



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

eNewsletter



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EUROMEDLAB 2009 – The happy IFCC/EFCC Congress in the Alps

Contributed by Professor Mathias Müller, President, EUROMEDLAB 2009 Organising Committee

IFCC Welcome Message, Dr. Graham President of International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC)



Dr. Beastall welcomed all delegates, exhibitors and guests to EuroMedLab 2009 and to the beautiful city of Innsbruck on behalf of IFCC. He congratulated the organizing committee, led by Andrea Griesmacher and Mathias Müller, and the Austrian Society for Clinical Chemistry for presenting to us a high quality programme with variety and relevance to modern day laboratory medicine and healthcare. He emphasised that Laboratory medicine influences 70% of clinical decisions in healthcare. Therefore, laboratory medicine specialists have a responsibility to add value to the data that they produce in the interests of improving patient outcomes. He said: "This congress will help us to better understand the value we can add." Dr. Beastall added that Congresses are more than a scientific programme and an exhibition. They are about people. EuroMedLab Innsbruck 2009 is a perfect occasion for the family of IFCC to meet and to share experiences. As at this congress are people from all countries in Europe and beyond, many attending their first international conference, he concluded in saying: "I encourage you all to take the opportunity to establish new contacts, colleagues and friends. This will make the event not only memorable but of lasting significance in your career."



EFCC Welcome Message, Dr. Mike Hallworth, President of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFCC)

Dr. Hallworth gave a multi-lingual welcome to delegates on behalf of EFCC and congratulated the Organizing Committee and the Scientific Programme Committee on producing a superb Congress. He stressed that a strong Euromedlab Congress was essential to assure pan-European co-operation in laboratory medicine, and urged delegates to make the most of all the opportunities to connect and network. The EFCC president also spoke about the progress EFCC had made since its formation at Euromedlab in 2007, and announced the launch of the new EFCC website (www.efccim.org). Furthermore, he emphasised the importance of promoting laboratory medicine at local, national and international level, and was delighted to announce a new Award organised by EFCC and the Labs are Vital® campaign. The 15,000 Euro Award, generously sponsored by Abbott, is to be given

for the best published paper demonstrating improved clinical and/or economic outcomes as a result of the application or improved use of a laboratory test.

The Venue

EUROMEDLAB 2009, the 18th European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine was celebrated from June 7 – 11, 2009 in Innsbruck, the Tyrolean capital in the Alps. This congress was the 1st major scientific and professional event of our discipline in the Alps. With its historic flair Innsbruck is certainly one of the most exciting and beautiful cities in Europe stimulating artists, scientists and athletes. The city settled by the Romans who constructed the fortified road station VELDIDENA (now part of Wilden near the ski jump) at the junction of the Brenner road and the river Inn. The bridge over the Inn gave the city the name “Innsprucke”. In 1187 this name was first mentioned in an official document. In 1239 the market place was declared a city and a defensive wall with 4 towers and a wide gate were erected. In 1363 the Habsburgs acquired Tyrol and transferred their residence from Meran to Innsbruck. Under the reign of Maximilian I who became King of Germany and in 1507 Emperor, Tyrol became the “heart of the German empire” as well as its administrative and cultural centre. The golden roof was commissioned for the occasion of Maximilian’s wedding with Maria Bianca SFORZA of Milan in 1494. Emperor Leopold I founded Innsbruck University in 1669. Under the reign of Empress Maria Theresa the city was flourishing, the imperial palace enlarged and the triumph arch constructed.

In the 19th century Innsbruck evolved to an important educational and administrative centre pushed by the railway lines and highways over the Brenner pass (1867) and the Arlberg (1884). Thus Innsbruck became the crossroad of the great north–south and east–west routes across Europe stimulating industry and tourism in this region. The Olympic winter games were held here in 1964 and 1976 demonstrating this city’s open–minded multicultural spirit and support for sport. Today Innsbruck has a population of about 130.000 with 30.000 registered students at the Universities.

The Scientific Programme

The final scientific programme consisted of 4 plenary lectures and 32 symposia including 3 interactive sessions dealing with the newest trends in Laboratory Medicine beyond the traditional boundaries. The overall objective of the congress

was "**in-vitro veritas**" highlighting the importance of the discipline in clinical medicine and patient care. The topics presented included diseases representing significant global health threats such as cardio-vascular diseases, diabetes mellitus, renal diseases, allergy, neurodegenerative diseases, autoimmune diseases, mineral and bone diseases. In addition novel mechanisms of patho-physiology, personalized medicine, and new innovations and technologies were addressed. 106 speakers from all over the world gave the lectures.

