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International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine



70th Anniversary
1952 - 2022

N° 11 – November 2022



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EDITORIAL

Message from the eNews Editor

by Katherina Psarra
eNews Editor

Dear colleagues,

It was a big success! The IFCC General Conference 2022 and the celebration for the 70 years of IFCC Global Leadership of Laboratory Medicine took place in Brussels with a lot of enthusiasm, a lot of joy, a lot of memories and a lot of good perspectives for the future.

Almost all the IFCC people, the people who make it possible that this organization plays such an important role in the laboratories all over the world, were there. And a lot more people participated through the IFCC new software.

We have watched the EB people, the officers, expressing their thoughts. We discussed with them important matters formally or informally.

The “top” and most moving and at the same time most entertaining moment of the celebration were the presentations by the Past Presidents. We have travelled with them from the beginning till today. The journey was full of wonderful moments, of difficult decisions, of hard work, of hope, of determination. All this history was presented with a lot of humour and good fun.

In this issue of the eNews you can read many presentations about this unforgettable event. In the President’s message, Prof. Khosrow Adeli offers a detailed report of every particular day of the conference. And then many attendees give their own description of the event.

Let’s hope that IFCC will always have the chance of organizing such successful events!

Dear colleagues, enjoy reading this issue, enjoy the event!

Katherina Psarra



Katherina Psarra, MSc, PhD

5TO DIPLOMADO
INTERNACIONAL en línea

**CONTROL DE LA CALIDAD
ANALÍTICA EN EL
LABORATORIO CLÍNICO**

THE VOICE OF IFCC

IFCC President's message: Special 70th Anniversary Issue – November 2022



Prof. Khosrow Adeli
PhD, FCACB, DABCC, FAACC



by Khosrow Adeli
IFCC President

This is a special issue of the eNews dedicated to the IFCC 70th Anniversary and detailed coverage of the IFCC General Conference, which recently took place in Brussels on October 28-31, 2022. In recognition of IFCC's 70th anniversary, we gathered to celebrate seven decades of contributions to scientific and educational advances in the field of laboratory medicine, and the meeting was a great success! The conference was held at the Radisson Collection Hotel in Brussels, which set the perfect backdrop for a collaborative event. Representatives from every corner of the globe were in attendance, including IFCC Officers, Members of Committees and Task Forces, as well as Presidents of National Societies and Regional Federations. For those who could not attend in person, we implemented the IFCC Virtual Platform for the first time to broadcast the entire conference. This platform is hosted by InEvent (<https://inevent.com/en/home.php>) and was designed specifically for IFCC to support all future meetings.

Friday, October 28th - IFCC Functional Group Meetings: on the first day of the General Conference (Friday, October 28th). IFCC Functional Groups conducted productive meetings, assessing progress and planning for the future of various Committees, Task Forces, and Working Groups. All IFCC divisions as well as most IFCC Committees and Task Forces were able to in person or in hybrid format, bringing together over 100 IFCC Officers from around the world to discuss many ongoing projects and preparing for their presentations at the General Conference on Sunday. This was followed by a special welcome presentation by a representative of the European Commission, Dr. Loukianos Gatzoulis, Director-General, Health and Food Safety, European Commission, Health Technology Assessment. The day ended with a welcome dinner for all IFCC Officers, National Representatives, and invited guests/accompanying persons.

Article continued on next page

Saturday, October 29th - Special Day Celebrating the Rich History of the IFCC Organization: the 70th Anniversary Celebrations started on the Saturday with presentations from the IFCC Executive Board and IFCC Past Presidents, including Dr. Matthew McQueen, Dr. Matthias Muller, Dr. Graham Beastall, and Dr. Maurizio Ferrari, highlighting major IFCC milestones/achievement during their tenure as president. This was followed by presentations by Regional Federation Presidents, Dr. Tomris Ozben (EFLM), Dr. Rajiv Erasmus (AFCC), Dr. Alvaro Justiniano Grosz (COLABIOCLI), Dr. Osama Najar (AFCB), Dr. Stephen Hill/David Kinniburgh (NAFCC), and Dr. Endang Hoyaranda (APFCB). In the afternoon, a special 70th Anniversary Symposium was organized focusing on the Critical Role of Clinical Laboratories in Patient Care and Public Health, with excellent presentations by Khosrow Shotorbani (Lab 2.0), Dr. David Grenache (AACC/TriCore), Dr. Francis Moussy (Director, IVD, WHO), and Dr. Christa Cobbaert (Vice-Chair, Scientific Division, on IVDR). A Special Industry Forum was then held on the future of IVD over the next decade with presentations by Dr. Anne Skurup (Radiometer), Dr. Frank Vitzthum, Siemens Healthineers, Els Melis (QuidelOrtho), and Dr. Brendan Meyer (Becton Dickinson). Special guests from other organizations, including WASPALM, Balkan Federation, EQALM, and Francophonie, were also invited to break silos and encourage collaboration between laboratory medicine organizations around the world. To finish off the day, all participants attended a special dinner with live jazz music to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of IFCC. It was a great opportunity for the IFCC community to come together and celebrate the many achievements of the organization over the past 70 years.

Sunday, October 30th - IFCC Functional Groups - Reports & Future Plans/Vision: on Sunday, updates were provided by the IFCC Executive Board, Division Chairs (SD, EMD, ETD, CPD), Conference & Congresses Committee, as well as the five new IFCC Task Forces. These included the Task Forces on Global Newborn Screening, Global Lab Quality, Global Reference Interval Database, Outcome Studies in Lab Med, and Global eLearning/eAcademy. The vast number of ongoing and new projects undertaken by the IFCC functional groups were manifest with significant progress being made on a number of important fronts, working towards the IFCC's new vision and mission to be more proactive and implement the current IFCC strategic plans.



Celebrating IFCC 70th anniversary at the IFCC Gala Dinner

To conclude the meeting, I provided an update on the new priorities for IFCC over the coming year, including: 1) Breaking silos by working with other groups/organizations in the field of laboratory medicine, 2) Enhancing IFCC presence online through a new updated website and web/mobile tools, 3) Developing and publishing IFCC clinical laboratory practice guidelines to support clinical laboratories globally, and 4) Accreditation of all IFCC educational programs including webinars and conferences to support education of clinical laboratory professionals around the world. Keep your eye out for more details in the January eNews issue.

So far, I have received wonderful feedback about the General Conference. The Radisson Collection Hotel was the perfect venue for this celebratory event and the IFCC Virtual Platform provided a seamless experience for online attendees. A formal survey will be sent out to all participants for additional feedback. In the meantime, feel free to email me at president@ifcc.org with your feedback, questions, or concerns.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who joined in celebrating IFCC's 70th Anniversary as well as the IFCC Office staff and MZ Events for their great support and assistance. It is important to recognize the many milestones that IFCC has accomplished and recognize future potential of the IFCC organization and its family of national societies and corporate members. Most importantly, I would like to thank all of our IFCC community members for supporting IFCC's vision and look forward to celebrating for years to come!

Khosrow 😊



L-R: Prof. Verna, WASLPALM President; Prof. Tomris Ozben, IFCC President-Elect;
Dr. David Kinniburgh, IFCC Secretary; Prof. Khosrow Adlej, IFCC President



IFCC Presidents:
Prof. M. Mc Queen, Prof. M. Ferrari,
Prof. K. Adeli, Dr. G. Beastall



The IFCC staff: Sofia Giardina, Silvia Cardinale,
Paola Bramati, Patrizia Sirtori (MZ Events),
Smeralda Skenderaj and Silvia Colli Lanzi



Group of participants at the Anniversary Celebration with live music

IFCC WG-MEP – To do a good job, an artisan needs the best tools

~ Chinese idiom (工欲善其事，必先利其器) ~

by WG-MEP Co-Chairs:

A/Prof. Ronda Greaves

Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Victoria, Australia

Dr. Tze Ping Loh

Clinical Chemistry Division, National University Hospital, Singapore

“Method evaluation is the systematic investigation of the performance of a laboratory method under scientifically sound procedures to determine whether it meets predefined criteria; which has been determined according to clinical needs” (Definition of the WG). It is a foundation of the total quality system for laboratory medicine and critical activity that helps the laboratory decide whether a method is fit for clinical deployment. It also provides crucial objective data to the laboratory for subsequent planning of internal quality control and participation in external quality assurance programs. Despite its importance, method evaluation remains one of the tasks laboratories find challenging to perform. This may be partly related to a lack of evidence-based documents that are freely available to guide laboratories through this process (Figure 1).

A new IFCC Working Group on Method Evaluation Protocols (WG-MEP) has been formed in 2022 under the umbrella of the Emerging Technologies Division to address this gap. The purposes of the WG-MEP include the following:

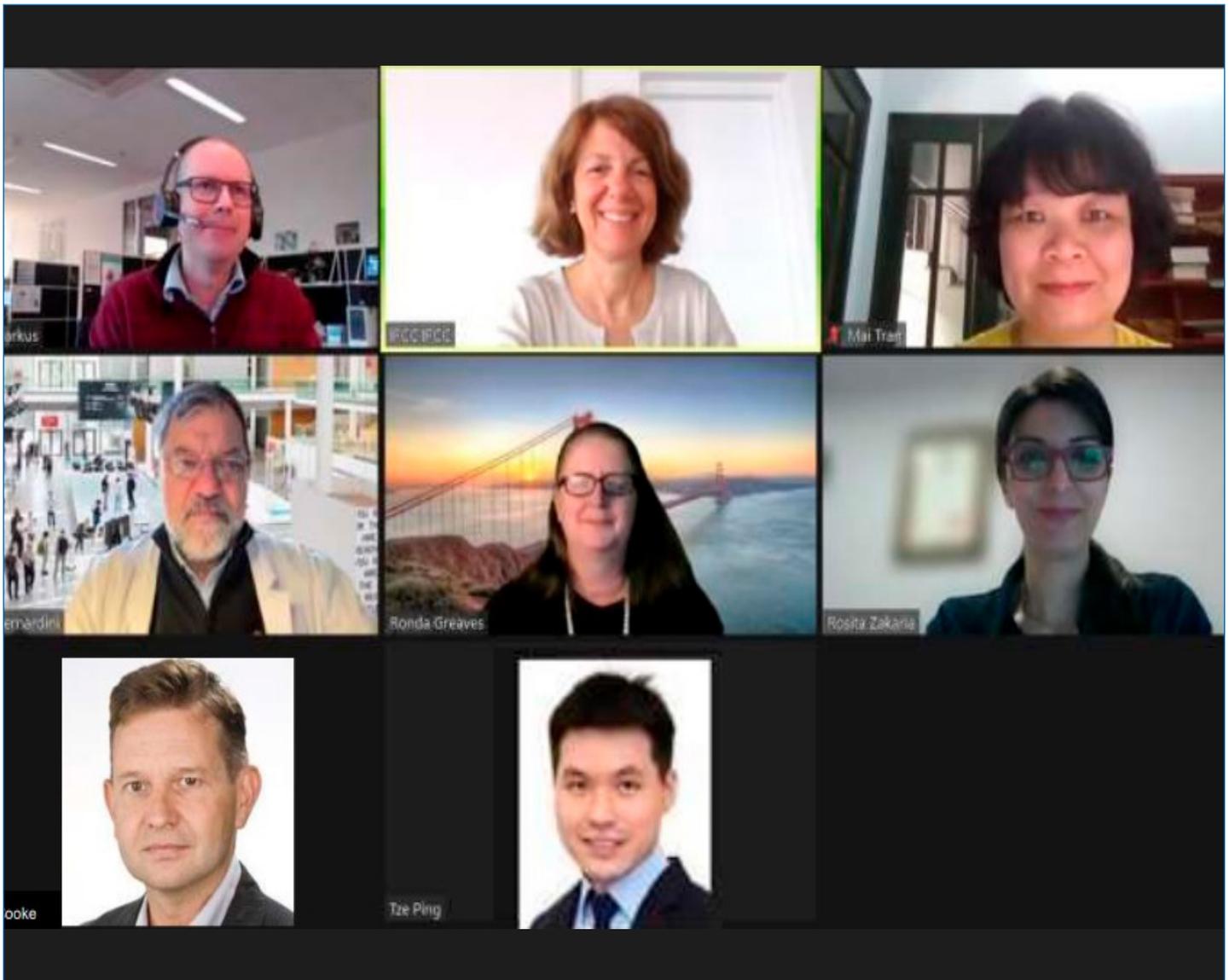
1. Review and summarise the literature and guidelines on method evaluation procedures used in clinical laboratories.
2. Provide high-level guidance and incorporate evidence-based procedures for method evaluation, taking into account the intended clinical application of the measurement procedure.
3. Engage key stakeholders on method evaluation procedures, including and not limited to IFCC members and clinical stakeholders.
4. Develop and disseminate educational resources for clinical stakeholders, to inform best practices for method evaluation protocols.

Working group members	Position	Country	Term	Time in office
R. Greaves	Co-Chair	AU	1st	2022 05 - 2024 12
TP Loh	Co-Chair	SG	1st	2022 05 - 2024 12
B. Cooke	Member	AU		
C. Markus	Member	AU		
M. Tran	Member	VN		
R. Zakaria	Member	AU		
CS Ho	Consultant	CN		
M. Pieri	Corr Member	IT		

Article continued on next page

The Working Group recently produced an Opinion piece that documented an overview of the status, challenges, and needs of method evaluation from the perspective of clinical laboratory medicine. The key high-level aspects of clinical laboratory method evaluation were recognized as well as aspects that may be inappropriate or inappropriately applied. The need for harmonization for each of these areas is apparent and requires considerable work through the availability of guidance documents that are relevant to clinical laboratories. Consistent with this, educational activities and professional collaborations are essential to promote and improve the practice of method evaluation procedures.

During the remainder of the first term of the WG-MEP, several educational activities to disseminate good laboratory practices in method evaluation are planned and proposed. The WG-MEP will work with related scientific, academic, and clinical bodies to collaborate on common objectives. This includes organizing symposiums and workshops at international scientific events, together with a proposal for a traveling lecturer program to promote the guidelines and recommendations globally.



The WG-MEP members at their inaugural meeting (L-R and top to bottom):
C. Markus (AU, member), S. Colli Lanzi (IFCC office), M. Tran (VN, member),
S. Bernardini (IT, ETD chair), R. Greaves (AU, WG co-chair), R. Zakaria (AU, member),
B. Cooke (AU, member), TP Loh (SG, WG co-chair)

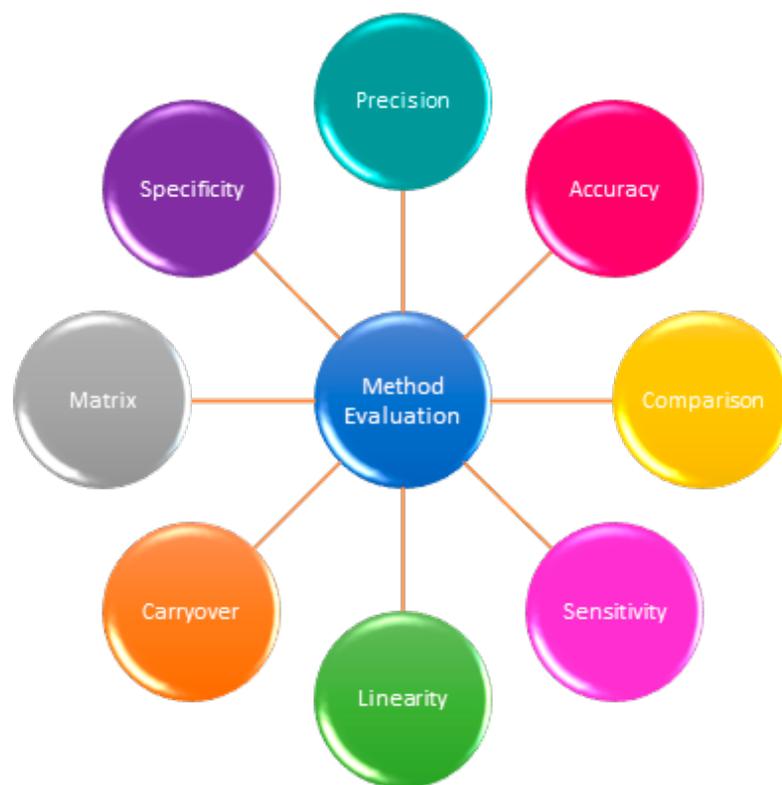


Figure 1: Main components of method evaluation protocols
Note: reference intervals/decision limits are considered separately.

News from the IFCC Website

eJIFCC Vol 33 n°3 – October 2022



eJIFCC Vol 33 n° 3 is now available! In this issue several articles covering different topics in Laboratory Medicine:

1. Importance of interpretative comments in clinical biochemistry – a practitioner’s report
2. Establishment of population specific reference intervals in healthy Pakistani adults for 21 routine and special haematology analytes
3. Clinical thresholds for pseudohyperkalemia and pseudonormokalemia in patients with thrombocytosis
4. Urinary screening in asymptomatic Indian children: a cross sectional epidemiological study
5. Assessing third-year medical students’ perspective on point of care testing boot camp: from bench to bedside
6. Nephrotic syndrome and Hodgkins lymphoma – an unusual association
7. Systemic pseudohypoaldosteronism type 1 due to a novel mutation in SCNN1B gene: a case report
8. Protect your fibroblasts before they become gametes

[Read more](#)

The IFCC – Abbott VLP Program in the XV National Congress of the Colegio Nacional de Laboratoristas Clínicos de Panamá (CONALAC)

*by Mgstr. Yaremi Juárez Moore
National Representative of Panama to the IFCC*



Yaremi Juárez Moore

The laboratory – a protagonist before and during the pandemic: what do we have to face?

The XV National Congress of the Colegio Nacional de Laboratoristas Clínicos de Panamá, was held from October 13 to 15 of this year, in Panama City, at the Hotel Wyndham Albrook Mall and was attended by around 350 participants with the participation of 16 international exhibitors and 21 national exhibitors, an event carried out under the auspices of the IFCC and COLABIOCLI.

Twelve (12) pre-congress workshops were held on October 12, including the workshop entitled “Risk Management. Application of the EMEF Failure Mode Effect Analysis, for the Clinical Laboratory. Importance and Benefits” With the participation of Dr. María del C Pasquel (VLP Professor). Dr. Pasquel also participate with two more conference “ISO 3100 Risk Management in the Clinical Laboratory” and “Documentary pyramid according to ISO 15189. Without documents there is no continuous improvement”.

During the congress, all the participants were offered a welcome cocktail where we were accompanied by the national authorities and the Vice President of COLABIOCLI, Dr. Luiz Fernando Barcelos from Brasil, who presented a plaque of recognition to CONALAC as a fundamental entity in the structuring and consolidation of COLABIOCLI in Latin America and the achievements made as a national entity for the benefit of quality and clinical laboratory professionals in Panamá.

Dr. Montserrat Blanes (VLP Professor), participated as a speaker with three (3) conference: “Future perspective on tumor markers”, “Audit of the ISO 15189 Standard” and “Standardization of hormones technical problems that influence clinical interpretation” but she also participated in the evaluation to choose the winner of the research poster contest among a total of eight (8) participants, where Dr. Alcibiades Villarreal, Giselle Rangel and



L-R: Dr. Michelle Facey (CONALAC Vicepresident),
Dr. Julio Nieto (CONALAC President),
Dr. Luiz Fernando Barcelos (COLABIOCLI)

Article continued on next page

Gabrielle Britton were the winners (INDICASAT – AIP – SENACYT) with the research entitled: “Determination of genetic, serological and cognitive markers in a cohort of elderly people in Panama”.

At the closing ceremony of the congress, Dr. Alba Cecilia Garzón (VLP Professor) participated with two master conferences on quality, “The impact of the duty of the POCT and patient safety” and “Clinical management indicators in the Clinical Laboratory”, ending successfully our XV National Congress.



