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International Federation of Clinical Chemistry
and Laboratory Medicine



Communications and Publications Division (CPD) of the IFCC
IFCC Office, Via C. Farini, 81
20159 Milano, Italy
E-mail: enews@ifcc.org



In this issue

Editorial

- Message from the eNews Editor 4

The voice of IFCC

- Message from the IFCC President 5
- Call for Documents: Recommendations and Guidelines in Laboratory Medicine 6
- Navigating Innovation: Strategic, Scientific, and Institutional Roles of IFCC ETD Consultants 8
- IFCC Visiting Lecture Programme (VLP): XVII Congreso Nacional Bioquímico CUBRA 2025 10
- IFCC Visiting Lecture Programme (VLP): the IV International Peruvian Congress of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine / XI Congress of Clinical Pathology Arequipa 2025. 11
- Elections of the IFCC Executive Board Members 13

IFCC: the people

- Call for nominations 14
- Interview with Dr. Marielena Stamouli Editor IFCC's Enews 16
- A Recognition to Dr. QF. Stella Raymondo from Uruguay 18

IFCC: the Young Scientists

- Meet a Young Scientist from the IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists 21

Contribute to IFCC eNews

- Radiation Reduction: Increased safety and improved length of stay for patients with suspected mild traumatic brain injury in the emergency department 26
- The pathway to HCV elimination: Multidisciplinary team effort for improved identification, diagnosis and treatment of HCV positive patients 27

- TBI Strategies: Expediting patient flow and reducing length of stay through blood biomarker guided management of patients with suspected mild traumatic brain injury 28

News from Regional Federations and Member Societies

- The 13th International Palestinian Conference for Laboratory Medicine 30
- Report of the Accreditation Working Group – COLABIOCLI 33
- Discovery of a new variant in Spain: Hb A2-Getafe 36
- News from the Indonesian Association for Clinical Chemistry : Dr Lia G. Partakusuma elected as new President 38

IFCC's Calendar of Congresses, Conferences & Events

- IFCC and Regional Federations events 40
- Corporate Member events with IFCC auspices 41
- Other events with IFCC auspices 41

Editorial

Dear colleagues,

October features a multitude of important global, healthcare awareness days, including Breast Cancer Awareness Month, World Thrombosis Day, World Meningitis Day and World Osteoporosis Day; all of them are strongly connected with laboratory medicine and its important role in diagnosis, prognosis, and monitoring of disease treatment effectiveness.

In her message, our President, Prof. Tomris Ozben, shares with us highlights from her recent international engagements in the field of laboratory medicine and clinical biochemistry. She also announces the awardees of the 2025 Spring Call of the Professional Exchange Programs and invites us to participate to significant forthcoming scientific events, such as the 32nd Meeting of the Balkan Clinical Laboratories Federation, and WorldLab 2026.

In the present issue, you can read interesting news from the National Societies of Palestine, Uruguay, Spain, and Indonesia, who share with us their most important activities and achievements. You can also read about the integrated clinical care teams from Japan, Spain and France, who received top honors in the 2025 UNVIANTS of Healthcare Excellence Award, for implementing initiatives that improve health outcomes, while saving on precious healthcare resources and attaining reduced costs.

The IFCC ETD Consultants, present in this issue an article about “Navigating Innovation: Strategic, Scientific, and Institutional Roles” and their role as ambassadors of IFCC’s mission to translate emerging technologies into improved diagnostics, more competent laboratories, and more healthy societies.

News from the IFCC Visiting Lecture Program and the IFCC Task Force-Young Scientists are also published in the present issue. The IFCC Task Force - Laboratory Medicine Practice Guidelines invites member national societies and federations to submit national or international recommendations, guidelines, or position statements related to any aspects of laboratory medicine.

COLABIOCLI shares with us a report about the progress and initiatives of its Accreditation Working Group, committed to strengthen quality and reliability in clinical laboratories throughout Latin America.

The theme of Global Med Lab Week 2026 will be “A Day at the Laboratory”. You are all invited to submit creative videos and audio recordings, which will communicate the great importance of medical laboratory science in everyday life.

I also take the opportunity to remind you about the forthcoming elections of the IFCC Executive Board Members and the IFCC Call for Nominations. You are invited to review the open positions and, if interested, please contact your National or Corporate Representative.



Marilena Stamouli,
eNews Editor

Marilena Stamouli

The voice of IFCC

IFCC President's Message

October 2025

By Tomris Ozben

Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends

Greetings to all members of the IFCC community! I trust you enjoyed a refreshing summer. As we enter the fall season, the IFCC Executive Board looks forward to working closely with all IFCC functional groups to ensure productive and successful months ahead.

I am pleased to share that the Scientific Program Meeting for WorldLab 2026 (New Delhi) was held online on September 4. The discussions were highly productive, resulting in a brilliant and well-balanced scientific program that is now nearly finalized. This congress promises an outstanding scientific experience, with world-class speakers, innovative sessions, and topics reflecting the latest advancements in our field.

I am also delighted to announce the awardees of the 2025 Spring Call of the Professional Exchange Programmes (PEP).

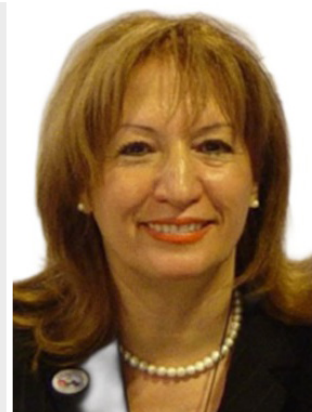
The selected colleagues are: Felicia Robu (Moldova), Felipe Zuniga (Chile), Oliver Schmetzer (Germany), Nobert Chavula (Malawi), Ram Vinod Mahato (Nepal), Rizwana Kausar (Pakistan), Mohamad Hamdan (Palestine), Mohammed Alhaddad (Palestine), Pawel Kozlowski (Poland), Blanca Beumer Prieto (Spain), Yusuf Yesil (Türkiye), Duygu Eryavuz Onmaz (Türkiye), and Trinh Nguyen (Vietnam).

I warmly congratulate all awardees on their achievement and wish them a fruitful and enriching exchange experience.

Our next in-person Executive Board meeting will take place in Sinaia, Romania, on October 7–8, during the 32nd Meeting of the Balkan Clinical Laboratories Federation (BCLF), held jointly with the 16th National Conference of the Romanian Association of Laboratory Medicine at the Sinaia Casino from October 8–11, 2025. I will also attend the BCLF Executive Board meeting in my capacity as the BCLF Past-President and Executive Board member.

It is my great pleasure to share highlights from my recent international engagements in the field of laboratory medicine and clinical biochemistry:

- **13th International Palestinian Conference for Laboratory Medicine (IPCLM13), 21–23 August, Bethlehem (virtual).**
I delivered a plenary lecture on “Urinary Proteomics in Biomarker Discovery of Kidney-Related Disorders, with a focus on diabetic nephropathy and drug-induced nephrotoxicity”. I was also honored to give two keynote lectures: “Methods to Measure Tumor Markers – Clinical Uses of Tumor Markers for Malignancy” and “Traceability in Laboratory Medicine: IVD Directives and IVD Regulations”.
- **Snibe Academic Conference, 25 August, Shenzhen, China**
I participated in this event celebrating 30 years anniversary of its foundation for innovation and collaboration in clinical diagnostics. I presented a talk on “Integrated Diagnostics in Oncology: Bridging Tumor Markers, Liquid Biopsy, Multi-Omics and Imaging”.



Prof. Tomris Ozben
EuSpLM, Ph.D.