In addition to the scientific sessions the in vitro diagnostic industry provided in 32 workshops detailed information on their newest innovations, thus completing and contributing to the scientific overall concept of this congress.

In addition 897 scientific abstracts were exhibited in 3 poster areas within the congress centre and the imperial palace (gothic and baroque cellars). Each poster was shown for 2 days. For oral presentation within the symposia 30 abstracts were selected.

Exhibition

A comprehensive exhibition by the diagnostic industry was organized on 2620 square metres. 69 companies from all over the world exhibited their latest equipment and instruments. Thus this congress demonstrated the global partnership between the industries with the specialist working in the laboratories. Without actively participating industry the organization of such a big event would not have been possible during the present economic crises. Therefore a special thank to our industry partners.

Participants

2681 participants from 84 countries (delegates, speakers, accompanying persons) attended the Congress. As shown in the table this meeting received considerable attention from delegates of countries outside of Europe. In addition 1300 non-registered persons visited the industrial exhibition during the meeting period.

	Delegates	Speakers	Accompanying persons
Africa	5		
Asia (excluding those countries mentioned)	27	3	
Australia	16	2	3
Austria	108	5	
Canada	17	4	3
Central America	2		
China	33		1
Egypt	13		1
Europe (excluding those countries mentioned)	1363	55	28
Germany	123	10	1
Japan	6		1
Middle East	63	2	
New Zealand	2		
Poland	41	1	
Portugal	50		2
Scandinavia	139	5	5
Singapore	4		
South Africa	10		1
South America	54	1	6
South Korea	0		
South West Pacific	2		
Spain	185	1	1
Switzerland	56	2	1
Thailand	18		
Turkey	74		4
United Kingdom	55	7	1
United States	38	8	2

Social Events

The opening ceremony consisted of speeches from officers, an inspiring opening plenary lecture by Professor MATTHEW MCQUEEN from McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada; bestowals of the IFCC–Abbott and EFCC–Roche awards to Drs. E. P. DIAMANDIS and R. T. P. JANSEN and a summer concert given by the Haydn Orchestra Bozen–Trient performing masterpieces of Beethoven, Brahms and Josef and Johann Strauss.



On Tuesday the orchestra enjoyed the participants with a symphony concert with Haydn's „The Miracle symphony“ and Mendelssohn incidental music of „A Midsummer Nights Dream“, celebrating the composers' 200 years anniversaries. This concert was ended with Strauss' famous waltz (the so-called hidden Austrian anthem) „On the Blue Danube“. The conductor Maestro M. SIEGHART unveiled a magnificent range of colourful sounds from the orchestra and was enthusiastically applauded. The congress also provided a chance to know typical Tyrolean atmosphere with the various brass bands, local dancing groups during the opening-air party in front of the golden roof and the closing ceremony.

In the cathedral of St. Jacob an organ concert by Wolfgang Mitterer, a well-known Austrian organist and composer of electronic music was offered on Monday. Mitterer brilliantly performed the “Toccata & Fuga in D minor” in clear, impressively pure academic style. “Organ and electronics” by Mitterer represented an interesting combination of organ sound and electronic music. The concert was finished by “Sortie” composed by Messiaen. The mighty and striking sounds from the organ were well received and the concert ended with great applause.

The congress concluded on Thursday evening with an evening summer ball in the 300 years old magnificent “Salzlager” in the small, picturesque city of Hall, next to Innsbruck. Young participants enjoyed dancing to the sounds of a very professional

big band till Friday morning. This farewell party reflected the relaxed atmosphere of the whole congress.

Summary

Besides widening the professional expertise this EUROMEDLAB also provided the chance to meet with colleagues from different countries, to exchange ideas and to establish new long lasting friendships and collaborations. The historic downtown of Innsbruck, the Tyrolean atmosphere of the river Inn valley and the Alps as well as the highlights of the typical Austrian social programme with music and dance performances will be kept in the participants' memory for long and unique. It is the feeling that EUROMEDLAB 2009 was a successful event combing professionalism and leisure time in a superb environment.