Dr. Maria del Carmen Pasquel during the Precongress Workshop



Dr. Montserrat Blanes (VLP Professor) during the conference



L-R: Dr. Juan Castillo (Organizer Committee Member), Dr. Alcibiades Viallarreal (Scientific Poster Winner), Dr. Montserrat Blanes (VLP Professor)



L-R: Dr. Juan Castillo (Organizer Committee Member), Dr. Alexa Prescilla (Scientific Poster Winner), Dr. Montserrat Blanes (VLP Professor)



L-R: Dr. Juan Castillo (Organizer Committee Member),
Dr. Mabel Martínez (Scientific Poster Winner),
Dr. Montserrat Blanes (VLP Professor)



Dr. Alba Cecilia Garzón
at the closing ceremony of the congress



Members of the Scientific and the Organizing Committee of the XV National Congress
of the Colegio Nacional de Laboratoristas Clínicos de Panamá (CONALAC) – Dr. Alba Cecilia Garzón (VLP Professor)
and Dr. Montserrat Blanes (VLP Professor)



Dr. Michelle Facey (Congress President) and Dr. Alba Cecilia Garzón at the closing Ceremony of the congress



L-R: Dr. Maria Pasquel (VLP Professor), Dr. Julio Nieto (CONALAC President), Dr. Michelle Facey (CONALAC Vicepresident)



Members of the Scientific and the Organizing Committee of the XV National Congress of the Colegio Nacional de Laboratoristas Clínicos de Panamá (CONALAC)

**Report on the visit of
Dr. María del C. Pasquel,
Dr. Montserrat Blanes and
Dr. Alba Cecilia Garzón:
activities developed by the VLPS**

October 12, 2022 - Dra. María del C. Pasquel:

Workshop “Risk Management. Application of the EMEF Failure Mode Effect Analysis, for the Clinical Laboratory. Importance and Benefits”

October 13, 2022 – Dr. María del C. Pasquel:

“ISO 3100 Risk Management in the Clinical Laboratory”

October 13, 2022 – Dr. Montserrat Blanes:

“Future perspective on tumor markers”

October 13, 2022 – Dr. Montserrat Blanes:

“Audit of the ISO 15189 Standard”

October 14, 2022 – Dr. María del C. Pasquel:

“Documentary pyramid according to ISO 15189. Without documents there is no continuous improvement”

October 14, 2022 – Dr. Montserrat Blanes:

“Standardization of hormones technical problems that influence clinical interpretation”

October 15, 2022 – Dr. Alba Cecilia Garzón:

“The impact of the duty of the POCT and patient safety”

October 15, 2022 – Dr. Alba Cecilia Garzón:

“Clinical management indicators in the Clinical Laboratory”



Dr. Montserrat Blanes, VLP Professor



Dr. Alba Cecilia Garzón, VLP Professor



Dr. Maria del C Pasquel, VLP Professor





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IFCC CELEBRATES 70 YEARS

**Celebrating 70 years of advancing excellence in laboratory medicine
for better healthcare worldwide**

The IFCC General Conference is an opportunity for all IFCC functional units to network together and then to meet with IFCC Full, Corporate and Affiliate Members to consider current and future programs. The 2022 edition has been a very special conference as it took place on the 70th Anniversary of IFCC, a major milestone that we are celebrating with all of our national societies, regional federations, corporate members, and our IFCC officers.

[Click here to read the Programme of the General Conference](#)



[Click here to access the Presentations that were given at the General Conference](#)



Also, we present here the various initiatives that took place for celebrating 70th anniversary of the IFCC, the many outstanding achievements over the past decades, the enormous achievements, the many important milestones that have been accomplished contributing to the IFCC's mission of "Advancing excellence in laboratory medicine for better healthcare worldwide".

IFCC 70th Anniversary Video

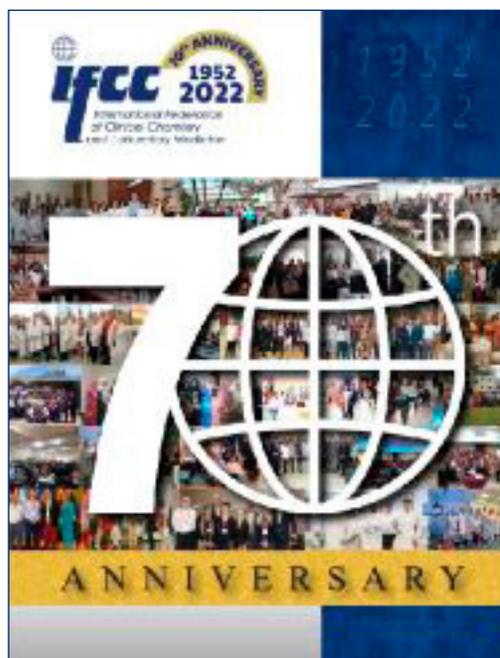
ATE ようこそ ДОБРЕ ДОШЛИ ALOHA SHALOM אבה תורב 歡迎 BIENVENIDOS BIENVENUE ΚΑΛΩΣ ΗΡΘΑΤΕ
NE ATI VENIT DOBRODOŠLI स्वागत है WELCOME VÄLKOMMEN WELKOM ÜDVÖZÖLJÜK BEM-VINDO BINE
O VELKOMMEN ACCUEILLIR UYAKWAMUKELA ДОБРО ПОЖАЛОВАТЬ WILLKOMMEN 환영하다 BENVENUTO



IFCC Membership

Do you know about the membership of the IFCC?
Do you know when biochemical societies became IFCC members?
[Check here](#) to see the membership list!

The Magazine celebrating the accomplishments of the IFCC family



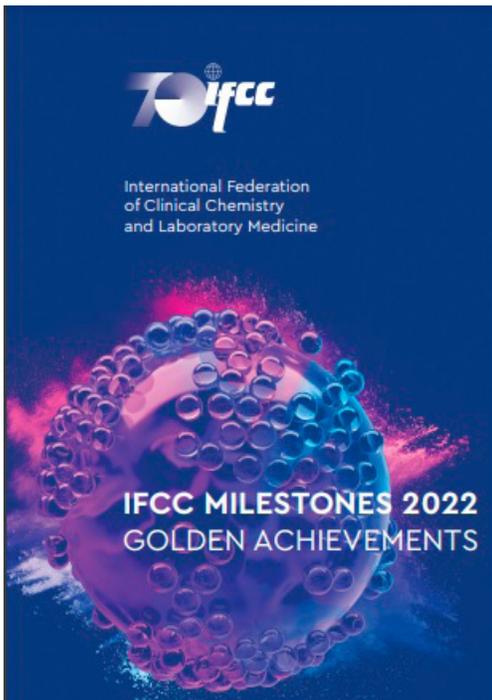
Read the Magazine celebrating the accomplishments of the IFCC family.

Many thanks to the commitment and efforts of Dr. Maria del Carmen Pasquel – General Coordinator, Dr. María Schroeder-Castagno – Co-Coordinator, Dr. Maria del Patrocinio Chueca and Dr. Raul Girardi, Editorial Board and to the many others who contributed to this magazine.

Click the cover image (on the left) or on the link below to download and read the magazine:

https://www.anmys.com/download/70Anniversary_07.pdf

IFCC Milestones 2002- 2022



The International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) has reached a major milestone this year, celebrating its 70th anniversary with seven decades of contributions to scientific and educational advances in the field of laboratory medicine and in vitro diagnostics around the world.

This new edition of the *IFCC Milestones Book* will take readers on a journey through the past, present, and future of the IFCC organization, revisiting important milestones, recent progress, and prospective plans.

[Click here](#)
to see the updated *IFCC Milestones 2002-2022*

Interviews

We publish some interviews delineating the many outstanding achievements of the IFCC over the past decades, the enormous achievements, the many important milestones that have been accomplished contributing to the IFCC's mission of "Advancing excellence in laboratory medicine for better healthcare worldwide".

These achievements have not only contributed to the growth of the IFCC but have had an important impact on advancing the science of laboratory medicine and in vitro diagnostics around the world.

The future holds considerable promise for the IFCC organization and its family of national societies and corporate members.

The strong foundation built by thousands of IFCC officers over the past decades will ensure the IFCC's continued journey towards global leadership in laboratory medicine, contributing to its most valuable mission of improving clinical decision making and better healthcare worldwide.



See the Video interview between Dr. Maria del Carmen Pasquel and Prof. Khosrow Adeli, IFCC President

[Click here](#) for video format.

[Click here](#) for Mp4 format.

Happy Birthday IFCC!

[Click here to see the nice Videos for the IFCC anniversary!](#)

Art Competition

[Click here to see the beautiful submissions for the First IFCC Art competition.](#)

Posters

[Click here to see the posters celebrating the IFCC Past Presidents and the current IFCC Executive Board.](#)



70th Anniversary
1952 - 2022

IFCC PRESIDENTS 1952 - 2022

 Earl J. King 1952 - 1960	 Monroe E. Freeman 1960 - 1962	 Jean-Émile Courtois 1962 - 1967	 Martin Rubin 1967 - 1975	 Jörg Freil 1976 - 1978
 René Dybkaer 1979 - 1986	 Donald Young 1986 - 1990	 Gerard Siest 1991 - 1996	 Matthew McQueen 1997 - 1999	 Mathias Müller 2000 - 2005
 Jocelyn MB Hicks 2006 - 2008	 Craham H. Beestall 2009 - 2014	 Maurizio Ferrari 2015 - 2018	 Howard Morris 2019 - 2019	 Khosrow Adeli 2020 - 2022

GLOBAL MEDLAB WEEK 2022



70th Anniversary
1952 - 2022

EXECUTIVE BOARD 2021-2023

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GLOBAL MEDLAB WEEK 2022

IFCC General Conference 2022 – Regional Representative report



Dr. Ana María Lena

by Dr. QF BC Ana María Lena

Regional Representative of the Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI)

On October 28th to 30th, International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and laboratory Medicine (IFCC) held a General Conference, it took place at the Radisson Collection Center in Brussels. On the 26th and 27th, it was the meeting of the IFCC Executive Board, Prof. President Khosrow Adeli from Canada, Secretary David Kinniburgh from Canada, Treasurer Alexander Haliassos from Greece, representative of the corporate Joseph Passarelli from United States and representatives of the six regions of the world.

The conference was attended in person or virtually by members of the different IFCC functional groups, national representatives of IFCC member scientific societies, and presidents of those societies.

This General Conference was very special as it commemorated the IFCC's 70th Anniversary. For this reason, the different societies were summoned to participate with various expressions of art.



Prof. Khosrow Adeli, IFCC President, presenting his activity report

On October 28th, there were meetings of the members of the functional groups, some in person and others remotely in a hybrid format.

On 29th and 30th, the president, secretary, treasurer and the corporate representative of IFCC, the regional presidents, four past presidents (Prof. Matthew Mc Queen, Prof. Mathias Muller, Prof. Graham Beastall, Prof. Maurizio Ferrari), the chairs of the four IFCC divisions and chairs of the new Task Forces, did their respective presentations.

These task forces are the Neonatal Screening Task Force, the Global Laboratory Quality Task Force, the Reference Interval Database Task Force, the Laboratory Study Results Task Force, and the e-Learning Task Force.