- **International Conference of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology & Laboratory Medicine (ICBMBLM 2025), 25–27 August, Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia**
Organized together with the **35th Malaysian Association of Clinical Biochemistry (MACB)** and the **49th Malaysian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (MSBMB)** Conferences. The meeting provided a valuable platform to share knowledge. I presented three lectures: *“Current Innovations, Challenges, and Emerging Trends in Laboratory Medicine”*; *“Unravelling the Link Between Sleep Apnea, Cardiovascular Disease, and Ageing”*, and *“Emerging Trends in Tumor Markers: Advancements in Detection, Prognosis, and Personalized Cancer Therapy”*.
- **Hungarian Society of Laboratory Medicine (HSLM) Congress, 29 August, Szeged; Hungary**
I delivered a presentation on *“Sustainability in Laboratory Medicine”* and was deeply honored to receive the honorary membership of the Hungarian Society of Laboratory Medicine (HSLM). I sincerely thank the President and Executive Board of HSLM for this prestigious recognition, which I accept with pride and gratitude.
- **CUBRA Congress XII, 4–6 September, Argentina (virtual)**
I presented a lecture on *“Time for a Sustainable Transition Within Medical Laboratories”* at the conference organized by the Unified Confederation of Biochemists of the Argentine Republic (CUBRA).
- **XVII Indonesian Association for Clinical Chemistry (IACC) National Congress, 4–7 September, Malang, East Java, Indonesia (virtual)**
I was pleased to contribute a plenary lecture entitled *“A Call to Action for Sustainability in Laboratory Medicine”*.
- **XVII National Conference of Clinical Laboratory organized by the Bulgarian Society of Clinical Laboratory (BSCL), 18–20 September, Varna, Bulgaria**
Upon the invitation of the BSCL President and Executive Board, I delivered the opening lecture: *“Shaping the Future of Laboratory Medicine: Current Innovations, Challenges, and Emerging Trends”*.
- **10th International Congress of the Lebanese Syndicate of Clinical Pathologists (SBDL 2025), 25–27 September, Beirut (virtual)**
I was honored to participate virtually to the SBDL Congress and addressed a welcome message to the participants.
- **International Symposium on Laboratory Medicine**, organized by the Turkish Biochemical Society in Ankara on September 26.
I attended the Symposium and delivered a presentation on *“Clinical utility of tumor markers measured by immunochemistry: Case Studies in Cancer Diagnosis and Prognosis”*.

These events offered invaluable opportunities to exchange knowledge, foster innovation, and strengthen international collaboration. I am proud of our community's collective commitment to advancing science, quality, and sustainability in laboratory medicine.

As we move into the coming months, I look forward to a productive and inspiring fall season for the IFCC community. I extend my warmest wishes for continued collaboration, innovation, and shared success.

Warm regards,
IFCC President,

Prof. Tomris Ozben

Call for Documents: Recommendations and Guidelines in Laboratory Medicine

The IFCC Task Force: Laboratory Medicine Practice Guidelines invites member national societies and federations affiliated with the **International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC)** to submit **national or international recommendations, guidelines, or position statements** related to any aspect of **laboratory medicine**.

We aim to collect and promote awareness of high-quality, evidence-based documents that support harmonization and advancement of laboratory practices globally. Contributions from IFCC-affiliated societies will provide valuable insight into regional approaches and foster international collaboration in standardization and best practices.

Submissions may include, but are not limited to:

- Evidence-based practice guidelines
- Best practice recommendations
- Position statements
- National consensus documents aligned with international standards
- Area of practice may include: preanalytical, analytical, postanalytical procedures of laboratory process, laboratory management, and specific clinical biomarkers/assays.

Submission Guidelines:

- Documents should be authored or endorsed by a national society/ federation affiliated with IFCC and should be already published in a peer-reviewed journal
- Guidelines in all languages are welcome. For documents written in non-English language, please provide a translated title. Where available, web-link to translated version of the same documents may also be provided.
- Please include the name of member national society or federation, title of document in English, publication date, DOI of the publication and/ or the web-link to the publication.
- The documents can be submitted at any time and will be reflected in the next update of the database (3-6 months).

All approved documents will be available for download as a spreadsheet at: <https://ifcc.org/executive-board-and-council/eb-task-forces/task-force-on-laboratory-medicine-practice-guidelines-lmpg/>

For submission of documents to be included in the database or for further information, please contact Paola Bramati (paola.bramati@ifcc.org).

Navigating Innovation: Strategic, Scientific, and Institutional Roles of IFCC ETD Consultants

By **Bernard Gouget, Maurizio Ferrari, Larry Kricka, Paolo Fortina, Ronda Greaves** and **Damien Gruson**

The Emerging Technologies Division (ETD) of the IFCC, established in 2018, is at the forefront of shaping the future of laboratory medicine. Its mission is to identify, assess, and translate cutting-edge technologies from the academic and industrial pipeline into clinical laboratory practice worldwide. This includes not only the scientific validation of new technologies but also addressing key Institutional and regulatory issues:

- Clinical needs assessment
- Infrastructure and workflow integration (pre-, intra-, and post-analytical phases)
- Quality assurance and accreditation (up to ISO 15189)
- Demonstrating clinical value and societal benefit

In this context, Consultants are a cornerstone of ETD's strategy and global impact. They are internationally recognized experts appointed to advise the ETD Executive Committee (ETD-EC). Their influence is profound: they provide targeted expertise, strategic foresight, and scientific credibility. Recent ETD Consultants include leading figures such as Maurizio Ferrari (Italy), Larry Kricka (USA), Paolo Fortina (USA), and Ronda Greaves (Australia), each bringing deep knowledge in genomics, artificial intelligence, pediatric diagnostics, and biomedical innovation.

They have a strategic Role at different levels

a) **Institutional role**

- **Advisory to global decision-making:** Consultants ensure ETD projects align with IFCC's global mission and international regulatory landscapes.
- **Diplomatic connectors:** They link ETD activities to broader healthcare policies, industry stakeholders, and academic networks.
- **Reputation builders:** Their presence enhances IFCC's credibility in global discussions on healthcare innovation.

b) **Scientific role**

- **Technology intelligence:** Identifying disruptive innovations (omics, AI-driven diagnostics, mobile health, bioengineering).
- **Quality guardianship:** Ensuring methodological rigor in IFCC publications, guidelines, and position papers.
- **Thought leadership:** Shaping the scientific agenda of IFCC symposia, congresses, and training initiatives.

c) **Functional role**

- **Active participation in ETD-EC meetings,** providing guidance and critique.
- **Collaboration with Committees and Working Groups** (e.g., C-ETPLM, C-AILM, WG-SCST), ensuring scientific alignment and cross-fertilization.
- **Contribution to tangible outputs:** manuscripts, guidelines, consensus statements, and educational materials.
- **Strategic project planning:** helping to structure short-, mid-, and long-term projects for ETD and the wider IFCC.

As for examples: Within the **2024–2026 ETD Strategic Framework**, consultants are actively engaged in projects such as:

- *Emerging Technologies in Pediatric Laboratory Medicine*
- *Artificial Intelligence and Genomic Diagnostics*
- *Mobile Health and Bioengineering Applications*
- *Standards and Clinical Translation for Novel Technologies*

By providing **scientific foresight and practical guidance**, they ensure that ETD projects deliver not only scientific excellence but also global health relevance.

Dimension	Consultants' Contribution
Institutional	Bridge between IFCC, policy makers, regulators, and global stakeholders
Scientific	Provide expert knowledge, validate rigor, drive innovation
Strategic	Define priorities, align projects with IFCC's vision, anticipate future challenges
Functional	Advise ETD-EC, support committees/WGs, deliver publications and educational outputs

In conclusion, Consultants in the IFCC Emerging Technologies Division are more than advisors. They are catalysts of innovation, guardians of scientific integrity, and ambassadors of IFCC's mission to translate emerging technologies into better diagnostics, stronger laboratories, and healthier societies. Through their expertise and Institutional engagement, they ensure that IFCC remains a global leader in laboratory medicine innovation.

IFCC Visiting Lecture Program (VLP): my experience at the XVII Congreso Nacional Bioquímico CUBRA 2025: knowledge and communication: a new model that generates new professionals

By **Maria Salinas**
Alicante, Spain

It is a long way to Termas de Río Hondo where the congress was organized, more than 24h away. But the experience was worth it. The colleagues from the Colegio de Bioquímicos de Santiago del Estero made a massive effort for everything to be perfect, such as the congress location, the conferences and the atmosphere.

I delivered two conferences. The inaugural one focused on the new model of laboratory in the XXI century. The conference room was crowded, and it was wonderful to look at the audience while I was delivering my speech. The audience was very interested in this new model that the new society paradigms promote. The new model generates a new laboratory professional role with new values, not only the traditional ones, like knowledge and communication, but also creative imagination and leadership. I also shared my experience with artificial intelligence in pancreatitis, UTIs, heart failure, hypercalcemia of malignancy and other interesting topics.

The second conference was part of a symposium and was about the rational use of laboratory tests. I began with a theoretical part, regarding what is under and over test request, the adverse effects they generate and the need for corrective actions. I explained the consecutive steps of the interventions to manage an appropriate use of laboratory tests, from the evaluation of tests over and under request, to the last step, the monitoring through process and result indicators, that report the benefits in patient results. Many interventions were discussed about the detection of the over or under requested tests, to their management by the implementation and evaluation of appropriate indicators.

The experience was very positive. I had the opportunity to approach the emerging laboratory technologies, such as artificial intelligence, and meet other colleagues with such a good attitude to learn and listen about a new world in the clinical laboratory.

I want to thank IFCC for this opportunity, it has been a great experience for me.



Delivering the conference regarding the rational use of laboratory tests

IFCC Visiting Lecture Program (VLP): the IV International Peruvian Congress of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine / XI Congress of Clinical Pathology Arequipa 2025.

