

My IFCC Roche Travel Scholarship Experience at 14th APFBC Congress, 26-29 November 2016 Taipei, TW

Dr. Ahmed Sibtain
Resident Chemical Pathology,
Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
The Aga Khan University
Karachi Pakistan.



DR SIBTAIN WITH PROF. OZBEN, DR BEASTALL AND PROF. FERRARI

When I enrolled in to the medical laboratory profession as a resident in Chemical Pathology, I barely knew anything about the IFCC. However during my short professional life I came to know IFCC is not only an international organization but also it is the backbone of the clinical laboratory profession, which is working for the betterment and progress of laboratory medicine worldwide. Therefore, I was dreaming to find an opportunity to participate any IFCC international event. Finally, I was fortunate enough to be at Taipei as the Pakistani representative being awarded an IFCC Roche scholarship.

IFCC general conference at Taipei was an unforgettable experience in my life in many ways. I have been searching knowledge & new experience in clinical laboratory field that are not freely available in the developing countries such as Pakistan. Therefore, an opportunity such as this is a great occasion for us to catch many positive things from the international forum. It was great

pleasure to be a participant in such a big international event where eminent scientists & clinicians from different part of the world get together to share their experience & view on various important aspects of the clinical laboratory sector.

The Congress was set up at Taipei international convention center (TICC) and began with a colorful opening ceremony on the evening of 26th November 2016. There was traditional drum show performance by Chio-Tian Folk drums and arts Troupe. The welcome message was delivered by President CACB Woei-horng Fang. It was followed by a keynote speech on "Laboratory medicine and the NHI MediCloud" by Po-Chang Lee from Ministry of health Taiwan. The next presenter was Pan Chr Yang from National Taiwan University who discussed modern modalities of lung cancer therapy. The evening ended with a welcome reception at the banquet hall which provided an opportunity to mingle with other fellow young scientists and make new acquaintances.

November 27th started with the beautiful Taipei rain and the first session of the day was IFCC-Task force of young scientists-preparing young scientists' workforce. This session provided an opportunity to interact with young scientists from different regions and share our views. There were some useful talks by Dr. Pardeep K Dabla from India regarding the network of IFCC young scientists and webinar based learning readily available on IFCC platform. Dr. D. Li from USA discussed further regarding the role of an effective mentor. Dr. Gruson from Belgium shed light upon the variety of e-learning options that the young scientists from distant regions can take benefit from. Eventually the session came to a conclusion with the speech of Dr. Graham Beastall (IFCC Past president) who discussed regarding the IFCC research guide. This session was followed by a formal meeting with the IFCC travel scholarship awardees at the IFCC booth where there was certificate distribution ceremony and I had the chance to meet Dr. Maurizio FERRARI (IFCC President), Dr. Graham Beastall (IFCC Past President) and Dr. Tomris OZBEN (IFCC treasurer). After the break I had the privilege to attend a talk by Dr Sunil Sethi regarding Lab automation and workflow that answered a lot of questions that kept on puzzling me regarding this huge aspect of laboratory science.

November 28th I attended a symposium organized by KSCC on standardization efforts in Korea followed by a coffee break. Then there was a plenary lecture by Dr. Graham Jones on the importance of Traceability in Laboratory medicine which was very informative and thought provoking. In the second half there was the long awaited young scientist award competition and Poster display. As I had a poster presentation myself so I gathered alongside different young scientist in the poster assembly area. The organizers had set up a colorful cultural night at the Grand Hyatt Taipei where there was award distribution and live music for the crowd to freshen up.

On November 29th in the first half there was a very informative lecture by Prof. Ichihara on an international project of harmonized accumulation of Reference values. This was followed by lecture on clinical applications of mass spectrometry by Nigel Clarke from Quest diagnostics. Both the lectures were very fruitful for my knowledge bank and enhanced my learning. The afternoon was marked by the closing ceremony and a good bye to new friends and acquaintances with a promise to remain connected using electronic media platforms and continue sharing experiences.