



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

eNewsLetter

IFCC NEWS, May-Jun 2005 issue  
By Ellis JACOBS, IFCC News Editor



## **EDITORIAL: EMD FOR EDUCATION AND MANAGEMENT.**

The Education and Management Division (EMD) has written in its mission statement that it will provide IFCC members and the health-care community with the best education relevant to Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, directed at scientific, management, and clinical issues.

In recent years, its Executive Committee and all Committees and Working Groups have been actively pursuing the implementation of this statement. Looking at the Home page of the IFCC Website, one will see, for example, that in the near future three courses invite your participation: Evidence-Based Laboratory Medicine, Clinical Molecular Biology, and Flow Cytometry. All these courses aim at teaching new technologies and techniques, which is exactly what we want to offer the membership of IFCC.

The series starts with a molecular biology course. In five days, from 5 to 9 July 2005 in Milan, experts in the field will teach you practical and theoretical basic knowledge in this important subject. The molecular techniques for clinical applications have entered our laboratories already. Do not miss this opportunity to learn more about molecular biology, join your colleagues, and fill in the registration form.

Evidence-Based Laboratory Medicine (EBLM) is becoming more and more relevant when we as laboratory professionals want to do our utmost to seek the most optimal diagnostic and monitoring strategy for patients trusted to our care. If you agree with this statement, from 21-24 September 2005 Budapest is then the place to be. This important part of our profession is organized by the Committee on EBLM, and is supported by the Database provided by this Committee. And thus you will find hundreds of Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses on the IFCC Website. This information will support you in providing a good laboratory service, and that's where IFCC stands for.

The Course on Applications of Flow Cytometry will take place from 7 -9 October 2005 in Bremen, Germany. Eight hands-on courses with measurements at the cytometer followed by an analysis will help you to become acquainted with this technique that has established itself as one of the important modern diagnostic methods in our laboratories. Visit the IFCC Website for the application form and make sure you keep up to date.

We take the initiative of all these, and other, activities of EMD also on the basis of the questionnaire our Committee on Education and Curriculum Development (C-ECD) has sent out. This is the way EMD thinks it can serve the IFCC membership best by asking your input on what your needs are. The outcome of our last survey is also found on the IFCC Website. You have indicated to us activities which are important to you to help you improve the level of clinical chemistry in your country. You have named the following topics for educational activities:

- Case-based learning
- Evidence-based laboratory medicine
- Quality control and assurance
- Test interpretation
- Lab Management – Financial Management.

We will do our best to work on these items, but there is more. This communication with the member societies of IFCC is essential for us in the EMD, and for all levels of IFCC. We, therefore, invite you to let us know what we can do for you, either directly or via the IFCC Office.

That way we can even better direct our activities *to provide IFCC members and the health-care community with the best education relevant.*

Sending out a questionnaire is one way to obtain input from all of you. But, since dealing with management is one of the core activities of our Division, we have tried to start forming an opinion on what we see as the optimal structure for the Federation as a whole. For a number of years we have been operating according to an organizational model that was implemented some time ago. The Executive Committee of the EMD should like to evaluate the communication channels inside the Federation, its position in the outer World, and the way it may react to international developments. We want to guarantee an optimal input from the IFCC member societies via the different Regions in the Executive Board and the Divisions. And vice versa, the strategy that the EB has outlined should be known and implemented in every member society. Divisions and Regions can and should play a role in this process. They should bring strategies, goals and local needs into practice in their activities.

In short, with a new Executive Board to be chosen in Orlando, the EMD pleads for a discussion on the optimal structure of the Federation to maintain and improve its position in the scientific and health-care world.

On behalf of the Education and Management Division,  
**Gerard Sanders, Chairman.**

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## REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF ACBI IN 2004

Contributed by Drs M.V. Reddy, Secretary, ACBI and K.P. Sinha Advisor, ACBI and IFCC News WG

The new office bearers for the year 2004-05 were elected at the General Body meeting of the Association of Clinical Biochemists of India held on December 3, 2004:

- President  
Dr. M. V. Kodliwadmath  
Professor & Head, Department of Biochemistry,  
J. N. Medical College, Belgaum – 590010  
Phone: (Res) 91-(0)831-2454858  
Mobile; 9448013892  
E-mail: mvkodliwadmath@yahoo.co.in
- Advisor & Past National Representative  
Dr. K. P. Sinha
- Vice President  
Dr. Mrs. V. A. Haldankar
- Immediate Past President & Chairman, ACBI-CW & National Representative to IFCC  
Dr. K. Taranath Shetty, Ph.D.  
Professor of Neurochemistry & Dean,  
NIMHANS, Bangalore – 560029, India.  
Phone: (Off) 91-80-26995158, (Res): 91-80-6564830  
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- General Secretary  
Dr. M. V. R. Reddy  
Professor & Head of Biochemistry  
M .G. I. Medical Science & J. B. T. Research Centre,  
SEWAGRAM- 442 102,  
Tel: (O) (91) 7152 284341 (Extn 262 / 303),  
E-mail: [mvrreddy\\_wda@sancharnet.in](mailto:mvrreddy_wda@sancharnet.in)
- Joint secretary  
Dr. K. R. Prasad
- Treasurer  
Dr. B. N. Tiwary
- Editor, IJCB  
Dr. D. N. Rao

## **Activities in 2004:**

### ***ACBICON – Bangalore:***

The year started with the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual conference of the Association, ACBICON 2004 at Bangalore, which was successfully conducted during January 19 to 22, 2004 at National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bangalore with Dr.K.Taranath Shetty as Organizing Secretary. The details of the event were covered in 2004 APFCB News.

### ***ACBICON – Belgaum:***

The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual meeting of ACBI (ACBICON 2004 – Belgaum) held at Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Belgaum, a small city known for its professional educational institutes and business activities in South part of India. Professor M.V.Kodliwadmth was the organizing Secretary. The conference attended by about 450 delegates was inaugurated on December 2nd. During the inaugural function Shri. A.J. Thakur Award for Distinguished service in Clinical Biochemistry and laboratory Medicine was installed and the very first award for 2004 was aptly presented to Dr.K.P.Sinha, one of the founder members of the Association who rendered yeomen's service to the ACBI since its inception. The ACBI has also honored by presenting "Fellowships of ACBI" to senior members Dr Praveen Sharma, Professor in Biochemistry at SMS Medical College, Jaipur and the immediate Past President of the ACBI and Dr. Swaminathan, Professor at Christian Medical College, Vellore for their valuable services and contributions to the growth and development of the Clinical biochemistry.

Scientific programme of the conference comprised of 5 oration lectures, one Industrial workshop, 27 symposia on various aspects of clinical biochemistry and laboratory medicine, award paper presentation sessions, free paper sessions and a special session on clinical case presentation. Dr.K.Taranath Shetty, President ACBI, and Head, Department of Neurochemistry at NIMHANS, Bangalore delivered presidential oration on "Clinical chemistry in India: challenges and opportunities". Professor T. Malati, Professor & Head of Department of Biochemistry at NIMS, Hyderabad delivered Awadhesh Saran memorial oration on "Spectrum of monoclonal gamopathy and its effect on bone". Dr. Gurnath Kilara, senior consultant at Curie Centre of Oncology, Bangalore delivered K. L. Gupta Memorial oration on the topic "Cancer therapies: Where do we stand today". Seth G.S. Medical College & K.E.M Hospital oration was delivered by Dr. Praveen Sharma on the topic "Assessment of risks factors and prevalence of metabolic syndrome". Dr. Shyam S. Chauhan from Department of Biochemistry, AIIMS, New Delhi delivered Mrs. and Dr. G. P. Talwar oration on "Regulation of human Cathepsin L expression by alternate promoters and splicing".

An industrial workshop on "Good laboratory practice in laboratory medicine" held on December 3 under the sponsorship of M/S Becton Dickinson pre-analytical systems where Dr. R. Selvakumar, Head of Department of Biochemistry at CMC, Vellore and coordinator of the ACBI-CMC quality assurance programme delivered a lecture on "Pre-analytical sample rejection". The symposia were held on various topics namely biomarkers in cardiovascular diseases, update on HIV/AIDS, current topics in inflammation & immunomodulation, trends in laboratory medicine, pediatrics clinical biochemistry, lipoproteins, diabetes mellitus, genetic and epigenetic aspects in health diseases and as many as 30 invited speakers of eminence in their respective fields delivered lectures in these symposia. Another event that was well received was the Case presentation Session by Dr. Udayan Ray. Seven Young Scientists were awarded with ACBI Best Paper Awards. Further ACBI travel fellowships were awarded to six young delegate members. The musical programme presented by the under graduate medical students of the host Institute and the banquet dinner amidst glittering light & sound and dancing fountain at the sprawling garden of JNMC created a fabulous atmosphere to be remembered for years to come.