By **Dr. Cristóbal Avivar Oyonarte**

Director of the Integrated Clinical Laboratory Area

Hospital Universitario de Poniente

El Ejido, Almería, Spain

I am grateful to the IFCC for its valuable support in enabling my participation in the **IV International Peruvian Congress of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine / XI Congress of Clinical Pathology Arequipa 2025**.

Through its **Visiting Lecturer Program (VLP)**, I was able to attend and contribute as a **Visiting Professor**, which would not have been possible without this collaboration.

This support significantly enhanced the scientific quality of the congress and helped to strengthen ties and connections between the Ibero-American Scientific Societies and IFCC.

Two conferences were held:

- **The Future of the Clinical Laboratory Professional in the Era of Artificial Intelligence**

The Clinical Laboratory is undergoing a profound transformation. The introduction of technologies such as automation, robotics, the Internet of Things (IoT), and, most notably, Artificial Intelligence (AI), is reshaping the required professional skills.

The laboratory is an essential source of information for AI-based systems, which depend on reliable, comprehensive, and high-quality data. The role of the laboratory professionals will be to ensure that such data are generated, interpreted, and validated correctly, thereby contributing to clinical decision-support systems that have a direct impact on patient health.

The greatest impact of this shift will be observed in the post-analytical phase, where the clinical validation of results becomes more relevant than ever. In addition, training will need to adapt to the requirements of Personalized and Precision Medicine, incorporating knowledge in bioinformatics, big data, and critical information analysis.

AI is already present in laboratories: from autoanalyzers capable of prioritizing samples and optimizing workflows, to real-time quality control systems. In imaging, microscopes equipped with AI algorithms can identify cellular patterns, while systems such as CellVision enable highly accurate classification and analysis of cells. These innovations improve efficiency but still require expert oversight, which only laboratory professionals can provide.

It is important to emphasize that AI will not replace professionals. On the contrary, it draws upon their expertise. However, there will be a clear distinction between those who adapt and those who do not: professionals who integrate AI into their practice will be the ones leading the future of the laboratory.

- **Challenges for Laboratory Professionals in the Face of Automation and Integration (“Core Lab”)**

The consolidation of Core Labs represents another major strategic challenge. These integrated, highly automated laboratories with centralized workflows provide greater efficiency and responsiveness to the needs of the healthcare system.

Their development requires reorganizing tasks, redefining competencies, and optimizing both human and technological resources. Laboratory professionals will need to assume a more transversal role, participating in process management, overseeing automated systems, and ensuring the clinical validation of results.

IFCC Visiting Lecture Program (VLP): the IV International Peruvian Congress of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine / XI Congress of Clinical Pathology Arequipa 2025.

Automation and integration not only reduce time and costs but also lay the foundation for the effective implementation of AI in real-world clinical settings. Only within a well-structured laboratory, with standardized processes and robust data, can artificial intelligence achieve its full potential.

Ultimately, today's challenges demand a change in mindset: moving beyond the perception of automation and AI as threats and instead embracing them as opportunities. Laboratory professionals who adopt these tools—while maintaining their critical role in interpretation and clinical application—will be the protagonists of the new diagnostic era.



Dr Cristóbal Avivar Oyonarte during his presentation



Dr Cristóbal Avivar Oyonarte with Dr Oscar Aldama from the Asociación Latinoamericana de Patología Clínica y Medicina de Laboratorio (ALAPAC) Board of Directors



Opening ceremony of the Congress. In the group: Dr Raul Girardi, VLP from Argentina, Dr Luis Figueroa (ALAPAC Board of Directors), Dra Carolina Cucho (President ALAPAC) Jhoni Paz (ALAPAC Board of Directors), Dr. Bladimiro Sabino and Dr Cristóbal Avivar Oyonarte



Closing dinner with Dr Girardi (first on the left) and dr Figueroa (first on the right)



Another moment of Dr Cristóbal Avivar Oyonarte presentation



Dr Cristóbal Avivar Oyonarte with the flags

Elections of the IFCC Executive Board Members

The electronic ballot to elect the IFCC President to commence his time in office on January 1st, 2026, as President-Elect, and to continue from January 2027 to December 2029, as President, and all other Executive Board Members, whose time in office is January 1st, 2027 to December 31st, 2029, is scheduled **from October 1st to 31st, 2025**.

Please find below a summary of received nominations that are presented for voting:

PRESIDENT:

- Harald **RENZ** (DE)
- Nader **RIFAI** (US)

SECRETARY

- Tony **BADRICK** (AU)
- Tahir **PILLAY** (ZA)
- Sedef **YENICE** (TR)
- Zhen **ZHAO** (US)

TREASURER

- Sergio **BERNARDINI** (IT)
- Mariam **KLOUCHE** (DE)

REGIONAL FEDERATION REPRESENTATIVES

- AFCB: Myrna **GERMANOS** (LB)
- AFCC: Rajiv **ERASMUS** (ZA)
- APFCB: Sam **VASIKARAN** (AU)
- COLABIOCLI: Eduardo **FREGGIARO** (AR)
and
Carmen E. **TROCHE CABALLERO** (PY)
- EFLM: Tomas **ZIMA** (CZ)
- NAFCC: Allison **VENNER** (CA)

CORPORATE REPRESENTATIVE

- Tiffany **JIANG** (CN / Beijing Wantai Biological Pharmacy Enterprise)
- Lucy **LIU** (CN / Snibe - Shenzhen New Industries Biomedical Engineering)
- Tricia **RAVALICO** (US / Abbott)

The slate of candidates' booklet is available at following link: https://ifccfiles.com/2025/08/IFCC-EB-2027-2029_President-elect-as-2026-slate-of-candidates_final.pdf

IFCC: the people

IFCC Calls for Nominations

Participate in IFCC activities and give your contribution!
Review the open positions and, if interested, contact your National or Corporate Representative.

IFCC is inviting nominations for the following positions:

Committee on Clinical Applications of Cardiac Bio-Markers (C-CB)

- one member (term 2026-2028)
 - deadline for submission: 20 October 2025
- [Click here](#) for the Call for nominations letter

Task Force on Ethics

- two members (term 2026-2028)
 - deadline for submission: 3 November 2025
- [Click here](#) for the Call for nominations letter

Committee on Clinical Laboratory Management (C-CLM)

- two members (term 2026-2028)
 - deadline for submission: 3 November 2025
- [Click here](#) for the Call for nominations letter

Committee on Kidney Disease (C-KD)

- one member (term 2026-2028)
 - deadline for submission: 5 November 2025
- [Click here](#) for the Call for nominations letter

Taskforce on Global eLearning/eAcademy (TF-GEL)

- three Webinar Coordinators
 - deadline for submission: 30 November 2025
- [Click here](#) to download the Call for nominations letter.

FOR UPDATES ABOUT IFCC CALL FOR NOMINATIONS VISIT <https://ifcc.org/about/ifcc-calls-for-nominations/>

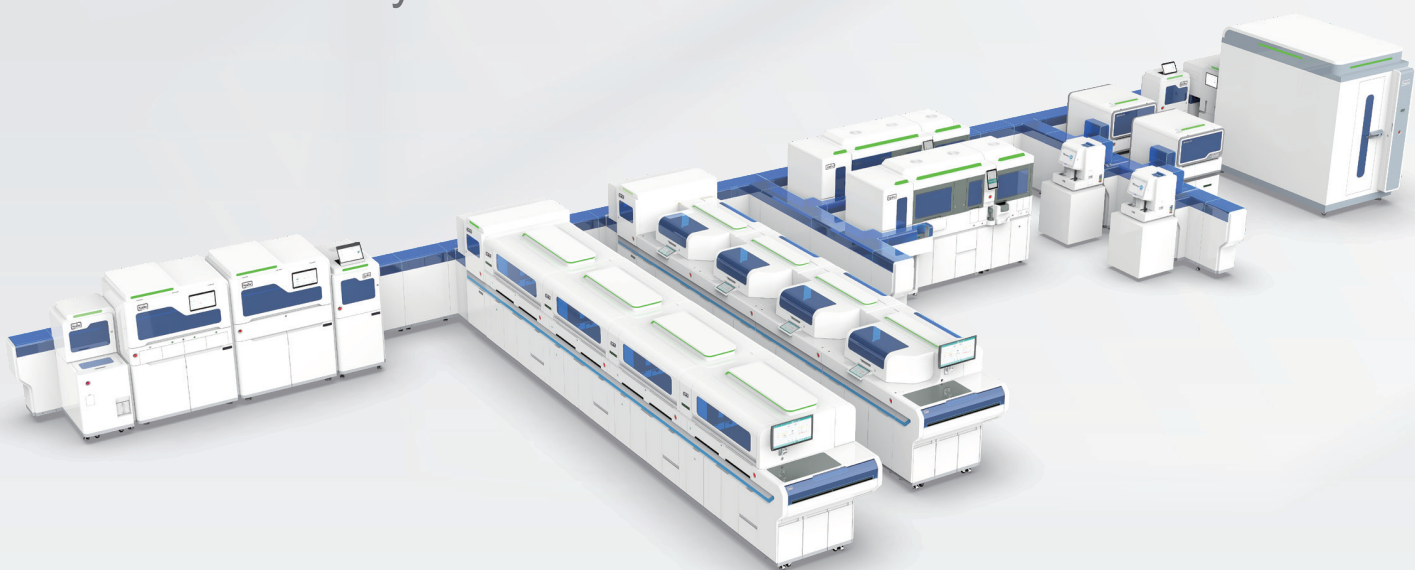




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Interview with Dr. Marielena Stamouli Editor IFCC's Enews

