



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

eNewsletter



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May – June 2008 issue

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Message regarding the IXth General Conference in Antalya, Turkey

The IFCC President, Professor Jocelyn Hicks



Two hundred and twenty-two participants from 61 countries as well as EFCC, IUPAC and IRMM attended the IXth General Conference in Antalya, Turkey from 61 countries as well as EFCC, IUPAC and IRMM. The Executive Board (EB) was delighted by the attendance that was up from 150 participants at the previous General Conference.

This Conference, as with all others, provided the opportunity for all the Divisions and Committees to hold meetings and to interact with each other. Immediately

before the GC the Executive Board met and also held meetings with the leaders of the Divisions.

We planned a special program for the National and Corporate Representatives so that their viewpoints and suggestions could be heard. The topics for discussion were selected from ideas sent in by National and Corporate Representatives, and those from the EB.

Past Presidents, except for René Dybkaer, who was not well and could not attend, ably replaced by Daniel Mazziotta from the EB, led these discussions.

The topics were as follows:

1. The mission and Future of Laboratory Medicine
Chair: Prof. Matthew McQueen
2. Education programs and training needs especially in developing countries
Chair: Prof. Daniel Mazziotta
3. The Laboratory's role in improving the quality of patient care
Chair: Prof. Gérard Siest
4. Linking IFCC activities with clinical associations
Chair: Prof. Donald Young
5. Developing diagnostic guidelines
Chair: Prof. Mathias Müller

The results of these discussion groups were presented on the last afternoon. There were some excellent suggestions that the EB will consider carefully.

Since I returned home, I have received many positive e-mails about these discussion groups. I discussed some of the major achievements by the EB over the last two and a quarter years. They are as listed below:

- Developed a mission statement.
- Developed a vision for IFCC, and set the top five priorities for 2006–8.
- Increased the number of Full Members from 72 to 78. This will shortly be 79 as the Ukraine gets accepted.
- Increased the number of Affiliate Members (currently 6).
- Increased the numbers of Corporate Members from 30 to 37.

- Developed corporate support for special projects, especially for developing countries.
- Worked with Professor Young and AACC to make Young's Effects available free of charge on-line to developing countries.
- Worked on an agreement to make EFCC a part of IFCC. This option is open to other Federations, if they so wish.
- Increased the donation to the other Federations to 10,000CHF per annum in order to help with educational and scientific endeavors in those regions.
- EuroMedLab, organized by the Netherlands Association for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, was highly successful both scientifically and financially. We thank them and Emmezeta Congressi for this success. The work of the Scientific Division Divisions should be integrated with the other Divisions.

I then presented the Executive Board's top priorities for 2006–8:

1) Integrated Projects

- The Education and Management Division will assist with educational materials concerning new standards and reference methods.
- The Communications and Publications Division will be sure that the information is posted on our web, assist with needed monographs, etc.
- The Committee on Congresses and Conferences will ensure that IFCC meetings will contain sessions devoted to the newest work from SD.

2) Improvement of Public Relations is of high priority

- We must work through CPD to make our Member Societies and the public aware of IFCC activities.

3) Education must be emphasized

- We must develop educational programs to help not only our members, but clinicians and patients as well. We must continue to provide specialized educational programs such as the ones in evidence-based medicine and in analytical quality.

4) Assisting developing countries must be a priority

- Improving analytical quality is a must.

- We must encourage these countries to take advantage of the greatly expanded Visiting Lecture Program, and the Professional Scientific Exchange program.
- In addition the availability of "Young's Effects" on-line and the new program of travel scholarships should help.

5) Reflect better that Laboratory Medicine is part of the name of our organization

We should seek areas in which we can expand our scientific activities such as in Microbiology and Virology. To achieve this, we should consider setting up working groups in these areas.

Areas where we feel that we have not yet succeeded:

- Our biggest problem in communication has been the difficulties of having a user friendly and excellent website.

I am happy to tell you that we have just signed a contract for the design and implementation of a new website. This will take about six months to complete.

- We have not yet been able to work on other areas in Laboratory Medicine. SD was extremely tied up in so many other projects and in the HbA1c story.

