



eNews



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DIVISIONAL REPORTS



IFCC Committee of Analytical Quality (C-AQ): Education and training of laboratory professionals in international standards and practices of analytical quality

Prof. Dr. Egon Amann
C-AQ Chair

C-AQ'S MISSION

The Committee of Analytical Quality (C-AQ) is part of the IFCC Education and Management Division (EMD) whose mission is to provide IFCC members and the healthcare community with education relevant to Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, directed at scientific, management and clinical issues. The current members are Egon Amann (DE), David Grenache (US), Alexander Haliassos (GR), Annette Thomas (UK), and Graciela Velazquez (PY). In addition, there are 25 Corresponding C-AQ Members.



Egon Amann, C-AQ Chair

Within this framework, C-AQ promotes the education and training of laboratory professionals in international standards and practices of analytical quality, especially in emerging nations. This includes, eg. Internal quality control procedures, external quality assessment schemes (proficiency testing programs), and Pre-analytical and Post-analytical concepts, besides others.

Courses and materials are being developed and provided to interested parties. For example, Quality Assurance workshops were conducted in recent years in Croatia, Vietnam, Nepal, Tunisia and Sri Lanka. In addition, guidance documents and publications are being developed and provided via web sites and on-line courses.

Three current C-AQ projects are briefly discussed here.

THE DIRECTORY OF EQA SERVICES HELPS TO MEET EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE (EQA) REQUIREMENTS

Clinical Laboratories are required by regulatory authorities to establish and maintain External Quality Assurance (EQA) programmes. It is often not trivial to find suitable organizing bodies initiating specific programmes for a given clinical laboratory, particularly in developing countries. To address this need, C-AQ recently developed a new data base "Directory of EQA Services" and placed it on C-AQ's web site for open access.

What is this Directory and how was it created? C-AQ contacted all "IFCC countries" and other associated known bodies, via letter, asking for completion of the "blank" lines in the EXCEL sheet provided. Criteria were pre-assigned in columns. Examples are: "Country", "Organizing Body", "Name of EQA", "Website Address", "E-Mail Address", and "Open to International", together with the indicated area of clinical application (such as clinical chemistry, haematology, immunology, microbiology, molecular pathology, POCT, etc.).

The information returned was collated into the present Directory available on the C-AQ web site:

Article continued on next page

<http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-education-division/emd-committees/c-aq/c-aq-publications-and-resources/>

This Directory/Data can help in identifying the appropriate EQA program and organizing body in establishing this programme in your laboratory and is updated on a regular basis.

TEACHING MATERIALS FOR INTERNAL QUALITY CONTROL (IQC) AND EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE (EQA)

Two new documents, useful for teaching (and self-teaching) purposes were also placed recently on C-AQ's website (see above link). These materials are self-explanatory and serve a simple purpose: Understanding the need for internal and external quality requirements and their fulfilment in the clinical laboratory.

Apart from these two documents, additional articles on quality-related questions are displayed and can be accessed on C-AQ's website. This includes a "Minimum requirement list" to assist countries to plan and design an external quality assurance scheme, and the document "Procedure for Planning an EQA Scheme".

QUALITY TOPICS-RELATED "RESOURCES TABLE"

C-AQ currently works on a small data base which will group relevant publications under the three criteria: "Pre- and Post-analytical topics", "Internal Quality Control", and "External Quality Assessment". These publications are current and include IFCC- (and other sourced) documents which offer guidance for many aspects of analytical quality-related questions. This work is underway and the "Resources Table" is expected to be ready soon for display on C-AQ's IFCC website.



Committee of Clinical Laboratory Management (C-CLM): Working to provide education and training on good laboratory practice

Prof. Dr. Sedef Yenice
C-CLM Chair

MISSION OF C-CLM

The Committee of Clinical Laboratory Management (C-CLM) is one of the five committees within the IFCC's Education and Management Division (EMD).

C-CLM has 5 full members; Sedef Yenice (TR), Rajiv Erasmus (ZA), Matthias Orth (DE), Modupe Kuti (NG), and Tjan Sian Hwa (ID). In addition, there are 13 corresponding C-CLM members selected from twelve different countries.

C-CLM was established as an expert group focussing on and setting up activities in line with the common interests and needs of the clinical laboratories particularly in developing countries.

The primary goals of the C-CLM are:

- to provide education and training on good laboratory practice and structuring laboratory manage-

ment in compliance with the globally recognized framework of quality system essentials;

- to help set standards/guidelines/requirements for implementing quality management that impact



Prof. Dr. Sedef Yenice

Article continued on next page

day-to-day work in the clinical or medical laboratories and, find solutions to conformity assessment issues at fulfilling their regulatory requirements;

- to produce monographs and/or handbooks mainly designed for embarking on executing a quality management system and seeking accreditation.

C-CLM aims to address major topics concerning Quality Control (QC), Quality Assurance, Quality Assessment, Quality Improvement, Quality Planning, Quality Indicators, Lean Management, Risk Management, ISO 15189 standards and quality requirements recognized in major guidelines which are all part of Quality Management today.

For laboratory scientists, it is a challenge to integrate all these programs, guidelines, standards, and tools into a firmly interconnected Quality Management System (QMS), whose purpose is to define the organizational structure and crucial activities that are necessary to achieve quality in routine clinical laboratory services. In addition, clinical laboratories have the need to continually improve to ensure patient safety and if they aim, to meet accreditation standards. It is also a way for laboratory professionals to grow and live the culture of continual improvement.

Accordingly, several initiatives have been undertaken by the C-CLM since its constitution, including workshops, training and expertise on the challenges that clinical laboratories face and the publications in major contexts to deal with the quality management essentials.

WORKING TOGETHER

C-CLM members share information on their experience and develop activities to achieve these goals in collaborations with the committee of Analytical Quality (C-AQ) and Working Group on Developing Quality Competence in Medical Laboratories (WG-DQCML).

- C-CLM teamed up with C-AQ to produce a joint publication on “Developing Quality Management System in the Clinical Laboratory” to be published by the end of 2016.
- A joint interactive workshop of C-CLM with C-AQ on “*What is the best strategy to achieve compliance with QMS- and QC-requirements in the clin-*

ical laboratory?” will be conducted on 20 March, 2016 at the next IFCC General Conference in Madrid, Spain. The goal is to enhance the participants’ understanding of strategies for dealing with several important aspects of QC before running patient tests and the key steps to establish an effective QMS, so that they can more effectively address the problems in implementing continuous quality improvement efforts in the clinical laboratory.

PUBLICATIONS

- 2008 - Essentials of Clinical Laboratory Management in Developing Regions
- 2012 - Quality of Management & Quality of Analysis A Handbook for developing Countries Jointly Developed By C-CLM and C-AQ

WORKSHOPS AND SYMPOSIA

- Workshop on the “The Essentials of Quality Management in Clinical Laboratories” at the 4th AFCC Congress, Victoria Falls, ZW, was held on 27 April, 2015 in Harare, Zimbabwe and 50 delegates participated in the workshop.
- The faculty consisted of senior laboratory professionals from Australia and South Africa (V. Steenkamp, R Bais, T.S. Pillay and RT Erasmus).
- A symposium titled “*Current Advances on Clinical Laboratory Management*” was held at 27th National Biochemistry Congress of Turkish Biochemical Society on 4 November 2015, in Belek, Antalya – Turkey. C-CLM full members Sedef Yenice and Matthias Orth delivered lectures on “*Impact of proactive solutions on quality management in clinical laboratories*” and “*Benchmarks: value versus the cost of laboratory testing*”, respectively.