Dr. Marielena Stamouli

Dr. BQF. Maria Pasquel-Moxley

eNews Editor

C-PR Chair (interviewer)

It is a great pleasure to introduce Dr. Marielena Stamouli, the newly appointed Editor of IFCC eNews. With her vision, dedication, and professional excellence, we look forward to an exciting new chapter for our magazine. Her leadership promises to further strengthen eNews as a valuable platform for sharing knowledge and connecting the global laboratory medicine community.

1. Who is Dr. Marielena Stamouli?

First, I would like to thank you for this interview and the opportunity to share my thoughts and ideas. I was born in Athens, Greece. I received the Diploma in Biology (1986) from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece, an MSc degree in Health Management and Health Economics (2010) from the University of Pireus, Greece, and an MSc degree in Total Quality Management (2016) from the Hellenic Open University, Patras, Greece. From 1987 until today I work at the Naval and Veterans Hospital of Athens, as tenured civilian scientific personnel, and I have been the head of the Department of Biochemistry of this Hospital since 2012. The Hospital serves the naval personnel, naval veterans and their families, and also offers medical services to other branches of the Greek Armed Forces and, in some cases, to civilians. My main research interests include biochemistry, autoimmunity, haemoglobinopathies, protein electrophoresis and laboratory quality control. Moreover, I am very interested in sustainability and environmental issues and their impact on public health, hence I have attended a six month postgraduate program on Waste Management, offered by the Hellenic Open University, Patras, Greece and a three-month postgraduate program on Water Microbiology, offered by the School of Medicine, University of Patras, Greece. I am a member of the Greek Society of Clinical Chemistry - Clinical Biochemistry, of the Hellenic Society of Immunology and of the European Register of Specialists in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine. I am also a Lead Assessor for ISO 15189:2022 at the Hellenic Accreditation System.

2. What motivated you to apply for the position of Editor of IFCC's eNews journal?

I applied for the position of IFCC's e-News editor motivated by my strong commitment to interacting with members of the scientific community, my dedication to continuous education, continuous improvement and broadening of skills, as well as my extensive experience in working with teams and in setting and achieving goals jointly with my colleagues, which I enjoy very much throughout my professional career.

I would like to take the opportunity to express my profound thanks to the IFCC Executive Board for selecting me for this prestigious position, to the Greek Society of Clinical Chemistry - Clinical Biochemistry for supporting my candidacy and to the CPD committee for their warm welcome and the fruitful collaboration we have.

3. What is your objective as Editor of this important journal?

Frequent and effective communication helps us build relationships by sharing our scientific knowledge, ideas, work experiences and achievements. Communication with the global laboratory medicine community by means of a variety of media is one of the most important pillars of IFCC mission. It is my honor to contribute to communication with the international laboratory medicine community. The current social, economic and technological environment is challenged by many pressing concerns for the medical laboratory community, such as emerging diseases, climate change and workforce shortage, that can have serious impact on health systems, patients and professionals. In this context my main objective is to promote dissemination of inspiring and useful information regarding medical laboratory services worldwide and enhance networking among colleagues. Moreover, another objective of mine is to encourage

the young professionals to actively participate in IFCC activities, both at the committee level and at conference events. This involvement will provide them with valuable experiences for their professional development, while they will also make lifelong friends and collaborators and will acquire scientific knowledge and personal skills.

4. What message and invitation would you extend to all the thousands of eNews readers?

e-News, as a means of disseminating information and enhancing networking, invites all laboratory medicine professionals to give voice to their achievements and concerns. We encourage all laboratory medicine professionals who work daily in order to offer high-quality services to the society and raise awareness of the importance of our specialty in healthcare, to send their contributions and present their professional activities, and experiences, both in clinical practice and in research activity, which will undoubtedly contribute to enriching e-News and offer additional benefit to the laboratory medicine community.

We warmly thank Dr. Marielena Stamouli for kindly accepting this brief yet meaningful interview, which will certainly be appreciated by our thousands of readers around the world. We extend our best wishes for much success in her new role as Director of IFCC eNews. We also look forward to working closely together on the many projects of the IFCC, as we are privileged to share the same Communications and Publications Division.



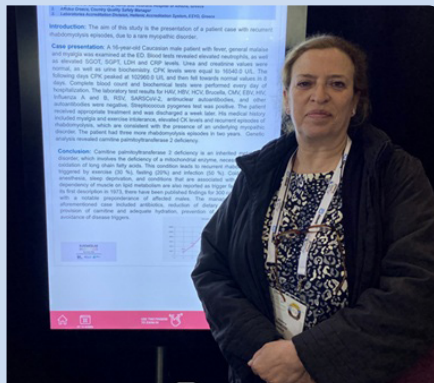
dr Marielena Stamouli,
IFCC eNews editor



Dr. BQF. Maria Pasquel
– Moxley, C-PR Chair
(interviewer)



IFCC-CDP Committee Meeting in Euromedlab Brussels,
May 2025



At the Euromedlab Brussels, May 2025,
during the poster presentation session



At the 22nd Greek National Congress of Clinical Chemistry-
Clinical Biochemistry with dear friend and colleague Dr.
Irini Leimoni, member of the EFLM Committee on Biological
Variation

A Recognition to Dr. QF. Stella Raymondo from Uruguay

By **Cristina Servetto** Dr. QF, Vice-president, Uruguayan Association of Biochemistry
Rosa Sierra-Amor, PhD, Member of the IFCC WG eNews and the IFCC Nominations Committee

On August 4th, 2025, and on the 20th anniversary of the Department of Clinical Biochemistry (Bioclin), Dr. QF Stella Raymondo, referred to the text as Stella, was appointed as the first director.

In the Piriz McColl room, before current and former professors of the Department, Dean Álvaro Mombrú highlighted how Stella, together with Graciela Queiruga, Dr.QF and Graciela Borthagaray, Dr.QF, promoted the career of Clinical Biochemistry (BC in Spanish), with effort and perseverance, achieving its creation in 2005.

A commemorative plaque was unveiled to recognize her contributions, positioned at the main entrance of the Department's office, also for recognition by future generations.

To review the profile of Stella, our colleague Graciela Queiruga was interviewed. She remembered that Stella entered the faculty in 1963, she was a beautiful young woman who spent her entire career traveling from Montevideo to Pando, where she lived, to attend the university. She always had a neat appearance and attractiveness, despite how hard the university career was at that moment. She completed her career and obtained her degree applying for the position of assistant of the signature of Clinical Analysis until she reached grade 5. In 1979, she obtained the title of Doctor in Pharmaceutical Chemistry according to the study plan in effect at that time.

Later, and while Stella was a professor in Clinical Analysis, Cristina joined the faculty of the Clinical Biochemistry program, and since then she followed Stella's career through all these years. Stella was part of the team that designed subjects and programs for the career of Clinical Biochemistry. She promoted research projects in fields such as Diabetes, as reflected in her scientific publications. She also supervised doctoral theses, and she was a key element that permitted Clinical Analysis to be positioned as an essential part of the main laboratory at the Maciel Hospital in Montevideo, the capital city of Uruguay.

The following paragraph, taken from Stella's curriculum vitae, noted that in the field of Clinical Analysis, work in the laboratory is a primary professional activity for clinical biochemists. *It has been my responsibility, and that of the group I coordinated, promoting training of graduated students, innovative and capable of acting with high professional rigor, talented at effectively integrating the doctor-laboratory-patient triad. I achieved the relocation of the Chair of Clinical Analysis of the Faculty of Chemistry to the Central Laboratory of the Maciel Hospital (1995), through an Agreement between the University of the Republic (UdelaR) and the Minister of Health (Ministerio de Salud Publica). This was a historic event, which laid the foundation for the success of the year 2000 plan in creating the new Clinical Biochemistry career.* Today, this agreement works in a very satisfactory way, with more than 300 graduates in Clinical Biochemistry and 20 generations of students who attend the Central Laboratory of the Maciel Hospital to conduct their undergraduate internships and training.



