

The header features a blue background with a white envelope icon containing an '@' symbol on the left. In the center, the text 'e-Newsletter' is written in a large, bold, blue font. To the right is the IFCC logo, which includes a globe icon and the text 'IFCC International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine'. Below the main title, the editor's name and contact information are listed in white text.

Editor: Edgard Delvin Ph.D, FCACB, FACB
CHU Sainte-Justine - Centre de Recherche - 3175 Côte-Ste-Catherine - Montréal, Québec - H3T 1C5, Canada
e-mail: delvine@sympatico.ca

November–December 2011 issue

- Recent News from the President
- New IFCC Website launched
- News from Regional Federations and National Associations
- IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Program (PSEP)
- News from Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI)
- Forthcoming meetings

RECENT NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT



Graham Beastall – IFCC President

Executive Board

The outgoing and incoming Executive Boards met with the Chairs of the Divisions in the IFCC Office in Milan in November. The agenda was huge but the atmosphere was positive and constructive. There was real evidence of achievement during 2011 and this will be recorded in the annual report, which will be published in early 2012.

Several exciting new topics were discussed and more details will be sent to Members over the next few weeks. These include:

- Increasing activity in point of care testing
- Increasing activity in distance learning
- Increasing activity in demonstrating the clinical value of laboratory medicine
- Moves towards electronic voting
- The 60th anniversary of IFCC in 2012
- The IFCC General Conference in 2012
- Travel scholarships
- Professional exchange programmes

Changing EB members

The change in personnel from January 2012 will be:

Completing Office in 2011	Starting Office in 2012	Role
Chris Lam HK	Howard Morris AU	Vice President
Paivi Laitinen FI	Sergio Bernardini IT	Secretary
Ghassan Shannan SY	Bernard Gouget FR	Treasurer
Bernard Gouget FR	Vanessa Steenkamp ZA	Member
Joseph Lopez MY	Larry Kricka US	Member
Janet Smith UK	Maurizio Ferrari IT	Chair EMD

I should like to record my personal thanks to all completing their periods of office and welcome the new team.

IFCC WorldLab Berlin 2011

Final statistics from the Berlin congress reveal that it was even more successful than anticipated in terms of attendance, scientific involvement, exhibition involvement and financial outcome. It was also a great experience in a wonderful city. Congratulations to all involved.

Other Congresses

It has been my pleasure to attend two major congresses in October and November 2011:

- 50th Anniversary of the Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists, which was held in Sydney, Australia.
- XX Congress of the Confederación Latinoamericana de Bioquímica Clínica, (COLABIOCLI) which was held in Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic. During this meeting I had the opportunity to meet with representatives of the outgoing COLABIOCLI Executive Committee to discuss communication and joint projects (see

photograph). During the General Assembly Argentina was elected as the country to provide the next President of COLABIOCLI

Both congresses showed that clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine is vibrant, and that it is making a real difference to healthcare in the differing geographical locations. Both congresses were also accompanied by weather that was considerably better than back home in Scotland – a real bonus!

The people present at a meeting between COLABIOCLI Officers and the IFCC President.



From left to right:

Manuel Morejón
Norberto Cabutti
Ana-Leticia Maselli
Graham Beasall
Angel Rodriguez

COLABIOCLI Member
COLABIOCLI Vice President
COLABIOCLI President
IFCC President
COLABIOCLI Secretary

Cuba
Argentina
Guatemala
Guatemala

NEW IFCC WEBSITE LAUNCHED

I am happy to announce that the re-launch of our web presence, to all users of our current content platform, www.ifcc.org, took place on 1st December 2011.

What is going to change?

The new IFCC website allows all IFCC web users access to all our activities, with fresh news about our scientific initiatives, Congresses, IFCC eJournal and IFCC eNews,

publication databases, webinars, documents, and The new IFCC website replaces our current content platform with an easier and richer user experience.

The move to the new platform allows us to offer you a revised page structure that makes performing your research easier and simplifies access to our electronic content. I am confident that the switch will be as problem-free as possible for you.

What are the next steps?

I invite you to send us your feedback on your first impressions; your feedback is important to complete the new website and do the every update needed. Should you have any questions – proposals regarding the new website, please let us know at ifcc@ifcc.org.

