IFCC–DQCML travel scholarship Reports

**Hera Yuliana Intantri, Faculty of Medicine, Hasanuddin University, Makassar, Indonesia**



I was happily surprised to receive a letter from Ms. Janet Smith announcing that I had received an IFCC– Developing Quality Competence in Medical Laboratories (DQCML) Travel Scholarship to attend the 21st IFCC International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine in Berlin. This made my dream come

trough. It was my first experience attending Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine International Congress.

I had the opportunity to meet and discuss with scientists from various parts of world allowing for a fruitful sharing of scientific experience and topics. The IFCC networking session for young scientist, allowed me to see the opportunity of collaborating, interacting and building relationship with other young scientists. We particularly shared ideas on “How to prepare our future and to shape the future of Laboratory Medicine.”

The travel award also allowed me to attend the XIIth International Congress of Paediatric Laboratory Medicine, which was held on 13th–15th May 2011. The experts Prof. Tim Lang (UK), Prof. Klaus P Kohse (Germany), Prof. Khosrow Adeli (Canada), and Prof. Sharow M Geaghan (USA) provided me with a wealth of information and knowledge on reference intervals and critical values in Paediatric Laboratory. On the last day of IFCC –EFCC EuroMedLab Congress, I attended a session on current challenges in paediatric laboratory and on issues in paediatric laboratory medicine, that essentially focused on laboratory markers for differential diagnosis of bacterial and viral infections in children, the immature platelet fraction as a novel dynamic parameter for predicting and monitoring the course of neonatal thrombocytopenia, childhood metabolic syndrome, and on problems related to paediatrics normative data derived from different analytical platforms. Prof. Khosrow Adeli (Canada) particularly helped me understanding how to perform studies to derive paediatric reference intervals. The session ISO 15189 norms and accreditation process was also highly informative in terms of the laboratory organizational problems

In terms of social events, the Opening ceremony was breathtaking with the Berlin Symphony Orchestra's rendering of the Congress theme: Fit for the future and help healing the world. The Berliner Rundfunk Kinderchor & Jugendorchester and the drum show by the Berlin Drum Company were also highlights. Besides the Berlin Wall and the Brundenburgertor, I was also able to explore the museums and dive into culture, with visiting the world-famous Pergamon Museum, the Alte Nationalgalerie (old national gallery) and the Neues Museum (new museum) on Museum Island.

None of this could have happened would I have not been awarded the Education and Management Division (EMD) Committee's travel scholarship award. Last but not least, I wish to thank all the EMD Executive Committee, particularly Ms. Janet Smith (UK)–Chair of EMD IFCC, Prof. Leslie Lai (MY), Prof. Maurizio Ferrari (IT), Prof. Stella Raymond (UY), and Dr. Rolf Hinzmann (DE). My sincere thanks go also to Ms. Silvia Colli–Lanzi for her hospitality and information given to me.

Edited by Edgard Delvin, Editor, eNewsletter

**Endale Hadgu, St. Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

I judge my five days spent at the 21st IFCC International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine in Berlin as being one of the most interesting, productive and instructive experience in my life.

I am happy to have been able to take this valuable opportunity to explore and experience the new developments in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine which I never experience before.



During my stay I have attended different symposiums and the plenary sessions where there were exciting presentations. In addition, I have also tried to visit the posters and exhibition of diagnostics companies.

The congress atmosphere and interaction involved throughout the whole congress period were excellent. One thing I would not like to pass without mentioning is the opportunity I had to know key individuals in clinical biochemistry and laboratory medicine with whom I have exchanged ideas and planned to extend my relation further in advancing and exploring the science.

Throughout the congress period I was able to gain a lot of new knowledge and valuable experiences which are related to analytical instrumentation, quality control, new diagnostic tests, and others related aspect of clinical biochemistry and laboratory medicine. Other aspect of the congress that I was excited about were interaction with the vast number of professionals from different countries and also from different related disciplines.