The guidance for QMS should stress the need to involve all stakeholders - laboratory management, personnel, and users - in the development of the lab quality system. The involvement of the director and laboratory management is essential. Therefore, C-CLM is currently working on developing “Training Modules” with the contents of “Leadership” and “Team management” that is planned to be displayed on C-CLM’s IFCC website in 2016.



IFCC TF Young Scientists in Latin America at XXII COLABIOCLI in Quito (EC), 24 - 26 September, 2015

by **Santiago Fares Taie**
Member IFCC TF-YS

XXII COLABIOCLI in Quito, Ecuador was the first kick-off for Young Scientists in Latin America to start thinking about creating a regional group of **IFCC TF-YS**.

Although Latin American countries from north to south are different, but there is one main strength that keeps them united as *"Patria Grande"* and this is Language!

During the opening ceremony, a member of the **IFCC TF-YS** spoke about the activities that the group is promoting and developing; and encouraged young scientists to: Get involved, Participate and Commit themselves to professional institutions. In addition, he asked the institutions to Listen, Include and Consider including YS (Young Scientists) in their committees.

Following the ceremony and during the congress, many professionals from Argentina, Mexico, Ecuador, Colombia and Honduras amongst other countries were enthusiastic to learn more about the IFCC TF-YS activities and how they could get involved.

The online radio *"El Microscopio"* is a useful tool that improves communication, participation and interac-



Santiago Fares Taie, TF-YS Representative at the Opening Ceremony of XXII COLABIOCLI Congress in Quito

tion among YS around the world. Nevertheless, at the WG-IANT meeting held during the congress, the scientific magazine *"Diagnóstico In Vitro"* offered a section for the use of IFCC TF-YS. This section will be employed to communicate the activities of the LA YS group and information about the National YS groups in the region.

Special thanks is extended to **Dra. Maria del Carmen Pasquel**, XXII COLABIOCLI Congress President, for the invitation and for making this possible.



News from the IFCC Website – Diagnóstico in vitro

IFCC is happy to present *Diagnóstico in vitro*, its newsletter in Spanish. La revista electrónica *Diagnóstico in Vitro* es un proyecto del Grupo de Trabajo Iberoamericano de Nomenclatura y Traducciones de la IFCC, destinado a facilitar el intercambio de información científica entre los países de habla portuguesa y española. The new online Newsletter is a project of the CPD Ibero-American Nomenclature and Translations Working Group, intended to facilitate the exchange of scientific information within the Portuguese and Spanish speaking countries.

[Read More](#)



IFCC WELCOMES A NEW AFFILIATE MEMBER

Iranian Association of Clinical Laboratory Doctors (IACLD)

*by Dr. Mohammad Reza Bakhtiari
Vice Chairman, International Affairs, IACLD*

The Iranian Association of Clinical Laboratory Doctors (IACLD), was founded by the first DCLS graduates in 1992.



Dr. Mohammad Reza Bakhtiari, DCLS, PhD, Biotechnology

Since 1986, setting up and commencing a doctorate program in Clinical Laboratory Sciences (DCLS) in Iran, has created new opportunities for professional development in multiple domains of clinical laboratory including clinical centre laboratories, public and private laboratories, research organizations and university laboratories. After indepth discussion, the DCLS program was approved by the Medical Committee of Iran’s Cultural Revolution Supreme Council in 1986.

From 1986 to 1994, about 1300 people were trained as DCLS students. The DCLS graduates have revolutionized the medical laboratory industry in Iran and improved the quality of laboratory services across the country.

With regard to the needs for modernization and transformation in the structure of Iranian medical laboratories in accordance with requirements and expectations of the modern world, IACLD was established by the first DCLS graduates in 1992. The main goal of IACLD is to improve the quality and strengthen the position of Iranian clinical laboratories as well as related human resources in the national and international arena.

DCLS degree holders as the members of IACLD act as effective common interfaces among clinicians, medical researchers and health care policy makers. Among their numerous functions, the following contributions are highlighted:

- 1. Contribution to patient care:** as Laboratory Directors by establishing Clinical laboratories and performing routine and specialized diagnostic tests based on standard algorithms as well as knowledge in the fields of clinical laboratory diagnoses.
- 2. Education and Training:** by acting as university faculty members / lecturers in medical laboratory sciences.
- 3. Research:** by conducting basic and clinical studies as well as transferring research findings into practice.
- 4. Assisting the health care policy makers:** by participating in decision and policy making and providing practical recommendations for relevant authorities.
- 5. Quality Improvement:** by establishing one of the main organizations for Proficiency Testing in Iran.

SEQC

40 años

News from the Spanish Society of Clinical Biochemistry and Molecular Pathology (SEQC)

Report on IX National Congress of Clinical Laboratory 7 - 9 October, 2015

With the aim to share knowledge and scientific experiences and daily achievements, around 1 500 professionals gathered in Madrid for the IX National Congress of Clinical Laboratory, which is organised in conjunction with the **SEQC**, the **Spanish Association of Medical Biopathology (AEBM)** and the **Spanish Association for Analyst Pharmaceuticals (AEFA)**.

IX Congreso Nacional del Laboratorio Clínico
Madrid
7/9 octubre 2015
Hotel Auditorium Madrid

www.labclin2015.es

AEBM AEFA SEQC

The Congress, which is a leader on a national scope in the field of clinical analysis, was supported by front-line speakers and an important number of activities

of great interest, such as 4 pre-congress courses, 2 conferences, 10 symposiums, 12 workshops, 2 meetings for the residents and 2 expert brunches.

Furthermore, it was an opportunity for experts to see the latest technological progress being made, on site, and to discuss the innovative and cutting-edge trends in pre-analysis, circulating DNA, point of care, genetics, patient safety, etc.

Within the symposiums, the focus of dedication to “doing what needs to be done” is evident, a topic that is also covered in a pre-congress course, in which the undertaking of unnecessary laboratory tests was discussed, as well as strategies to shape the demand using laboratory information systems and/or by means of electronic request systems.

“The focus that we have chosen for the Congress on this issue reflects that clinical laboratory companies are aligned with the **Commitment to Quality on behalf of Scientific Companies in Spain project**, coordinated by the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality”, highlighted Dr. Bernabéu, member of the Organising Committee of the Congress, as well as of the Management Board for SEQC.

New to the congress were the 2 expert brunches, aimed at issues that have a great impact on laboratory work: leadership and patient safety.

ALIGNMENT AND MANAGEMENT

“The alignment of standards that regulate quality management and clinical practice guides are currently being worked on internationally, and the SEQC does so with its international representatives”, points out Dr. Bernabéu.



J.A. Cocho, A. Giménez, M.P. Chueca, A.M. Padrós, D. Balsells, J.L. Marín, J. Mora, F.A. Bernabeu and I. Caballé

“Likewise” - adds this expert – “it is inevitable, and beneficial, that laboratory professionals are increasingly more involved in the management of laboratories and their working environment, in a committed manner: involving clinical management, managing resources, quality management.”

RECORD OF CLINICAL LABORATORIES IN SPAIN

Currently there is no single national record in Spain or single criteria to count trials. In this sense, whilst it is still without an implementation date and still at a very early stage, the commitment between the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality, the National Commission of Speciality and Scientific Companies SEQC, AEFA and AEBM to create a White Book for Clinical Laboratories is a very important step.