I express my sincere thanks to Andrew Lyon, Peter Vervaart, Paola Bramati, Silvia Cattaneo and Silvia Colli-Lanzi, who have given invaluable time and efforts to assure the success of this project.

I also take the opportunity to thank you again for your interest and participation in IFCC activities; we are already looking forward to seeing you again on our new online platform.

NEWS FROM REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Confederacion Unificada Bioquimica de la Republica Argentina

Contributed by Dr. Carlos Navarro, CUBRA President
and María Alejandra Arias, Treasurer

National Institutions positions

Clinical biochemistry is directly related to scientific and technological development, as witnessed by events that have taken place during the ninety-two year history of the discipline in our country. More tangibly, is to observe the constant transition of techniques and methods used in the biochemical laboratory in the last three decade. Enzymatic methods have superseded colorimetric ones, end-point reactions have been replaced by automated kinetics. Even more striking is the successful deciphering of the human genome that has opened the the way to the clinical application of molecular biology and has allowed to bring our profession to the forefront of projects seeking to tailor treatments to individuals.

These developments underline the need of a continuous training process to assure the competency and professional development of clinical biochemists. We achieve this by

promoting and supporting scientific and academic events that are accessible to all colleagues.

While technology development contributes to the improvement of the medical laboratory efficiency from the pre-analytical to post-analytical processes, the importance of the professionals should not be underestimated as they are the key players in selecting the appropriate analytical methods, in ensuring reliable results and in foreseeing the upcoming new diagnostic tests. They are thereby the promise to better health management through the clinicians.

The following recently held events attest of our commitments to our mission.

Career Award to Professor Dr. Hector Oscar Fay given at IX National Meeting of the University Professionals

As President of the Unified Biochemical Confederation of the Argentine Republic (CUBRA), I had the honour of giving the 2011 Career Award to Professor Dr. Hector Oscar Fay, a prominent Argentine biochemist, during the IX National Meeting of the University Professionals organized by the General Confederation of Professionals (CGP) held in September in Rosario (Sante Fe).

Dr. Fay has been active in the many areas of laboratory medicine. He is particularly renowned for his contributions to the epidemiology of viral diseases affecting the liver in Latin America, and to the implementation of the WHO immunization programs in Africa, China, America, including the English-speaking Caribbean and countries of Eastern Europe. He has also been a member of the Task Force for vaccination against viral hepatitis B in Amazonia.

Besides his responsibilities at the Universidad Nacional de Rosario, he was Chancellor of Latin America at the International Society of Hepatology (IASLD) and advisor to the Committee on Viral Hepatitis OPS (PAHO) and a Member of the Program in Health Technology Appropriate (WHO), the PATH Task Force.

Certification process in Clinical Biochemistry presented at the regular meeting of the National Advisory Committee on the Exercise of University Graduate Careers

The Ministry Health of the Nation's Subcommittee on Biochemistry of the National Advisory Committee on the Exercise of Professions Bachelor's Degree in Health that included representatives of the Agency coordinating academic units of Pharmacy and Biochemistry (ECUAFyB), the Unified Biochemical Confederation of the Argentine Republic (CUBRA), the Coordinator of Colleges of Law Biochemist and the Argentina

Biochemistry Association (ABA) presented documents on the Certification process in Clinical Biochemistry during the regular meeting of the National Advisory Committee on the Exercise of University Graduate Careers in Health last September.

During the same meeting, the document MR 1337/2011 recognizing the multi-professional specialties: Epidemiology, Public Health, Health Services Management and Audit of Health Services was reported to be approved.

Discussion on the 3rd Edition of ISO / DIS 15189 at a plenary session of the Argentine Institute of Standardization and Certification (IRAM)

The Unified Biochemical Confederation of the Argentine Republic, participated last October, to a plenary session organized by the Argentine Institute of Standardization and Certification (IRAM) on the 3rd Edition of ISO / DIS 15189.

The XI Biochemist National Congress: a Success.

The 11th edition of the Biochemist National Congress, held in Jujuy, Northwest Argentina, last October 2011 offered the attendees, coming from Argentina and the neighbouring countries, an array of symposia, workshops and roundtables of outstanding quality. The lectures, given by experienced professionals belonging to recognized academic and scientific institutions, covered the latest advances in biochemical science as well as practical aspects of the profession. The corporations are wholeheartedly thanked for their remarkable contribution, through the exhibits, without which the congress could not have been held. The warm welcome of the colleagues and the stunning setting of the Province of Jujuy were noteworthy.