IFCC Roche Travel Scholarship Reports

Contributed by Prof. Jocelyn Hicks

Past-President, IFCC

Chair of Taskforce for IFCC Scholarships



From left to right: Pierrot Tugirimana, Aslan Mutay, Johnson Wijaya, Nafija Serdarevic, Andriy Kost, Prof. Jocelyn Hicks, Alma Barbullushi, Maryam Jazayeri, Wanvisa Boonlert, Mohamed Khaled, Sefedin Biljali

I am happy to inform you that the Roche/IFCC scholarships were a great success at the recent EuroMedLab Congress in Innsbruck, Austria. These scholarships which were generously supported by Roche Diagnostics, Gmbh enabled young scientists from developing countries to travel to and attend a top quality congress. The scholars were selected on a competitive basis, and each scholar that was selected had submitted an abstract to the congress. The scholars received their economy airfare and accommodation. The joy of receiving one of these scholarships was very evident by the big smiles on their faces and the gratitude that they expressed to Roche and IFCC. Attached you can see the photograph of the scholars. Their reports emphasize the importance of receiving one of these scholarships.

Dr. Johnson Wijaya, Jakarta – Indonesia

First of all I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the IFCC Roche Travel Scholarship Program for having given me the opportunity to take part in this superb international level congress. I was very proud and excited when I received the announcement from Mrs. Caterina Balzaretto that my application was accepted to attend the 18th IFCC – EFCC European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, National Congress of the Austrian Society of Laboratory medicine and Clinical Chemistry. Although somewhat worried because it was a very long way to go, I encouraged myself to take this opportunity, as I did not know whether I would have another chance like this or not.

This award allowed me to meet with all the IFCC executive members, even Prof. Jocelyn M.B. Hicks and Prof. Mauro Panthegini (whom I had met before in Jakarta). This was my first visit to Austria and I keep a fond memory of this tremendous scientific event. I also had time for sightseeing the city's architectural jewels such as the Golden Roof, old town houses, the Imperial Palace, museums and churches. The local people were very helpful and hospitable. Finally, I would like to thank the Organizing and Scientific Committees for running a successful conference and IFCC–Roche for supporting my participation to in this invaluable congress.

Dr Wanvisa Boonlert, Naresuan University, Phitsanulok, Thailand

I sincerely thank the IFCC/Roche Travel Scholarship for the privilege given me to attend the 18th Euromedlab Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine in Innsbruck, Austria from June 7th –11th 2009. By attending the Congress, I had obtained valuable update knowledge in metabolic abnormalities

and cardiovascular diseases and had opened up my vision about the new technology from a comprehensive exhibition by the diagnostic industry. I was able to present my two posters and this session allowed me to meet young scientists and experts in my research area that allowed me for further collaborations. I had a great opportunity to visit the Clinical Laboratory at the institute of Medical and Chemical Laboratory Diagnostics (ZIMCL), University Hospital Innsbruck according to the kindness of Prof. Andrea Griesmacher to allow me for this issue and also her colleague, Dr.Christoph Seger, who had been as a good guide for my lab tour. I had some ideas to manage the TDM for my collaboration network at Referral Hospitals in the Lower Northern Part of Thailand.

I would express that this experience had a positive influence on not only my scientific knowledge, but also my research, friendship, and culture experiences in Innsbruck and Vienna. This conference helped me to keep up to date in my interesting fields and improved my ability to present my research and communication skill in a useful way to develop my future career with self-confidence. I have shared my update knowledge to my colleague, undergraduate, and graduate students.

The support was a great help to the aspiring participant from developing countries to join the Congress. I once again thank the IFCC and Roche Diagnostic, the President and Past President of IFCC, Organizing Committee, Prof. Andrea Griesmacher, Dr.Christoph Seger, and personnel at IFCC Office. I hope that this kind of effort will be continued.

Dr. Sefedin Biljali – Macedonia

The IFCC/Roche Travel Award allowed me to attend the 18th IFCC–FESCC European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine in Innsbruck, Austria and has allowed me to benefit from the numerous aspects of the Congress. I believe this experience had a positive influence on not only my scientific knowledge, but also my research, analytical decision making and communication skills. This conference helped me to keep up to date in my field. Moreover, I improved my ability to present my work and synthesize constructive criticism. The high-level scientific program consisted of subjects of great interest where the speakers were outstanding. During the congress, I attended various scientific sessions on current topics: rheumatism and osteoporosis, oncology and haematology,

pharmacogenetics and genomics. I am very grateful to IFCC and Roche for the opportunity they offered to me to attend the 18th IFCC–FESCC European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine. This would have been impossible without the IFCC/Roche travel grant.