In overall, this congress has exposed me to the invaluable experience that I can't gain from a classroom. I am quite satisfied with the IFCC effort in making the congress perform successfully.

In conclusion, there were many things that I have experienced and learned during the five days of my stay at the 21st IFCC International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine in Berlin. The whole congress period was very interesting and instructive. Through this congress I was able to gain new insights and more comprehensive understanding about the real contribution of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine in patient care and prevention of disease.

At last (but not least), this experience would have not been realized without the generous support I have received from IFCC and would like to use this opportunity to thank IFCC for supporting my travel to the congress. I would like to give also my special appreciation to Ms Colli Lanzi for her kind responses and explanations to my questions before and after the congress.

**Dr. Banali Das, kokilaben Ambani Hospital & Medical Center, Mumbai, India**



I want to convey my thanks for awarding me the IFCC–DQCML (Developing Quality Competence in Medical Laboratories) Travel Scholarship 2011 to attend the 21st IFCC International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine in Berlin.

I always wanted to contribute to the community of laboratory medicine professionals and the field itself in a holistic yet significant manner, which would not only improve the overall functionality of our system, but also help our end-users (i.e. patients), to whom it all matters at the end. Quality Control and efficiency of the laboratory plays that very important intermediate role. So, the lectures, workshops and exhibition at the 21st IFCC International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine helped in my personal growth and knowledge.

I am presently working as a Consultant in the Biochemistry and Immunology divisions of Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital and Medical Research Institute at Mumbai, India. Over the course of last two and half years, I have set up the Biochemistry, Immunology and Autoimmune Laboratory of this 725 bedded tertiary care hospital, following the principles of Total Quality Management (TQM) and Lean–Six Sigma Plan. Therefore, IFCC seminars immensely helped me in improving the TQM protocol as per the international standard in the hospital's new, state of

the art laboratory; thereby I could directly put to use the new skills that I learned at the IFCC congress.

The deliberations at the congress had been an excellent source of knowledge of the cutting-edge developments in my area of interest, which is quality competence. It can thus help me in imbibing the new techniques and translating them into day-to-day laboratory practice. Since I am also an assessor for the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) in India, it will help me in making an impact in other laboratories and Institutions and their functionality too. Put together, I feel, these efforts would have a lasting influence in the long run; improving the health and wellness of our patients and customer-experience at the hospitals.

### **George Daye, Al-Razi Hospital, Aleppo, Syria**

IFCC Travel Scholarship 2011 was a great experience in my career as a resident in Laboratory Medicine from Aleppo University/ Syria. It allowed me to attend such a huge, high professional international congress (21st IFCC International Congress of



Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine). Starting by well organized congress, continuing with very interesting miscellaneous topics in laboratory medicine and clinical chemistry, and closing by joyful ceremonies and nice social programs, it was really great time for learning and entertaining in a multicultural city like Berlin. The congress lights me up to many controlling and diagnostic tools through lectures, workshops and forums. As the epidemiology of thalassemia, tuberculosis and leishmaniasis are somehow higher in Mediterranean countries it was very necessary to be updated to the latest diagnostic tools. One my favorable topic is haematology, so I could collect many useful tips and tricks to differentiate and classify subtypes of leukemia, myeloproliferative and myelodysplastic disorders. Since the incidence of heart attacks, cancers and the knowledge of immunological disorders are rising up, there is simultaneous improving of tumor- and bio-markers analyzing criteria,

new guidelines, quality control and standardizations. For sure there were many other interesting topics in molecular diagnostics and vitamin analyzing tools...After this intensive program of sophisticated, well revised lectures and courses, I am having a good theoretical basis to practice it in my recent medical training in laboratory institute in Marien-Hospital Witten/Germany. Finally, I would like to use this report as an opportunity to express my thanks to IFCC committee for supporting me by this grant. I have got the chance to establish connection with many company represents and friendship with new colleagues from different nationalities and races. Such a widespread medical social network can realize the aim of congress in "help healing the world".