A symposium was held on the central role of the laboratory in patient care and public health, and an industry forum was held on the future of in vitro diagnostics in the next decade.



Prof. Tahir Pillay presenting the magazine of the 70 years of IFCC, its General Director Dra. BQF. Maria del Carmen Pasquel from Ecuador, member of the C-PR

In relation to the four IFCC divisions, the Scientific Division stated that although many analytes have been standardized and harmonized, there is a pending challenge to harmonize many more, such as autoimmunity tests, the Education Division spoke about the Visiting Lecturers Program that supports with the payment of tickets for the participation of expert professionals giving face-to-face and virtual conferences in the countries that request it, and the professional exchange program so that professionals can attend laboratories to improve themselves, and the Adaptive Learning Program was discussed .

This program, which is free, consists of more than 100 courses, covering topics from all disciplines of laboratory medicine. Adaptive learning is based on computer algorithms so that the platform interacts with the student and identifies the areas that he or she does not master. It then provides specific learning materials to remedy the deficiency, allowing for efficient learning in small blocks of time.

This program has been designed for laboratory medicine professionals to help them assess their knowledge, stay current with current knowledge, and prepare for certification exams. The link for it is <https://area9lyceum.com/laboratorymedicine/course/>. At the moment it is available in English, soon in Chinese and it is thought to be able to have it also in Spanish.

The Emerging Technologies Division spoke of the importance of emerging technologies reaching all countries, speaking of the concepts of equality and equity, as a way for the weakest countries to also have advances in science and diagnosis.



General Conference participants
Brussels, 28-31 October 2022



Dr. Ana Lena, Dr. David Kinniburgh, Prof. Khosrow Adeli, sharing dinner moments at the General Conference



IFCC General Conference 2022 participants

The Publications and Communications Division has a fundamental mission through the Public Relations Committee, since it has been entrusted with the dissemination of the Global Week of the Laboratory that will be commemorated every year in April. Contests of different artistic expressions and other activities will be held with the idea of highlighting the importance of Laboratory medicine. Dr. Tahir Pillay Chair of this Division presented the different activities that are being carried out for the 70th anniversary of the IFCC, indicating that the Public Relations Committee C-PR has made an extensive magazine with greetings for the IFCC from all over the world.

With regard to the Task Forces, in the Neonatal Screening, the importance of neonatal screening being carried out in all countries was expressed, and in Latin America special interest will be placed on Bolivia, although the needs of Peru and Guatemala are also taken into account.

In Laboratory Quality, the pilot program that began in 10 countries around the world, with five laboratories in each one, was discussed. In Latin America, Bolivia, Colombia and Peru were chosen. And there is an idea of expanding it to other countries and/or to more laboratories in the 10 chosen countries. It is working with the One World Accuracy program.

The Reference Interval Database task force will work based on publications for the different analytes, in different regions, for different ages, and the idea is that IFCC is the reference in the world when consulting values reference. The laboratory study results task force has the objective, among others, of promoting research projects. Calls were made for this purpose for which financial support was offered by the IFCC. Projects from Canada, Australia, Georgia, Zambia and Nigeria were winners.

The e-learning task force was created in 2021. That year there were 18 webinars, in 2022 there were 16 webinars and they have had between 2,500 and 5,000 registrations each.

COLABIOCLI has contributed with three webinars in 2021, two in 2022 and will present two webinars in 2023.

In 2021:

- Quality in the Clinical Laboratory with the participation of Anna Carobene (Italy), André Valpassos Guimarães (Brazil), and DrElias Miranda Gonzalez (Mexico)
- Metrology and clinical laboratory with the participation of Raul Girardi (Argentina), Melina Perez Urquiza (Mexico) and Ana Piana (Uruguay)
- Neonatal screening with the participation of Cecilia Queijo (Uruguay), Armadno Fonseca (Brazil) and José ÁngelCocho (Spain)

In 2022:

- Dimers and their different clinical applications with the participation of Gloria Ramos (Colombia), Alejandro Morales de la Vega (Mexico), YudianaMonenegro (Panama)
- Importance of the Preanalytical stage in the different areas of the Laboratory with the participation of Bertha Lacouture (Colombia), Beatriz Varela (Uruguay), Eduardo Aranda (Chile)

In 2023:

- Artificial intelligence applied to the clinical laboratory with the participation of Israel Parra Ortega (Mexico), Álvaro Notaroberto (Uruguay), Santiago Fares Taie (Argentina)
- The laboratory and its impact on the environment with the participation of Xavier Solans (Spain), Carlos Alberto Severiche Sierra (Colombia), Gustavo Velasco (Argentina)

IFCC is working to get the webinars accredited.

Several colleagues from Latin America attended the General Conference: Alvaro Justiniano and his son of the same name; Nilda Fink, Eduardo Freggiaro, Raúl Girardi, Santiago and Agustina Fares Taie, from Argentina; Fernando Antúnez and Maria Eugenia Schroeder-Castagno, from Uruguay; Jaremi Juárez, from Panama; Montserrat Blanes and Graciela Russomando, from Paraguay, Luis Figueroa from Peru, Maria del Carmen Pasquel from Ecuador, Antonio Rider and Cristóbal Vivar from Spain

On the night of the 29th was the gala dinner on the occasion of the 70th anniversary, attended by all the registered colleagues and their companions.

In 2022, probably in February, a new IFCC Townhall will take place in Milan, in a hybrid format to keep in touch with the IFCC and all the member countries.

Congratulations to IFCC on its 70th anniversary and wishes for success in the management of the current president, in the future management of the elected president Prof. Tomris Ozben of Turkey who will preside from 2024 to 2026 inclusive and to all those who from the different countries of the world put their granite of sand to achieve the IFCC objectives.



Participants from Latin America and IFCC authorities during the General Conference, 2022

Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI) present at the IFCC General Conference



COLABIOCLI

Confederación Latinoamericana de Bioquímica Clínica

*by Dr. BQF. María del Carmen Pasquel
Member C-PR and WG-IANT/RIA/CPD-IFCC*



Dr. María del Carmen Pasquel

The General Conference of the IFCC, held from October 28 to 30 in the city of Brussels, was a complete success. It was attended by the great participation of the different representatives and authorities that make up this federation. Dr. Álvaro Justiniano Grosz (Bolivia), President of COLABIOCLI led the representation of Iberoamerica.

This note has been developed thanks to the fact that Dr. Alvaro Justiniano Grosz shared his presentation at the General Conference of Brussels and authorized its publication.

On October 29, during the IFCC Regional Federation Presidents Symposium, the theme History and Major Achievements of Regional Federations Around the World was developed, Dr. Alvaro Justiniano presented the part corresponding to COLABIOCLI.

Dr. Alvaro Justiniano began his presentation by presenting a plaque of recognition for the 70 years of the IFCC and a gift to the current President of the IFCC, Prof. Khosrow Adeli, and another gift to Prof. Tomris Ozben, President-elect of the IFCC. These gifts are a craft made in the South of Bolivia and are called Tarija.

He indicated that COLABIOCLI was founded in 1968 in Mar del Plata, Argentina, and that it was officially established in 1973 during the II Congress of Biochemistry in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Dr. Alvaro Justiniano stated that the general objective of COLABIOCLI is the constant improvement of the profession in its ethical, scientific, technical and economic aspects, to better serve individuals and society.

Since 1968, COLABIOCLI has developed multiple activities related to scientific matters and professional regulations, he also read Article 1, which says:

“The Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry is a private and international non-profit professional scientific, academic and professional institution, which joins entities constituted by university professionals who are dedicated to Clinical Biochemistry or similar professions, created or to be created, in Latin America, or in other countries with a Latin



Dr. Alvaro Justiniano Grosz during his presentation at the General Conference 2022



Prof. Khosrow Adeli receiving the commemorative plaque for the 70th anniversary of the foundation of IFCC, from Dr. Alvaro Justiniano Grosz

language, without political, racial or religious purposes, and its affiliates will have the rights and obligations established in the statutes”

The President of COLABIOCLI also indicated several important aspects and activities of the Confederation such as:

- The countries that currently make up COLABIOCLI are: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Spain, Dominican Republic and Uruguay.

Collaborators:

Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine

Italian Society of Clinical Biochemistry and Clinical Molecular Biology

International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine

Pharmacists Order of Portugal

- Presented the Executive Board of COLABIOCLI 2022-2024, made up as follows:

President: Alvaro Justiniano Grosz (Bolivia)

Vice President: Luiz Fernando Barcelos (Brazil)

Secretary: Dra. Carola Briançon Ayo (Bolivia)

Treasurer: Dra. Lisandra Morales Jurado (Bolivia)

1st Vocal: Dr. Marlene Velez de la Vega (Colombia)

2nd Vocal: Mgter. Gloria Y. Saucedo B. (Panama)

3rd Vocal: BQM. María Cecilia López (Argentina)

Former President: Dr. QF. Stella Raymondo (Uruguay)

- Dr. Alvaro Justiniano presented the list of the 25 regional congresses held in the 54



Prof. Khosrow Adeli, Dr. Alvaro Justiniano, Prof. Tomris Ozben receiving gifts from Bolivia.



Dr. Alvaro Justiniano Grosz, (Bolivia), Dr. Henrique Renguengo, (Portugal), Dr. Maria del Carmen Pasquel, (Ecuador), chatting with an IFCC corporate member (China).

years of COLABIOCLI's existence – the first in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in 1968, and the latest held in the city of León, Mexico, in 2022, and invited all those present to attend the next COLABIOCLI congress, to be held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in the year 2024.

- Vision of COLABIOCLI

Become an organization that promotes the continuous improvement of quality and comprehensive development of the clinical laboratory, with strong leadership, setting agenda items, with the active participation of the national member entities.

- PILLARS OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

1. STRENGTHEN the institutional image of COLABIOCLI

2. STRENGTHEN COLABIOCLI member associations and other professional associations.

3. EMPHASIZE the participation of young professionals within the confederation.

4. PROMOTE and strengthen national regulations and regulatory frameworks, aimed at recognizing quality management systems in clinical analysis laboratories in Latin America.