STRATEGIC LINES IMPLEMENTED BY SEQC

In order to respond to the different challenges that are faced by clinical laboratories nowadays, the SEQC is immersed in a redevelopment process, which is focused on the creation of a Strategic Plan. Defending the accreditation of clinical laboratories by the ISO Standard 15189 as the best management system to achieve excellence, promoting the core curriculum of specialities or supporting the continuance or increase in resident placements for the specialisations of Clinical Analysis, are some of the challenges.



Joint workshop: "The contribution of In Vitro Diagnostics (IVD) to health"

Each year an average of 20 IVD test are performed per inhabitant. In the scope of the **IX Congress of Clinical Laboratory**, top level experts analysed the diagnostic value in clinical decision, the innovation, the technology and proposal for value in this workshop organised by the **Spanish Society of Clinical Biochemistry and Molecular Pathology (SEQC)**, the **José Luis Castaño Foundation (FJLC)** and the **Spanish Federation of Health Technology Companies (FENIN)**.

In Vitro Diagnostics is a sector where an extremely high level of innovation exists, which, together with organisational change, decisively predetermines the evolution of the clinical laboratory in health care.

“The fast-paced changes in the technology available represent an extraordinary opportunity to improve

the efficiency. It is therefore possible to give a better response to an assumable cost in existing diagnostics tests”, indicated Dr Imma Caballé, President of the SEQC and the FJLC. “At the same time” -she added- “new tests appear that allow the contribution to the clinical laboratory to the value of medicine on the whole to develop”.

Faced with this scenario, health systems need to amend the current organisational structure and procure services to the health system as a whole.

This framework for technological and organisational change has its fundamental ramifications in information and quality. *“With regard to information, computerised clinical records represent a decisive progress in*

clinical decision making, with all of the laboratory tests being able to be accessed at the most convenient time”, she points out. “And with regard to quality, the new demands for higher accreditation can identify those laboratories that offer the best science for the level of service that they offer. Therefore, the relationship between suppliers and professionals is increasingly more important when it comes to clinical decision making, in order to improve patient health”, assures Dr Imma Caballé.

CONTRIBUTION OF IN VITRO DIAGNOSTICS TO HEALTH

In Vitro Diagnostics is an investment that leads to quality of life for the society and patients as well as other benefits. For every Euro invested in health technology and diagnostics, €1.41 is saved in cardiology; in oncology €1.36 is saved; and in the case of neurodegenerative diseases €1.11 is saved.



C. Sisternas (FENIN), J. Rueda (EDMA), F. Prat (FENIN), I. Caballé (SEQC), A. Buño (SEQC) and M. Peiró (ESADE)

For all of these reasons, the President of the In Vitro Diagnostics sector of FENIN, **Ferrán Prat**, has remarked that “we should stop thinking in terms of health expenses and start talking about investment in health when we make reference to this sector”.

IVD offers the health system new tests that can allow not only the consolidation of the cost of health, but also lead to savings in other areas, such as the reduction in working absences or fewer days in hospital.

For **Jesús Rueda**, *International Affairs Director* of EDMA (Diagnostics for Health), “the information that IVD offers should be suitable and created at the time that it is needed in order to support the decision making process of health professionals, therefore constituting a value and contributing to an improved quality of life for patients”.

Nowadays, there are diagnostic tests that guide medical physicians towards the most suitable choice of treatment (medication), given that they enable the monitoring of the recommended dosage in a specific course of treatment for a patient, therefore enabling personalised medical practice. Furthermore, new technology allows doctors the ability to supervise non-severe chronic patients on a more regular basis in a remote and safe manner.

EVOLUTION OF IVD TESTS

In Spain, the current investment made in IVD is the same as was established in 2010, and it has suffered continuous decreases in the last few years. Information obtained for 2014 reflects an investment of 971 million Euros, which was 4.5% less than in 2013. It is estimated for 2015 that an investment will be made of around 2.5% less in IVD, compared with 2014.

At the moment, general analysis laboratories are equipped with an extremely high level of automation and computerisation. In turn, since the sequencing of the human genome at the start of this millennium, diagnostics have seen a real revolution, each year a multitude of endorsed tests appear by the regulatory authorities and with solid validation studies. For the most part they are genomic, genetic tests with technology such as new generation sequencing or nanotechnology, capable of obtaining a multitude of very precise and personalised data for each patient.

XII Congr s de l'Associaci  Catalana de Ci ncies de Laboratori Cl nic



XII Congress of the Catalan Association
for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (ACCLC)
3 - 5 March 2016

by Joan Nicolau Costa

Located a few kilometers down the coast south from Barcelona, Sitges will host the XII Congress of the Catalan Association for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (ACCLC) in March 2015.

Professionals from all over the country will gather to attend the presentations and discussions and to enjoy the social programme. Although the official language is Catalan, oral communications and posters in English, French and Spanish will also be accepted.

We will cover topics of interest in different areas of the clinical laboratory, from hepatitis to prenatal diagnostics, vitamin D, tumor markers, virus identification, cardiovascular risk and mass spectrometry. An exhibit of industry products will also take place.

More information on the Congress and the ACCLC can be found on the website: www.acclc.cat. The ACCLC organizes a Symposium every two years and a Congress every two years. The online journal and several courses also contribute to improve the quality of the clinical analysis and the communication

between the professionals, which are the aims of the association.

XII Congr s de l'Associaci  Catalana de Ci ncies de Laboratori Cl nic

Sitges 3, 4 i 5 de Mar  de 2016 Seu Hotel Estela



Focus on the activities of the Committee on Accreditation and Regulation

by Wim Huisman
Chair of the Committee
dr.w.huisman@gmail.com

The EFLM working group on Accreditation and ISO/CEN Standards (WG A-ISO/CEN) has actively contributed to the ISO15189 (1) in WG1 of ISOTC212. It was involved in this way, since around 2000, when this standard developed into the primary standard used

for assessment of medical laboratories by the European Accreditation Bodies, combined in EA (European cooperation on Accreditation). One of the points of attention for us was the usage of flexible scope (2). It resulted in an EA guideline (3), with as a focus: ac-

Article continued on next page

creditation should be for the whole array of tests offered, and should involve the whole process, starting with advice on which tests are most appropriate till consultation about the results. This point of view was supported by IFCC.

Scope is important, because it clearly indicates for which tests and for which methods the laboratory is accredited. At this moment it is mostly by a fixed scope. Accreditation Bodies were accustomed to a fixed scope for testing laboratories using ISO17025. In commercial and environmental situations: the clients exactly know which standard method they want. In the medical environment the client is most often less familiar with specific methods but expects that all tests in a specific field are accurate. The flexible scope, as worded in the EA position paper (3) indicates the medical field (clinical chemistry, haematology, etc) , the technical principles used and the type of sample for which the accreditation is valid.

In a recent publication of the WG A-ISO/CEN, with Marc Thelen as prime author (4), a practical approach is presented for use of flexible scope. In an Editori-

al (5), accompanying this article, important aspects which deserve attention in the assessment process are stipulated.

The article describes how close cooperation between all Dutch Medical Laboratory Societies, covering the complete field, and the National Accreditation Body (RvA) can result in an approach as intended by the laboratory professionals who stimulated the editing of the abovementioned EA guideline.