**Maria Eugenia Flores Giubi, Clinical Biochemistry, Faculty of Chemical Sciences, National University of Asuncion, Paraguay**

It was a great honor for me to carry the Paraguayan flag and join it to those of all Nations to the 21st IFCC International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, the most important, unforgettable and exiting event of my young scientific career.

Besides having the opportunity to attend plenary lectures, symposia, interactive sessions, workshops and more than forty industry-sponsored workshops, I had the chance to listen more than one hundred speakers from

around the world. Moreover, I could be part of a majestic event, full of joy, fellowship and new knowledge placed at the service of human kind. All of it in a great place: Berlin, Germany.

We live in times in which research is reaching unimaginable barriers and successfully overcoming all of them. We live in times in which dreams are not as far

from being achieved. However, we still have to deal with many challenges such as the efficient diagnosis, a successful treatment for many diseases, and this equally in developed or less privileged countries. I argue that although technological progress in Laboratory Medicine fosters new diagnostic techniques with greater sensibility and specificity, it still represents a major challenge, especially in developing countries for which the barrier is even greater.

Today Laboratory Medicine and Clinical Chemistry challenge us to further investigation, to keep walking and learning. The 21st IFCC International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine in Berlin allowed me to verify the nobility of science and mainly the nobility of the People who do Science, and who made available their laboratory experiences to their peers. Before the Conference I had many question and now I have even more. This uncertainty, that creates curiosity, is the seed of great discoveries. So I affirm that this bright event had a huge impact on my personal and professional life.

I had the opportunity to learn the latest advances in diagnostic techniques and interpretation of clinical cases, which were taught by brilliant professionals worldwide. It gave to me a global perspective on current issues such as antimicrobial resistance, the latest advances in biomarkers for the diagnosis of cardiovascular diseases, tumor markers in cancer, therapeutic drug monitoring.

The experience gathered during the Congress reminded me of the great commitment that I have to my Country to carry and transmit to young Paraguayan scientists and future members of the IFCC what I have learned. This conference was a great opportunity to make new friends and to interact with colleagues in search of shared objectives and common interests in the continuing development of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine.

I extend my sincere thanks to the IFCC Education and Management Division, which, through the Developing Quality Competence in Medical Laboratories Project, awarded me the IFCC–DQCML Travel Scholarship that allowed me to attend and witness this important scientific event.

*Fit for Future–Help Healing the World*, this little phrase has a deep meaning for those who dream to make contributions to a society that expects much from us. What better way than providing answers from what we do with passion: Laboratory

Medicine in Patient Care. I believe that this ambitious goal, after the 21st IFCC International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, is closer than before.

Edited by Edgard Delvin  
eNewsletter Editor

**Waode Nurfina Saafi, Prodia Widyahusada, Makassar, Indonesia**



It was an honour for me to obtain this IFCC–DQCML Travel Scholarship to attend the 21st IFCC International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine in Berlin. It provided me the opportunity to further my knowledge in laboratory medicine and to

network with other laboratory specialists from all over the world. All the subjects covered in the scientific presentations being topical to present-day clinical chemistry, I had difficulty selecting the parallel sessions I wish to attend. Having to choose, I finally chose those bearing on iron metabolism, standardization of pre-analytical phase for biomarkers and a scientific approach to the post-analytical phase. Much to my enchantment, renowned authors, whom I had referred when writing my thesis, lectured on recent advancement in iron metabolism by covering the role of Heparin in iron metabolism debated whether to measure total Heparin or Heparin–25.

Once back to my home country, I will share these latest informations on clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine with my co-workers at PRODIA laboratory and of course with my students at University. There are thousands of talented scientists, in developing countries such as my own. However there is not enough access to information and not enough qualified positions to allow them to fully exploit their talent. I will use the information I obtained during the 21st IFCC International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine to open doors for my young fellow compatriot scientists and to improve health care through laboratory medicine. Overall my participation to the IFCC–EFCC EuroMedLab Congress 2011

was a first-time memorable experience. I wish to thank the IFCC–DQCML Committee for the honor, and for making it possible to attend for young scientists from developing countries.