5. STRENGTHEN the national structures of the COLABIOCLI member countries that promote continuous quality improvement.

6. STRENGTHEN the role of laboratory professionals as a fundamental part of the health team.

7. IDENTIFY the agenda items to expand the scope of the laboratory in Latin American countries.

8. DEVELOP continuous training programs, facilitating the access of the different member countries of COLABIOCLI.

9. STRENGTHEN relations with universities and scientific institutions.



Young Scientists and Prof. Tonris Ozben, IFCC President-elect



Dr. Ana Lena COLABIOCLI Regional Representative, Prof. Khosrow Adeli IFCC President, Prof. Tomris Ozben IFCC President-elect, Dr. Maria del Carmen Pasquel member C-PR and WG-IANT/RIA/CPD-IFCC

1. STRUCTURING ACTIVITIES OF THE NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Review and adjustment of the COLABIOCLI Strategic Plan to 2024 Meeting Preparation, Schedule of Activities Management 2022.

2. CONTINUOUS TRAINING ACTIVITIES FOR PROFESSIONALS.

2.1 MODULAR COURSES:

Strategic planning in laboratories and leadership of young professionals. Quality Management and Good Laboratory Practices to Strengthen Genomic Surveillance of COVID-19 in Molecular Biology Laboratories. Production of blood components in Transfusion Medicine. Medical mycology and laboratory advances. Laboratory Accreditation. Molecular Biology in Laboratory Diagnosis.

2.2 COMMUNITY AWARENESS WEEKS

Week of Quality in Health. Voluntary Blood Donation Week.

2.3 CONFERENCES BY COUNTRIES OF THE REGION: Argentina, Brazil, Chile Colombia.

2.4 CONFERENCES BY COUNTRIES OF THE REGION: Costa Rica, Ecuador.

2.5 CONFERENCES PROPOSED BY COLABIOCLI TO IFCC:

D Dimers and their different clinical applications IFCC – COLABIOCLI. Importance of the preanalytical phase in different clinical laboratory areas IFCC – COLABIOCLI.

2.6 VIRTUAL CONFERENCES/WEBINARS.

2.7 VIRTUAL CONFERENCES/WEBINARS/WORK GROUPS.

2.8 CONVERSATORIES.

3. QUALITY SUPPORT ACTIVITIES:

Call for countries to participate in the free pilot program for External Quality Assessment for Laboratories, sponsored by the National Quality Control Program (PNCQ) of the Brazilian Society of Clinical Analysis (SBAC). Economic

support to pay transportation costs of quality control materials for the countries of the Region that participate in the pilot program of PNCQ – SBAC.

4. SUPPORT ACTIVITIES FOR ACADEMIC TRAINING:

Scholarships “COLABIOCLI”. Scholarships “COLABIOCLI – SEQC^{ML}” Scholarships. Free Registration to the National Congresses of Latin American Countries. Scholarships for different Courses Organized by National entities.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES.

COLABIOCLI CHALLENGERS

- I. Generate a new leadership of COLABIOCLI in Latin America.
- II. Academic and scientific qualification of the professionals of the Clinical Laboratory.
- III. Efficient incorporation of the national entities that are members of COLABIOCLI in their countries.
- IV. Resize and prioritize the role of Biochemical professionals and equivalent titles in the health systems of the countries.
- V. Promote the implementation of regulatory standards for quality control programs and laboratory accreditation in Latin America.



Iberoamerica Group and IFCC authorities

VI. Incorporate national entities in agreements with universities in the definition of the training process for professionals

VII. Incorporate young professionals in the leadership spaces of national entities.

Dr. Alvaro Justiniano Grosz concluded with the phrase:

“The biggest risk is not taking any. In a world that is changing so fast, the only strategy that is guaranteed to fail, is not taking risks.” (Mark Zuckerber)

In addition, several representatives from Ibero-America were present at the General Conference. They actively collaborate in the development of the IFCC objectives, from their different responsibilities in this international federation, thus the young scientists were present, being Santiago Fares Taie from Argentina, the Chair of the Task Force of Young Scientists (TF-YS), Agustina Fares Taie and Maria Eugenia Schroeder-Castagno from Uruguay from this same group, and Raúl Girardi, who is the Chair of the Working Group Ibero-American on Nomenclature and Translation (WG-IANT), from the Ibero-American Corner (RIA), which belongs to the IFCC Communications and Publications Division (CPD). From this group: Alvaro Justiniano Cortez, (Bolivia), Maria del Carmen Pasquel, (Ecuador), Yaremi Juárez (Panama), Montserrat Blanes (Paraguay), Antonio Rider (Spain), Cristóbal Avivar (Spain), Merce Ibars (Spain), Henrique Renguengo (Portugal), were present. Eduardo Freggiaro from Argentina who is secretary of CPD was also at this event, as well as Luis Figueroa, National Representative (Peru), Nilda Fink (Argentina), Chair WG-EMD, Fernando Antunez (Uruguay), and Ana Lena (Uruguay), COLABIOCLI Regional Representative. Several of them are also members of other divisions, Task Forces or committees of IFCC.

Information source: Presentation by Dr. Alvaro Justiniano Grosz at General Conference 2022, October 29, Brussels. Kindly provided by him.



Representatives of Ibero-America with IFCC President, COLABIOCLI President and Regional Representative



21-25 May



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IFCC: THE YOUNG SCIENTISTS

French Young Scientists: interactive pedagogical cases

*by Guillaume Grzych
CHU Lille, France*

A new section has just appeared in the Annals of Clinical Biology: the interactive pedagogical cases. The objective of this section is to share observations from the laboratory that are of educational interest to biologists. The clinical cases are presented in a brief manner to place the reader in the clinico-biological situation.

Three guiding questions are asked and the answers are given in the form of a pedagogical discussion to explain the situation. Finally, questions and reminders are provided in an interactive format through the use of online resources (e.g., www.wooclap.com). This will allow the reader to go further in the understanding of the case by scanning a QR-code referring to digital activities.

This new section is also an opportunity for young people to publish and practice scientific writing.

You can find a sample case here:

https://www.jle.com/fr/revues/abc/e-docs/a_case_of_pink_urine_associated_with_abdominal_pain_crisis_323046/article.phtml.

You will also find instructions for authors on the Annals of Clinical Biology website. Clinico-biological cases could be written in English.

You can submit your cases directly on the Annales de Biologie Clinique platform:

<http://libbey.fontismedia.com/abc/>.

ANNALES DE BIOLOGIE CLINIQUE

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New section in the french journal Annales de Biologie Clinique: "Interactive Pedagogical Cases."

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Improving Patient Outcomes Through Strategic Implementation of Procalcitonin into Clinical Care

King Abdulaziz Medical City - Jeddah



L-R: Dr. Anwar Borai, Bilqasem Albarakati, Dr. Fahad Al-Hameed, Ali Bawazeer, Abobaker Yagoot

Article continued on next page

Efforts to reduce the morbidity and mortality due to sepsis have increased drastically in recent years, with a focus on improving identification and treatment of patients with signs of sepsis, severe sepsis and septic shock, as recommended by the sepsis 6 bundles. Key among these recommendations is early identification to enable rapid and appropriate medical intervention. The King Abdulaziz Medical City, in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia recognized an opportunity to address care gaps in patients with sepsis and severe sepsis through the introduction of novel procalcitonin (PCT) testing into clinical care.

The collaborative efforts of an integrated clinical care team enabled integration of PCT with interpretive algorithms into the ICU leading to a 20% reduction on patient mortality due to sepsis in the ICU. The strong outcomes recorded in the ICU subsequently lead to wider adoption within the emergency department to further enhance and inform patient management.

Dr. Asim Al Saedi, Associate Director Infection Prevention and Control at NGHHA remarks that “by using the PCT test in concordance with other biomarkers, it was easier for us to differentiate between sepsis and non-sepsis patients and give the right treatment accordingly”. It is evident that by utilizing the insights from PCT guided algorithms clinicians had additional diagnostic information to rapidly treat patients, this has resulted in a 1.5-day reduction in length of stay for urgent care patients, and an 11% decrease in readmissions for patients with sepsis in relation to hospital acquired infections.

Further, the expedited identification and treatment of patients with sepsis has resulted in substantial mitigation of healthcare costs. An estimated \$250,000/year are saved attributed to reduced length of stay for urgent care patients (\$168,000), reduced readmissions (\$47,000) and antibiotic stewardship alone (\$35,000).

For their pioneering efforts to introduce PCT into the Western Region of Saudi Arabia and their commitment to improving patient outcomes by solving care gaps, this integrated clinical care team which included innovation across laboratory medicine, ICU physicians, Hospital Administration, and Quality improvement was recognized by the 2021 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Award program, with recognition of Distinction. Congratulations to Balqasim Barakati, *Quality improvement specialist*, Dr. Anwar Borai, *Clinical Scientist, Section Head, Clinical Biochemistry Associate*, Prof. King Saud Bin Abdulaziz, *University-Health Sciences*, Dr. Fahad Al Hameed, *Chairman Intensive Care Unit*, Abobakr Yagoot, *Clinical Biochemistry Supervisor*, Ali Bawaeer, *Operation Manager*, and Mohammad Mohammadi.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Strong cross-departmental collaboration is a pivotal success factor to ensure uptake of changes and improve outcomes
- Utilizing insights from novel biomarkers, such as PCT, in combination with decision-making algorithms can substantially improve care and patient outcomes
- Measurement of outcomes and successes can be used to help garner buy-in from other departments and/or institutions looking to replicate best practices.

To learn more about the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award program, past winners and to apply, please visit www.UnivantsHCE.com.



Unprecedented Challenge Met with Rapid Development and Deployment of Novel Best Practices at Warwick Medical School and UHW NHS Trust

UHCW NHS Trust & Warwick Medical School



The COVID-19 pandemic presented substantial challenges to the world, including unprecedented demands on healthcare provision, all while “everyday” and urgent clinical care needs continued. The severe, and poorly understood novel corona virus upon early phases, coupled with the continued needs across the spectrum of healthcare, required strong, decisive health care leadership to devise novel strategies to help deal with the pandemic. Healthcare teams that draw upon diverse professions and collaborate in novel ways often provide the most robust leadership in healthcare. These teams challenge the status quo, formulating and acting in new ways to quickly develop and implement the needed infrastructure to address emerging unmet needs and translate innovation to clinical practice.



