



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

eNewsletter



**IFCC NEWS, Sep-Oct 2005 issue**  
**By Ellis JACOBS, IFCC News Editor**

## EDITORIAL - PARTNERSHIP: A FORMULA FOR GREATER ACHIEVEMENT



**JEAN-CLAUDE FOREST**  
**CHAIR, IFCC SCIENTIFIC DIVISION**  
**QUEBEC CITY, QUEBEC, CANADA**

In this second editorial of the Scientific Division, I would like to underscore the partnership between IFCC and other International Organizations that has contributed to significant achievements and is furthering the leadership role of IFCC in implementing metrological traceability.

One of the most significant endeavors of the recent years in terms of cooperation has certainly been the establishment of the Joint Committee on Traceability on Laboratory Medicine (JCTLM). Under the leadership of the President of the IFCC, Professor Muller, and the very active participation of the members of the Scientific Division, IFCC has played a key role in creating JCTLM in association with BIPM (*Bureau International des Poids et Mesures*) and ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation). Currently, IFCC is chairing JCTLM (the Chair, Prof. Thijssen, sits as consultant on the Executive Committee of the SD) while BIPM is hosting the secretariat and one of his representatives (Dr. R.I. Wielgosz) acts as secretary. Many National and International Organizations, involved in one aspect or another of standardization or quality assessment, are now joining JCTLM, as members. The two Working Groups of JCTLM, in which members of various Scientific Division Committees and Working Groups are actively involved, have made major advances. The Working Group on Reference Measurement Procedures (RMPs) and Reference Materials (RMs) has evaluated a series of measurement procedures and reference materials nominated by various National and International Organizations. Following the criteria described in ISO Standards 15193 and 15194, JCTLM has published a list of more than 70 higher order RMPs and another list of over 160 RMs. These lists are now available for consultation through the IFCC Website. The composition of the lists of reference materials and reference methods is under continuous review. A quality manual providing a comprehensive description of the process for requesting and accepting nominations for certified reference materials and reference methods and for review and approval is being prepared. Working Group 2 on Reference Measurement Laboratories is currently working on a document to define a process for review of reference measurement services from laboratories that are signatories to CIPM (International Committee of Weights and Measures) MRA or accredited as calibration laboratories by National Agencies following ISO-17025/15195 Standards. This Working Group is functioning in close collaboration with the IFCC Committee on Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (C-TLM) which is responsible to

establish and implement external quality assessment schemes (EQAS) for Reference Laboratories for monitoring competence through comparative measurement campaigns (Ring Trials). The Committee has recently decided to conduct annually Ring Trials for candidate reference laboratories. A Website for the IFCC/DGKL EQAS for reference laboratories has been established and is available through the Website of the German Society for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine ([www.dgkl-rfb.de:81](http://www.dgkl-rfb.de:81)). The Website provides all information pertaining to Ring Trials and includes the general procedure manual describing all processes related to the participation in the Ring Trials. As a whole, the activities of JCTLM will permit to reach more rapidly the objectives for metrological traceability behind the EC Directive regarding *in vitro* Diagnostic Medical Devices and the related ISO Standards 15193, 15194 and 15195 as well as ISO 17025. Standardization in Laboratory Medicine based on metrological traceability will have significant impact on the utilization of reference intervals and decision limits. Better definitions of analytes, harmonization and optimization of routine methods based on the concept of metrological traceability will have a great influence on many measurands. This is the reason why a new SD Committee on Reference Intervals and Decision Limits (C-RIDL) has been established. This Committee which had its first meeting during the recent IFCC/AACC Congress in Orlando has as main terms of reference : to review current concepts of establishing reference intervals and decision limits ; to determine a priority list of measurands (analytes) for which reference intervals and decision limits have to be studied based on clinical needs ; to establish transferability protocol for reference intervals and decision limits and to monitor and evaluate already available reference intervals for selected measurands.

Our ten year collaboration with the Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (IRMM) continues with current joined ventures with various SD Committees and Working Groups such as the preparation of the certified reference materials for AST, ALP, myoglobin, a new preparation of CRM 470 (CRM470-R), progesterone, T3 and T4. Furthermore, discussions are underway for the production of well defined reference materials including "low level RMs" capable of being used as positive and negative controls in genetic clinical testing.