Edited by Edgard Delvin  
eNewsletter Editor

**Binod Kumar Tadv, Department of Biochemsitry, Maharajgunj Medical Campus, TU Teaching Hospital, Maharajgunj**

It was a great experience being able to attend the recent 21st IFCC International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, and present, as a poster, my research work entitled “The study of Lipid profile in different Group of Hypothyroidism patients attending a Referral Health care Center (TU Teaching Hospital), Kathmandu, Nepal.



I was privileged to receive an IFCC–DQCML award that allowed me to attend the 21st IFCC International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine held in Berlin (Germany) from May 15th to 19th, 2011. I would like to deeply thank Ms. Janet Smith, IFCC EMD Chair and Dr. Graham H BEASTALL, IFCC President, for their remarkable efforts to generate such funding to support young scientists, mostly belonging to the developing countries to attend this marvelous Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine meeting. This was highly appreciated.

Scientific presentations were of high standard and well organized, and speakers outstanding. The difficulty resided in choosing which session to attend, all being equally interesting. Coming from a developing country, and working in a teaching hospital, I focused on those lectures which content I could share with my colleagues, laboratory professionals, students and help improve laboratory services that I offer. As a point in case, the new light on diagnosis and follow-up of patients given in the lectures on diabetes and endocrinology, will improve my teaching to medical students and medical laboratory graduates. Sessions and workshops on the scientific peer reviewing process, ISO 15189, total quality laboratory management as well as discussions on how to establish a good clinical laboratory, were of utmost

importance to me, as there are no accredited medical laboratories in my country and that only but a few laboratories use quality control programs. The information obtained during the 21st IFCC International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine will help me, as clinical chemists, to implement these processes.

Science was not the only highlight of this meeting. We also benefited of a warm hospitality, and varied and high quality social program that allowed for informal exchanges and building of friendship. I cannot fail to mention the experience of being in historical Berlin, and to realize that I may never have the chance to visit such an interesting capital again. I may say that I have had a really good and beneficial time. I felt a great honor to be awarded this travel scholarship by the IFCC Executive Board and again wish to thank the IFCC-EMD for providing such an opportunity for those clinical laboratory scientists (especially those in developing countries) who would not have been able to attend such a memorable meeting because of financial restrictions.

I wish the best of luck to future recipients of the IFCC-DQCML Travel Scholarships.

Edited by Edgard Delvin  
eNewsletter Editor

**Yu Jun Feng, Department of Laboratory Medicine, Beijing United Family Hospital, Beijing, China**

March 31th was absolutely a memorable day in my life. That day, I received a letter from Ms. Janet Smith, IFCC-EMD Chair, announcing that had been awarded an IFCC-DQCML TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP to attend the 21st International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine to be held in Berlin (Germany) in May 2011. It was the first time that I would be able to attend a conference in a foreign country. I couldn't realize that thousands of participants from around the world would attend this international congress and that it would so well organized.

The opening ceremony was wonderful. Musicians from the Berlin Symphony Orchestra brought us an auditory feast that was followed by an instructive opening lecture. My colleagues and I afterwards joined the welcoming party and enjoyed the

delicious food and drinks. In such a warm atmosphere we were fortunate to make new friends,

During the following four days, I was deeply impressed by the quality of the state-of-the-art symposia treating of the challenges related to the changes in healthcare delivery. As several sessions were run in parallel, I often had difficulty in determining which one to attend. For those I attended, world-renowned speakers gave outstanding lectures on tumor markers, molecular diagnosis, advances in chemistry and immunology, and standardizing processes that allowed me to update my knowledge. I must mention that the presentation of Dr. Michael Holick “The D-Lightful vitamin D for health”, while being humorous was yet informative. The industrial workshops were instructive, and presented state-of-the art diagnostic tools.