From left to right: Neil Anderson, Harpal Randeva, Asad Ali, Dimitris Grammatopoulos, Lisa Berry

Article continued on next page

The Coventry and Warwickshire Pathology Services clinical diagnostics department (CWPS) led one such team for the University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust (UHCW) in response to the unique challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. This multidisciplinary team included Endocrinology, Virology, Pathology, Pulmonology, and Molecular Medicine representatives. Their team united to develop and implement transformative multi-faceted scientific and clinical novel best practices to meet patients' urgent clinical care needs. Facets of their best practices included establishing a new dedicated "Pillar 1" (swab testing for those with clinical needs and health care workers) laboratory within the hospital. A second facet included coordination with public health teams to integrate the Pillar 1 testing with "Pillar 2" testing (swab testing for the wider population, as set out in government guidance).

An additional and essential facet of their teams' efforts was the introduction of a biomarker testing panel to inform decision-making in their new COVID-19 clinical care pathway. The initiative also investigated transmission patterns of local outbreaks and supported the NHS Test and Tracing Technical Validation efforts to validate new sciences and technologies for effective screening of variants of concern (VOC). Finally, this integrated clinical care team developed a COVID-19 biorepository for housing and archiving COVID samples to enable longitudinal studies on COVID-19 and its sequelae.

Through their collaboration and time-sensitive leadership, this integrated clinical care team has achieved impressive results for stakeholders, including payors, health systems, Clinicians, and patients.

Using the in-house PCR variant of concern (VOC) service, over 330 admissions received an evaluation for possible reinfection based on test findings. This service enabled better disease characterization and monitored variant admission trends in line with national policies—a better understanding of the VOCs and disease burden enhanced clinicians' confidence in their care of patients. Further, with result reporting for emergency patients reduced from eight hours to 45 minutes patients have experienced improvement in their safety, which is not small feat during a pandemic. In one example, a patient who had suffered a stroke was able to be transferred directly to the stroke ward without having to go to isolation first due to a quick negative COVID result in the Emergency Department, thus enabling even more timely stroke care.

In recognition of their impressive measurable improvements to healthcare, the multidisciplinary COVID response team at the University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust received recognition of distinction from the prestigious 2021 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Awards program.

THREE KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Strong leadership teams of diverse health disciplines can respond to emergent conditions to quickly meet changes in patient needs.
- Careful and thoughtful rapid translation of proven novel science into clinical care pathways can enable enhanced care in public health emergencies.
- Local best practices can significantly contribute to national health strategy, leading to a worldwide positive impact.





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Professional Management Exchange Programme – my experience

by *Tiyeze Gondwe*

Kabwe Central Hospital (KCH) Laboratory, Zambia



Tiyeze Gondwe (3rd from left with a peace hand sign, front row) with colleagues at TAH Chemical Pathology Laboratory

Background – The Department of Pathology and Microbiology, hereinafter referred to only as Kabwe Central Hospital (KCH) Laboratory, is a provincial laboratory under the Ministry of Health located in Central province of Zambia. The laboratory provides testing in Biochemistry, Haematology, Histopathology, Bacteriology, Virology, and Parasitology. Since 2017, KCH Laboratory has made significant progress in developing a Laboratory Quality Management System (LQMS) in line with ISO 15189 in preparation for international accreditation but has faced some challenges in the process. Among the challenges is the lack of better understanding of how to implement some of the requirements of the ISO 15189.

I visited Stellenbosch University as an affiliate international postgraduate student for a three-month Professional Management Exchange Program at Tygerberg Academic Hospital (TAH) Chemical Pathology Laboratory Department. TAH laboratory is accredited to ISO 15189 standard by the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS).

Objectives of the training – The primary goal of the program was to learn and improve skills in LQMS implementation by evaluating how the TAH Laboratory fulfilled the requirements of the ISO 15189 standard, with the intention of using the experience and knowledge obtained to prepare for international accreditation at KCH Laboratory.

Article continued on next page



Tiyeze Gondwe (in a red jacket) with group members during a presentation on the strategic plan at the Leadership and Management Module

Duration of the training – The course was over a period of three months from 4th July – 30th September 2022.

Nomination of candidature – I was nominated to undergo the training by the Biomedical Society of Zambia in consultation with the Ministry of Health – Pathology and Laboratory Services Unit.

Funding – The course was sponsored by the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) under the Professional Management Exchange Program (PMEP).

Course coordinators – The course was coordinated by Prof Annalise E. Zemlin (Head, Division of Chemical Pathology, University of Stellenbosch and National Health Laboratory Service) and Dr Marizna Korf in the Division of Chemical Pathology.

Course organisation and activities – The program included interactions with colleagues at the laboratory, attendance at workshops, academic updates, journal clubs, tutorials, various laboratory meetings (Personnel, Safety, Quality Assurance), training on ISO 15189 requirements with the Quality Assurance Coordinator, documentation reading, a week-long Leadership and Management Module, writing a proposal on an audit project and getting it approved by the University Ethics, and practical work at Chemical Pathology Laboratory. I also had the opportunity to visit the Chemical Pathology Laboratory at Red Cross Children’s Hospital.

Outcomes of the training – I was recently nominated as a LQMS mentor trainee, undergoing mentor training with Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) to mentor others in the implementation of ISO 15189 requirements. Before this training, I had a lot of doubt in the activities that we would carry out to implement

the ISO 15189 requirements at KCH. Being part of the team at TAH and witnessing how ISO 15189 requirements are incorporated in the day to day laboratory activities has greatly boosted my confidence in executing my duties both at KCH Laboratory as a Deputy Quality Officer and as a LQMS mentor. I have created a network with colleagues at TAH that can assist as I carry on with my duties. With the knowledge and experience I have gained and my dedicated team at KCH laboratory, we will be able to attain accreditation status at KCH. And I will also be able to help other laboratories in the country to implement the ISO 15189 requirements.

Acknowledgement - I want to sincerely thank Prof. Annalise Zemlin for her time and assistance in making the program a success, as well as the IFCC for providing the financial support that made it possible for me to participate in this program. I will always be grateful that I was given this exceptional opportunity and I look forward to more such opportunities in the future.



Group photo of participants and trainers
at the Leadership and Management Module

NEWS FROM REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND MEMBER SOCIETIES

Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQC^{ML}) and Gregorio Marañón Hospital: the 8th edition of the FESTEM Congress

SEQC^{ML}

Sociedad Española de Medicina de Laboratorio

*by Mercè Ibarz Escuer, PhD
SEQC^{ML} - IFCC National Representative
Laboratori Clínic ICS Lleida
Hospital Universitari Arnau de Vilanova
Lleida, Spain*

Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQC^{ML}) organizes, together with Gregorio Marañón Hospital, the eighth edition of the FESTEM Congress, with a more clinical approach focused on the patient.

At the opening of the FESTEM Congress, experts call for more studies on the effects of trace elements in pregnant women, children, and occupationally exposed groups.

- The Congress of the Federation of European Societies on Trace Elements and Minerals (FESTEM) addressed environmental exposure to toxic substances, presented epidemiological studies on trace elements and cardiovascular risk, their relationship with metabolic syndrome, as well as studies on bioavailability, innovations in analysis of these elements, and clinical cases, among others.
- Introduced by Dr. Montserrat González, president of FESTEM and Head of the Clinical Biochemistry Service of the Hospital General Universitario Gregorio Marañón (HGUGM), Dr. Antonio Buño, president of the SEQCML, Dr. Muriel Bost, president of the Institute of Trace Elements of UNESCO, and Dr. Beatriz García Fidalgo, deputy medical director of the HGUGM.

Madrid, September 29, 2022 – The Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQC^{ML}) has organized, in collaboration with the Hospital General Universitario Gregorio Marañón (HGUGM), the eighth edition of the Congress of the Federation of European Societies on Trace Elements and Minerals (FESTEM), with a more clinical and patient-oriented approach than in previous editions. From September 28 to October 1, a group of experts meeting in Madrid addressed different issues related to trace elements. Specifically, they called for advances in the study of the effects of trace elements, both in vulnerable groups (pregnant women and children), and in occupationally exposed groups. Epidemiological studies on trace elements and cardiovascular risk, neurodegenerative diseases and anemia, innovations in the analysis of these elements, and clinical cases, among others, were also presented.

Trace elements are those elements that are present in our body and constitute less than 0.01% of body weight. Despite this, some such as copper (Cu), iodine (I), iron (Fe) and selenium (Se) are essential because they are part of metalloenzymes, proteins, hormones or vitamins, and their deficiency causes disease and death. Their presence in the diet is necessary, without forgetting that the optimal concentration range is very narrow, so an excess of these essential elements can also be toxic.

The president of the UNESCO Institute for Trace Elements, Dr. Muriel Bost, addressed this issue in her presentation “Essentiality and toxicity of trace elements and minerals”. According to Dr. Bost, the lack of these essential elements is frequent in emerging countries, but also in our countries, particularly in vulnerable populations such as young children, pregnant women, obese patients, especially after bariatric surgery, or older people.

Article continued on next page

As she indicated “any adverse nutritional alteration will have a significant impact on health, not only immediate but also in the long term. The current COVID-19 pandemic may have a significant impact on micronutrient status, especially essential trace elements.”

In addition to the essential ones, there are trace elements, such as lead (Pb), aluminum (Al), or mercury (Hg), which are toxic to the body. According to Dr. Bost, the increase in pollution, technological developments, and certain natural catastrophes “are responsible for deleterious toxic effects, often associated with oxidative stress and an inflammatory syndrome that facilitates the appearance of chronic diseases in the general population. The increasing use of metal nanoparticles and metal prostheses may also be responsible for chronic poisoning.” In the field of ecotoxicology, the expert noted that metals usually end up in aquatic systems, “where they can be transferred, bioaccumulate, and in some cases bioaccumulate along food chains and, ultimately, induce toxicity”.

The president of the UNESCO Institute for Trace Elements pointed out that the lack of understanding of the complex links between the environment and human well-being has led to trying to treat the symptoms of a disease instead of getting to the root causes, in particular, human activities. “Therefore, it is important to diagnose a deficiency or overload of these elements, but also acute metal intoxication,” she stressed.



Speakers at the 8th edition of the FESTEM Congress

Trace elements and cardiovascular risk

The experts gathered at the FESTEM Congress also addressed trace elements as emerging cardiovascular risk factors that can have a major impact on the world population. Thus, in the panel discussion “Trace Elements and Cardiovascular Diseases”, the president of FESTEM and of the SEQC^{ML} Trace Elements Commission, Dr. Montserrat González, pointed out that epidemiological studies would be presented explaining that these elements can produce effects from atherosclerosis to clinical symptomatology due to microvascular and macrovascular disease, emphasizing the need to “have an integrated view of the molecular mechanisms and biological pathways by which these environmental metals influence health, in order to contribute effectively to public health and prevention in precision medicine and to improve cardiovascular health.”