We have been very successful in getting corporate support for major IFCC projects, and we are extremely appreciative of this. This is listed below:

- Ortho Clinical Diagnostics: 100,000 euros alternate years to support a bi-annual Conference on Clinical Diagnosis and the Laboratory.
- Abbott Diagnostics: 40,000 euros annually to support the Visiting Lecturer Program especially for developing countries.
- Roche Diagnostics GmbH: 40,000 euros annually to provide travel scholarships for young scientists from developing countries to attend major Congresses and Conferences.
- Labs are Vital program: a partnership with Abbott Laboratories. This program is one that emphasizes the value of the laboratory professional both inside the health care system and to the general public.
- A new award entitled The IFCC Award for Distinguished Contributions to the Practice of Laboratory Medicine and Patient Care supported by Ortho Clinical Diagnostics.

Other support was provided for a new Award:

- The IFCC Robert Schaffer Award for Distinguished Achievements in Advancing the Science of Standards in Laboratory Medicine. This is supported by the US National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) and by the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI)

We are grateful for these new additions to our programs and awards as well as for the already well-established support for awards and programs.

We offered a special thank you to Professor Tomris Ozben from Turkey without whose help we could not have managed the local details. We also much appreciated the IFCC Office staff who worked extremely hard and for long hours to make this Conference a success. They are: Lisa Ionescu, Paola Bramati, Caterina Balzaretto and Silvia Carugo, the IT contract person.

We also extended our thanks to Päivi Laitinen and Ghassan Shannan for their assistance with this conference. Päivi did a great job being the "master of Ceremonies".

My personal appreciation was expressed to the IFCC Executive Board, the Past Presidents, the Division Chairs and all the officers of IFCC for all their hard work in making IFCC successful.

The Conference ended up with a very lively Gala dinner at which there was excellent food, local wines, dancing and even a belly dancer!

"The whole object of an organization is to get cooperation, to get each individual the benefit of all the knowledge and all the experience of all individuals". (Hamilton McFarland Barksdale, Dupont, 1909).

I think this old saying really came true at this General Conference!

Antalya 2008 – EMD Report

The IXth General Conference in Antalya, Turkey 2008
Education and Management Division (EMD) Report

Contributed by Janet Smith, Chair



The report from the (EMD) was given by its Chair, Janet Smith. She began by giving a synopsis of the scope of the work of each of the EMD Committees

- C-CMBC Committee on Clinical Molecular Biology Curriculum
 Chair : M Neumaier
- C-AQ Committee on Analytical Quality
 Chair : Ken Sikaris
- C-EBLM Committee on Evidence Based Laboratory Medicine
 Chair : A Rita Horvath
- C-ECD Committee on Clinical Laboratory Management
 Chair : Elizabeth Frank

and the Working Groups

WG-FC Working Group on Flow Cytometry

Chair : Gregor Rothe

WG-LEPS Working Group on Laboratory Errors and Patient Safety

Chair : Mario Plebani

She also highlighted the workshops and courses that have been held during the last year, particularly on evidence based laboratory medicine, flow cytometry and molecular biology and the contributions to international meetings by all the committees in the planning and presentation of specialist symposia.

The most successful project for the Division in recent months has been the Visiting Lecturer Programme (VLP) which has received generous sponsorship from Abbot Diagnostics allowing significant expansion, with more visits arranged to many parts of the world. A two-part VLP to the Asian Pacific Region was undertaken by A Rita Horvath in 2006 and 2007 and Mauro Panteghini will make visits to the same Region this year and in 2009. In both cases, lectures have been organised in several countries.

The work of the EMD in recent months has been directed to the IFCC project for developing quality competence in clinical laboratories. A questionnaire has been sent to National Societies, requesting information on analytical quality and accreditation, the need for support and help in these areas and the willingness of national societies to provide support in terms of expertise to other countries. Although a significant number of responses have been received, the EMD would welcome further responses, so that as clear a picture as possible of need around the IFCC Regions can be obtained and resources targeted in the most effective way.

Finally, the EMD Chair recognized the importance of the hard work and commitment of the Chairs and members of the EMD committees and working groups in making the activities of the Division so successful.