The basic approach is shown in the Table 1. It shows in the first column the specific clinical field, which needs some specification in a subfield. In the second column the technical principle and the type of tests which are involved are shown. The third column gives the type of sample. Essential is the existence of a solid verification/validation process in the laboratory. This scope offers sufficient information to the requesting physician about the possibilities of the laboratory and to the Accreditation Body about the expertise needed in the assessment process. The article clearly indicates the pitfalls in the usage of flexible scope, and stresses its advantages. To be in line with the demand

TABLE 1		Example of flexible scope of a small part of the Dutch source scope for clinical chemistry	
Clinical field + subfield	Technical principle	Material	
Clinical chemistry, endocrinology	Specific sample preparation such as organic extraction	All body fluids	
	Nucleic acid diagnostics such as PCR and sequencing	Blood cells, other cells	
	Immunoassays	All body fluids	
	Chromatography including HPLC, UPLC, GC	All body fluids	
	(Tandem) Mass Spectrometry	All body fluids	
Clinical chemistry, general	Routine analysis of electrolytes, enzymes, metabolites, blood gasses and related tests by standard methods like spectrophotometry, nephelometry, turbidimetry, ion-selective electrodes	All body fluids	
	Immunoassays	All body fluids	
	Microscopy on cells , cylinders, chrystals	All body fluids	

of consultative support, flexible scope is only allowed if a laboratory specialist, trained in that specific field is connected to the laboratory. In other cases a fixed scope is obligatory.

The article is available on the website of the EFLM (www.eflm.eu) under publications from the Committee Accreditation and Regulations.

The use of flexible scope should add to the real reasons why the WG contributed to the creation of ISO15189 and supported accreditation: a way to work on continuous quality improvement, with attention for all aspects of the whole process from taking the samples till consultative service, with the aim to provide better and safer medical laboratory service at restricted costs.

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2. Huisman W, Horvath R, Burnett D, Blaton V, Czikkely R, Jansen RT et al. Accreditation of medical laboratories in the European Union. *Clin Chem Lab Med* 2007;45:268-75. (*)
3. EA-4/17 EA position paper on the description of scopes of accreditation of medical laboratories .
4. Thelen MH, Vanstapel FJ, Kroupis C, Vukasovic I, Boursier G, Barrett E et al. Flexible scope for ISO 15189 accreditation: a guidance prepared by the European Federation of clinical chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) working group Accreditation and ISO/CEN standards (WG-A/ISO). *Clin Chem Lab Med* 2015;53: 1173-80. (*)
5. Plebani M, Sciacovelli L, Chiozza ML, Panteghini M. Once upon a time: a tale on ISO15189. *Clin Chem Lab Med* 2015;53:1127-9. (*)

The papers with (*) are freely downloadable from the EFLM website (www.eflm.eu).



Report from the 15th EFLM Continuing Postgraduate Course in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine: How to assess the quality of your method?

by **Elizabeta Topic**
Chair, EFLM Committee Education and Training



The 15th EFLM Course was held in the capital of Croatia, the beautiful city of Zagreb, capital of Croatia. This advanced Course known as the

“Dubrovnik Course” was organized by the EFLM Committee of Education and training in collaboration with Croatian Society of Medical Biochemistry and Molecular Laboratory and Slovenian Association of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine. 146 participants from more than 22 different countries gathered at this meeting.

The highlight of the Course was method quality. Course presentations were delivered by well-known international speakers and experts in the field.

The list of the Course topics included: *Who, What and When to do in validation/verification of methods; Verification of imprecision and bias; Verification of reference intervals; Verification of qualitative test procedures; Verification of blood collection systems; Comparability of results among methods and analytical systems; Limit of detection; Limit of quantification and limit of decision; How to assess the measurement uncertainty; Optimal use of Internal Quality Control and External Quality Assessment data; Six Sigma metrics, Performance specifications; Biological variability.* These leading topics provided insights into how to validate the laboratory assays and to assess the quality of methods.

A special feature of this meeting was, for the first time, implementation of interactive sessions in each

Course lecture where the participants were invited to present their knowledge and achievements related to the quality at their own laboratory and to give real-time answers on important questions risen from the lecture by e-voting. It was really impressive to verify the impact on the audience of the knowledge transferred from the lectures.

During the social gathering, the participants from 22 different countries expressed their interest for continuing education through such interactive sessions as well as their willingness to apply the EFLM guidelines related to the assessment of the quality of method during their routine work.

From 72 poster abstracts, the Scientific Committee selected 4 most interesting and challenging topics for oral presentations: 1. How to assess quality of sample – automated sample interference testing, Vera Lukic (Serbia); 2. Calculation of measurement uncertainty of routine biochemical parameters, Merve Sibel Gungoren (Turkey); 3. New tubes on the block: ready for a better blood collection tubes for plasma glucose, Ana Bakliza (Croatia); 4. Verifying the comparability of results in large laboratories – mission impossible? Ivana

Barsic (Croatia). The winner of the Best Poster Award 'The role of albumin in calculation of free testosterone', was Anita Bokulic (Croatia).

Twenty participants were granted bursaries (EFLM=6; Croatian Society=12; Slovenian Association =2) on the basis of the quality of their posters and CV.

Conference proceedings were published in the form of Opinion papers in CCLM: Topic E, Nikolac N, Panteghini M, Theodorsson E, Salvagno CL, Miler M, et al. How to assess the quality of your method? Clin Chem Lab Med 2015;53:1707-18. The Course Poster Abstracts were published in CCLM 2015; 53:eA111–eA148. Both materials are freely downloadable from EFLM website.

All Course presentations are available at the EFLM and EFLM Course websites:

www.eflm.eu

www.eflm-course.org

The success of this Course, evaluated by participants anonymously is our greatest motivation and challenge for the future. We hope to see you all again at the next EFLM Course!



Successful Meeting in Prague: Cutting Edge in Laboratory Management in Europe (CELME) 1-2 October 2015

The rapid changes in technology and automation allied with increasing demands on healthcare budgets is causing a diminution in available funding for laboratories that is driving consolidation and requiring innovation. To date there has not been a forum to debate and inform about these issues as they apply to Laboratory Medicine. This was addressed by the meeting: Cutting Edge in Laboratory Management in Europe held in Prague organized by the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Management (EFLM) and the Czech Society of Clinical Biochemistry (CSKB) on the 1st and 2nd of October 2015.

The meeting was aimed at, and attended by, senior company personnel, senior administrators and laboratory directors. Held in the 14th Century Carolinum Patriot Hall of Charles University it was an ideal venue for the over 70 attendees in an environment that enabled good audience participation and debate.

The potential of automation of microbiological activities as was being delivered by Dr. Anson (Liverpool, UK) digitalization of cell counting Dr. Riedl (Netherlands) and genomics, promises timely and focused clinical interventions as well as significant opportunities to economise on staffing costs by moving away

from labour-intensive practices. The consequence is the need for better partnership working between laboratorians and manufacturers to enable effective, innovative, yet robust and economical delivery; in this vein it was enlightening to learn from speakers from Roche (Dr. Heuer) , Abbott (Dr. Yoshimura) and Siemens (Dr. Gammie) what their views were on consolidation, optimisation of automation and how bio-markers are brought to market, but the need for effective traceability to enable harmonization and thus consistency between analytical platforms had been highlighted in the opening presentation by Prof Pan-teghini (Italy).