News from the Uruguayan Society of Clinical Chemistry

Contributed by Dra Ana Piana, Member of the eNewsletter Working Group

The 8th Uruguayan Congress of Clinical Biochemistry organized by the Uruguayan Association of Biochemistry (ABU) took place in Montevideo, (Uruguay) under the auspices Government Institutions, Uruguayan professional associations, IFCC and COLABIOCLI. Fourteen IVD corporations were also present and provided much needed funding.

The four hundred participants benefited from lectures delivered by world-known foreign speakers. It is noteworthy to underline the lecture and expert interventions of Dr. Janet Smith the visiting lecturer from IFCC. This scientific event consisting of two pre-congress courses, eighteen symposia and five plenary sessions was complemented by social activities that allowed friendly scientific and cultural exchanges.

News from the Syrian Clinical Laboratory Association (SCLA)

Changes in the SCLA Executive Board

A ballot held last March that included all SCLA branches has brought changes in the composition of the Executive Board.

The incoming President is Dr. Mohamad N. Tinawi and the new Secretary is Dr. Esa Alshekha. Any communication should be addressed to the SCLA Office: Syrian Clinical Laboratory Association P.O. Box 7671 – Damascus, Syria. e-mail : scla@scla.org.sy

Croatian Society of Medical Biochemists

Contributed by Ana-Maria Simundic, IFCC eNewsletter WG Member,
Editor-in-Chief Biochemia Medica
Biochemia Medica (URL is: <http://biochemia-medica.com/>) indexed in Medline

Dear colleagues and friends,

As Editor-in-Chief, it is my pleasure and honour to announce that Biochemia Medica (<http://www.biochemia-medica.com/>) has just been accepted for indexing in the Medline database, starting from the current year (2011). Abstracts in PubMed will be visible by the end of the year. I wish to thank to all who have contributed to this great success. Journal impact factor (IF) for 2010 is 1.085

The Journal is the official peer-reviewed journal of the Croatian Society of Medical Biochemists. Its scope is to provide a wide coverage of research in all aspects of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine. The following domains of laboratory medicine are covered: general clinical chemistry, haematology and haemostasis, molecular diagnostics, immunology, analytical toxicology, neurobiochemistry, endocrinology, analytical techniques, laboratory organization and management, laboratory automation, method validation, quality management and evidence based laboratory medicine.

Nepal Association for Medical Laboratory Sciences (NAMLS)

Contributed by Binod Kumar Yadav, President and Rojeet Shrestha, Secretary NAMLS

Proceeding of Annual Report of NAMLS, 2010

The annual general meeting of NAMLS was held on February 6, 2010 at the C&W conference hall, Kings Way, Kathmandu with theme of "Laboratory Medicine in Nepal:

Achievements and Remaining Challenges". Two hundred and fifty-six participants registered for the meeting from the whole country. Ten IVD companies and distributors participated to the clinical laboratory expo. The conference was divided into the inaugural, plenary, scientific, business and election sessions.

Inaugural Session

Mr Birendra Raj Tiwari, President of NAMLS, chaired the meeting and Prof Bharat Jha, founder president of NAMLS, opened the inaugural Session as distinguished guest. High-ranking dignitaries from the Ministry of Health and Population, Chairmen of professional councils, Presidents of different professional associations, Representative from National Public Health Laboratory, prestigious professionals, professors and scientist of laboratory medicine and former Presidents of NAMLS participated to this event. The session started with the lighting of the traditional lamp by the Chief Guest, followed by the reading of the letter from the President of APFCB by Ms. Jyoti Acharya. Prof Dr Shiba Kumar Rai, Past-President of Nepal Health professional Council (NHPC) and NAMLS highlighted the some of the remarkable achievement we have made since 25 years in the field of laboratory medicine. Representatives from different professional associations have expressed their views about role of quality health laboratory and its importance in better patient care. Prof Dr S.K. Rai showed the official publication of NAMLS- Journal of NAMLS 2009 Vol 10 No1. The President closed the inaugural session by highlighting the work done by NAMLS.