### **Regional Meetings:**

During this year seven scientific activities were organized by State / Regional chapters of ACBI in different parts of the country.

- A National level short term training course on 'Immunodiagnostics for Infectious Diseases' was organized by Dr.M.V.R.Reddy at Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Sevagram during February 2 to 7, 2004.
- The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual conference of the ACBI West Bengal Chapter was held at Kolkata on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2004 under the leadership of Dr. Santasree Mazumdar.
- A symposium on "Stem cell research and gene therapy" was organized on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2004 by Meerut branch of ACBI. The Organizing Secretary was Prof. Shashank Tyagi who was also Vice-President of ACBI.
- Under the convenorship of Dr.K.Taranath Shetty series of hands on training courses on "Protocols in Laboratory Diagnosis of Inborn Metabolic Disorders" were organized by the Department of Neurochemistry, NIMHANS, Bangalore in 2004.
- A "National symposium on Antioxidants and Trace elements in Medicine and Dentistry" was held during April 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> 2004 at Darshan Medical College and Hospital, Udaipur organized by Dr.P.P.Singh.
- The meeting of the ACBI – State Chapter of Kerala was held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2004 at Amrita institute of Medical Sciences, Cochin, and Dr.Ananth.N.Rao was chosen as the convener for ACBI, Kerala chapter.

### **Representation at 10<sup>th</sup> APPCB meeting:**

The ACBI members have made a good impression in the 10<sup>th</sup> APPCB meeting at Perth, Australia (18<sup>th</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> Sept. 2004). Out of a total number of 868 delegates registered from 34 Countries in the congress, India was represented by 35 delegates, second only to China. Four of the six "Regional Service Awards" (Dr. V. Thakur, Dr. P. Usha Sharma, Dr. Elizabeth A. Frank and Dr. M.N.Subash) and nine out of total 12 "IFCC Registration Bursary Winners" were bagged by ACBI members.

### **ACBI-Corporate Wing (ACBI-CW):**

Another important development has been the launching of the ACBI-Corporate Wing (ACBI-CW) with the objective to bring together the academia and industries to work for mutual growth and promotion of Clinical Biochemistry in India. Dr.K.Taranath Shetty was elected as the Chairman and Mr. Probir Das as Convener.

### **Publications:**

Two issues of volume 19 of Indian Journal of Clinical Biochemistry (IJCBC) were published in 2004 under Editorship of Dr D.N. Rao. The Journal is abstracted by Current awareness in Biological sciences, Current advances in Clinical Chemistry, Chemical Abstracts, Excerpta Medical database, EM Base and Biosis. Electronic access is available on ACBI website ([www.acbindia.org](http://www.acbindia.org)), APFCB website and [www.medind.nic.in](http://www.medind.nic.in) . Two issues of ACBI News Bulletins covering ACBI activities have been published in 2004 by the Secretariat.

**The next Annual conference of Association of Clinical Biochemists of India will be held at Patna (India) from 18 to 21<sup>st</sup> December 2005. Dr. B. N. Tiwary, Professor & Head of Biochemistry, Nalanda Medical College, Patna, 800020. It will appear on website: [www.acbindia.org](http://www.acbindia.org)**

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## INTERNET FORUM: A REAL OPPORTUNITY OF EXCHANGES BETWEEN LABORATORY PROFESSIONALS.

Contributed by Dr Damien Gruson, IFCC News WG



One of the actual highlights in Europe is that opposition to the new European Constitution is gaining ground in France ahead of the country's May 29 referendum. Effectively, since the beginning of the year European Constitution has been a popular subject of discussion in Europe. Some newspapers or T.V. websites have proposed to collect the various opinions of European citizens on their agreement or disagreement with the proposed constitution. Thus, by using the web it's easy to discuss, analyze or understand many subjects like news, sports, fashion, health or love and to define a sort of popular opinion concerning a define topic. This forum of exchange follows the rule action-reaction or question-answer and is an initiator of discussion or debate.

But, in spite of the attractive aspect of an internet forum, in spite of the simplicity for a webmaster to create a forum, we could say that there is a lack of a good internet forum about Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine in the web. As same as the MP3 solution proposed in the last IFCC news issue by Andrew Wootton, the IFCC CPD chair, an internet forum could be an interesting tool for initiate exchanges between Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory professionals.