Effective processing procedures need to be established, reviewed and maintained; Prof Coskun (Turkey) illustrated how the application and revisiting of lean and 6 sigma utilizing the quality team in his laboratory has led to meaningful changes being identified and effected with the consequence of potentially significant savings and service improvement, he also considered the best metrics to be used to express error rates.

Often laboratory activities are subject to national laws and policies that may change how they operate and an expert view by Dr. Gouget (France) on the changes consequent to significant revisions demanded by the French Government on laboratory accreditation and quality has caused major reorganisations to occur in both the public and private laboratory sectors, he explored the effect of this. Of course international legislative changes may also have significant impact, Dr. Rueda from EDMA (Eu-

ropean Diagnostic Manufacturers Association) as Regulatory Affairs Officer is well-versed in the IVD (In Vitro Diagnostic) Device Regulations currently being debated by EU member states for implementation in the next year or so, and this too will impact on laboratories, a notable change will be a requirement, yet to be clarified, for providers of in-house tests to make Notified Bodies aware of the use of such tests in non-research clinical testing and to bring these within the alert system.

Participants engaged in debates and future-gazing, such as the capacity and ability to manage 'big data'; the 'green' impact of IVD devices and the ethical consequences of incidental significant findings in gene sequencing.

The organisers (Prof Zima & Dr. Watson) were delighted at the positive feedback received from participants and their many helpful suggestions for future topics. This inaugural meeting promises to be the fore-runner of more, as the issues of the future impact of technology, laws and organisation affects us all. For those who missed the meeting lectures can be accessed at the EFLM web-site (www.eflm.eu) through the link with the meeting web-site, or directly at www.celme2015.cz

The support of the meeting sponsors: Abbott, Ceska Sporitelna, Erba Mannheim, Maksense indexorSystems, Roche, Siemens and Sysmex are gratefully acknowledged.

Thanks also to Congress Business Travel for a very professional organization.

The event ran smoothly and feedback from the attendees was very good. The cooperation was perfect and the organization was faultless.

A second CELME Meeting is planned for Spring 2017, if you wish to be kept informed, have ideas for topics, or indeed have an innovative way of delivering laboratory activities, then please provide your contact details to the EFLM Office by e-mail: silvia.cattaneo@eflm.eu.

EFLM General Meeting in Madrid 21 March 2016



The next EFLM General Meeting will be held in Madrid, on the occasion of the IFCC General Conference.

The meeting will be held on Monday, 21 March 2016 from 14:00 to 15:30 in the same venue as the IFCC General Conference (Marriott Auditorium Hotel).



EFLM makes available an important amount of interesting educational material!

by Maria Stella Graziani

Chair, EFLM Communication Committee

The EFLM Communication Committee would like to draw the attention of the readership to the section entitled Educational Material, on the federation's website (www.eflm.eu). In this section, organized by the Education and Training Committee, you can find the slides of the presentations given at important EFLM

Courses and Meetings and the Proceedings of the Congresses as well.

In addition, from the e-learning section (<http://www.eflm.eu/index.php/e-learning.html>) you can access the audio recording and the slides of the 2014 and 2015 EFLM e-seminars.

A screenshot of the EFLM website homepage. The header includes the EFLM logo, the text "European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine", and "EFLM represents IFCC in Europe". There are flags for various countries and a search bar. The main navigation menu includes "WHO WE ARE", "EVENTS", "EFLM PUBLICATIONS", "EFLM MEMBERS", and "CONTACT US". The content area is divided into several sections: "LATEST NEWS..." with sub-sections for "FROM EFLM", "FROM NATIONAL SOCIETIES", "FROM COMPANIES", and "EFLM NEWSLETTER"; "EFLM COMMITTEES" with sub-sections for "COMMUNICATION", "EDUCATION AND TRAINING", "PROFESSION", "QUALITY AND REGULATIONS", and "SCIENCE"; "INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS" with sub-sections for "EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL", "E-LEARNING", "THE EFLM EXPERTS SPEAKERS BUREAU", and "DOWNLOADS"; and "Event-Highlights" featuring a poster for the "19th World IFCC 2016 Congress" in Warsaw.

If you are interested in a particular topic, you can locate the pertinent Working Group (in the Committees section of the website) and check the Educational Material produced by the WG (papers and/or lectures); these are freely available and downloadable.

News and information about the EFLM e-seminars can be also found at the EFLM Twitter account (https://twitter.com/@_EFLM) or obtained by joining the EFLM circulation list available on the EFLM website.

Do not hesitate to enquire at the EFLM office (from the Contact us section) in case you are unable to find the material you are looking for.



EFLM Executive Board Representative at the National Societies Congresses

by **A. M. Simundic**
EFLM Secretary

EFLM is happy to confirm that Presidents and National Representatives of the National Societies members of the Federation can apply for an EFLM grant to host an EFLM Executive Board representative at their National Congresses.

As previous experiences have confirmed, EFLM believes this is mutually beneficial and therefore feels there is a need for maintaining and promoting the attendance of the Executive Board Members at National or Regional Congresses organized by the member Societies.

EFLM especially encourages those National Societies which in the past did not use this opportunity to apply. EFLM grant covers the entire travel and accom-

modation cost for the Executive Board Representative.

The Executive Board Representative can make a presentation on a specific topic to be agreed upon, and extend the EFLM greetings to participants during the Opening Ceremony briefly presenting the EFLM activities as well.

The selections of applications will be guided by the principle of geographic distribution. In addition, those National Societies that are applying for the first time will have priority.

Please contact the EFLM office for further information about these grants.

eJIFCC Vol 26 n°4 Bilingual Issue - **Edición Bilingüe**



eJIFCC is pleased to introduce to the readership major ongoing regional developments in the field of laboratory medicine in Latin America. As a unique exception, a bilingual issue (published in both English and Spanish) is presented hereby, in order to help publicize the journal among laboratory specialists from Latin American countries. Dr. Rosa Isabel Sierra-Amor (Mexico) and Dr. Maria del Carmen Pasquel (Ecuador) are guest co-editors of this issue.

Read more

El eJIFCC se complace en introducir a los lectores los principales acontecimientos regionales en el campo de laboratorio clínico en América Latina. Como única excepción, esta edición bilingüe (publicado en inglés y español) por este medio se presenta para ayudar a dar a conocer la revista entre los especialistas de laboratorio de los países de América Latina. La Dra. Rosa Isabel Sierra-Amor (México) y la Dra. María del Carmen Pasquel (Ecuador) son co-editores huéspedes de este número.