Dr. Andriy Kost, Danylo Halytsky National Medical University , Lviv, Ukraine

I'm a PhD student in Department of Clinical Laboratory Diagnostics at the Danylo Halytsky National Medical University, Lviv, Ukraine. I was privileged to receive an IFCC/Roche travel grant to attend the 18–th IFCC–EFCC European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine in Innsbruck, Austria. It is important to attend such a congress as it allows to be informed of the progress in the area of laboratory medicine.

During the congress, I attended various scientific sessions on current topics: cardiovascular diseases, neurological and autoimmune disorders, diabetes, endocrinology, cardiac markers. My research area is neurological disorders. I had the opportunity to attend the scientific sessions "New biological markers in neurological disorders: presence & future". I especially appreciated the presentation on the new biomarkers that allow the differential diagnosis of neurodegenerative central nervous system diseases (A.Petzold, United Kingdom). I will be able to use them in my further clinical researches.

The information given in the commercial stands and at the scientific sessions were excellent, and it was difficult to select a particular session, as each was interesting. Altogether the meeting's content will influence not only my research and analytical decision–making but also my communication skills. I will share this invaluable experience with my peers. To do so, I will prepare a report about new challenges in the modern laboratory diagnostics industry for members of the Ukrainian Society of Clinical Laboratory Diagnostics.

This was my first attendance at an European Congress and it bore a particular importance for me. I think it is very important for scientists to meet and interact with each other. I would like to thank the IFCC/Roche scholarship and the Organizing Committee for giving me opportunity to be a part of this magnificent experience. I definitely hope to participate in IFCC–EFCC conferences in the following years.

Dr Pierrot Lundimu Tugirimana, Universitair Ziekenhuis Gent, Gent

After having been awarded a Roche/IFCC Scholarship to attend the 18th IFCC–EFCC European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, held in Innsbruck, June 7th–11th, 2009; I hereby would like to inform you about my experience and great benefit I obtained from this opportunity.

I will start by thanking the Task Force members of selection to have exceptionally agreed to consider my application through the Royal Belgian Society of Clinical Chemistry (SRBCC/KBVKC) of the country where I am currently in training, since the National Society of Rwanda to which I belong, is not an IFCC member.

As a young researcher, it was my first time to attend such important international scientific meeting. I have learned a lot, from various oral presentations and posters. I had the opportunity to visit exhibits of different diagnostic companies and to admire their new technology. It was without any doubt an ideal platform to share ideas and resources that will help each participant to confront current realities in the field of laboratory medicine.

In addition to the interesting scientific programme and attractive social, I had the privilege and the pleasure to meet Professor Jocelyn M. B. Hicks, the Immediate Past President of the IFCC with whom, we had important discussions concerning the benefits of sub-Saharan countries to join the coming African Society of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC), which inauguration will take place on October 2009 in Nigeria. I appreciate so much her commitment to improve communications with developing countries

With reference to my recent interesting experience, I believe that AFCC, under the umbrella of IFCC, will contribute significantly to the development of laboratory medicine in African countries.

Ms. Nafija Serdarevic, B.Sc.Pharm, Sarajevo, Bosnia–Herzegovina

Thanks to the generous IFCC/Roche travel grant, I have been able to attend the EUROMEDLAB 2009 in Innsbruck. I learned a lot about many subjects that included preventing, diagnosing and treating disease. The industry exhibits that included latest products and practical hands–on experience of different instruments gave me the possibility to see what is new in the diagnostic industry.

The EUROMEDLAB 2009 was my first IFCC congress where, as a IFCC–Roche travel scholar and delegate, I was privileged to present my work with a poster. It also offered me the possibility to attend state-of-the-art lectures in many fields of Clinical Chemistry and molecular biology such as cardiovascular diseases, toxicology, nutrition, pediatric reference ranges and immunoassay standardization.

I obtained answers to many long-standing questions in Clinical chemistry that I could not find in the literature. It also offered me the possibility to meet colleagues from many countries and to discuss with them different subjects in Clinical chemistry and share our respective experience.