Antalya 2008: APFCB REPORT

Contributed by Joseph Lopez – APFCB President and IFCC Executive Board Member



The current membership of the APFCB is as follows:

Ordinary (voting) members: 16; Corporate members: 14; Affiliate member: 1

The following persons were elected as officers for the term of office 2007– 2010:

- Executive Board: President: Joseph Lopez (MACB, Malaysia)
- Vice-President: Leslie Lai (MACB, Malaysia)
- Secretary: Elizabeth Frank (ACBI, India)
- Treasurer: Sunil Sethi (SACB, Singapore)
- Immediate Past President (ex officio): Chris Lam (HKSCC, Hong Kong)
- Chairs of Committees:
 - Communications (C-Comm): Professor Shen Ziyu (CSLM, Mainland China)
 - Education (C-Edu): Endang Hoyaranda (IACC, Indonesia)
 - Laboratory Management (C-LM): Samuel Vasikaran (AACB, Australia)
 - Scientific (C-Sci): Kiyoshi Ichihara (JSCC, Japan)
- Auditors:
 - Professor Leslie Burnett (AACB)
 - Professor Jap Tjin-Shing (CACB, Taiwan)

EDUCATION

The APFCB's Education Committee arranges 3 visiting lectureships, as follows:

- APFCB Traveling Lectureship
- APFCB - Beckman Coulter Educational Symposium, 2007
- IFCC Visiting Lectureship

APFCB Traveling Lectureship has been organised since 1999. The current Travelling Lecturer, the sixth in the series, for the period 2007/08. The topic of this lectureship is Diabetes Mellitus and the Metabolic Syndrome.

While the APFCB Travelling lectureship brings the cutting edge topics to the our members, the APFCB-Beckman Educational Symposium lectures cover topics on laboratory-based issues. The latter has been organised since 2003. The current lecturer is Dr Sunil Sethi of Singapore whose lecture topic is "Emerging issues in laboratory management".

The IFCC Visiting Lectureship to the APFCB region is a collaborative activity in which the IFCC provides the VL, the APFCB organises the itinerary and national societies host the lecturer. The topic "Evidence-Based Laboratory Medicine" was Professor Andrea Rita Horvath (Hungary) who visited the region in 2006 and again in 2007 when she visited Taiwan, Beijing, Hong Kong and Singapore. In Beijing, Prof. Horvath was a plenary speaker at the 11th APCCB.

The VL to the region in 2008 is Professor Mauro Panteghini of Italy, the SD Chairman who is expected to visit about 8 countries in the region.

SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

- The APFCB Scientific Committee undertakes a number of regional scientific projects as follows:
- HbA1c Project: Annual surveys to assess the discordance of HbA1c measurement among laboratories with the APFCB region have been undertaken since 2005. The surveys were funded by the APFCB's corporate members and organised out of Taiwan by the CACB.
- Reference Intervals Project: A study of reference intervals of populations in several Asian cities that was coordinated by Professor Kiyoshi Ichihara was completed and paper on the project was published in the February issue of

Clinical Chemistry. A new expanded project that will cover more cities and more analytes will be undertaken starting 2008.

- eGFR: This project is in progress. It was coordinated by Dr Vasikaran and will now be coordinated by Prof Ichihara.
- Scientific Committee Symposium at 11th APCCB: The results of the above 3 projects were presented at a symposium in the main scientific programme of the 11th APCCB. Speakers at the symposium were: Dr Shu-Chu Shiesh (HbA1c) , Dr Samuel Vasikaran (eGFR) and Professor Kiyoshi Ichihara (reference intervals).

Laboratory Management

Three projects have been proposed for the period 2007–2010.

- Assessment of Interpretative Comments: This project to assess the quality of interpretative comment of laboratory results requires very little cost as it does not involve samples. A group of chemical pathologists/senior scientists who already comment on results have volunteered to be part of the oversight sub-committee for this project. An invitation to participate was issued in March 2008 to laboratories in the APFCB region.
- Workshop on QA and Laboratory Safety: The C-LM plans to organise a workshop on analytical QC/QA in Sri Lanka jointly with the ACB-SL and the IFCC in 2009. This workshop will be a prototype for similar activities in other countries.
- HbA1c: The C-LM will continue the abovementioned very successful HbA1c survey organised by CACB (Taiwan) and expand it to other interested countries and laboratories.

Communications

The Communications Committee was formed to coordinate all activities of the APFCB that are related to communications, publications and publicity. The APFCB Council endorsed terms of reference of the Committee in Beijing.

- *APFCB News*: The APFCB News is the newsletter of the APFCB. It is published annually. About 4000 copies printed and distributed to APFCB members associations and senior clinical biochemists on all 5 continents. The publication of the 2007 issue was delayed to accommodate news from the 11th APCCB and will be released in March 2008.

- *Clinical Biochemist Reviews*: The CBR is a quarterly reviews journal, published by the AACB in association with the APFCB. It is bulk distributed to APFCB at reduced subscription to clinical biochemists in the Asia–Pacific through APFCB member associations.
- *APFCB Website*: Work is underway to revamp the APFCB website and a company in China has been earmarked to undertake this activity. A new webmaster will also be appointed.