An intensive working relationship has been developed between CLSI (Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute, formerly NCCLS) and IFCC. Four documents have been completed so far on subjects such as bone markers and free thyroid hormone measurements. Currently, twenty CLSI/IFCC joined projects are agreed and are at various stages of production. Many members of various Committees and Working Groups are nominated by IFCC to serve as experts on the Joint Subcommittees responsible for the preparation of the documents (guidelines). Through the publication of these guidelines, this cooperation with CLSI enhances the input and influence of IFCC in the area of the development and diffusion of good laboratory practices in Laboratory Medicine.

Other collaborations with National Societies or Institutions have shown to be also very fruitful. This is the case for example with the standardization of markers of cardiac damage in particular for the preparation of a primary reference material for cardiac troponin. Through a joint venture with AACC and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), C-SMCD has pioneered standardization of troponin I resulting in the selection of the human CIT tertiary complex NIST SRM 2921 for the standardization of cTnI routine assays. This SD Committee is also currently completing in collaboration with IRMM the preparation of a certified Reference Material for myoglobin and is now also implicated in the standardization of B-type natriuretic peptide.

From these examples of collaboration, it is clear that the impact of the IFCC can be greatly amplified through cooperation with other organizations involved in Laboratory Medicine and more particularly for the Scientific Division in the area of standardization and metrological traceability. The main goals of the Scientific Division are analytical standardization, establishing reference systems (reference methods, reference materials, reference intervals, and network of reference laboratories) in view of defining the most efficient diagnostic strategies in screening, diagnostic and follow-up of disease in humans. This is a huge task requesting a wide range of expertise and important financial resources. A high level of cooperation and sharing of resources between developers of tools, manufacturers, laboratorians and clinicians are now mandatory and require good managerial skills on the part of the Executive Committee of SD to coordinate such activities.

Since, it is my last editorial as Chair of the Scientific Division, ending my second term at the end of the year, I would like to express my most sincere thanks to all those who served on the Executive Board of the Scientific Division over the past six years as well as to all the Chairs and Members of the various Committees and Working Groups for their extraordinary achievements. I am indebted also to the two previous chairs of the Scientific Division, Mathias Muller and Carl Burtis, for their support, counseling and friendship. I am convinced that my colleagues in the SD-EC, Mauro Panteghini, Howard Morris, Ian Young, Ulf-Hakan Stenman and Rolf Hinzmann who will continue to serve for another term at one or the other position, will pursue the path of partnership with laboratory professionals, academics, and manufacturers in all parts of the world. Farewell and great success for the benefit of our discipline and of the patients! Serving IFCC at the various positions of the Executive Committee of the Scientific Division has been for me a privilege and a great learning experience.

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## **DR. JOCELYN M. HICKS ELECTED NEW IFCC PRESIDENT FOR 2006-2008**



Dr. Jocelyn M. Hicks has been elected as the next President of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC), for a three-year term beginning in January 2006.

Dr. Hicks, who has a BSc (Hon.) in Physiology and an MSc in Biochemistry, both from the University of London, and a PhD in Physiology and Biophysics from Georgetown University Medical Center, Washington, DC (USA), is the rare combination of a highly successful scientist and top level administrator. She has many years of experience in basic clinical chemistry at the bench, and is the author of nearly 100 scientific articles and 9 books including

multiple editions of "Point-of-Care Testing" and the "Directory of Rare Analyses".

She is a recognized world leader in pediatric laboratory medicine. For many years she was Professor of Pediatrics and Pathology at The George Washington University School of Medicine and Chairman of the Departments of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at Children's National Medical Center (CNMC), a major teaching hospital in Washington, DC (USA) and Executive Director of the Center for Complex Diseases (composed of nine departments) at the same institution. She is now Emeritus Executive Director at CNMC and Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics and Pathology at George Washington University. Dr. Hicks has traveled the world extensively on behalf of laboratory medicine, teaching laboratory and management techniques.

Subsequently, Dr. Hicks became the Chief Operating Officer of the Genetics Division of The Genetics and IVF Institute in Fairfax, VA (USA) where she was responsible for the genetics and clinical laboratories. Thereafter, she became President of JMBH Associates, a consulting company that assists clinical laboratories in preparing for accreditation, recommends plans for enhancing scientific research capabilities, evaluates the organization and efficiency of clinical laboratories, and assists laboratories with developing strategic and financial plans. Throughout these periods Dr. Hicks has served as scientific and marketing adviser to several major international diagnostic companies.