Plenary Session

Prof Bharat Jha, Head of the Department of Biochemistry, TU Teaching Hospital and Prof Dr N.R. Tuladhar, Assistant Dean of Kathmandu University, School of Medicine co-chaired the plenary session. Mr Binod Kumar Yadav, General Secretary of NAMLS presented on "Remaining Challenges in Laboratory Medicine: A long way to walk", and emphasized the adaptation of emerging laboratory techniques and automation as an important aspect in the development of quality assurance in laboratory medicine.

Scientific Session

Prof Dr S.K. Rai and Mr Birendra Tiwari co-chaired the scientific session for which 10 scientific papers from different parts of country were presented.

Business session

The business session was started at 4:00 PM. All central committee members, regional members, Past presidents, organizing committee, editorial board, life members and general members participated the session. President Tiwari presented a briefing on the work and activities if the NAMLS in the year of 2009. Mr Binod K Yadav, general

secretary, then presented his report followed by the financial report by Mr Rojeet Shrestha, Treasurer.

Election session

The 7th Executive committee was formed with the election of Mr Binod K Yadav as President of 7th Central Committee, Mr K.P. Singh as Vice-President, Mr Rajan Kumar Dahal and Mr Rojeet Shrestha as General Secretary and Secretary respectively, and Miss Sarada Bajracharya as treasurer. Seven central members and regional members for different part of countries were also nominated.

Closing ceremony

The annual meeting of NAMLS 2010 was officially closed with remarks and suggestions to newly formed body of NAMLS, from eminent personalities in laboratory medicine including Mr Jayabin Singh, and Mr Ganesh Acharya.



Prof Bharat Jha, founder president of NAMLS, opening the inaugural Session.



From Left to right: Sarda Bajracharya (Treasurer), Rojeet Shrestha(Secretary), K.P. Singh(Vice–President), Binod Kumar Yadav (President), Rajan dahal (General Secretary)

NAMLS activities in promoting Laboratory medicine

Mr. Binod Yadav, President of NAMLS, Mr. Puspa Raj Khanal, member of NAMLS, participated in the meeting of the National Health Laboratory Policy organized by the Nepal Public Health Laboratory and the Nepal Health Ministry. Mr. Binod Yadav submitted the NAMLS view for the National Health Laboratory Policy.

A number of NAMLS members have actively participated in the IFCC, AACC and APFCB the international clinical chemistry conferences. They are grateful for the financial support they received from each of these international bodies.

These NAMLS activities and the support of international organizations are essential for the improvement of the quality of Nepalese medical laboratory services.

XXVII Biochemical Day in Banja Luka

Prepared by Snežana Jovičić. Institute of Medical Biochemistry
Clinical Centre of Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia

The end of October was the time when medical biochemists from Serbia, traditionally, had the pleasure to socialize with their colleagues from Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Association of Medical Biochemists of Republic of Srpska and the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia organized joint meeting, XXVII Biochemical Day, on October 28th in Banja Luka, the capital of Republic of Srpska. There were

around 100 participants from Serbia, Republic of Srpska and Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The topic of this year's meeting was "Dilemmas and progress in determination of some biomarkers: present state". After opening remarks by the president of the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia, professor Nada Majkić–Singh, the lecturers from Institute of Medical Biochemistry, Clinical Centre of Serbia and Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade, presented the latest novelties in biochemical prenatal screening strategies (professor Svetlana Ignjatović), clinical use of high–sensitivity troponin assays (ass. Sanja Stanković), present issues in vitamin D determination (assistant professor Duško Mirković) and the use of C–reactive protein values as a guide for statin therapy in primary prevention of cardiovascular disease complications (Snežana Jovičić). Beside this official part, this was the great opportunity to exchange experience and get up–to–date with current issues in clinical laboratory practice between these two biochemical communities in neighbouring countries.



From left to right: Dr Sanja Avram–Šolaja (President of the Association of Medical Biochemists of Republic of Srpska), Prof. Dr Svetlana Ignjatović, Sanja Stanković, Prof. Dr Nada Majkić–Singh (president of the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia) and Dr Velibor Canić (president of Chamber of Biochemists of Serbia).