I am very grateful to IFCC–Roche who gave me opportunity to be at EUROMEDLAB as it was my only way to attend. I will remember this experience all my life. The Innsbruck and 18th European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine will have special place at my heart.

News from National Associations and Regional Federations

Report on IFCC VLP Seminars in Vietnam, March 2009

Contributed by: Dr Vu Quang Huy,, National representative to IFCC, Vietnam Coordinator, IFCC/ AACB - VACB cooperation Project, University and Hospital of Medicine and Pharmacy at HoChiMinh city



The Visiting Lecturer Program (VLP) consists in a series of Seminars entitled: “Quality control and Quality assurance in Clinical Biochemistry Laboratory” given by Professors Tony Badrick and Dr Renze Bais. Professors Do Dinh Ho and Vu Quang

Huy from the Vietnam Association of Clinical Biochemists (VACB) as well as DrsPhar Nguyen Thi Huong, Dr Le Thi Puong Anh and Dr Phan Thi Danh, Laboratory Directors of large main hospitals in Hanoi, Hue and HoChiMinh city also talked on their respective practical experience in QC/ QA.

The lectures were held in different regions of Vietnam in 3 main cities: Hanoi, 23rd of March 2009 in Northern Vietnam. Hue on the 25th, in Middle Vietnam and Ho Chi Minh City, on the 27th in South Vietnam.

The series of lectures was opened with the presence of the Vietnam Government Medical Administration: Dr Ly Ngoc Kinh, Director and Dr Vu Van Vuong, in Charge for Clinical Laboratory attended all seminars. Prof Dai Duy Ban, VACB President of the Vietnam Association of Clinical Biochemists, Prof Do Dinh Ho, Past President, Honorary President, Ass Prof Bach Vong Hai, Vice President and Secretary General of the VACB opened the sessions and welcomed the attendees. Regional VACB Directors in the North, Middle and South Vietnam: Ass Prof Hoang Bich Ngoc, Dr Nguyen Ngoc Luyen, Dr Nguyen Thi Huong, Phar. Nguyen Thanh Tong, Dr Nguyen Thi Phuong Anh and Dr Vu Quang Huy, VACB executive member, National representative to IFCC, Vietnam coordinator, the IFCC- AACB - VACB QAP project also expressed their regards.

The participants totalled 450 and exceeded the expected attendance. They included Laboratory chiefs from country, provincial and large city hospitals including those of Hanoi, Hue, Danang and Ho Chi Minh.

The lectures introduced the essential and basic practices Clinical Laboratory QC/ QA to all the participating laboratories as well as the development of QA/ QC in Vietnam. The IFCC/ AACB cooperation and main activities also introduced. The speakers also announced the intention of expanding the program to 120 laboratories and explained the logistics of the expansion. They also illustrated how QC/ QA results should be submitted, interpreted and used to improve laboratory performance. The program is expected to run for 12-18 months, during which follow-up visits will be done.

Russian Scientific Society of Clinical Laboratory Diagnostics Specialists and Russian Association for Medical Laboratory Diagnostics

Laboratory Medicine in light of the Program for Social and Economical Development till 2020: Scientific and Practical conference with Clinical Lab Expo “Interlabdiagnostics–2009”, Moscow, Russia, September 28–30, 2009.

The Conference and Lab Expo will be held in Scientific–Research Centre of **I.M. Sechenov Moscow Medical Academy** (Trubetzkaya str. 8, building 1, Moscow, Russia)

Contact information: **Vadim Menshikon, I.M. Sechenov Moscow Medical Academy, Laboratory of Clinical Laboratory Diagnostics Problems, Trubetzkaya str, 8, building 2, Moscow 119991, Russia Tel.: +7 495 622–9576, (499) 766–8774; Fax: +7 495 622–9576 E-mail: menshikov@mmascience.ru**

Association of Clinical Chemists of Nigeria

5th biennial Scientific Conference and Inauguration of African Federation on the theme “Non Communicable Diseases. Organized by the Association of Clinical Chemists of Nigeria and under the auspices of *IFCC*.

ACCN Secretariat: c/o Dr. Mabel A Charles–Davies, Department of Chemical Pathology, College of Medicine, UCH, Ibadan, Nigeria. Email: mcharlesdavies@yahoo.com, website: accnnigeria.org.

Deadline for abstract submission: August 31st 2009. Abstract submission to: ACCN Secretariat.