APFCB Philanthropic Fund and Scholarship Programme

The APFCB Philanthropic Fund was established in 2005, primarily to support the APFCB Scholarships Programme. The annual grants to APFCB received from IFCC in 2005, 2006 and 2007 have been transferred to the Fund.

Scholarships Offered/Awarded by the APFCB:

The following scholarships are offered by the APFCB, in line with the guidelines of the Philanthropic Fund:

- *APFCB–Anon scholarship*: This scholarship is being awarded for a 3–year period, 2006 to 2008, for the attendance of the AACB's Annual Scientific Meeting. The selection of the winner is made by the AACB. The 2008 scholarship has been advertised.
- *Emile von Behring Scholarships Programme*: This scholarship is based on an agreement between the APFCB and Dade Behring. The selection committee did not find any suitable candidate for this scholarship 2007. The future of this scholarship is in question following the merger of Dade Behring with Siemens.
- *APFCB Silver Jubilee scholarships*: Five scholarships were provided to young scientists from the APFCB region to attend 11th APCCB, Beijing
- *APFCB–IFCC Scholarships for the ICCCLM, Fortaleza*: The APFCB will provide two scholarships each worth SGD5000, to young scientists to present their work at the ICCCLM in Fortaleza, Brazil.

Administration and Financial Management

The APFCB is domiciled in Singapore. It is a registered body with the Registrar of Societies of Singapore (ROSS). SolidTrack Management of Singapore, were appointed

to serve as the APFCB Office in 2005. The Office undertakes the preparation of the APFCB accounts and makes submissions to ROSS and the tax authorities of Singapore, in accordance with regulatory requirements of that country.

The APFCB does not collect a subscription from its ordinary members. Yet finances continue to be healthy with steady increase in liquid assets despite an increase in our activities. The annual and triennial accounts of the APFCB were presented to the Council at its meeting in Beijing on 14th October 2007. Executive Committee receives quarterly accounts and monthly bank statements. Statements of accounts are annually presented to Council.

The new Treasurer has introduced some changes to streamline the financial management of the APFCB. This will be discussed refined and discussed by the Executive Board before being present to the Council.

Antalya 2008: comment on the IX General Conference

**Contributed by Norbert Madry, PhD, IFCC Executive Board
Corporate Representative**



Dear readers:

The IFCC 2008 General Conference is already several weeks old, but I sincerely hope that some of the results and the positive momentum generated at the beautiful Turkish coast will carry into the immediate future.

Especially the workshop format chosen for the second day turned out to be an excellent way how to engage everybody attending, and I am still impressed by outcome of these workshop groups composed of representatives from National Societies (Full and Extended Members) as well as Corporate Members. Which proved to me what I knew before: that IFCC is an organization of very capable volunteers. What I did not know: these IFCC people can create very structured results even when working in a relatively unstructured ad hoc way.

Well, I had the honour to conclude day one that was devoted to reports from the IFCC Divisions, Regional Federations, Task Forces, etc. with a presentation from a Corporate Members' perspective.

Earlier that day, we had a meeting of the Corporate Member representatives, and fortunately, I received sufficient support for some key points of my presentation. Fortunately because, as in any other industry, the IFCC member companies are competing with each other and only rarely cooperate; thus to reach a consensus might have been very ambitious. However, there is enough common ground among the Corporate Members, and it ties back to the reasons why they became IFCC Corporate Members in the first place:

- To ensure that information generated using laboratory tests is correct, consistent, and meaningful
- To increase the quality of health care by intelligent utilization of diagnostic information, including new technologies
- To raise awareness about Laboratory Medicine's value in overall health care with the general public, politicians, and health care payers and providers

While these areas of mutual interest overlap nicely with the vision of the IFCC Executive Board, there is - as everywhere else - a lot of room for improvement for IFCC. Although most Corporate Member representatives would also support the following suggestions, these are entirely my thoughts based on the interactions with numerous individuals in the various IFCC activities over the last 30 months or so.

IFCC is recognized as the leading global organization promoting the science and use of Laboratory Medicine, but 'science' certainly should not be limited to

standardization/reference system efforts exclusively. The practical impact on healthcare delivery today and in the future would be more pronounced if IFCC increases its efforts e.g. in evidence-based medicine demonstrating that proper diagnostic information and interpretation actually benefits patients and the efficiency of healthcare providers.