The numerous eye-catching exhibits displayed a vast array of automated platforms and novel diagnostic reagent kits. It gave me the occasion to perceive the upcoming trends in laboratory automation.

I am grateful to the IFCC-EMD for having awarded me the travel scholarship that provided me the opportunity to be in Berlin. I learned a lot and benefited greatly from this precious opportunity. This unique experience will help me in my future career as a laboratory medicine professional.

Edited by Edgard Delvin  
eNewsletter Editor

Brussels, 5 May 2011– EDMA is proud to announce that [www.labtestsonline.info](http://www.labtestsonline.info) is now on–line with a new layout.

Aiming at providing a better entry point for patients looking for accurate information on laboratory testing, the new page emphasizes the international scale of the project (14 countries worldwide, 10 of which in continental Europe coordinated by EDMA).

Lab Tests Online offers clear and easy to understand information to citizens and physicians about the diverse and advantageous contributions of laboratory medicine to health protection and care. Therefore, users can inform themselves about the tests they have been prescribed, the conditions usually related to the assays and how the success of the treatment is evaluated. To get a better understanding of the project please visit: [www.LabTestsOnline.info](http://www.LabTestsOnline.info) where you can access all national sites.

### **About EDMA**

EDMA, the European Diagnostic Manufacturers Association, represents national trade associations and major companies engaged in the research, development, manufacture or distribution of In Vitro Diagnostic (IVD) medical devices in Europe. Through its affiliated associations, EDMA represents more than 500 companies across Europe. The mission of EDMA is to raise awareness of the importance and added value diagnostic information provides to healthcare. EDMA cooperates with European institutions, patients groups, trade associations, health professionals and academia to support an appropriate regulatory system, to work towards a realistic economic environment for healthcare and to be an effective voice in globalization.

For more information, please visit the EDMA website or contact: Daniele Dosi, EDMA Communications Officer (Tel. +32 2 777 02 78).

## Forthcoming meetings

- 7th EFCC Symposium for Balkan Region Biomarkers: From standardization to performance. Belgrade, Serbia, June 23–25. For more information please visit: [www.dmbj.org.rs](http://www.dmbj.org.rs)
- 12th Iranian Congress of Biochemistry and 4th International Congress of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. September 6–9, 2011. Mashhad, Iran.  
For more information please visit: <http://congress12.biochemiran.com/>
- Xth Czech National Congress of Clinical Biochemistry. September 20–22, 2011. Pilsen, Czech Republic.  
For further information please visit: <http://www.sjezdcskb2011.cz/>
- 19th Meeting of the Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation BCLF 2011. September 21–23, 2011. Bucharest, Romania.  
For further information please visit: [www.bclf-2011.org](http://www.bclf-2011.org)
- 4th BBBB – Bled International Conference on Pharmaceutical Sciences – New trends in drug discovery, delivery systems and laboratory diagnostics. September 29 – October 1, 2011. Bled, Slovenia.  
For further information please visit: [www.bbbb-eufeps.org](http://www.bbbb-eufeps.org)
- 12th International Congress of Therapeutic Drug Monitoring and Clinical Toxicology. October 2–6, 2011, Stuttgart, Germany.  
For further information please visit: [www.iatdmct2011.de](http://www.iatdmct2011.de)
- The 11th EFCC Continuous Postgraduate Course in Clinical Chemistry. New Trends in Classification, Diagnosis and Management of Inflammation. 22–23 October, 2011 Dubrovnik, Croatia.  
Secretariat: [sandra.berzenji@gmail.com](mailto:sandra.berzenji@gmail.com), <http://www.dubrovnik-course.org/>
- Fray International Symposium, December 4–7, 2011, Cancun, Mexico.  
For further information please visit: [www.flogen.com/FraySymposium](http://www.flogen.com/FraySymposium)