



Asociación de Bioquímicos del Paraguay

Afiliada a las Federación de Químicos del Paraguay – F. Q. P.
Confederación Latinoamericana de Bioquímica Clínica - COLABIOCLI
Miembros de la Federación Internacional de Química Clínica - IFCC

Asunción, May 1th, 2016

**Graham Beastall,
IFCC Past President,**

Ref: IFCC Travel Scholarship to attend GC 2016

Report on IFCC Scholarship

2016 was not the first year I attended an IFCC General Conference (GC). I had participated in previous GCs in 2009 (Fortaleza, Brazil), 2010 (Corfu, Greece) and 2011 (Berlin, Germany). I always had great experiences and learned a lot in each of these events, but as I took over as the president of Paraguay's Association of Biochemists (ABP) in 2011 and had to deal with its severe financial issues, the solving of all the internal issues became my priority. Nevertheless, we never stopped being part of IFCC because we know how important it is what this organization, a clear leader in our field, has to offer. It provides necessary guidelines and up-to-date information in many areas so that labs in small countries can also share a global vision of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine. Today, our association is stronger than ever, involved in several scientific and professional endeavours of interest to our associates, and expanding towards the interior of the country.

2016 was the first year I was granted an IFCC Scholarship to attend the GC and, thus, as a National Representative, I was able to participate again in such an important professional event. To me, it was sort of a recognition to the hard work performed by our association in the last few years. It was reassuring to see that the level of the workshops and conferences continues to be consistently high. The reports from the Corporate Members and the Treasurer reaffirm that IFCC is a serious organization, strongly devoted to all its members. I also had the chance to chat with old friends and colleagues at the Open Meeting with all IFCC National Representatives and Representatives from Iberoamerican Countries. It is worth mentioning that the coffee breaks, aperitif, concert and the gala dinner, as well as the city tour sponsored by SEQC, constituted excellent opportunities to share experiences and to work towards important future projects for IFCC, COLABIOCLI, such as the upcoming 2017 congress in Uruguay. No opportunity is wasted to achieve the personal communication and networking that are so important even in the online world we live in. One of my goals now is to encourage the participation of as many of our associates as possible in the 2017 IFCC GC in Durban.

My specialization field is Microbiology and I have generally seen only a few topics related to it at the IFCC GCs. A few days after I returned home from the last GC, I was pleasantly surprised to receive a message from IFCC's Education and Management Division (EMD) to serve as a corresponding member at the IFCC EMD C-CLM. I am committed to working hard and learning as much as possible in this new role.

**Prof. Dra. Juana Ortellado-Canese
ABP Past President
IFCC National Representative**