For several years IFCC, through its Scientific Division, has been a global leader in method standardization. Several projects have resulted in the production of reference materials, reference measurement procedures and international reference laboratories. Working with the diagnostics industry it has become possible to demonstrate traceability and commutability between these reference standards and the results obtained in service laboratories using commercial products. Method standardization has been achieved for a growing number of the most commonly performed analytes in clinical chemistry. A list of standardized methods is available from the website of the Joint Committee for Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (JCTLM), which is strongly supported by IFCC (www.bipm.org/jctlm).

This programme of method standardization will continue to be supported by IFCC. In addition, however, there is a growing realization that patient safety is being compromised by method dependent differences for many clinically important biomarkers. This is especially true in the developing areas of microbiology and molecular diagnostics. In many cases it is not currently possible to meet the exacting requirements of method standardization.

Consequently, a project has commenced under the leadership of the American Association of Clinical Chemistry (AACC). This project aims to reduce between method variability through harmonization rather than full standardization. A summary of the project and an explanation of the differences between standardization and harmonization have recently been published: Millar WG, Myers GL, Gantzer ML *et al.* Roadmap for harmonization of clinical chemistry laboratory measurement procedures. *Clin Chem* 2011; 58: 1108–1117

IFCC supports the harmonization project and is working with AACC and other international stakeholders to introduce a co-ordinated system that enable an increased number of important biomarkers to be considered for method standardization or harmonization. This is truly a project of global importance.

Further updates will be available through future issues of IFCC News. In the mean time if you have comments or suggestions then please direct them to Graham Beastall (gbeastall@googlemail.com)

IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Program (PSEP)

My experience at Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, US,

by Harsh Vardhan Singh, Consultant Biochemist, Department of Pathology, Hindu Rao Hospital, Delhi, India

The healthcare sector is transforming each day. For advances to occur in the diagnostic field, medical laboratory professionals are required to be well versed in quality so that their advancement is achieved in an effective manner. To this end, I am extremely happy to write about my experience at Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA, and testify that my sojourn has improved my understanding of laboratory medicine.

I was given the opportunity to work under the supervision of Dr. Ross Molinaro (Medical Director, Emory University Hospital Midtown, Atlanta, GA, USA, Co-Director, Emory University School of Medicine, Emory Clinical Translational Research Laboratory) from July 1st to September 2nd, 2011. Dr. Molinaro introduced me to Dr. James Ritchie, the Associate Director of Emory Medical Laboratories, who also guided and helped me during my training period. I was given the opportunity to work both in the core laboratory of the CLIA-certified Emory University Hospital and in Dr. Molinaro's CLIA certified clinical research laboratory.

My objective was to better understand the processes involved in Total Quality Management (TQM) from a CLIA certified laboratory standpoint. My exposure to an environment conducive to high-level process improvement, method development, troubleshooting and quality systems provided me with (a) new knowledge and skills in quality management as applied to laboratory testing in healthcare, and (b) the ability to complete clinical research studies for better outcomes in disease management.

My active participation in the development, validation and application of a tandem-mass spectrometry method for the measurement of serum testosterone led to an abstract accepted for presentation at the Mass Spectrometry: Applications to the Clinical Lab (MSACL) annual meeting in 2012. This hands-on project allowed me to better appreciate issues in project management, method development, quality control processes and other documentation skills.

I could also participate to a project aiming at 1) Improving the turn-around-time (from specimen collection to result reported) with the Emergency Department; 2) Mapping out the Emergency Department procedures to determine gaps in laboratory service; 3) Assessing the Emergency Department physician's satisfaction status. Discussions on the causes of delays in reporting results helped reduce turnaround time in the Emergency Department.

I also worked with Dr. Molinaro on evaluating the current usage of HbA1c testing at Emory University Hospital Midtown, and whether physician ordering followed current recommended guidelines of the American Diabetes Association (ADA). The observed over-utilization and non-adherence to current ADA practice recommendations, led to

tutoring clinicians to help them better understand 1) the clinical utility of HbA1c and 2) the caveats of HbA1c interpretation in the presence of hemoglobin variants.

Finally, I contributed with Dr Molinaro to a retrospective analysis that helped to reduce the number of microscope slides reviewed by medical technologists in the clinical laboratory. The results of this study have been submitted as an abstract for the 2012 American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC) Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, CA, USA.