Then, what is the definition of "forum"? A forum is a discussion area (containing post and reply messages) within a community (the Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory professionals). The ancient Latin definition for a forum is: "the public market or paved court of a Roman city where judicial and public business was transacted". Therefore, an Internet forum is a [web application](#) that provides [online](#) discussions. An Internet forum typically exists as part of a [website](#) and invites users to start topics and discuss issues with one another. The former generally allow most users to post topics and to discuss about these topics. A forum can be flat, meaning that each reply within a certain topic is listed in chronological order; or threaded, where each post descends from a parent post. Sites often provide several different views which combine aspects of both flat and threaded modes.

Thus, objectives of an internet forum are to accelerate the communication, discussion and interaction between communities and people. In addition, the Forum promotes cooperation and creates/bridges human relationships.

So, considering the first part of this article, an internet forum about laboratory topics could be one of the possible solutions for better interactions between Laboratory professionals, between Laboratory professionals and manufacturers, and a possibility for a better understanding of current laboratory "ground" problems. Such a forum is also an opportunity to debate, to discuss about current problems in laboratory (consolidation, quality requirements, laboratory management), to propose new tests and new applications in different pathologies, to discuss standardization proposals and to interact directly with the world "vox populi" of Laboratories. Finally, and for example, this forum could be for each IFCC division an opportunity to test the opinion of laboratory professionals about special event concerning the involved IFCC division in particulars topics.

So, considering the notoriety of IFCC, considering the expertise of IFCC members in all fields of laboratory, considering IFCC infrastructures, considering the attractive and popular IFCC website, considering the talent of IFCC webmaster, IFCC have to proposed forums of discussion about laboratory hot topics for a better interaction with laboratory professionals and including all the different laboratory lifetime actors. Afterall, may be we could imagine that IFCC

could proposed an "IFCC": Internet Forum about Clinical Chemistry (and laboratory medicine) hot topics. Now, the discussion is open...



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**14TH INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS CNIC 2005, 40 YEARS AT THE SERVICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, HAVANA, CUBA, JUNE 27TH-30TH, 2005**

Dear colleagues:

Every five years, the National Center for Scientific Research holds its International Scientific Congress in the framework of its anniversaries. The meeting has the aim to allow a gathering, as well as a fruitful scientific-technical exchange among an important number of national and international specialists in their research fields. Besides, it offers an excellent opportunity for showing new products and technologies from the medical, pharmaceutical and biotechnological industries. This time we are calling for the 14th meeting to be held from June 27th to 30th, 2005.

**TOPICS**

1. Natural Products from Plants.
2. Phytotherapeutical Products.
3. II Environmental Symposium XXI Century: Protection of Materials (Corrosion, Degradation and Aging). Characterization of Atmospheres. Development and Evaluation of Materials for Environmental Control Amplification. Biotechnology in Waste Treatment. Environmental Management and Quality.
4. II Symposium on Infectious Diseases: Vaccines and Adjuvants, Diagnosis, Immunology, Molecular Biology and Proteomics.
5. NEUROSCIENCES 2005. Neurophysics, Cognitive Neurosciences Neurolinguistics, Neural Origin Disabilities, Schizophrenia, Autism, Hearing Losses and Phonoaudiology, Senile Dementia, Learning Problems and Behavioral Problems, Neural Plasticity and Molecular Neurobiology.
6. VIDEO SCIENCE 2005. 1st International Workshop of Movies and Scientific Video.
7. Systems for Fast Diagnosis in Microbiology.
8. Bacterial Resistance.
9. Applications of Nanotechnology to Medicine and the Medical and Pharmaceutical Industries.
10. Experimental Medicine and Medical Treatments with Ozone.
11. Ozone Chemistry.
12. Water Treatment with Ozone.
13. Design of Ozone Generation Systems.
14. Biomaterials, Development, Evaluation and Clinical Behavior of Biomaterials for Implants.
15. Polymers for Medical and Pharmaceutical Uses, Development and Applications.
16. 1st International Simposium of Scientific and Technological Trends
17. Microwave Applications in Chemistry and Biology
18. Nuclear Medicine

**Facilities:** Rooms with modern projection means  
Simultaneous translation in two rooms (Spanish - English)  
Two rooms for posters

**Registration:** Delegates: \$ 225 CUC  
Students: \$ 150 CUC  
Accompanying persons: \$ 50 CUC

**Associated Exhibitions Fair**

Registration: 110 USD/m2.  
Any other services will be agreed as requested

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Phone number: (537) 208 4398  
Fax: (537) 202 8382

**Organizing Committee**

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**Secretary:**  
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<http://www.havanatur.cu>