Dr. QF. Stella Raymondo

Access to the Management Department allowed Stella to coordinate the activities of the Clinical Biochemistry career at its different teaching units, at the Faculties of Chemistry and Medicine, and at the Central Laboratory of the Maciel Hospital. At the same time, she exercised university co-governance as a member of the Council of the Faculty of Chemistry for the teaching order and was also participating in several Commissions within the career.

Another project of her extensive activity over the years was the implementation of the Committee for Standardization and Quality Control (CSQC).

As an example, here is another commentary that Stella sent to the authorities of the Faculty of Chemistry: *The CSQC is a non-profit organization founded with the objective of offering tools to improve the quality of the services of the Clinical Analysis laboratories of Uruguay. Significant advances were achieved in clinical analysis laboratories. The school emphasized the need for reliable clinical results through strict quality control.*

In 1990, CSQC was located at the Faculty of Chemistry as an Extension of the Chair, providing its services to private and state entities that required the service. The CSQC was a pioneer in the subject, by implementing the first National External Quality Control Program. In addition, Stella led together with the Uruguayan Society of Nephrology the Creatinine Standardization Project, declared of National Interest (2008) by the president Dr. Tabaré Vázquez, for the impact on the rationalization of dialysis in the country and the early detection of chronic kidney disease (CKD).

Recognizing the need to advance the profession through unity and global cooperation, Stella utilized her intelligence and drive to lead the Uruguayan Association of Biochemistry from 1987 to 1989, actively facilitating its integration into the Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry, COLABIOCLI, a regional federation of IFCC. She also served as president of COLABIOCLI from 2019 to 2021. Years ago, she was actively involved in IFCC as a full member of the Education and Management Division (2007-2013), and currently, she is the national representative.

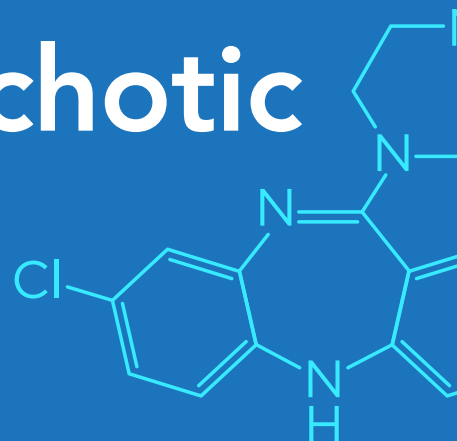
Stella is a friendly person, very generous and caring. She has a beautiful family, with three children and two grandchildren. To her husband, a partner for more than 50 years, she attributes that her achievements were possible because he was there for her.

Thank you, Stella, for all what you have given to us and to the profession.



Dr. QF Stella Raymondo, her husband, the Dean of the University and students from the Department of Clinical Biochemistry. Montevideo, Uruguay.

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IFCC: the Young Scientists

Meet a Young Scientist from the IFCC Task Force Young Scientists

Spotlight on: **Mikko HELENIUS**, IFCC Task Force-Young Scientists corresponding member from Finland, nominated by the Finnish Society of Clinical Chemistry (FSCC)



Could you please introduce yourself?

Greetings from Finland! My name is Mikko Helenius, and I have been a corresponding member of TF-YS for several years now. This will be my final year in the role, as I'll soon be turning 40. As a curious mind and lifelong learner, I recently finished my Master's degree in finance. In my spare time I enjoy coding and electronics projects, I play chess and classical guitar.

Could you share a bit about your background?

I have a background in biochemistry, completing my Master's degree in 2010, before earning a PhD for my research on purinergic signaling and vascular endothelial cell dysfunction in pulmonary arterial hypertension. My academic journey continued in the USA with post-doctoral studies in cancer biology. In 2018, I returned to Finland to begin my specialization as a clinical biochemist at Helsinki University Hospital, which I completed in 2020. Following my specialization, I accepted a permanent position at Vita Laboratoriot Oy, a family-owned private central clinical laboratory. Currently, I am also the editor-in-chief of Kliinlab, the official clinical chemistry journal of the Finnish Society of Clinical Chemistry.

What is your current role in the lab?

I am the head of clinical chemistry and hematology departments and manage daily routines and a team of approximately twenty professionals. I manage quality control processes, and I am responsible for the efficient operations and development of the unit. I have an active role in managing cost assessments, equipment investments, budgeting and tender offers, and providing insights through reporting. I regularly collaborate with team leaders and other stakeholders to ensure smooth operations as well as do problem solving. Essentially, the role is a nice mixture of ensuring scientific quality while also managing the financial and operational health of the laboratory. Moreover, I have a special interest in automating workflows through coding and AI.

Could you give us a brief introduction to your national society and its main activities?

Our national society, the Finnish Society of Clinical Chemistry (FSCC), known in Finnish as Suomen Kliinisen Kemian Yhdistys ry (SKKY), is a vibrant scientific association for over 400 physicians, chemists, and other scientists dedicated to advancing clinical chemistry in Finland. For over 70 years, its main goal has been to promote the field's practical and theoretical development. FSCC achieves this through its primary activities, which include organizing educational meetings, training, grants, publishing the Kliinlab-journal, and fostering professional networking. A key part of its history is its foundational role in establishing Labquality Oy to improve laboratory quality assurance, and it continues to engage in significant international collaboration with federations like IFCC and EFLM.

Can you highlight some of the key activities that you had with the IFCC Task Force-Young Scientists?

I really enjoyed the young scientist sessions during international conferences. Meeting new people and getting to know new projects has been inspiring. In addition, the video project during COVID-19 was a memorable one and the final videos turned out surprisingly well.

Did you participate on an exchange programme in your career?

Not exactly. I have been a post-doctoral research fellow abroad (USA) for two years, which was an amazing experience. I was there with my whole family, and we had the chance to immerse ourselves in the culture and practicalities of a different country.

How can YS from your national society get additional information about the activities of the association and activities with the TF-YS?

Most of the information goes through the Finnish society's information channels such as through emails, website and the Kliinlab-journal.

Is there any future collaborative project of IFCC TF-YS that you want to share with readers of IFCC eNews?

While there have been several great video projects, I would be thrilled to see and participate in a research-oriented collaborative project such as developing a neural network model to detect clotted or frozen blood count samples in EDTA-tubes. Moreover, joint Hackathon-style events could be fun, productive and inclusive.

Spotlight on: **Cristian Fabian LAYTON TOVAR**, IFCC Task Force-Young Scientists corresponding member from Colombia, nominated by the National College of Bacteriology (CNB)



Could you please introduce yourself?

Hi everyone, I am Cristian and I enjoy studying, running and I also take pleasure in learning. As corresponding member, I hope to show some work about my national society, my interests and my goals, as a scientist in process.

Could you share a bit about your background?

My background is as follows: Bacteriologist at Colegio Mayor de Cundinamarca University (Colombia), Health Services Management Professional at Open and Distance University of Mexico, Master's degree in Health Sciences (Molecular Biology) and PhD in Health Sciences (Genetics) at the Autonomous University of the State of Mexico (Mexico).

What is your current role in the lab?

At present, I am working in the Government of State of Mexico to propose strategies in health services to face global challenges in public hospitals. I am Medical Technician Sub-director in Secretary of Health of State of Mexico, and I am interested to consolidate knowledge about prevention and control of infectious and chronic diseases, as well as cellular senescence and immunosenescence pathways to develop targeted interventions to combat age-related decline.

Could you give us a brief introduction to your national society and its main activities?

The National College of Bacteriology (Colegio Nacional de Bacteriología, CNB in Spanish) is a professional organization that brings together and promotes the field of bacteriology and clinical laboratory sciences in Colombia. CNB is responsible for advancing the knowledge and professional development of bacteriologists and microbiologists through educational initiatives, research, and events like the annual International Congress of Bacteriology.

Can you highlight some of the key activities that you had with the IFCC Task Force-Young Scientists?

As an affiliate member at the CNB, I have been spreading the YS meetings, symposiums and clinical cases discussions, because knowledge in a constantly changing world contributes to fostering career advancement and to higher earning potential and advancements in global healthcare through laboratory medicine.

Did you participate on an exchange programme in your career?

I had the opportunity to be part of the Professional Scientific Exchange Program (IFCC-PSEP), Colombia 2012 at the Center for Research in Sustainable Chemistry (CIQS) - National Autonomous University of Mexico and State Autonomous University of State of Mexico. This experience facilitates the sharing of knowledge, skills, and innovation across borders, leading to improved scientific quality and professional qualifications.