Being at Emory, I was able to attend the 2011 AACC Annual Meeting held in Atlanta and participate to the Society for Young Clinical Laboratorians (SYCL) reception where I met with several clinical chemists and laboratory professionals who, like me, are early in their careers.

My stay at Emory University fulfilled my main objective and allowed me to obtain experience in quality control, method validation, test utilization, quality planning and quality assurance as applied to laboratory testing in health care. It also enabled me to plan, implement, and evaluate management principles and practices effectively.



From left to right: Dr. Jeanne Rhea, DR. Molinaro Ross, Dr. Harsh Vardhan Singh

Acknowledgment

I would like to thank Dr. Molinaro for hosting me at Emory University and granting me access to his clinical research laboratory and to the Emory Hospital core laboratory. I am grateful to Dr. Jeanne Rhea, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in Dr. Molinaro's clinical translational research laboratory, Mr. Bradford Burgett, research technologist, who both assisted me with my projects and helped to make my visit at Emory a success. I am also thankful to Dr. James Ritchie for the help he provided to me during my stay at Emory, and Ms. Cynthia Rikard, Quality Control Coordinator for Emory Medical Laboratories, for taking the time to sit with me and discuss quality control

management. I am extremely grateful to Dr. Jocelyn Hicks, Past-President and Dr. Graham Beastall, current IFCC President for supporting the Professional Scientific Exchange Program that has not only allowed me to achieve my goals described above, but also will enable me to move laboratory medicine forward at my own institution.

My sabbatical leave at the Vita-Salute San Raffaele University, Milan, Italy,

by Dr. Mabel A. Charles-Davies, Immediate Past IFCC National Representative (Nigeria),
Department of Chemical Pathology, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of spending my sabbatical period in Prof. Maurizio Ferrari's laboratory was to improve my capacity of applying advanced technologies, particularly molecular biology, in the of diagnosis of diseases, and in research in the field of reproductive endocrinology. My exposure to the 'state of the art' molecular biology techniques in Prof. Ferrari's Laboratory has allowed me to fulfil my dreams and aspiration. My attendance at the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) course in Molecular Biology in Milan in 2006 was intended to achieve the above objective but time was short, and facilities were then unavailable in our laboratory to continue with what was learnt.

EXPERIENCE

In the last few months, I have been through various aspects of molecular diagnosis of 21 β -hydroxylase enzyme deficiencies. Southern blotting and hybridization as well as polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and sequencing were applied after having extracted deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA). Observation and hands-on experience in the various phases of this process have greatly improved my confidence in the use of these techniques. These analyses require top quality controls and laboratory safety, to which the staff strictly adheres. The environment and friendly atmosphere are conducive to the success of the laboratory. I am now applying what I have learned to the molecular diagnosis of azoospermia. I designed the required primers and I am presently setting the conditions for multiplex PCR.

On the social side, hospitality and courtesy are part of the Italian culture. I found everyone friendly and ready to help, even not convenient. My enrolment in an Italian school for foreigners 2 hours a week greatly enhanced my interaction with others, particularly outside the laboratory where English language, my mode of communication, is scarcely understood.

COLLABORATION

This Professional Scientific Exchange Programme was the beginning of a true collaboration between my institution, the University of Ibadan, and the Vita-Salute San Raffaele University, Milan, Italy.

RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION

I recommend the continuation of the IFCC PSEP program in settings with advanced technologies, in particular for individuals from developing countries. This will, beyond courses organised by the IFCC both within and outside their countries, build capacity and increase confidence in the use of advanced technologies in their laboratories. The additional knowledge and experience I have gained in Milan will impact on my colleagues and students, and the Association of Clinical Chemistry of Nigeria (ACCN).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am very grateful to the IFCC for granting me the PSEP. It was financially very stressful before this aid, because of the relative cost of transportation and accommodation between Nigeria and the European Union.