Dr. Hicks' honors include honorary membership in the clinical chemistry/laboratory medicine societies of Egypt, Israel, Portugal and the UK.

She was also elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Pathology in the UK.

In addition, Dr. Hicks has received many prestigious awards, not only from the AACC, but from other national societies.

Dr. Hicks also has great experience as the head of major laboratory medicine societies, having been President and a member of the Board of Directors of the American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC) and she was the founding President (two terms) of the International Association of Pediatric Laboratory Medicine. She currently is the Treasurer and member of the Board of Directors of the IFCC. As IFCC Treasurer she has implemented an organized financial system in the IFCC office that has led to quicker member reimbursements, detailed record keeping and significant increases in IFCC reserve investments. When Dr. Hicks was Chair of the IFCC's Publication Division, together with Dr Donald Young, she also introduced the IFCC web site and the IFCC's journal.

Dr. Hicks is also well known for her devotion to promoting modern clinical chemistry in developing nations, including having been founder of the Van Slyke Society (now Foundation) within the AACC. This philanthropic organization of AACC provides financial aid to young clinical chemists from around the world, allowing them to travel to laboratory medicine congresses such as this year's ICC where the Van Slyke Foundation awarded 50 International Travel Grants. She was a major contributor to this effort.

Dr. Hicks considers it important that the IFCC's educational and publication efforts be applicable, not only to the large well-developed countries, but to the less-developed nations as well. To this end, she will encourage the IFCC to help raise the standards of laboratory accreditation and proficiency testing programs of such nations so that their patients would benefit. Dr. Hicks plans, with the cooperation of the more-developed Member countries, to expand the Visiting Lecturer Program to assist their colleagues in less well-developed nations. Dr. Hicks also plans to expand the Travel Grant Program so that less-affluent Member countries could send their scientists to IFCC Congresses, similar to the program of the Van Slyke Foundation mentioned above that Dr. Hicks founded.

Dr. Hicks recognizes that the IFCC has always held an important and successful place in the science of clinical chemistry (now expanded to laboratory medicine), and has been prominent in developing positions and recommendations for improving scientific practice, and she will assure that these high standards are maintained.

Dr. Hicks recognizes that these are formidable tasks, but feels that with the cooperation of the Executive Board and the members of the IFCC they can be accomplished.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SECTION ADDED TO THE IFCC eNEWS

*Do you agree or disagree with an editorial?*

*Is something bothering you?*

*Is there an issue you would like to inform others about?*

**Then write a letter to the editor.**

See what others are saying about the IFCC, about key health care issues or share your thoughts by providing a letter of your own.

Please send any letter you would like published to the eNews Editor, Dr. Ellis Jacobs, at [ejacobs@wadsworth.com](mailto:ejacobs@wadsworth.com).

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## MEET WITH JOCELYN HICKS, THE NEW IFCC PRESIDENT

CONTRIBUTED BY DAMIEN GRUSON PH.D., IFCC NEWS WG

After an intensive working week at the IFCC-AACC international laboratory medicine congress in Orlando, Florida, Jocelyn Hicks, the recently elected IFCC president, consented to a short interview for IFCC news. This Thursday morning discussion was an opportunity to discover the scientist and the woman behind the title of IFCC president.

***IFCC News (IN): what are your main activities and interests in laboratory medicine?***

Jocelyn Hicks (JH): I am currently a consultant in healthcare with a special interest in laboratory management. My goal is to give advice to clinical laboratories, mostly in the US, to help them in daily routine management, and to facilitate improvement of their accreditation process. I also receive requests to evaluate the organization and structure of clinical laboratories; I try to make recommendations about staffing, equipment, scope of testing, and I help them develop a strategic plan. My advice is always to develop a plan to do well in the accreditation process, because as you know, accreditation and certification govern the success and quality of the laboratory. Indeed, one of my objectives is that laboratories “should feel comfortable with the accreditation process”. Of great interest to me, is the help that IFCC should provide to developing countries with accreditation and proficiency testing, to enable them to provide accurate and appropriate results for their patients. Finally, I am also very interested in Point-of-Care Testing, its management and quality; in laboratory automation (for reducing laboratory costs); and in Pediatric Laboratory Medicine.