In 2015, I was also part of the Scientific Exchange Program at the Center for Research in Molecular Medicine and Chronic Diseases (CiMUS), a research center at the University of Santiago de Compostela (USC) in Spain, focused on biomedical research and translational medicine.

How can YS from your national society get additional information about the activities of the association and activities with the TF-YS?

The CNB organizes significant events, such as the International Congress of Bacteriology, bringing together experts from across Latin America. The organization's events often focus on important themes, such as the connection between science, the clinical laboratory, and the broader "One Health" initiative, which recognizes the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health.

Is there any future collaborative project of IFCC TF-YS that you want to share with readers of IFCC eNews?

The CNB serves as a platform for professionals in the field, offering educational programs and fostering connection among them. As a future collaborative project of IFCC TF-YS is to extend the national and international scope, its work and membership both within Colombia and internationally.

Spotlight on: **Kamil Taha UÇAR**, IFCC Task Force-Young Scientists corresponding member from Türkiye, nominated by the Turkish Biochemical Society (TBS)



Could you please introduce yourself?

Hello, my name is Kamil Taha Uçar. I am 34 years old and based in Istanbul, where I work in a major clinical laboratory. Outside of work, I enjoy jogging, reading, and listening to music. I have recorded two rap songs for the Global Med Lab Week initiative, and I also sing in the hospital choir.

Could you share a bit about your background?

I graduated as a medical doctor from Ankara University in 2015, completed my Medical Biochemistry residency in Istanbul in 2020, and became an Associate Professor of Medical Biochemistry in 2024.

What is your current role in the lab?

I serve as deputy director of the STAT laboratory, which supports the Emergency Department with clinical chemistry, immunoassay, hematology, urinalysis, and coagulation testing. I also work in the electrophoresis section, where I focus on medical validation and interpretation of results in collaboration with my colleagues. In addition, our clinic is a specialization center, and I am actively involved in the education of residents by delivering lectures and providing hands-on laboratory training.

Could you give us a brief introduction to your national society, its main activities and your role in the society?

The Turkish Biochemical Society (TBS) promotes research, education, and healthcare quality in biochemistry, and shares research worldwide through the Turkish Journal of Biochemistry. I have been actively involved in the TBS Academy, which organizes educational workshops in areas such as biostatistics, scientific writing, and research methodology. I also contribute to the organization of local, national, and international congresses. Most recently, in 2025, I became chair of the restructured Young Specialists and Residents Working Group of our society.

Can you highlight some of the key activities that you had with the IFCC Task Force-Young Scientists?

I was selected as the corresponding member of my national society to the IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists (TF-YS) at the beginning of 2022. My first contact with the group was at EuroMedLab 2021 in Munich (held in 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic). This was both my first EuroMedLab congress and the first in-person meeting after pandemic restrictions, an unforgettable experience that opened a new world to me. Since then, I have participated in almost all TF-YS forums, including Seoul 2022, Rome 2023, Dubai 2024, and most recently Brussels 2025. Together with my colleague Tara Rolic, I co-organized a Young Scientist webinar in 2023 on increasing the visibility of laboratory medicine through social media. Being part of this inspiring group has been a rewarding journey.

How can YS from your national society get additional information about the activities of the association and activities with the TF-YS?

We have a dedicated WhatsApp group for scientific activities where I share updates on TF-YS and TBS initiatives. Colleagues interested in joining the group or learning more are welcome to contact me directly at: drktahaucar@hotmail.com.

Is there any future collaborative project of IFCC TF-YS that you want to share with readers of IFCC eNews?

I am eager to foster collaborative initiatives at national, regional, and international levels, particularly in the areas of education and visibility of laboratory medicine. I warmly invite all young scientists to engage with and support TF-YS activities in Türkiye and beyond.

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IFCC Webinar

The use and implementation of POCT in rural areas



Improved clinical
outcomes using POCT



Prof. Adil I. Khan
[USA]
Temple University Lewis Katz
School of Medicine

POCT in rural and remote
settings, what is the evidence?



**Dr. Prof. Karina Rodriguez-
Capote**
[Canada]
University of British Columbia

Implementation of POCT



Dr. Vinita Thakur
[Canada]
Health Sciences Center, St John's,
Newfoundland and Labrador

Date: 25 September

12 AM (Eastern Daylight), 6 PM (Central European), 12 PM (China Standard)



On demand content is available at [this link](#)

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Radiation Reduction: Increased safety and improved length of stay for patients with suspected mild traumatic brain injury in the emergency department

It is not uncommon for patients to arrive at the emergency department with a chief complaint related to a head injury. Often, these injuries are due to falls, being struck by an object, accidents or assaults. The importance of triaging and treating these injuries cannot be understated, neither can the complexity of such evaluations. Head CT scans are the gold standard of traumatic brain injury (TBI) assessment, with the majority of these scans not showing any abnormalities and patients diagnosed with a mild TBI (mTBI).



Pictured (from left to right): María Teresa Concepción Masip, María Cecilia Martín Fernández de Basoa, Carlos Alberto Marichal Hernández, Pilar González Romero, Mónica Fernández del Castillo Ascanio

Patients with a mTBI who do not show any abnormalities on a CT scan represent a cohort of patients who may not need a CT scan. Opportunities to reduce potentially unnecessary CT scans not only have implications for patient safety related to reducing radiation, but can streamline patient evaluation, while protecting precious healthcare resources and costs.

Recognizing this opportunity, an integrated clinical care team at Hospital Universitario Nuestra Señora de Candelaria, Spain, sought to enhance their evaluation pathway for patients with mTBI through the introduction of a brain-biomarker guided pathway. Specifically, the combination of two novel brain biomarkers, glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP) and ubiquitin carboxy-terminal hydrolase L1 (UCHL-1) can help rule-out the need for CT scans.

Within the first 2 years of implementation, over 5000 patients have been evaluated in this new pathway, with 36.8% of mTBI patients safely avoiding unnecessary CT scans, with a corresponding 4.2 hour reduction in ED length of stay for mTBI patients who do not require further evaluation. Ultimately, over 4000 radiologist hours were saved through mitigated CT scans, with €274,000 in annual mitigated healthcare costs associated with reduced unnecessary CT scans.

For their patient-centric care initiative, this integrated clinical care team received top honors in association with the 2025 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Awards. Congratulations to María Teresa Concepción Masip, Medical Specialist in Clinical Biochemistry, Pilar González Romero, Family Medicine Physician and Emergency Department Physician, María Cecilia Martín Fernández de Basoa, Medical Specialist in Clinical Analysis, Mónica Fernández del Castillo Ascanio, Medical Specialist in Radiology, Carlos Alberto Marichal Hernández, Medical Specialist in Radiology.

To learn more about this best practice and other 2025 winners, please visit [UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence | 2025 Winners](#). To apply for recognition in 2026, please visit www.UnivantsHCE.com – applications are now open through until Nov 15th.

The pathway to HCV elimination: Multidisciplinary team effort for improved identification, diagnosis and treatment of HCV positive patients

Viral hepatitis is a significant cause of liver disease globally. While vaccines for hepatitis B (HBV) exist, there are no available vaccines for hepatitis C (HCV), underscoring the importance of early identification and treatment to mitigate transmission and protect health. Left untreated, HCV can lead to cirrhosis, liver cancer and/or liver failure. Fortunately, HBV is 95% curable, thanks to the availability of direct-acting antivirals (DAAs), however is highly dependent on identification of patients, which can be difficult, as many patients show no symptoms or non-specific symptoms such as fatigue, abdominal pain, swelling, nausea and fever. Once identified, a crucial step is linking patients to care for curative treatment.



Pictured (from left to right): Marina Muneyama, Nobuharu Tamaki, Masayuki Kurosaki, Maki Furuya, Noriko Kubota

Recognizing the importance of identification and treatment of HCV, an integrated clinical care team at the Musashino Red Cross Hospital, Japan, has implemented initiatives that actively promote and work towards hepatitis elimination. Representative initiatives include preoperative gastroenterology consults for any patient who tests positive for HCV, as well as a hospital wide HCV alert system to help encourage clinical action. Expanding on the success of these initiatives, in 2021 the existing alert system was leveraged to implement a laboratory data-driven initiative to identify patients with positive HCV antibodies, coupled with new processes for follow-up that link patients to care and treatment.

Through this multi-disciplinary initiative, the unreferred rate for patients with HCV antibody positivity decreased by 33.7% (from 34.8% in 2020 to 1.1% in 2024), with an 8.3% reduction [from 10.2% (2022) to 3.0% (2023) to 1.9% in 2024] in the number of known HCV positive patients without treatment. Thanks to comprehensive training, clinicians in additional departments also changed their behavior in response to their deeper understanding of HCV, with a 6.2% increase [from 17.5% (2022) to 23.7% (2023)] in clinical adherence to hospital recommendations for medical history checks, relevant HCV antibody testing and subsequent referrals, as appropriate. Through early identification and treatment, these efforts are mitigating preventable liver cancers, with mitigated costs of approximately 46.4 million yen/year.