**WEB pages with more information:**

Our site: <http://www.cnic.edu.cu/14Congreso/Bienvenida.htm>  
and <http://www.loseventos.cu/seminariocnic2005>  
Venue: <http://www.cpalco.com>

**Contact:**  
[seminario@cnic.edu.cu](mailto:seminario@cnic.edu.cu)  
[feria@cnic.edu.cu](mailto:feria@cnic.edu.cu)

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## ANNOUNCING 2005 IFCC/EDMA AWARD WINNERS

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

It gives us great pleasure to announce the winners of the 2005 IFCC/EDMA awards that will be presented at the IFCC/EDMA symposium in the Euromedlab Congress in Glasgow, Scotland on Thursday, May 12, 2005 from 8:30. – 10:30 p.m.

The IFCC EDMA Award is bestowed for the best investigation presenting evidence for the benefits of laboratory testing as basis for better decisions in health care. It is the objective of the award to support the generation of papers of high scientific quality on laboratory testing outcomes as an essential tool in increasing the effectiveness of patient treatment, both from the medical and the economic viewpoint. Laboratory scientists, laboratory managers, physicians and health economics are eligible.

This year's winner is Dr Katelijn Decochez for her paper entitled "Combined positivity for HLA DQ2/DQ8 and IA-2 antibodies defines population at high risk of developing type 1 diabetes." Dr Decochez and her co-authors are from the Diabetes Research Centre, Free University of Brussels, Belgium.

Second place winner was Dr Elaine A. Sugarman for her paper entitled "CFTR mutation distribution among U.S. Hispanic and African American individuals: Evaluation in cystic fibrosis patient and carrier screening populations." Dr Sugarman and her co-authors are from the Genzyme Corporation, Genzyme Genetics, Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory, Westborough, Massachusetts USA and the Department of Pathology, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, USA.

Third place winner was Dr Benjamin Edvinsson for his paper entitled "DNA extraction and PCR assays for detection of *Toxoplasma gondii*." Dr Edvinsson and his coauthors are from the Karolinska Institute, Huddinge University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden and the Rikshospitalet, University of Oslo, Norway.

We also want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the IFCC/EDMA Awards Committee for their thoroughness and hard work in selecting the 2005 winners. Their job was not an easy one but one that they executed with a high degree of responsibility and integrity.

Respectfully Yours,

Mathias M. MÜLLER, M.D.  
President, IFCC

Carl A. BURTIS, Ph.D.  
Vice-President, IFCC  
Chair, IFCC Awards CMT

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## NEW CORPORATE MEMBER

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to inform you that: MITSUBISHI Chemical Europe, Diagnostic Business, has applied and was accepted for IFCC membership.

The company develops, manufactures and distributes clinical diagnostic reagents and instruments as well as research reagents.

The corporate representative to IFCC is Dr. Ralf Thomae in Duesseldorf / Germany.

Kind regards,

Prof. Dr.Hartmut Wetzel  
Corporate Representative  
IFCC Executive Board

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## IFCC DOCUMENTS RECENTLY PUBLISHED

The following documents have been published by IFCC Divisions/Committees/Working Groups:

*C 8.2.19 Standardisation of Markers of Cardiac Damage*

Apple FS, Panteghini M, Raykilde J, Mair J, Wu AH, Tate J, Pagani F, Christensen RH, Jaffe AS. Quality specifications for B-type natriuretic peptide assays. Clin Chem 2005; 51:486-493.

*C 9.2.7 Evidence Based Laboratory Medicine*

Hovarth AR, Pewsner D. Systemic reviews in laboratory medicine: principles, processes and practical considerations. Clin Chim Acta 2004; 342:23-39.

The following papers based on IFCC documents has been published recently:

Tominaga M, Makino H, Yoshino G, Kuwa K, Takei I, Aono Y, Hoshino T, Umemoto M, Shimatsu A, Sanke T, Kuwashima M, Taminato T, Ono J. Japanese standard reference material for JDS Lot 2 Haemoglobin A1c. I: Comparison of Japanese Diabetes Society-assigned values to those obtained by the Japanese and USA domestic standardization programmes and by the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry reference laboratories. Ann Clin Biochem 2005; 42:41-46.

Tominaga M, Makino H, Yoshino G, Kuwa K, Takei I, Aono Y, Hoshino T, Umemoto M, Shimatsu A, Sanke T, Kuwashima M, Taminato T, Ono J. Japanese standard reference material for JDS Lot 2 Haemoglobin A1c. II: Present state of standardization of haemoglobin A1c in Japan using the new reference material in routine clinical assays. Ann Clin Biochem 2005; 42:47-50.