Next, Laboratory Medicine to me is an applied science. We need to live up to that in acknowledging that implementation aspects (like how to educate the medical world, regulatory bodies, patients or how to adopt certain changes in package inserts and other labelling of diagnostic products) are equally important compared to the pure scientific achievement - which has no impact if it is not implemented.

So already when choosing the next e.g. standardization project, some of the questions should be: how will the final outcome influence patient health, what regulatory or habitual hurdles will have to be cleared, etc. (i.e. how easy or difficult will it be to implement the yet unknown result) - and make our choices accordingly what projects to pursue. But of course implementation issues really need to be addressed once a final result is available, e.g. by providing educational or other material to medical associations, patient groups and/or regulatory authorities. Here, it might be a good idea to label all results of e.g. IFCC Working Groups 'preliminary' if there are certain pieces missing in terms of implementation.

The IFCC Task Forces or the new Integrated Projects already addressed some of these aspects. Moreover, if you review the results from the General Conference ad hoc groups, you will see that there clearly is willingness, if not momentum to move beyond the immediate or historic competency areas of IFCC among its various members.

So, dear readers, I came away from the General Conference with a cautiously optimistic view that IFCC will soon make more pronounced steps into the right direction. After all, IFCC is us, individuals who devote some extra time to promote Laboratory Medicine and its value globally.

Sincerely yours

Norbert Madry, PhD

IFCC TASK FORCE ON GLOBAL CAMPAIGN OF DIABETES MELLITUS

Contributed by Sverre Sandberg, Chair of the Task Force

The Task Force on the Global Campaign of Diabetes Mellitus is composed of Sverre Sandberg(Chair), Howard Morris, Matthew McQueen, 4 corresponding members and 36 country representatives.

Some aspects of what has been achieved, in the last five years, in regards to the terms of reference (in italic) is listed below. The integral lecture can be found on the IFCC web page

1. *Review and study the current use of laboratory test, and educate doctors and patients in interpretation of laboratory tests used in diagnosing and monitoring of diabetes mellitus.*
 - a) A survey among IFCC member status to evaluate current practice concerning laboratory practice and diabetes mellitus has been performed.
 - b) Circulation of case histories to clinicians to evaluate current use of HbA1c and glucose (circulated to 8 national members) and micro-albumin (circulated to 11 national members and 10 000 clinicians).
 - c) The methodological quality of guidelines for diabetes mellitus has been examined in collaboration with C-EBLM.

2. *Provide quality specifications (QS) for analytes used to diagnose and monitor diabetes mellitus.*

Clinicians and patients were surveyed through case histories that were circulated to them. The estimated critical differences, before action is taken, between two sets of responses indirectly suggest QS for HbA1c, self-monitoring of blood glucose (SMBG) and micro-albumin

3. *Give recommendations on self-monitoring of blood glucose*

A model has been developed on a standardized evaluation of SMBG instruments. Principles have also been established on the procedure patients should follow to perform a quality an External Quality Assessment Scheme (EQAS) for their instruments and on how patients should control their practice at General Practice Physician' offices or at pharmacies

4. *Try to associate with other groups or persons (including manufacturers) who will co-operate on the work to be done.*

The Task Force has cooperated with NKDEP, IDF, NACB as well as with several WG and Committees within IFCC

Articles have been published in Clin Chem and Point of Care, or are presently submitted and under review. Published articles are listed below.

[Kristensen GB, Nerhus K, Thue G, Sandberg S.](#) Results and feasibility of an external quality assessment scheme for self-monitoring of blood glucose. Clin Chem. 2006;52:1311-7.

[Kristensen GB, Christensen NG, Thue G, Sandberg S.](#) Between-lot variation in external quality assessment of glucose: clinical importance and effect on participant performance evaluation. Clin Chem. 2005;51:1632-6.

[Skeie S, Perich C, Ricos C, Araczkowski A, Horvath AR, Oosterhuis WP, Bubner T, Nordin G, Delport R, Thue G, Sandberg S.](#) Postanalytical external quality assessment of blood glucose and hemoglobin A1c: an international survey. Clin Chem. 2005;51:1145-53.