For their commitment to improving health outcomes, this integrated clinical care team received top honors in the 2025 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Award. Congratulations to Maki Furuya, Lab Technician, Department of Laboratory Medicine, Nobuharu Tamaki, Physician, Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Noriko Kubota, Nurse, Department of Nursing, Marina Muneyama, Pharmacist, Department of Pharmacy, Masayuki Kurosaki, President of Musashino Red Cross Hospital.

To learn more about this best practice and other 2025 winners, please visit [UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence | 2025 Winners](https://www.univants.com/2025-winners). Interested in a chance at becoming the next top winner? Apply now for 2026 recognition at [www.UnivantsHCE.com](https://www.univantshce.com) – applications are now open through until Nov 15th.

TBI Strategies: Expediting patient flow and reducing length of stay through blood biomarker guided management of patients with suspected mild traumatic brain injury

An estimated 155,000 patients are suffering from traumatic brain injury (TBI) in France, with many presenting to the emergency department (ED) for diagnosis and treatment, where appropriate. Severity of the injury can vary, however approximately 80% of TBIs are considered mild (mTBI). Evaluation of TBI patients involves clinical examination and use of CT scans to visualize any lesions to help direct next steps. These scans are typically conducted between 4-8 hours after the injury, and while useful, are often negative due to the low incidence of mTBI complications. This can lead to inefficient use of hospital resources, which can culminate in ED overcrowding. Lastly, due to the x-rays used in CT scans, patients can be exposed to potentially unnecessary radiation.



Pictured (from left to right): Vincent Sapin, Bruno Pereira, Jeannot Schmidt, Damien Bouvier, Charlotte Oris

Recognizing the importance of protecting patient wellness, while streamlining use of resources, a consortium was formed with the objective of improving the management of mTBI patients through the introduction of brain biomarkers. Under the leadership of Professor Vincent Sapin, the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire of Clermont-Ferrand was the first site in France to implement brain-biomarkers to guide mTBI triage.

Using an S100B-guided triage pathway, this integrated clinical care team reduced length of stay by a mean of 3-hour and 35-minute, for patients in the ED with suspected mTBI, with a corresponding 2,300 resource hours mitigated each year from medical and non-medical staff as a direct result of expedited patient

flow. Finally, €5184 in mitigated healthcare costs were realized, attributable to 216 avoided CT scans in adults presenting to the ED with suspected mild TBI.

For their innovation and leadership, this integrated clinical care team received top honors in association with the 2025 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence awards. Well-done to Vincent Sapin, Professor and Head of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics, Charlotte Oris, Clinical Biologist, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics, Bruno Pereira, Biostatistician and Head of Data Management, Damien Bouvier, Professor and Vice Head of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics, Jeannot Schmidt, Professor and Head of Emergency Department.

To learn more about this best practice and other 2025 UNIVANTS winners, please visit UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence | 2025 Winners. To learn about the award and how to apply for 2026 recognition, visit www.UnivantsHCE.com – applications are now open through until Nov 15th.



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News from Regional Federations and Member Societies

The 13th International Palestinian Conference for Laboratory Medicine

By **Rana Khanafsa**, International Coordinating Committee/PMTA,

Opening Ceremony – August 21, 2025

Bethlehem – The Palestinian Medical Technology Association inaugurated the 13th Palestinian International Conference on Laboratory Medicine at the Bethlehem Conference Palace, under the patronage of Prime Minister Dr. Mohammad Mustafa, represented by the Minister of Health, Dr. Majed Abu Ramadan.

The three-day conference brought together around 90 lecturers and researchers, along with 2,000 members of the Association. The opening day featured keynote lectures by Dr. Majed Abu Ramadan, Dr. Osama Al-Najjar, and Prof. Tomris Ozben, as well as four specialized workshops and the launch of a medical exhibition.

In his address, the Minister of Health conveyed greetings from President Mahmoud Abbas and the Prime Minister, highlighting Palestine's commitment to science despite challenges, the vital role of laboratory professionals, and the government's support for research and healthcare development.

Other remarks were made by Dr. Christian Haddad (President of the Arab Federation of Clinical Biology), Dr. Rania Abu Seir (Chair of the Scientific Committee), and Dr. Osama Al-Najjar (Conference President), who emphasized the role of laboratory medicine in scientific advancement and national resilience.

Scientific Sessions and Recognition – August 22, 2025

The second day of the conference featured 29 specialized scientific lectures and 50 research posters presented by local and international researchers. A recognition ceremony honored outstanding participants, including winners of the IFCC International Video Award, contributors to National Laboratory Medicine Week media, participants in IFCC conferences in Brussels (2025) and Dubai (2024), winners of sports tournaments, medical companies, and supporting national institutions.

Closing and Recommendations – August 23, 2025

On the final day, the conference concluded with 51 scientific papers and 43 research posters, presented across diverse laboratory medicine disciplines. Four specialized workshops were also held with more than 70 active participants. The conference highlighted the significance of global scientific engagement and the ongoing development of the laboratory medicine profession in Palestine.

Scientific Awards

Dean of Laboratory Medicine Award (Dr. Atallah Rishmawi Award)

Awarded to six researchers for their outstanding scientific contributions:

- **Nour Jaber:** Healthcare-Associated Respiratory Viral Infections Among Hospitalized Children at Caritas Baby Hospital: The Impact of the Infection Control Program.
- **Tala Najjar:** HLA-DQ2/8 Genotypes, Biochemical Markers, Socioeconomic Factors and Diet Adherence in Palestinian Children with Celiac Disease: A Multidimensional Study.
- **Rana Khanafsa:** Tackling Antimicrobial Resistance in the West Bank: Prevalence, Impact, and the Role of Antibiotic Stewardship.
- **Dr. Montaser Haddad:** Circadian-Regulated Corticosterone and Melatonin Inversely Control Endotoxin-Induced Immune Responses.

- **Bisan Safi:** NGS-Based Screening and Genotyping of Oral HPV in Healthy Palestinian Dental Patients.
- **Rawan Obeid:** Functional Assessment of a Novel SMAD4 Mutation (p. Cys115Arg) in a Palestinian Colorectal Cancer Patient.

Best Poster Award (sponsored by LapTech and Australab)

Awarded to four winners:

- **Mohammad Bdeir:** Precision Modulation of AMPA Receptors by Benzodioxole Derivatives for Motor Recovery in Parkinson's Disease.
- **Lubna Habes:** Frequency of Rejected Samples in the Hematological Department: A Comparison Between Palestine Medical Complex Hospital and Hebron Governmental Hospital.
- **Amal Dweish:** Cytokines Analysis Combined with Machine Learning for Determining the Etiology of Inaccessible Infection.
- **Adam Natsha:** Thyroid Hormone Imbalance and Its Impact on Serum Lipids: An Observational Study Among Palestinian Patients Admitted to the CCU.

President of the Association Award

Awarded to two distinguished members:

- Abdel Rahman Al-Abed
- Adel Tafesh

Final Recommendations

1. Establish a Committee on Genetic Diseases in Palestine to unify efforts in diagnosis, research, and development.
2. Create a National Scientific Research Platform to connect universities, research centers, and researchers.
3. Develop the conference into a leading Palestinian scientific platform with international recognition.
4. Enhance continuous training for laboratory professionals and foster a culture of innovation.
5. Direct research efforts toward Palestinian health and national priorities.
6. Launch the Laboratory Medicine Research Team to lead scientific research in Palestine.



Dr. Osama Al-Najjar, Conference President, addressing participants and emphasizing the role of laboratory medicine in advancing science and national resilience



Dr. Rania Abu Seir, Chair of the Scientific Committee, delivering remarks and highlighting the scientific vision of the conference

The 13th International Palestinian Conference for Laboratory Medicine



Specialized workshops and panel sessions were conducted on the first day of the conference



The Organizing Committee of the 13th Palestinian International Conference for Laboratory Medicine, recognized for their efforts in planning and executing the event.



Opening ceremony of the 13th Palestinian International Conference for Laboratory Medicine at the Convention Palace, Bethlehem (August 21, 2025)

Report of the Accreditation Working Group – COLABIOCLI

By: **Dr. Maria Pasquel-Moxley**
GT- Accreditation Coordinator

The Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI) is pleased to share with the international scientific community the progress and initiatives of its Accreditation Working Group, established in 2025 and chaired by Dr. María del Carmen Pasquel. This group embodies a collective commitment to strengthening quality and reliability in clinical laboratories throughout Latin America, promoting the adoption of ISO 15189:2022 as an international benchmark.