## LIGHT-HEARTED CLINICAL CHEMISTRY

### *Festive Clinical Chemistry*

It was past 5 p.m. in the afternoon of Christmas Eve. I was on the PubMed making a last-minute attempt to understand a clinical syndrome before picking up my wife after her last-minute shopping spree and getting ready for celebrating the arrival of the Saviour. That's when it happened. The Duty Biochemist informed me that an innovative doctor in the Neonatal ICU had been injecting faeces into the blood gas analyser on the ward, potentially putting the analyser out of use for the entire holiday period and certainly adding an extra US\$1000 or so to our already strained departmental budget for the replacement of the 28-day cartridge.

We thought that the instrument was foolproof. A couple of years ago, we had connected all peripheral blood gas analysers to the laboratory via the hospital local area network for continuous monitoring of the performance of the analysers. Only trained ward staff had access to the equipment using a personal password for access, the idea being that the password could be revoked in case of misuse of the analyser. Further enquiries revealed that the paediatric MO, who had been trained and had used his password, felt that he should measure the acid-base status in faeces in a suspected case of lactose intolerance, expecting to find a low pH-value because of increased levels of lactic acid. What were we going to do? Revoke the aspiring paediatrician's password or decide that he had shown impressive signs of lateral thinking? In best Christmas spirit we opted for the latter alternative.

*Recollected by Chris Lam, Hong Kong*

## UPCOMING IFCC RELATED MEETINGS IN 2005/2006

IFCC/Beckman Coulter Conference Series: Protein Conference and Award, Glasgow, United Kingdom. 6-7 May, 2005, [www.beckmancoulter.com](http://www.beckmancoulter.com)

16<sup>th</sup> IFCC-FESCC European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, 'Focus 2005' National Meeting of the Association of Clinical Biochemists, Glasgow, Scotland, 8-12 May 2005, [www.glasgow2005.org](http://www.glasgow2005.org)

Laboratory Automation Conference, Orchard Hotel, Singapore, 12-13 May, 2005, [www.aacc.org/meetings/singapore\\_labauto/](http://www.aacc.org/meetings/singapore_labauto/)

3rd IFCC Clinical Molecular Biology Course organized by the Committee on Clinical Molecular Biology Curriculum of IFCC, Milan, Italy, San Raffaele Hospital, 5-9 July, 2005, [www.ifcc.org/divisions/emd/documents/Programme\\_San\\_Raffaele\\_2005.pdf](http://www.ifcc.org/divisions/emd/documents/Programme_San_Raffaele_2005.pdf)

XIX International Congress of Clinical Chemistry (ICCC) IFCC/AACC 2005 Annual Meeting, Orlando, Florida, USA, 24-28 Jul 2005, [www.aacc.org/2005AM/](http://www.aacc.org/2005AM/)

X International Congress of Pediatric Laboratory Medicine (ICPLM) East Meets West: Meeting the Challenges in Pediatric Diagnosis and Management, Raffles City Convention Center, Singapore, 3-6 Sep, 2005, [www.sacb.org.sg](http://www.sacb.org.sg)

4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Circulating Nucleic Acids in Plasma/Serum, Kings College, London, 4-6 Sep, 2005 [www.cnaps4london.co.uk](http://www.cnaps4london.co.uk)

Course on Evidence-Based Laboratory Medicine organized by the Committee on Evidence-Based Laboratory Medicine of IFCC, Budapest, Hungary, 21-24 Sep, 2005 [www.ifcc.org/divisions/emd/c-eblm/pdf/EBLM\\_course%20preliminary\\_programme.pdf](http://www.ifcc.org/divisions/emd/c-eblm/pdf/EBLM_course%20preliminary_programme.pdf)

IFCC/Beckman Coulter Flow Cytometry Course: Strategies for the diagnostic Monitoring of the specific Immune Response, Bremen, Germany, Bremen, Germany, 7-9 Oct, 2005, [www.graphicmail.com/members/1345/ftp/Pictures/FlowCytometry1st%20Announcement.pdf](http://www.graphicmail.com/members/1345/ftp/Pictures/FlowCytometry1st%20Announcement.pdf)

XVII Congreso Latinoamericano de Bioquímica Clínica, Hotel Yacht and Resort, Asunción, Paraguay, 4-7 April, 2006, <http://www.ifcc.org/products/congresses/HotelYachtCasinoResorting.pdf>