***IN: Could you tell us: where did you study?***

JH: I have a Bachelor's degree in Physiology (Hons) and a Master's degree in Biochemistry from the University of London and I have a PhD (Distinction) in Physiology and Biophysics from Georgetown University School of Medicine in Washington DC. For me, it was an honour to receive my PhD from a medical school in the US and I am also very proud of receiving the Fellowship of The Royal College of Pathologists in the UK.

***IN: Jocelyn, you are a real busy woman, do you have time for your family?***

JH: Of course I take time for my family; family provides balance to my life. To tell a short story of romance, I am married to my professor from Georgetown University. My husband has a PhD in

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and also has a JD degree. He currently practices intellectual property law in biotechnology.

***I.N: After laboratory medicine, what are your hobbies?***

JH: First, I like cooking. Cooking is a real pleasure for me, and my favourite foods are from Italy, France, China and Thailand. I love entertaining in my home. My other hobbies are exercising such as playing tennis, going to the gym, playing bridge, travelling and trying to learn languages such as French, Italian and Spanish.

***I.N: Finally Jocelyn, could you complete these few words...***

***One important thing for laboratory future is ...***

JH: ... improving the quality of testing for patients around the world, and embracing new technology.

***For me, IFCC represents ...***

JH: ... quality in science and education for the world.

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**THE JIB (JOURNÉES INTERNATIONALES DE BIOLOGIE) WILL BE CELEBRATING THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY AT THE CNIT CONVENTION CENTRE IN PARIS, ON 3- 5 NOVEMBER, 2005.**

Every year, an increasing number of biologists from the private and hospital sector, interns, researchers, biomedical engineers, technicians and laboratory assistants come together at the JIB to learn about the latest developments and progress in their profession and to get informed about the impact of innovating technologies in their specialty.

In 2004, more than 8000 visitors attended the event, with a foreign participation of 15%, and 147 exhibitors presented their latest developments in products and services provided.

This jubilee anniversary offers the occasion, and ideal venue, to show a retrospective exhibition of devices that illustrate 50 years of technological progress in medical biology.

Furthermore, in line with their proactive approach of advancing interchange with other European countries, this year, the JIB will offer a place of honor to Italy.

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**IFCC/AACC CONGRESS IN ORLANDO: ENTHUSIASM, DYNAMISM AND SCIENCE.**

CONTRIBUTED BY DAMIEN GRUSON, PH.D., IFCC NEWS WG

The XIX international congress of clinical chemistry sponsored by IFCC/ 57th annual meeting of the AACC was recently hosted from 24 – 28 July in the Orange county convention centre in Orlando, U.S. Orlando, a sunny and friendly city in the state of Florida, always considered an attractive destination for tourists and children because of the multiple attraction parks and entertainment places in this area; is also a marvellous place for congresses with a huge convention centre (one of the largest in the U.S.) and many first class hotels for attendees and extras congress sessions. This IFCC/AACC congress could be characterized by three words: enthusiasm, dynamism and science.

Enthusiasm with the sunshine and this funny city of Orlando; enthusiasm with the fantastic organization of this event and with the generosity of the organizing committee (Raymond Lepage, Thomas P. Moyer, Michael L. Astion, Carl A. Burtis, David G. Grenache, James C. Wesenberg, Lori J. Sokoll, George L. Liggins, Deborah A. Payne, Edward Ashwood and Ann M. Gronowski); enthusiasm with the collaboration and involvement of three national societies of laboratory medicine for this big event: the American Association for Clinical Chemistry, the Canadian Association for Clinical Chemistry and the Mexican Association of Biochemistry; enthusiasm with the educational program and the passion of each speaker; enthusiasm for IFCC future after the election of the new IFCC board and the new IFCC president; enthusiasm for future congresses under the auspices of IFCC and represented by powerful booth at the exhibition (XVII Latin American Congress of Clinical Biochemistry in 2006 in Asuncion, Paraguay; IFCC-Worldlab in 2008 in Fortaleza, Brazil); enthusiasm with the new products presented at the exhibition by over 600 exhibitors.