[Thue G, Klovning A, Sandberg S.](#) External quality assessment of general practice laboratories: organizational issues and interpretation of feedback reports. Scand J Clin Lab Invest. 2001;61:103-10

NEWS FROM NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND FEDERATIONS

Latin-American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry, COLABIOCLI: The Elected Executive Board for 2008 -2010

Contributed by Professor Daniel Mazziotta, EB Member



The General Assembly of COLABIOCLI voted in the new Executive Board for the period 2008 - 2010 during the Latin-American Congress of Clinical Biochemistry held in Panama city from November 28th to December 1st 2007. According to the COLABIOCLI statutes, the General Assembly meets every other year at the Latin-American Congress of Clinical Biochemistry. Instead of voting for individuals, the assembly votes for National Society members of COLABIOCLI: a) one NS to host the Executive Board (EB) of COLABIOCLI having the right to elect the

individuals from its own society for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, and b) Three NS to cover one position as Member of the EB. According to this, the Guatemala NS was elected to host the EB, and Spain, Cuba and Chile were elected for designating Members.

A brief CV of the individuals nominated by the elected NS's follows

President

Dr. Ana Leticia Caceres de Maselli, Guatemala

Dr. Caceres de Maselli, Professor of Chemistry at the School of Medicine of the Universidad San Carlos de Guatemala, Guatemala, is a Biological Chemist specialized in immunology applied to parasitological diseases. She currently is President of the Biological Chemists Association of Guatemala (AQBG) and is intensely active at national and international levels. She was involved in establishing the first EQAS in Guatemala supported by the AQBG. Her main publications are in the fields of parasitology and Quality Assurance, the latter in relation with the COLABIOCLI project of Quality Improvement in Latin–America countries.

Vice–president

Dr. Norberto Cabutti, Argentina

Dr. Cabutti, Biochemist from Universidad Nacional de La Plata, was Head of the laboratory service of the Hospital Noel Sbarra of La Plata, President of the Federaciòn Bioquimica de la Provincia de Buenos Aires and President of COLABIOCLI (1989/91; 1995/97; 1997/1999; 2003–2007). He is currently the President of the Fundaciòn Bioquimica Argentina (FBA) as well as that of the Executive Board of the Accreditation Program for Clinical Laboratories of the FBA. He also acts as adviser of the Pan American Health Organization.

Secretary

Dr. Angel Rodriguez Prieto, Guatemala

Dr. Prieto, Biological Chemist from the Universidad San Carlos de Guatemala, Guatemala holds a PhD on Molecular Biology from Vanderbilt University, USA. He is the Auditor of ISO 17025 standard. He was secretary of the College of Pharmacists and Chemists of Guatemala and member of the National Commission of Blood Banks and Transfusion Medicine of Guatemala. He is currently Vice–president of the Biological Chemists Association of Guatemala and Coordinator of the Accreditation of Clinical Laboratories Program of the AQBG.

Treasurer

Dr. Carolina Richter, Guatemala

Dr. Richter is a Biological Chemist from the Universidad San Carlos de Guatemala, Guatemala. She is the general organizer of the EQAS of the AQBG since its creation. She is also the Technical Assessor of the Accreditation Office of Guatemala, National Quality System (Standards ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO 15189), and Trainer in Quality Systems and Accreditation based on Standards ISO 17025 and ISO 15189 and Proficiency Testing Programs.

Member

Dr. Ramon Goya, Spain

Dr. Goya is a Pharmacist and Specialist in Clinical Analysis of the Universidad Complutense of Madrid, Spain. He was president of the Asociación Española de Farmacéuticos Analistas (AEFA), Vice-president of the European Confederation of Clinical Analysts, Member of the Latin-American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI) and President of the National Commission of Clinical Analysis of the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education. He was Associated Professor of the Department of Analytical Chemistry, Universidad de Alcalá de Henares and Tutor of Guided Practice of Pharmacy student.

Member

Dr. Manuel Morejòn Campa

Dr. Morejòn Campa is a Biochemist holding a Master in Sciences of Clinical Laboratory from the Universidad de La Habana. He works, since 1981, in the field of Clinical Laboratory. He is currently Head of the IVD Department, main auditor from the National Standardization Office, and Professor at the Instituto de Farmacia y Alimentos de la Universidad de La Habana. He was in responsible for the introduction of the SI units in clinical laboratories and also organized the External Quality Assessment Scheme for Clinical Laboratories in Primary Health Care in Cuba. He is a Member of the EB of Sociedad Cubana de Patología Clínica and of the WHO Expert Panel. He acts as adviser in Colombia, Bolivia and Dominican Republic.