The great technological advances of recent years have meant a great boost in the knowledge of trace elements. According to the director of the Defense Institute of Toxicology (ITOXDEF), M^a Teresa Llorente, “cutting-edge technology such as ICP-MS (inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry) techniques that were exclusive to research laboratories, are being introduced in a gradual and generalized way in large clinical laboratories, facilitating awareness and bringing the scientific community closer to an understanding of these elements and their impact on our organism”.

According to Dr. Montserrat González, the lower cost of this equipment, together with the development of methods that do not require as much experience as in the past, is leading to an important role for Laboratory Medicine in this field. “The knowledge that Laboratory Medicine professionals have of the preanalytical conditions for the correct analysis of trace elements, their clinical application, quality assurance, and how to inform requesting doctors, among other things, has also led to greater knowledge among other specialists and a boom in the clinical application of these elements”, noted the expert.

Regarding the main challenges and lines of research, the president of the UNESCO Institute for Trace Elements, Dr. Muriel Bost, indicated that “the lack of adequate biomarkers greatly limits our ability to assess the relationship between exposure to trace elements in diet and health”. Likewise, she noted the need for more multidisciplinary studies with public participation. For her part, Dr. Montserrat González emphasized the need to establish the requirements, which depend on genetic and non-genetic factors such as sex or age, to prevent diseases such as cancer, osteoporosis, and cardiovascular or neurodegenerative diseases. In addition, she considers it essential to study trace elements together with molecular data from metabolomics, proteomics, or genomics “that allow us to move forward and clarify whether these elements are the cause of the disease or rather their alteration is simply a nutritional or functional consequence of another disorder”.

For more information: www.seqc.es.



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Second edition of the Leadership Course for Young Clinical Laboratory Professionals in Latin America

by *Dr. Alvaro Justiniano Grosz*
President of COLABIOCLI



Liderazgo de Jóvenes Profesionales de Laboratorio Clínico

TEMARIO:

- 1 Reflexiones éticas sobre responsabilidad social y desarrollo sostenible.
- 2 Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS-ONU).
- 3 Visión sistémica. Dimensiones de la sostenibilidad. Planificación estratégica
- 4 Evolución histórica de las teorías de liderazgo.
- 5 Ciclo de vida del liderazgo.
- 6 Modelos de liderazgo.
- 7 Autoridad multidireccional.
- 8 Delegación eficaz.
- 9 Planificación de proyectos de responsabilidad social.



Lanzamiento: 10 de junio de 2022 (19:00 Hrs. Bolivia)
Inicio de Curso: 27 de junio al 8 de agosto de 2022
Horarios: 19:00 a 21:00 hora Bolivia

www.colabiocli.com

Under the auspices of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry (IFCC) and the Latin American Confederation Of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI), the Course “Leadership of Young Clinical Laboratory Professionals” was carried out within the framework of the COLABIOCLI Strategic Plan. Between June 10 and August 8, 2022, this activity took place under the academic coordination of Juan Pablo Grammatico, with the collaboration of Ana Sofía Duarte Acuña, Alma Citlali Leocadio, Jorge Hernández Bello and Santiago Fares Taie on behalf of the group of young professionals from COLABIOCLI and the institutional accompaniment of Dr. María Cecilia López as representative of the COLABIOCLI Steering Committee, who strongly contributed to the virtual meetings with young Latin Americans. The participation of member countries of the Confederate entity and members of COLABIOCLI contributed to the success of this activity that leads to repositioning young professionals of laboratory sciences in the context of leadership within their countries and national entities, to link them more efficiently in their activities in an effective and committed manner.

The agenda that was developed was very interesting:

- a. Ethical reflections on social responsibility and sustainable development.
- b. Sustainable Development Goals (SDG-UN).
- c. Uncertainty management.
- d. Complex thinking.
- e. Systemic vision.

Article continued on next page

- f. Dimensions of sustainability.
- g. Strategic planning.
- h. Historical evolution of leadership theories.
- i. Life cycle of leadership.
- j. Leadership models.
- k. Multidirectional authority.
- l. Effective delegation.
- m. Planning of social responsibility projects.

30 professionals participated in the course: 4 from Argentina, 1 from Bolivia, 2 from Costa Rica, 1 from Spain, 4 from Guatemala, 4 from Honduras, 6 from Mexico, 1 from Nicaragua, 2 from Panama, 3 from Paraguay, and 2 from Uruguay.

The course was held at the COLABIOCLI Moodle campus, complemented by virtual meetings for theoretical presentations and debates via the Zoom platform. All meetings were recorded and are available on the Moodle platform. To pass the course, the participants had to develop tasks related to the topics discussed and propose the planning of a project for the commemoration of the Latin American Week of Quality in Health 2023, to be developed in collaboration with their respective national entities.

Definitively, this management of COLABIOCLI has placed great emphasis on the participation of young professionals in Biochemistry and equivalent degrees in Latin America and the Caribbean, under the criteria of incorporating young professionals as collaborators in the activities carried out by national entities and the institution itself, COLABIOCLI since we must necessarily work on new leaders who lead and strengthen national entities.

The 1st Course on Quality management and good laboratory practices to strengthen the virological and genomic surveillance of COVID-19 in Latin America concluded with great success



COLABIOCLI
Confederación Latinoamericana de Bioquímica Clínica

by Dr. Alvaro Justiniano Grosz
President of COLABIOCLI

The Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), carried out the virtual course under the Modular modality which was aimed at professionals who work in Virology Laboratories, especially in the detection of SARS-CoV-2, from all Latin American countries. The event was held from August 1 to September 22, 2022, within the framework of the cooperation agreement between COLABIOCLI and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO).

The teaching team is coordinated by Ms. Juan Pablo Grammatico, Dr. Patricia Mira, responsible for designing the contents of the course, preparing the didactic material for the course, providing follow-up to the participants of national reference laboratories registered by PAHO/WHO, and evaluating the tasks corresponding to the approval of the course. Dr. Delmy Lisseth Recinos de Valdés also participated in the teaching team, to collaborate with the monitoring and evaluation of tasks of the participants who received scholarships from IFCC/COLABIOCLI.


OPS


“Curso de Gestión de Calidad y Buenas Prácticas de Laboratorio - Vigilancia virológica y genómica de COVID-19”

TEMARIO:

1. Conceptos de calidad
2. Gestión del cambio
3. Gestión por procesos
4. Planificación del sistema de la calidad
5. Documentos del sistema de la calidad
6. Conformidad y mejora continua
7. Comunicación para la calidad

Dirigido a laboratorios que desarrollan pruebas de PCR para COVID-19
Duración: 60 horas académicas
1 de agosto al 22 de septiembre

INFORMES E INSCRIPCIÓN
 Email: colabiocli2019.2021bol@gmail.com
 WhatsApp: +591 68706772 - Carola Briañon

Costos: 200 \$us
30 plazas disponibles

Fecha límite de inscripción: 25 de julio de 2022


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A total of 93 professionals from 20 Latin American countries took part in the course, 60 PAHO/WHO scholarship recipients, 20 COLABIOCLI scholarship recipients with resources sent to the Region by IFCC, 10 COLABIOCLI scholarship recipients exclusively, and 3 participants who covered their expenses for this important course.

The general objective of the Course was to “Strengthen skills in quality management and good laboratory practices of laboratory professionals who work in institutions or national reference laboratories in public health of the countries and also of private sector laboratories”,

The course was developed in a distance learning mode, through the Moodle platform and Zoom meetings, using the virtual platform of the Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI). Each module had specific didactic material, published in the virtual classroom where common use forums were organized for the thematic discussions of each module under a group treatment of the topics addressed.

Virtual meetings were held for the presentation and discussion of topics, promoting participation in forums as a strategy to con-

solidate group cohesion and strengthen the establishment of support networks. Each participant had the accompaniment of the teachers, who will evaluate the assigned tasks. This activity concluded with the presentation by the course participants of a specific plan aimed at improving the genomic surveillance of SARS-CoV-2, as well as developing the replication of these courses in the different countries through the respective Ministries of Health.

Among the topics addressed in this course that were divided into 8 modules and a final project:

1. Concepts of quality.
2. Change management.
3. Process management.
4. Planning of the quality system.
5. Quality system documents.
6. Compliance and continuous improvement
7. Communication for Quality.
8. Evaluation and application commitments.

During the final work, it was possible to demonstrate a great participation of the course attendees who, organized as a group on behalf of each of their countries, presented plans and strategies aimed at improving SARS-CoV-2 surveillance and, in addition to establishing mechanisms aimed at carrying out the replication of this course in each of their countries.

We must ponder the broad spirit of participation and the formality of the participants in the event who, in a very organized and judicious manner, participated in each one of the activities carried out in this important event. It is worth highlighting the great participation of young professionals in these courses from different Latin American countries.

The President of the Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI), Dr. Alvaro Justiniano Grosz and Dr. Jean Marc Gabastou of the International Health Emergency Advisor of the Organization Panamericana de la Salud participated both at the beginning and at the end of this important activity and praised the commitment between both institutions, the challenges for the future and the importance of this type of event for the professionals of the Molecular Biology laboratories of the region.



Final conclusion meeting of the 1st Course on Quality management and Good laboratory practices to strengthen virological and genomic surveillance of COVID -19 in Latin America

Professor Hilda Tendisa Marima-Matarira appointed to the Board of Directors of Food and Nutrition Council (FNC)



Professor Hilda Tendisa Matarira, the President of Zimbabwe Association of Clinical Biochemists and Laboratory Medicine was appointed to the Board of Directors of Food and Nutrition Council (FNC) for 5 years. FNC is the lead agency responsible for coordination analysis and promotion of a cohesive national response by multiple and stakeholders to food and nutrition security in Zimbabwe.

The Agency seeks to establish functional multi-sectorial food and nutrition systems and structures, to monitor and evaluate prevailing food and nutrition situation in Zimbabwe so that every Zimbabwean is free from any form of malnutrition.

FNC therefore advises the Government of Zimbabwe on strategic directions in food and nutrition security under the office of the Hon Vice President and Cabinet. As such FNC supports and facilitates action to ensure that commitments in food and nutrition are kept on track by different sectors including Health Education Industry Commerce Agriculture Social welfare and Finance. This is achieved by way of nutrition assessments, research monitoring evaluation, advocacy policy advice, multi-sectorial initiatives and building national capacity for food and nutrition.