Dynamism from the musical show before each plenary lecture (many thanks to the organizers for this unbelievable wake-up every morning in the main auditorium); dynamism from the quality of each presentations and from the communication science of each session speakers; dynamism from the new IFCC team (we could appreciate the motivation and the responsiveness of each newly elected IFCC officer and EB member throughout the entire congress) and dynamism from every manufacturers in every booth during the exhibition time.

Science with the large panel of presented topics and with the variety of roundtables, workshops, scientific sessions, edutracks and poster sessions; science with the great perspectives of multimarker strategy for cardiac risk assessment, of pharmacogenomics and personalized medicine.

To conclude, this year's IFCC/AACC joint venture in Orlando was an extremely pleasurable laboratory medicine congress. Effectively, we attended a really massive congress made successful with the indispensable ingredients of success: science, dynamism and enthusiasm.

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## **APFCB-BECKMAN COULTER EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM.**

**KEN SIKARIS, PH.D., CHAIR, IFCC COMMITTEE ON ANALYTICAL QUALITY**

It was a great honour to be asked by the Asian and Pacific Federation of Clinical Biochemistry to be the APFCB-BC Education Symposium lecturer for 2005. It was no surprise to anyone that when asked what topic I'd prefer to speak on I chose analytical quality. In both my role as retiring Chair of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia /Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists (RCPA/AACB) Chemical Pathology QAP program and ongoing Chair of the IFCC Committee on Analytical Quality, I welcomed the opportunity of visiting my colleagues in a few countries in the region. There were a number of countries that requested having the symposium and I was lucky that the four countries that had not hosted the tour before (China, Thailand, Indonesia and India), were generally countries I had not visited before.

We were fortunate in being able to coordinate the talk in China with the 3rd National Conference on Clinical Laboratory Management in Xiamen. This is a huge meeting of around 1500 registrants as well as a probably one of the largest trade displays seen in the Asian-Pacific region. The opening ceremony and dinner was a fantastic evening organized by Beckman Coulter with around 1200 dinner guests and plenty of entertainment including singing, dancing, acrobatics and traditional puppet shows. My talk on Wednesday 15th June was on analytical quality and I found the 150 attendees very focused to what I was saying. I have to admit that I had a huge advantage in that my Chinese interpreter was none other than Dr. Wenxiang Chen of the National Center for Clinical Laboratories in Beijing. It was an honour to have such knowledgeable and distinguished assistance. Although I did not have any time to look around Xiamen, you could easily see Taiwan across the sea and feel the historical significance of this

place. It was also a pleasure meeting with Mike Belbin, the Asian Pacific Operations Director of Beckman Coulter who had very interesting stories during his impressive career not only across Asia, but also in Africa and Canada.



**MICHAEL YEUNG, KEN SIKARIS AND MIKE BELBIN AT THE OPENING CEREMONY AND DINNER OF THE 3RD NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CLINICAL LABORATORY MANAGEMENT IN XIAMEN.**

I arrived in Bangkok the next day in preparation for my talk on Friday 17th June. The venue was the Sofitel Central Plaza Hotel and 150 registrants attended the meeting. I gave two talks in Bangkok, one on analytical quality and one on improving the quality of interpretation. Again the audience was keen and I was asked several probing questions after the talks that demonstrated to me the enthusiasm I was very pleased to see for quality improvement. While I had to be in Jakarta on Monday for my third lecture(s), I did have Saturday free to do some sightseeing. My hosts from PCL Holding (Mr Sanchat Sriarunswang and his new wife of 3 months) showed me the floating gardens in Damnoen Saduak before returning to Bangkok to see the spectacular Royal Palace and surrounds including the historic Emerald Buddha and the awesome gold covered reclining Buddha.



**MS IRENE LAI (BECKMAN COULTER), ASSOC. PROF. PHANEEE PIDETCHA, PROF. BUSABA MATRAKOOL, DR KEN SIKARIS, MR PISIT WANNAVITHAYAPA (OF PCL HOLDING, THE THAI DISTRIBUTOR OF BECKMAN COULTER)**

The final symposium on this trip was in Jakarta on 20th June. All the symposia were organized at relatively short notice and made the 150 attendees from near and far an even more impressive achievement. Although Beckman Coulter and PT Mendjangan represented by Chan Hui and Tjandra Munanto sponsored my attendance, the Indonesian Association of Clinical Chemistry and several other corporate sponsors kicked in to make the day a huge success. I was asked to speak on Reference Intervals and Expert Systems at this symposium, largely because Indonesian Association of Clinical Pathologists had already planned a Quality in Laboratory Medicine seminar in Jakarta for 9th and 10th July. Although I was unable to travel to that later seminar, Lloyd Penberthy from the RCPA/AACB QAP program had already been invited assist at that meeting, so I don't think I could add any more to his expertise in this area! The audience was once again interested in both the theory and practical aspects of my work on reference intervals and expert systems and asked several questions that demonstrated they would be keen to try and apply some of the techniques in their own laboratories given the opportunity.