Member

Dr. Ingrid Jacqueline Arroqui Lecaros, Chile

Dr. Arroqui Lecaros is head of the Laboratorio Clínico del Centro de Referencia de Salud Maipò and Biochemist at the Universidad de Concepción specialized in Clinical

Laboratory. She graduated as Manager of Clinical Laboratory from Facultad de Ciencias Económicas y Administrativas, Universidad de Chile. She teaches at the Facultad de Química y Biología, Universidad de Santiago de Chile, and at the Facultad de Ciencias de la Salud, Universidad Nacional Andrés Bello, Santiago de Chile. She was a member of the commission that homologated the ISO 15189 standard into the Chilean one.



From left to right: Dr. Ana Leticia Caceres de Maselli, Dr. Carolina Richter, Dr. Norberto Cabutti and Dr. Angel Rodriguez Prieto.

Members



From left to right: Dr. Ramón Goya, Dr. Manuel Morejón, Dr. Ingrid Arrequi Lecaros

1st Int. Symp. on Quality and Accreditation in Laboratory Medicine
Report on the First International Symposium on Quality and Accreditation in
Laboratory Medicine

Contributed by Dr. Rosa I Sierra Amor. National Representative IFCC. Mexican Association of Clinical Biochemistry.



The First International Symposium on Quality and Accreditation in Laboratory Medicine was organized by the Association of Clinical Biochemists KBUD taking place in Istanbul, Turkey from April 15 – 18, 2008. Profs formed the Honorary Committee. *Victor Blaton, Kaya Emerk, Jocelyn Hicks, and Ghassan Shannan*. The International Advisory Scientific Committee were:

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Khosrow Adeli | Mustafa Ertek | Howard Morris |
| Fred S. Apple | Murat Günaydın | Anthony O. Okorodudu |
| Memet Atasever | Hasan Güler | Tomris Özben |
| Atakan Baştürk | Ömer Güzel | Vladimir Palicka |
| Paul De Bièvre | Fouad Harb | Mauro Panteghini |
| Larry Broussard | Tamer İnal | Eser Sözmen |
| Robert H. Christenson | Paivi Laitinen | Ahmet R. Uras |
| A. Cahid Civelek | Yahya Laleli | Fikriye Uras |
| Edgard E. Delvin | Hakan Leblebicioğlu | İbrahim Ünsal |
| Sirac Dilber | Kenan Malatyalı | Turay Yardımcı |
| | W. Greg Miller | |

Prof. Frikie Uras, President KBUD and the Organizing Committee welcomed the participants to the first Intercontinental quality platform in laboratory medicine under the auspices of IFCC, EFCC and AACC. Speakers from all around the world: from Canada to Australia, to the US, Mexico and Argentina, from Egypt, to the

United Kingdom, Belgium, Italy, Germany and Finland, from Syria, Iran, Pakistan, Jordan, to China and Russia made this symposium a very multidisciplinary environment to be applauded.

Lectures were devoted to discussed 'hot topics' about *reference intervals; laboratory quality regulations and accreditation standards; trazability, reference systems and results comparability; proficiency testing; international vocabulary in metrology; patience safety and efficacy of clinical laboratory testing; laboratory quality regulations and accreditation standards*. The scientific program finalized with a full day workshop devoted to ISO 15189 were Turkish colleagues guided the audience to learn about this important standard.



The Marmara hotel located in the heart of Taksim in Istanbul was the venue. The KBUD board members invited to a traditional Turkish dinner at a local restaurant, followed by a Troya ballet performance, and a Gala dinner on Thursday night. The friendly environment and delicious food influenced all of us to enjoy beautiful Istanbul, shared experiences in laboratory medicine, and met new Turkish friends. Congratulations.

PROF K TARANATH SHETTY IN MEMORIAM

Professor K. Taranath Shetty

Past President, Association of Clinical Biochemists of India (ACBI)

The recent passing away of Professor K. Taranath Shetty, is an immense loss to clinical biochemistry and medicine in India.

Dr. Shetty's contributions to the field of biochemistry were numerous, both to the science and the profession of clinical biochemistry. Born on 20th June, 1947, he obtained his Masters degree in Medical Biochemistry from Kasturba Medical College in Manipal in 1972. He subsequently earned his doctorate from the Haffkine Institute in Bombay, in 1977, for research in the area of Neuro-Endocrinology and

Neurochemistry with special reference to the Psycο–Neuroendocrine effect of contraceptive steroids.