Lee mas



Pakistan Society of Chemical Pathologists (PSCP)

*by Lubna Sarfraz
Secretary/Treasurer, PSCP*

A new Council of PSCP has taken over with following office bearers / councilors:

Appointment	Name & Place
President	Dr. Asma Shaukat, Bahawalpur
Vice president	Dr. Abdur Rehman, Rahim Yar Khan
Secretary/Treasurer	Dr. Lubna Sarfraz, Bahawalpur
Member	Dr. Muhammad Rafi Butt, Lahore
Member	Dr. Naveed Asif, Rawalpindi
Member	Dr. Lena Jafri, Karachi
Member	Dr. Mohsin Shafi, Peshawar
Provincial Coordinator Baluchistan	Dr. Shah Muhammad Marri, Quetta
Provincial Coordinator Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Dr. Muhammad Usman Munir, Mardan
Provincial Coordinator Punjab	Dr. Salma Haq, Lahore



Participation of PSCP in the 38th Conference of Pakistan Association of Pathologists / 3rd Joint Conference of Societies of Pathology in Lahore



Article continued on next page

EDUCATION ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED BY PSCP

1. **'Structured Assessment of Skills' (SAS) in Chemical Pathology** has been launched. Trainees and facilitators of Chemical Pathology from all over country are actively participating. It is comprised of two parts.
 - a. **Quick Assessment of Data Interpretation Skills (QADIS):** This is conducted simultaneously in 13 Centres all over the country. It is followed by a key presentation with explanation slides along-with supporting literature for the facilitators to use it as an MIT in the class.
 - b. **Structured Assessment of Analytical Skills (SAAS):** This tool has been developed purely to teach analytical skills to Chemical Pathologists. It is a Workplace Based Assessment tool with proper key and well thought marking criteria. This is conducted on monthly basis.
2. **The 6th PSCP Annual Course** was arranged during the month of May at AFIP. The course design comprised mainly of several interactive stations and workshop sessions based on the day to day running of the lab. A mock practical exam was also conducted for the postgraduate trainees.
3. **A website for PSCP has been launched.** The aim of the website is to provide material related to Chemical Pathology, Endocrinology and Toxicology for those who visit the website.
4. **Another achievement for PSCP is accreditation of its CPD activities by PMDC.**
5. **A workshop on "Awareness of Novel Markers of Clinical Diseases"** was organized by PSCP on 8 June 2015 in Pathology Department QAMC Bahawalpur.
6. **On behalf of PSCP a CME Seminar** was organized

on 20 October, 2015 in line with 'World Osteoporosis Day' at Aga Khan University Hospital, Karachi.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION BY PSCP

1. PSCP actively participated in the 38th Conference of Pakistan Association of Pathologists / 3rd Joint Conference of Societies of Pathology in Lahore. Two pre-conference workshops and five Scientific Sessions were conducted by PPSC
2. A delegation from PSCP members attended **"Arab Health"** in Dubai in January 2015.
3. During the EuroMedLab Congress in Paris, France between 21st and 23rd June 2015 at the IFCC Booth, an 'electronic version' of **COLLECTED HISTORIES OF IFCC MEMBER SOCIETIES** was presented where the history of PSCP along with its logo were presented. Brig. Dilshad represented PSCP there.
4. Dr. Lena Jafri and Brig. Dilshad represented the Pakistan team in the Committee on Reference Intervals and Decision Limits (C-RIDL), an IFCC Meeting held in Tokyo, Japan in June 2015.
5. Between June 5-6, 2015, PSCP held a workshop on SPSS at AFIP.
6. A workshop on Uncertainty of Measurement and Validation of Methods was held at AFIP on August 28, 2015.
7. The annual symposium of SSIEM (symposium on study of inborn errors of metabolism) 2015 was held in Lyon, France from 1st till 4th September at Lyon Convention Centre. This symposium was attended by Dr. Aysha Habib Khan and Dr. Noreen Sherazi from Aga Khan University, Karachi.
8. Prof. Imran Siddiqui will represent PSCP in the IFCC General Conference 2016.



Both photos: Participants in the 6th PSCP Annual Course

Communications and Publications Division (CPD) of the IFCC

Editor: Tahir Pillay, MB ChB, PhD, FRCPath (Lon), FCPATH (SA)

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2016 AD Pricelist for the IFCC eNews

The IFCC eNews is delivered to more than 15,000 laboratory medicine specialists throughout the world and also published on the IFCC website. Circulation includes laboratory directors, clinical chemists, and other clinical laboratory specialists and technologists, as well as leading manufacturers, distributors and dealers in the field.

As an advertiser you get a unique opportunity to showcase your business, your initiatives and products to thousands of readers and potential customers.

The latest issue of the IFCC eNews as well as past archives can be viewed and read online, in full digital format, from either a PC or a mobile device. The digital edition is fully interactive and allows the readers to reach the links by way of a simple click on the editorial content, product news items, or display ads.

The IFCC eNews is issued in English, and it is free-of-charge to all registered readers.

We feature useful information for IFCC and not IFCC members and we include a calendar of the major events in the Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine field.

The advertising banners are available in the following formats:

ADVERT SIZE	SINGLE EDITION PRICE	*ANNUAL PRICE (6 editions)
Half Page Horizontal/Column	€ 250	€ 1,250.00
Full page (215,9 x 279,4)	€ 400	€ 2,000.00

*PRICES QUOTED ARE YEARLY FOR ADVERTISING IN SIX EDITIONS (February, April, June, July, October, December)

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Useful tips when making your advert

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N° 1	Jan 21 st	N° 2	Mar 24 th	N° 3	May 19 th
N° 4	Jul 14 th	N° 5	Sep 22 nd	N° 6	Dec 1 st
6. Send your advertising material by email to: enews@ifcc.org

If you have any questions please get in touch with us, sending an email to ifcc@ifcc.org

News from the IFCC Website – ICE Award



ICE (Increasing Clinical Effectiveness) programme has been launched to encourage laboratory medicine specialists to collaborate with clinical colleagues to demonstrate that optimal use of the laboratory can have a measurable positive impact on patient outcomes. ICE invites laboratory medicine specialists to submit an abstract that describes

testing-related interventions and the quantifiable positive impact for patients that they produced. The winners of the 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 competitions will be invited to present their work at events in March 2016 and June 2017, respectively. [Read more](#)

IFCC TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIPS



My experience at XXII COLABIOCLI Congress – Quito, Ecuador

*by Bioq. Claudia Almazán Ríos
Resp. Quality control of tuberculosis sedes
Tarija, Bolivia*



From left to right: Dr. G. Beastall, IFCC Past President; Mrs Claudia Almazán Ríos, IFCC Roche Travel Scholarship recipient; Dr Alvaro Justiniano Grosz, Bolivia IFCC National Representative; Prof. Tomris Ozben, IFCC Treasurer

I want to express my deep gratitude and thanks for considering my request to participate in this conference, the most important Latin American conference so that through it I could meet other biochemical colleagues from other countries and exchange ideas, knowledge, experience and know more about Ecuadorian culture.

I was able to participate in the session Quality Assurance in Pre stage - Analytical where they talked about the analytical laboratory quality in its various pre-analytical stages (pre- preanalytical stage, analytical and post- analytical) that are very important steps before any biochemical processes can be carried out and I had the pleasure of attending the presentations of Dr. Penacchiotti, Dra. Benozzi, Dra. Gisela Unger and also participated in the exhibition of Dr. Carlos Navarro, Dr. Porrás by putting forward and emphasizing the role of the biochemists within an analytical process.

We also discussed quality control and our professional development; Programs of External Quality Assessment (internal and external control) and thanks to this we are confident about producing safe results.

I also participated in the exhibition of evidence-based laboratory medicine which is another very important aspect to avoid problems in the laboratory.

This was a very unique experience and I do not have enough words to thank the IFCC and Roche for this opportunity.

IFCC PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME (PEP)

PEP Report: Laboratory Quality Management Course in the Division of Chemical Pathology, Stellenbosch University and NHLS Laboratory Tygerberg Hospital, Cape Town, South Africa



by Lucius Chidiebere

Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH), Nigeria

by Mutale Mubanga

UTH Laboratory, Zambia

Lucius Chidiebere

I am a consultant chemical pathologist at the Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH), in Plateau State, Nigeria providing diagnostic laboratory services for JUTH and other peripheral hospitals. The department is currently being repositioned to deliver quality laboratory services that would meet international standards. The IFCC PMEP offered me a great opportunity to acquire and develop the relevant skills to help our laboratory achieve this lofty objective.