In Jakarta I visited the Miniature Park that showcased the variety of cultural groups that make up Indonesia as well as the Bird Park within it that had a huge variety of recognizable and unrecognizable birds from Indonesia and beyond. I was also very fortunate to be hosted to a magnificent dinner with Dra. Endang Hoyaranda at the Dapur Babah restaurant; a fascinating blend of Chinese, Indonesian and Dutch cultures and one of the favourite places of the former Indonesian president Dr Megawati Sukarnoputri.



**DR FRANS SARDI, DRA. DEWI MULIATY, DR KEN SIKARIS, DRA. ENDANG HOYARANDA AND DR DALIMA ASTRAWINATA.**

I have been privileged that with the professional leadership of the APFCB president Joseph Lopez and the generous support of Beckman Coulter the tour has been very easy for me to be a part of. In particular, Irene Lai and Candice Mak and been both very kind and thorough in coordinating the tour to date and I'm sure the tour would not have been as successful without their supervision. I look forward to completing my final commitment in India where I will be attending the National meeting in Patna and meeting even more terrific colleagues.

*(Dr Ken Sikaris is a chemical pathologist at Melbourne Pathology, a large private laboratory within the Sonic Health Network. Ken has also held various positions in the AACB but currently is completing 8 years as Chair of the RCPA/AACB Chemical Pathology QAP. Ken has also been the Chair of the IFCC Committee on Analytical Quality which belongs to the Education and Management Division of the IFCC. Ken loves to teach and is an experienced lecturer within Australia and is also fairly well known in the Asian Pacific region having given several other presentations in Shanghai, Singapore, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur and New Zealand.)*

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## IFCC NEWS SUCCESS: THANK YOU DR. JACOBS

CONTRIBUTED BY DR DAMIEN GRUSON, IFCC NEWS WG

IFCC e-news is a very popular activity of the IFCC Communication and Publication Division (CPD). Actually, IFCC news are published 6 times a year and covered very different subjects such as international and regional laboratory activities, IFCC members activities, report of national and international congresses and description of goals of national societies. IFCC news are successful and for this we surely have to thanks the readers, the CPD and all CPD members for their involvement and their contribution to the news but we have particularly to underline the work of one person, the IFCC news editor, Dr. Ellis Jacobs.



Dr. Jacobs, editor of the news since 6 years, realized a wonderful and recognized job for the IFCC news. As a professional editor, he gives the guidelines for the news, he manages the aspect and structure of the news and he is an essential actor for the originality of the IFCC news. Dr. Jacobs also organized different huge working group meetings like in Barcelona, Sousse and recently in Orlando for a better coordination of issues contents. Dr. Jacobs always had very successful interactions with the different CPD chairmen, first with Dr. Gouget and actually with Dr. Wootton. Dr. Jacobs is also one of the corner stones of the interaction of IFCC news with Ladmedica International journal.

Nobody had doubt; Dr. Jacobs is a talented editor for the IFCC news, fully involve in success of the news, but he is also a talented quarterback for the IFCC news working group. He always says that we have to “Learn from each-other”, we could say now that with the IFCC news we learn more from everyone involved in laboratory medicine and in IFCC. In the name of your working group, I want to express our sincere gratitude to our editor, to you Dr. Jacobs.

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## IFCC DOCUMENTS RECENTLY PUBLISHED

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

### 7.4.1 Bergmeyer Conference-Roche Master Discussion

Kallner A, Muller MM, Poppe W. 10th Bergmeyer Conference-Roche Master Discussion. Diabetes Mellitus and Cardiovascular Disease. Scand J Clin Lab Invest 2005; 65 (Suppl. 240):1-156.