Dr Shetty started his academic career as Senior Consultant and Head of the Biochemistry Department of Choitram Hospital and Research Institute, Indore in 1980. He then moved to the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) in Bangalore, in 1982 as Associate Professor of Neurochemistry. From 2002–2004, he was Dean of this institution. He was Professor and Head of the Neurochemistry Department at the time of his passing.

Professor Shetty published more than 75 original research articles on the dynamics of brain specific protein phosphorylation, neuro–endocrinological aspects of AIDS, neuropsychiatric disorders and related areas, in various peer–reviewed journals. His experience in laboratory medicine spanning more than 30 years included the automation of biochemical diagnostics and contributions to the specialised area of the diagnosis of inborn metabolic disorders (IMDs). He was an invited speaker at various national and international scientific meetings.

As a member of Ethical committee at NIMHANS, he produced the '*Ethical Guidelines for Research Involving Human subjects*'; he also authored the Examination Manual for the institute. Professor Shetty was actively involved in setting analytical facilities for screening substances of abuses and special diagnostics for IMDs and developing newer laboratory methods for the diagnosis and monitoring of neuropsychiatric disorders in NIMHANS, Bangalore. Professor Shetty was also a lead and technical assessor of National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) of the Government of India for laboratory accreditation (ISO–15189:2003).

Professor Shetty's contributions to the ACBI were immense. He served the ACBI as its General Secretary (2002–2004), Vice President (1994–1995), Organizing Secretary for 30th Annual Meeting of Association of Clinical Biochemists of India (2004) and as President (2004–2005). He was awarded the GS Seth Medical College and KEM Hospital Oration in 2003, the Fellowship of ACBI (FACBI) in 2005 and the TN Pattabhiraman Oration in 2006. He was the Chairperson of ACBI Corporate Wing at the time of his passing. Professor Shetty was also an active member of Indian Journal of Clinical Biochemistry (IJCB) Editorial Board.

Besides his involvement in ACBI, Professor Shetty was also a member of various professional bodies such as the Society of Biological Chemists of India (SBCI), Indian Academy of Neuro Sciences (IANS), Indian Association of Neuro Chemical Society (INCS), Bangalore Neurological Society, Association for the promotion of DNA fingerprinting and other DNA Technologies (ADNAT), International Society for

Neurochemistry (ISN). Internationally, he was the National Representative of ACBI to International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) and the Asian and Pacific Federation of Clinical Biochemistry (APFCB).

Professor Shetty was the recipient of various international fellowships: Visiting Scientist in 1985 to the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), Rockville, MD–USA; Fogarty International Visiting Scientist from 1991–1994 to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders & Stroke (NINDS), NIH, Bethesda, Maryland, USA

Indian clinical biochemistry has lost a dedicated and much-liked scientist who was a warm and wonderful human being. He was a stalwart of the ACBI and a pillar of strength. It will not be easy for many of us close to him to reconcile with his absence. His dedication to the profession was an inspiration to all. The members of ACBI, who derived strength from his words and deeds, will fondly remember him.

A devoted family man, Professor Shetty is survived by his wife Mamtha, a psychiatrist, and two sons, Karthik and Kaushal.

(This obituary was submitted by colleagues of the ACBI)

UPCOMING IFCC RELATED MEETINGS

International Symposium: New trends in clinical biology: Emerging technologies and their impact on laboratory medicine and management under the auspices of *IFCC*. Brussels May 15 – 17, 2008.

Web site: <http://www.bvkc.be/FileEvents/Bruxelles%202008-V3.pdf>

The Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists 2008 Annual Conference, under the auspices of *IFCC*. St. John's, Newfoundland, June 8 – 11, 2008.

Website www.csccl.ca.

Joint *IFCC*–Worldlab Fortaleza 2008, 20th International Congress of the Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, XXXV Brazilian Congress of Clinical Analysis and VIIIth I Brazilian Congress of Clinical Cytology. Ceara's Convention Center, Fortaleza - Brazil, 28 September – 2 October 2008.

Web site: <http://www.fortaleza2008.org/>

The 7th Romanian Society of Laboratory Medicine Congress 2008, under the auspices *IFCC*, *EFCC*, BCLF, WASPaLM and under the patronage Romanian Academy of Medical Sciences. Bucharest, Romania, October 20 - 22, 2008.

Web site: <http://www.srmlcongres.ro>

EUROMEDLAB Innsbruck 2009 18th *IFCC*–*FESCC* European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine 7–11 June 2009. Web site: www.innsbruck2009.org