I attended the programme with a Zambian colleague, Mr. Mutale Mubanga.

Mutale Mubanga

I am from the Department of Pathology and Microbiology at the University teaching Hospital in Lusaka, Zambia. This is a national reference laboratory under the ministry of Health. The laboratory provides testing in biochemistry, haematology, histopathology, immunohistochemistry, bacteriology, virology, parasitology and endocrinology. The UTH Laboratory has been building a quality management system since 2011 and has made notable progress. However there have been some challenges in implementing some requirements of the ISO 15189 standard, due in part to a lack of real hands-on experience such as would be gathered by an

attachment of a quality coordinator at an accredited laboratory. My main objectives was to examine how the Tygerberg Academic Laboratory implemented requirements of the ISO 15189 standard with a view to introducing new or improved scientific and management skills to the UTH Laboratory as we prepare for international accreditation. The course was spread over a period of three months from 4th May - 31st July 2015. I was nominated to undergo the training by the Biomedical Society of Zambia in consultation with the Ministry of Health - Laboratory Services Unit. The course was sponsored by the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) under the Professional Management Exchange Programme (PMEP).

Having been previously trained in mentoring laboratories on implementing quality management systems and as laboratory quality auditor through a series of workshops conducted by the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI), this on-site attachment at an accredited laboratory gave me an opportunity to see quality system essentials from theory to practice. I have gained hands-on experience on approaches that can be used to implement the ISO 15189 standard in a clinical laboratory of any size and scope. Through the knowledge and experience I have gained from the training, I will be able to work with the rest

Article continued on next page

of my team and prepare our laboratory units for international accreditation more effectively and efficiently. I hope to assist not only the UTH Laboratory but also other laboratories that are implementing quality management systems in Zambia. I have also built networks with staff at Tygerberg Academic Laboratory

ISO 15189 standards were also well addressed. The lectures were very interactive and well delivered by seasoned laboratory professionals. We thoroughly enjoyed the idea-stimulating lecture series. We learnt key principles of organizing quality laboratory services in my own peculiar locality.



With members of the Division of Chemical Pathology, Tygerberg Hospital:
Prof. Zemlin, Prof. Erasmus, Mrs. Debbie Laubser, Dr. M. Hoffmann,
Mr. Mutale Mubanga, Dr. Lucius Chidiebere

and colleagues from other countries who attended the course with me. Further, the visit has immensely boosted my confidence in the accreditation activities we are doing at the UTH Laboratory given some similarities with the hosting laboratory's quality management system. I am confident that UTH Laboratory will get accredited sooner than later.

Lucius Chidiebere

The laboratory quality and laboratory management courses covered a wide range of issues bordering on effective and efficient running of a clinical laboratory. Management and technical requirements of the

As part of the laboratory management course, we participated in a group activity in which we had to develop a strategic plan for our laboratory. This was a very exciting but challenging task. Through the process, I understood first-hand, the elements that are needed to develop strategic plans, monitoring and budgetary plans that will move my home laboratory forward.

I had enough time to observe the work flow processes in the chemical pathology and haematology laboratories at Tygerberg hospital. I participated in hands-on quality management activities in the laboratory. I reviewed the laboratories quality manual and general standard operating procedures with the quality

manager. The laboratory manager, put me through some of the operations of the laboratory and the relevant records and quality indicators. I participated in the quality assurance meeting to review the IQC and EQA of the tests offered in the laboratory. I also observed the pre-analytical operations and the actual analysis of specimen. I did enjoy reviewing some laboratory results with the residents. I also participated in an internal audit with the quality manager.

One of the key focus of the division is clinical audits. As part of my programme at Tygerberg, I was required to design and conduct a research project in the area of laboratory based clinical audits. My project objective was to audit the turnaround time for CSF Chemistry. I obtained ethical clearance from the research and ethics committee of Stellenbosch University. I systematically investigated the drivers of high turnaround time for CSF chemistry in chemical pathology laboratory using data from the laboratory Information system and a focused group discussion. I have written the project for possible publication.

The programme gave me the opportunity to interface with clinicians through the departmental activi-

ties such as ward rounds with the renal divisions and endocrine divisions. I also attended clinical meetings with the endocrine division Tygerberg hospital. I also visited the Pathcare laboratory in Cape Town where I observed QMS in a large scale commercial laboratory setting. I also observed their lean management strategy. I spent some time at the poison information centre and toxicology Laboratory at Tygerberg hospital. I learnt the quality aspect of therapeutic drug monitoring. I also learnt some high-tech methodologies such as Gas-chromatography and mass spectrometry at the Red-Cross Memorial Children's Hospital.

I want to express my immense gratitude to the IFCC and the Association of Clinical Chemists of Nigeria for this great academic and professional development opportunity. The impact of this capacity development initiative to my career cannot be quantified. I believe they will have a multiplier effect thus developing the field and practice of clinical chemistry in Nigeria, Africa and the world at large.

I would like to thank the staff of the Department of Chemical Pathology at Tygerberg Hospital/Stellenbosch University.

News from the IFCC Website – NPU website “on air”



IFCC is happy to announce that the new NPU website is now available. We invite you to visit it and browse the different pages and the NPU database that can be directly downloaded or searched with a specific function.

[Read More](#)

News from the IFCC Website – EuroMedLab 2019



IFCC is happy to announce that Barcelona, Spain, will host the EuroMedLab Congress in 2019. Three European Members societies presented their bids. The evaluation was done by IFCC and EFLM according to the new “Guidelines and Rules for Organising the IFCC – EFLM EuroMedLab Congresses of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine”. Whilst we thank the bidding societies for the high standard of their bids, we congratulate SEQC, Spanish Society of Clinical Bio-

chemistry and Molecular Biology on their successful bid. [Read More](#)

IFCC'S CALENDAR OF CONGRESSES, CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Calendar of IFCC Congresses/Conferences and Regional Federations' Congresses

Nov 26 - 29, 2016		<i>14th Asia-Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine Congress</i>	Taipei, TW
Jun 11 - 15, 2017		<i>IFCC-EFLM EuroMedLab 2017</i>	Athens, GR
Sep 17 - 22, 2017		<i>XXIII COLABLIOCLI Congress 2017</i>	Punta del Este, UY
Oct 22 - 25, 2017		<i>XXIII IFCC WorldLab 2017</i>	Durban, ZA
May 24 - 28, 2020		<i>XXIV IFCC WorldLab 2020 Seoul</i>	Seoul, KR

Calendar of events with IFCC auspices

Feb 11 - 12, 2016	<i>Labquality Days - Nordic Congress on Quality in Laboratory Medicine</i>	Helsinki, FI
Mar 3 - 5, 2016	<i>XII Congress of the Catalan Association for Clinical Laboratory Sciences</i>	Sitges, SP
Mar 9 - 11, 2016	<i>IX National Congress of Clinical Pathology, CONAPAC 2016</i>	Havana, CU
Mar 24 - 25, 2016	<i>5th International Conference on Vitamin D Deficiency and its Clinical Implications</i>	Abu Dhabi, UAE
Apr 20 - 22, 2016	<i>10th International Conference of Clinical Laboratory Automation (Cherry Blossom Symposium 2016)</i>	Seoul, KR
May 12 - 14, 2016	<i>XIII Baltic Congress of Laboratory Medicine</i>	Tartu, EE
May 18 - 21, 2016	<i>1st Conference of Romanian Association of Laboratory Medicine (RALM)</i>	Cluj Napoca, RO
May 25 - 27, 2016	<i>XX Congress of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine</i>	Belgrade, SRB
May 26, 2016	<i>12th EFLM Symposium for Balkan Region</i>	Belgrade, SRB
Sept 21 - 24, 2016	<i>4th Joint EFLM-UEMS Congress: "Laboratory Medicine at the Clinical Interface"</i>	Warsaw, PL
Oct 20 - 22, 2017	<i>XIVth International Congress of Pediatric Laboratory Medicine</i>	Durban, ZA

e-Newsletter



The IFCC e-News is the Federation's electronic newsletter, published to inform its membership and stakeholders of ongoing IFCC and member activities.