Below are main collaborating partners in research and industrialisation of local agro-products that promote good diets and nutrition. These include various Government Ministries and the working party of Permanent Secretaries UNICEF WFP FAO UNDP EU USAID UN Zimbabwe office. Institutions of higher learning are also involved, namely University of Zimbabwe Marondera, University of Agriculture Science & Technology, University of Sheffield Alberta University.

Zimbabwe has highly nutritious foods that can reduce malnutrition. Consumption of such foods is highly recommended as it benefits the health of the nation.

Manutro is a new cereal that contains calcium, magnesium, potassium, sodium, iron, copper, manganese, and zinc in adequate amounts of daily intake with 5.9 and 21.3 percent fat and protein respectively. The product is undergoing a commercialisation process to be released in the market by the end of the year.

The highlights of research in 2022 are the vulnerability assessment of rural and urban livelihoods, especially in the face of Covid 19 Pandemic. These studies identified 3.8 million out of 15.3 million population, who need nutrition support programmes to enhance their food nutrition during the pandemic compared to 1.8 million before Covid19.



News from the IFCC Website

IFCC Professional Exchange Programmes (PEP) - Fall 2022



We are pleased to announce a Call for Applications for a limited number of IFCC Professional Exchange Programmes (PEP) awards to support training of young scientists and continuing education of other laboratory professionals at clinical laboratory centres and IVD facilities around the world.

Applicants for an IFCC professional exchange programme will:

- Be a member of an IFCC Full Member or Affiliate Member national society
- Haven't received funding from IFCC for other PEPs
- Have a specific project to complete in a designated host laboratory
- Have the written support of
 - 1) The head of department in which he/she is based;
 - 2) The head of the host laboratory to be visited;
 - 3) The national society of which he/she is a member.

Deadline to submit applications is November 30th, 2022.

[Click here](#) to see the list of the IFCC PEP hosting Laboratories.

For further information and for the forms, [click here](#) to go to the PEP webpage.

News from the IFCC Website



IFCC Call for Nominations

Prof. Philippe Gillery, Chair of the IFCC Scientific Division, is announcing a call for nominations for **one Corporate Members Representative position** at the SD Executive Committee.

Replies should be sent to the IFCC Office (paola.bramati@ifcc.org) by December 12th, 2022.

For any further information on nominations, please refer to your National or Corporate Representative Contacts are available [here](#).

News from the IFCC Website

Candidates for IFCC Secretary and Treasurer positions

The Nominations Committee, having completed its assessment of nominations, now presents to you for your consideration the following authorized slate of candidates for the election of the IFCC Secretary and Treasurer who will commence the term in office on January 1st 2024.

SECRETARY NOMINATIONS

Nominees	National Society
Sergio BERNARDINI	Italian Society of Clinical Chemistry and Clinical Molecular Biology (SIBioC)
Tahir PILLAY	South African Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (SAACB)

SECRETARY NOMINATIONS

Nominees	National Society
Alexander HALIASSOS	Greek Society of Clinical Chemistry – Clinical Biochemistry (GSCC-CB)

The full details of each candidate's nomination, including a personal statement, are available at this [link](#).

ELECTION PROCESS

The electronic ballot for the election of the SECRETARY and TREASURER positions will be held from January 1st to 31st, 2023.

News from the IFCC Website

Scam messages

Once again we are coming across an increasing number of fake email messages coming from the IFCC, or IFCC President, or IFCC officers. These messages seem trustworthy, but they are not!

If you receive an email that looks like it's from IFCC and you suspect it is a scam, you should contact us using our usual email contacts. Do not reply to the email, do not use the information in the email, and do not use or open the links. Also, if you receive any attachments, remember that they can contain harmful malware. Scammers use email or text messages to trick you into giving them your personal information or convincing you to send money. Never do that!

[Read more](#)



IFCC'S CALENDAR OF CONGRESSES, CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Calendar of IFCC Congresses/Conferences and Regional Federations' Congresses

Nov 23, 2022		<i>The role of key laboratory tests in the investigation and management of metabolic bone disease</i>	Live webinar
Nov 30 - Dec 3, 2022		<i>IFCC/C-CMBC Advanced Course in Molecular Diagnostics</i>	Adana, TR
Dec 7, 2022		<i>Challenges in implementing Pharmacogenetics in routine Clinical Practice</i>	Live webinar
May 21 - 25, 2023		<i>XXV IFCC - EFLM WorldLab EuroMedLab - Rome 2023</i>	Rome, IT
May 26 - 30, 2024		<i>XXVI IFCC WORLDLAB - Dubai 2024</i>	Dubai, UAE
April 2024		<i>XXVI COLABIOCLI 2024</i>	Cartagena, CO

Calendar continued on next page

<p>October 31 - Nov 3, 2024</p>		<p><i>APFCB 2024 Sydney</i></p>	<p>Sidney, AU</p>
<p>2025 Date TBA</p>		<p><i>XXVI IFCC-EFLM EUROMEDLAB 2025</i></p>	<p><i>Venue to be selected</i></p>
<p>2026 Date TBA</p>		<p><i>XXVII IFCC WORLDFLAB 2026</i></p>	<p><i>Venue to be selected</i></p>
<p>2027 Date TBA</p>		<p><i>XXVII IFCC-EFLM EUROMEDLAB 2027</i></p>	<p><i>Venue to be selected</i></p>
<p>2028 Date TBA</p>		<p><i>XXVIII IFCC WORLDFLAB 2028</i></p>	<p><i>Venue to be selected</i></p>
<p>2029 Date TBA</p>		<p><i>XXVIII IFCC-EFLM EUROMEDLAB 2029</i></p>	<p><i>Venue to be selected</i></p>
<p>2030 Date TBA</p>		<p><i>XXIX IFCC WORLDFLAB 2030</i></p>	<p><i>Venue to be selected</i></p>

Other events with IFCC auspices

Aug 1, 2022 - Apr 30, 2023	<i>5th International program in control of analytical quality in the clinical laboratory</i>	Quality Academics, online event
Nov 19, 2022	<i>Inter-QC Topics: Measurement uncertainty and its usefulness in the laboratory</i>	Quality Academics, online event
Nov 25, 2022	<i>International Conference on Immunoassay</i>	Tashkent, UZ
Nov 25 - 26, 2022	<i>Chem Con 2022 - 'Metabolomics: Revolutionizing Clinical Chemistry' - PSCP Annual Congress</i>	Karachi, PK
Nov 30, 2022	<i>14th International Scientific Meeting: Implementation of metrological traceability in laboratory medicine: where we are and what is missing</i>	Sesto San Giovanni Milan, IT
Dec 1, 2022	<i>Developments in reference measurement systems for C-reactive protein and the importance of maintaining currently used clinical decision-making criteria - JCTLM in cooperation with CIRME</i>	Sesto San Giovanni Milan, IT
Dec 1, 2022	<i>Vietnam Chemical Pathology Course XIII 2022</i>	Vietnam Online event
Dec 1 - 2, 2022	<i>Journées de l'innovation en biologie (JIB 2022)</i>	Hybrid event, Paris, FR
Dec 5 - 6, 2022	<i>XI Molecular Cytopathology</i>	Hybrid Naples, IT
Dec 6 - 8, 2022	<i>4th International Meeting in Clinical Chemistry & Laboratory Medicine & SSCC 8th Annual Meeting</i>	Hybrid event, Riyadh, SA
Jan 1 - Jul 31, 2023	<i>Inter-QC Topics</i>	Quality Academics, online event
Feb 9 - 10, 2023	<i>Labquality Days 2023</i>	Helsinki, FI

Feb 15 - 18, 2023	<i>The International Laboratory Diagnostics Congress</i>	Online event
Mar 9 - 10, 2022	<i>BIOMEDJ 2023</i>	Paris, FR
May 20 - 21, 2022	<i>Clinical Mass Spectrometry: Validation and Accreditation of IVD and Laboratory Developed Test (LDT) in the new "Regulation EU 2017/746" ERA</i>	Rome, IT
Oct 12 - 13, 2022	<i>5th Symposium – Cutting Edge of Laboratory Medicine in Europe – CELME 2023</i>	Prague, CZ
Jun 20 - 21, 2022	<i>9th International Symposium on Critical Care Testing and Blood Gases</i>	Saint-Malo, FR



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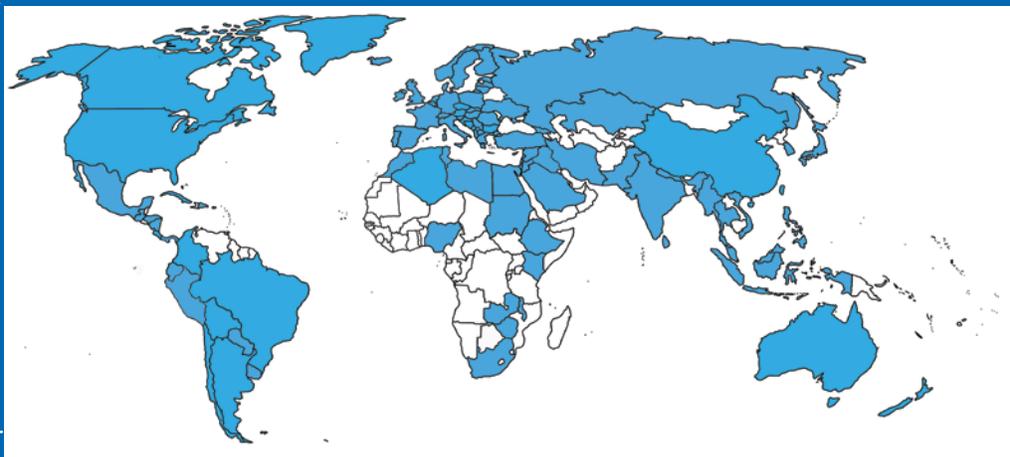
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(L-R) Silvia Cardinale, Paola Bramati, Silvia Colli Lanzi, Sofia Giardina, Smeralda Skenderaj

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N° 3 – March: *by mid February*

N° 4 – April: *by mid March*

N° 5 – May: *by mid April*

N° 6 – June: *by mid May*

N° 7/8 – July/August: *by mid June*

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N° 10 – October: *by mid September*

N° 11 – November: *by mid October*

N° 12 – December: *by mid November*

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