I must extend my wholehearted thanks to Prof. Maurizio Ferrari, who generously opened his doors, and offered his staff and facilities in the development of my career. I am particularly grateful to Dr. Paola Carrera (in charge of my training) and Dr. Mascia Di Marzio (who supervised my hands-on experience in 21β -hydroxylase enzyme work, including interpretation), and the whole laboratory staff of the Department of Molecular Biology and Cytogenetics for their assistance and friendliness. I am also grateful to Ms Denise Bottoni (Prof. Ferrari's Secretary) and Dr. Monica Zanusi for their availability that made my stay socially comforting. I cannot thank them enough. I also wish to thank Prof. E.O Agbedan, my Department Head at the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, for his support and advice.



From left to right: Prof. Maurizio Ferrari, Dr Mabel Charles-Davies

Contributed by Amanda Cushman Holm, Senior Marketing Manager

Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) is dedicated to developing best practices in clinical and laboratory testing and promoting their use throughout the world to improve the quality of medical care. These best practice guidelines and standards are available on the CLSI website. A number of new guidelines have been recently published.

They include:

C58-A-Assessment of Fetal Lung Maturity by the Lamellar Body Count; Approved Guideline

This document provides guidelines for the use of automated cell counting to enumerate lamellar bodies in amniotic fluid. It describes the different counting technologies used in automated cell counters as well as methods laboratorians can use to verify/validate the lamellar body count test.

EP23-A-Laboratory Quality Control Based on Risk Management; Approved Guideline

This document provides guidance based on risk management for laboratories to develop quality control plans tailored to the particular combination of measuring system, laboratory setting, and clinical application of the test.

EP24-A2-Assessment of the Diagnostic Accuracy of Laboratory Tests Using Receiver Operating Characteristic Curves; Approved Guideline-Second Edition

This document provides a protocol for evaluating the accuracy of a test to discriminate between two subclasses of subjects when there is some clinically relevant reason to separate them. In addition to the use of receiver operating characteristic curves and the comparison of two curves, the document emphasizes the importance of defining the question, selecting the sample group, and determining the "true" clinical state.

I/LA35-A-Newborn Screening for Cystic Fibrosis; Approved Guideline

This document describes the use of newborn screening laboratory tests for detecting risk for cystic fibrosis from newborn dried blood spots (DBS) and addresses both the primary screening tests and the reflex tests performed on DBS.

MM19-A-Establishing Molecular Testing in Clinical Laboratory Environments; Approved Guideline

This guideline provides comprehensive guidance for planning and implementation of molecular diagnostic testing, including strategic planning, regulatory requirements, implementation, quality management, and special considerations for the subspecialties of molecular genetics, infectious diseases, oncology, and pharmacogenetics.

POCT10–A2–Physician and Nonphysician Provider–Performed Microscopy Testing; Approved Guideline–Second Edition

This guideline provides information on specimen collection, test methodologies, procedural steps, reporting of results, and the quality assurance aspects of provider–performed microscopy.

In addition to standards and guideline for the clinical laboratory, CLSI has a number of webinars and teleconferences available including free webinars about StatisPro methods evaluation software.

Visit www.clsi.org for additional information about CLSI education opportunities as well as the over 200 documents and related products that CLSI offers.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

ArabMedLab 2012 – 13th Arab Congress of Clinical Biology (AFCB) and 12th Moroccan Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine 2–5 May 2012– Marrakech, Morocco. For more information please visit: www.smccbm.org

XXXIII Nordic Congress in Clinical Chemistry. June 12–15, 2012 – Reykjavik, Iceland
For more information please visit: www.nfkk2012.is

6th Santorini Conference Biologie Prospective "Systems Biology and Personalized Health –Science and Translation", September 30 – October 2, 2012 –Santorini, Greece.
For more information please visit: www.santorini2012.org

EuroMedLab 2013 – 20thIFCC–EFCC European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine. May 19–23, 2013 – Milano, Italy.
For more information please visit: www.milan2013.org

2nd EUROPEAN JOINT CONGRESS OF EFCC AND UEMS 10–13 October 2012, Dubrovnik, Croatia Under the auspices of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine. For more information please visit: www.dubrovnik2012.com

APCCB 2013 – 13th Asian Pacific Congress of Clinical Biochemistry November 17–20, 2013 –Bali, Indonesia. For more information please visit: www.apccb2013.org

WorldLab 2014 – 21st International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine. June 22–26, 2014 – Istanbul, Turkey.
For more information please visit: www.istanbul2014.org