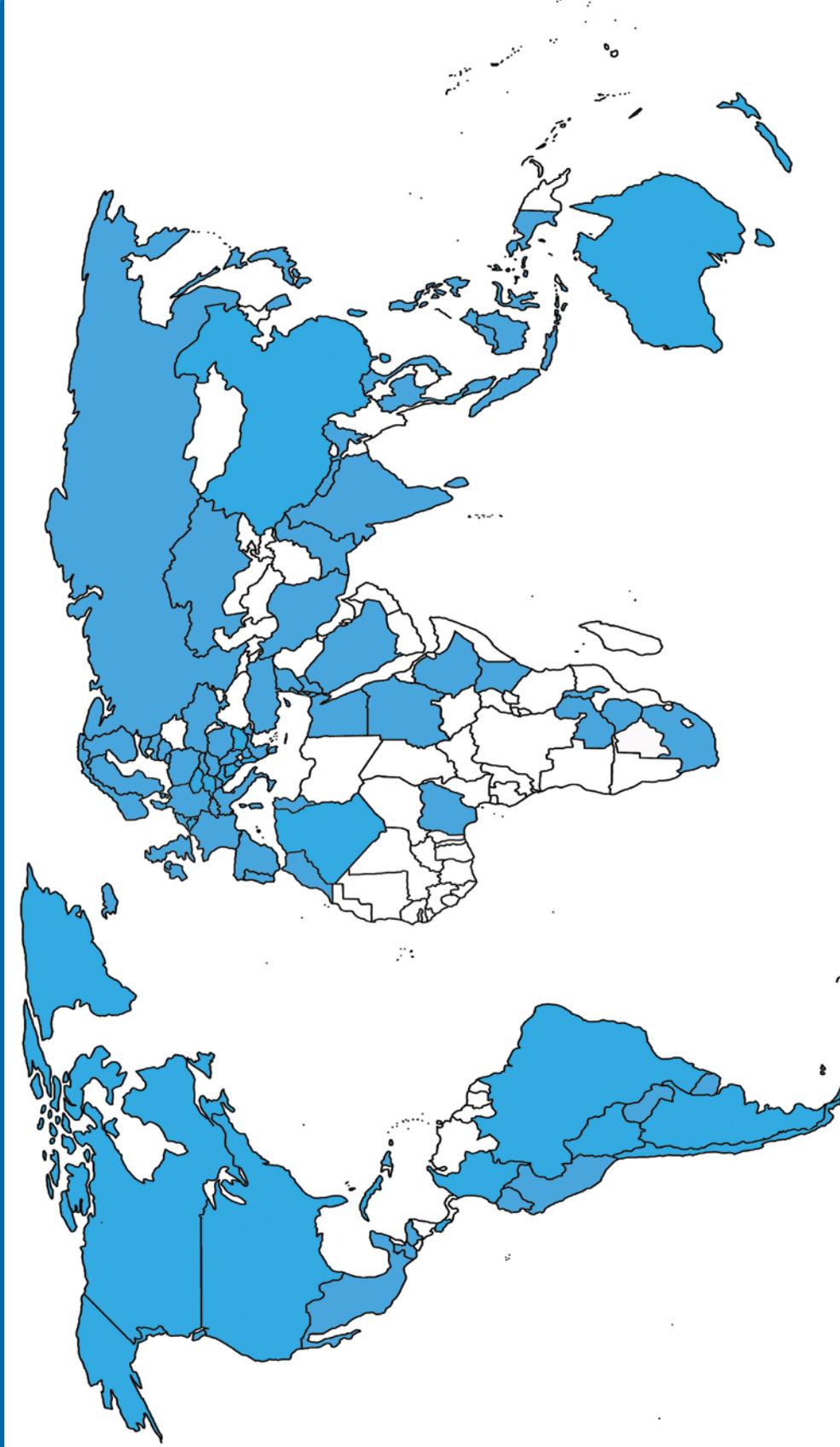
The e-News is published six times a year, one issue every two months. It is available on the IFCC website, where readers can access both the current issue in an enhanced eMag format and the publication's archive. Each new issue of the e-News is also sent via e-mail to all subscribers who register on its web page at the following address:

[http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-communications-publications-division-\(cpd\)/ifcc-publications/eneewsletter/](http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-communications-publications-division-(cpd)/ifcc-publications/eneewsletter/)

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Japan (JP)	Uruguay (UY)
Jordan (JO)	Vietnam (VN)
Kazakhstan (KZ)	Zambia (ZM)
Kenya (KE)	Zimbabwe (ZW)



Regional Federations

Arab Federation of Clinical Biology (AFCB)
 African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC)
 Asia-Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (APFCB)
 European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM)
 Latin America Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI)
 North American Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (NAFCC)

Affiliate Members

Brazil: Sociedade Brasileira de Patologia Clínica / Medicina Laboratorial (SBPC/ML)
 India: Association of Medical Biochemists of India (AMBI)
 Iran: Iranian Association of Clinical Laboratory Doctors (IACLD)
 Mexico: Federación Nacional de Químicos Clínicos (CONAQUIC A.C.)
 Nepal: Nepalese Association for Clinical Chemistry (NACC)
 Palestine: Palestinian Medical Technology Association (PALMTA)
 Philippines: Philippine Council for Quality Assurance in Clinical Laboratories (PCQACL)
 Russia: Regional Association for Clinical Laboratory Diagnosis, St. Petersburg
 Spain: Asociación Española de Farmacéuticos Analistas (AEFA)
 Turkey: Society of Clinical Biochemistry Specialists (KBUD)
 Ukraine: Association of Clinical Chemistry & Laboratory Medicine of Ukraine (ACCLMU)

Publisher

Communications and Publications

Division (CPD) of the IFCC

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Deadlines for Submissions to the eNews

The Communications and Publications Division (CPD) of the IFCC publishes six editions of the e-News per year.

January-February Edition

- submission deadline: [January 28](#)

March-April Edition

- submission deadline: [March 24](#)

May-June Edition

- submission deadline: [May 19](#)

July-August Edition

- submission deadline: [July 14](#)

September-October Edition

- submission deadline: [September 22](#)

November-December Edition

- submission deadline: [November 22](#)

If you want to submit an article or advertisement to be published in the eNews, send it to:

Tahir Pillay, Editor, IFCC eNews

E-mail: enews@ifcc.org

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