The following recently published papers relate to IFCC documents:

Dhatt GS, Agarwal MM, Bishawi B. HbA1c: A comparison of NGSP with IFCC transformed values. Clin Chim Acta 2005; 358:81-86.

Imbert-Bismut F, Messous D, Raoult A, Poynard T, Bertrand JJ, Marie PA, Louis V, Audy C, Thouy JM, Hainque B, Piton A. Results transferability on RXL, ARX, X-Pand, BN2 (Dade Behring) and Molecular DP (Roche Diagnostics) analysers: application to component assays of fibrotest and Actitest. Ann Biol Clin 2005; 63:305-313.

Shin JI, Park JM, Shin YH, Lee JS, Jeong HJ, Kim HS. Serum IgA/C3 ratio may be a useful marker of disease activity in severe Henoch-Scholein nephritis. Nephron Clin Pract 2005; 101:c72-c78.

Di Serio F, Amodio G, Ruggieri E, De Sario R, Varraso L, Antonelli G, Pansini N. Proteomic approach to the diagnosis of acute coronary syndrome: Preliminary results. Clin Chim Acta 2005; 357:226-235.

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## LIGHT-HEARTED CLINICAL CHEMISTRY

### *No sex please, I am a British clinical chemist*

I seemed to have had a protected life, my first encounter with the oldest profession involved clinical chemistry. Some forty years ago Bob Gaddie and I were walking from the IFCC Congress in Amsterdam to our hotel. Because of an obstacle on a crowded pavement we parted, he to the left and I to the right of the obstruction for a distance of some 20 metres. When we met up I told him that in the last 20 metres I had been offered the special services of an attractive young lady. He asked how I had responded. I replied I had become speechless. He, a valued mentor, said "*Always smile as you say no thank you*".

*Recollected by Tom Whitehead*

*Editor's Note:* The story is the last in Dr. Hjelm's collection and, other than two stories provided by Prof. Chris Lam in Hong Kong no additional stories have been received. Unless additional stories/recollections are received by Dr. Hjelm (magnus\_hjelm@hotmail.com), this series will have to be discontinued.

As a reminder, the intent of this section is that complementary and more informal historical aspects will hopefully emerge about the history of IFCC over a period of time than could be accommodated in the impressively concise account in "IFCC Celebrating 50 Years" by John

Lines and Jacques Heeren. The section is also open to describing events, as they will unfold in the future.

Older (and younger) members of IFCC are invited to submit their contributions, not exceeding 300 words. They can cover any aspect of the history of IFCC but should be humorous and non-offensive. All accepted stories will carry the signature of the author. If other colleagues than the author are explicitly mentioned in the story, the sub-editor will seek approval by the mentioned persons before the piece is published.

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## UPCOMING IFCC RELATED MEETINGS IN 2005/2006

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)

4th 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)

VII Czech National Congress of Clinical Biochemistry, Olomouc, Czech Republic , 11-13 Sept, 2005, [www.cbtravel.cz/cskb05/](http://www.cbtravel.cz/cskb05/)

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)

Congress of Russian Society of Clinical Laboratory Diagnostics Specialists "National Days of Russian Laboratory Medicine", Moscow, Russia, 11-14 Oct, 2005, [menshikov@mmascience.ru](mailto:menshikov@mmascience.ru)

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)

XIV Congreso Chileno de Química Clínica, Conference Town, Reñaca, Viña del Mar, Chile 19-21 Oct, 2005, [www.schqc.cl/congreso-2005.htm](http://www.schqc.cl/congreso-2005.htm)

32nd Annual Conference of Association of Clinical Biochemist of India, Patna, India, 18-21 Dec, 2005, [www.acbindia.org](http://www.acbindia.org)

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

ArabMedLab 2006 – XI Arab Federation of Clinical Biochemistry Congress, VII Syrian Clinical Laboratory Association Conference, Damascus, Syria, 29 Apr – 2 May, 2006,  
[www.scla.org.sy/html/7th\\_conf/2nd\\_announce.php](http://www.scla.org.sy/html/7th_conf/2nd_announce.php)

III "Biologie Prospective" Santorini Conference 2006, Santorini Island, Greece, 28 Sep – 2 Oct, 2006, [biol.prospective-conf.u-nancy.fr](http://biol.prospective-conf.u-nancy.fr)