Mission and Objectives

The mission of the Working Group is to promote the implementation of quality management systems in clinical laboratories across the region, to harmonize standards, provide technical support and training, and to serve as a bridge between accreditation bodies, national societies, and laboratory professionals. The goal is not only to encourage accreditation under ISO 15189, but also to strengthen the culture of quality in all laboratories, whether accredited or not, thereby contributing to safer and more reliable diagnoses.

Working Group Members

The Accreditation Working Group is composed of principal and alternate members representing the national societies affiliated with COLABIOCLI from across Latin America.

Members of the Accreditation Working Group

Country	Full Name	Role in the Group
Ecuador	Dr. María del Carmen Pasquel	General Coordinator
Bolivia	Dr. Álvaro Justiniano Grosz	Principal Member
Bolivia	Dr. Orlando Barrios Vaca	Alternate Member
Brazil	Dr. Rafael Ferreira De Azevedo	Member
Colombia	Dr. Yury Andrea Rodríguez Garzón	Member
Dominican Republic	Mgtr. Mariolga Roques Ortiz	Principal Member
Dominican Republic	Dr. Maritza Flores De Parra	Alternate Member
Ecuador	Dr. Blanca Nazamuez	Alternate Member
Panama	Lic. Rigoberto Sánchez	Member
Paraguay	Dr. Laura Mujica	Member

This diverse composition ensures a wide range of perspectives and expertise to face the challenge of advancing laboratory quality throughout the region.

Activities and Milestones

In its first meetings, the group approved a strategic action plan covering short, medium, and long-term goals. An updated regional diagnostic survey was designed to assess the current state of ISO 15189 accreditation in member countries and to identify the main barriers laboratories face when

implementing the standard. The survey will be distributed widely through professional associations, national societies, and accreditation bodies.

A major milestone was the successful organization of the group's first webinar on ISO 15189, attended by 445 colleagues from across Latin America. Participants actively engaged in the session and rated it as 'excellent'. This overwhelming response highlighted both the regional interest in quality improvement and the relevance of the topics addressed. The webinar marked the beginning of a sustained training program that will include virtual modules, workshops, symposia, and regional forums.

Strategic Plan

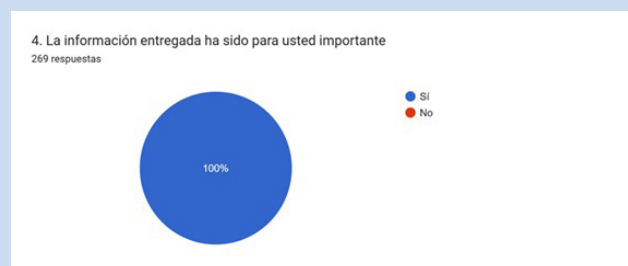
The work of the group is structured into three time horizons:

- Short term: design and implementation of the regional survey, development of a diagnostic report, creation of digital resource repositories, and introductory webinars.
- Medium term: establishment of a comprehensive modular training program, drafting of a Latin American Guide for the Implementation of ISO 15189, creation of a mentorship network, and promotion of regional forums.
- Long term: sustainable increase in the number of accredited laboratories, consolidation of a strong culture of quality, engagement with health authorities and international organizations, and sustainability of the mentorship network.

Impact and Outlook

The Accreditation Working Group aims to transform the landscape of quality in Latin American clinical laboratories. By fostering regional cooperation, sharing success stories, and providing technical support, the group expects to see a significant increase in the number of accredited laboratories in the coming years, as well as greater integration of quality management practices into daily operations. These efforts will strengthen result comparability, enhance trust in diagnostic services, and ultimately improve patient safety.

COLABIOCLI Accreditation Working Group has laid a solid foundation for a regional strategy on quality and accreditation. With the collaboration of distinguished professionals from across Latin America, the group is advancing towards a future in which clinical laboratories in the region achieve international standards of excellence. This report reflects COLABIOCLI's commitment to driving diagnostic quality for the benefit of millions of patients in our region and beyond.

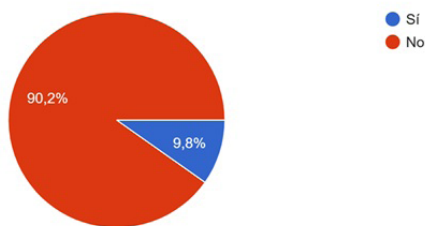


Answers to the question "if the material presented by the speakers has been useful for the attendees"



Response to the accreditation webinar satisfaction survey, on whether the speakers have demonstrated knowledge of the subject and have been clear in their presentations.

¿Su laboratorio está acreditado con la norma ISO 15189?
449 respuestas



One of the important responses to the study conducted by the GT-Accreditation in August 2025, which motivates the group to work toward the stated objectives.

Banner of the webinar, held on September 3, 2025.

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Moderator /
Chronobiology Applications in
Laboratory Medicine



Dr. Fernando Marqués García
[Spain]
Clinical Biochemistry Specialist
Universitary Hospital Germans
Trias i Pujol

Fundamentals of Chronobiology



Ms. Cristina Martínez Bravo
[Spain]
Resident 3 Clinical-Biochemistry
Universitary Hospital Germans
Trias i Pujol

Methods for analysis in
chronobiology



Dr. Ruben Fossion
[Mexico]
Physicist and Researcher
Centre for Complex Systems (C3) &
Institute for Nuclear Science

Date: 9 October, 2025

Time: 11 AM (Eastern Standard), 5 PM (Central European), 11 PM (China Standard)



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Discovery of a new variant in Spain: Hb A2-Getafe

By **Ramiro Antonio Torrado Carrión**

Clinical Biochemistry Specialist

Clinical Analysis and Clinical Biochemistry Department Faculty

Getafe University Clinical Hospital, Getafe, Spain

Member of the SEMEDLAB Training Committee and Post-clinical Processes Committee



Hemoglobinopathies are one of the most common monogenic diseases. They are widely distributed worldwide, and it is estimated that approximately 7% of the population is a heterozygous carrier of a hemoglobinopathy. Given this background, it is not surprising that clinical laboratories are obliged to be aware of their existence, know how to identify them, and study the interferences they can cause in other analytical tests, reporting on those that may affect patient management.

In the Clinical Analysis and Clinical Biochemistry Service of the Getafe University Hospital, we measure Hb A1c to aid in the diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment evaluation of patients with diabetes mellitus. The discovery of this new hemoglobin A2 variant began with a routine analysis of a patient suspected of having prediabetes who presented an anomalous chromatogram on the HPLC (high-performance liquid chromatography) equipment. This prompted the need to conduct an in-depth study using a chromatographic column specific for hemoglobin variants, revealing an abnormally low Hb A2 value. This finding led to further study and performing the affected tests using an alternative technique such as capillary electrophoresis to verify this different chromatographic pattern and the significantly lower Hb A2 value. A clear decrease in Hb A2 and an additional peak were observed, leading to the suspicion of a structural variant of Hb A2.



Since the patient could not be correctly categorized, the next step was molecular analysis of the δ -globin gene (HBD), performed using Sanger sequencing at the Hospital Clínico San Carlos in Madrid, the national reference center for hemoglobinopathies. A previously undescribed mutation was detected: an AAG > ACG change in codon 132 of exon 3, which results in the substitution of the amino acid lysine for threonine at position 10 of the delta-globin helix H. The discovery of this new variant led to its registration in the international database of human hemoglobin variants and thalassemias, HbVar, as Hb A2 - Getafe or HBD: c.398C>A, and its subsequent publication in Hemoglobin (<https://doi.org/10.1080/03630269.2025.2511984>), the leading journal in this field.

A vital question now arises: is it clinically relevant? It is true that most mutations in δ -globin are clinically silent, as is the case with Hb A2 - Getafe in the patient studied. However, its importance lies in the fact that it can interfere with the interpretation of Hb A2 values, a fundamental parameter in the diagnosis of thalassemias. For example, a falsely low value could mask β -thalassemia, delaying or hindering the correct diagnosis. Therefore, the identification of these variants is essential to avoid diagnostic errors. This study involved the collaboration of different hospitals and different methodologies, which were essential in identifying this new variant. HPLC initially detected an altered profile and a low Hb A2 value in a patient in whom no hemoglobinopathy was suspected. Capillary electrophoresis revealed an additional peak consistent with a structural variant.

Finally, the mutation was confirmed using molecular biology techniques, sequencing the HBD gene using Sanger sequencing.

This case demonstrates that the complementarity of analytical techniques is essential, as clinical guidelines indicate, for the detection of hemoglobinopathies. It also highlights the ability that Laboratory Medicine specialists must have to frame all the analytical data obtained and guide the various studies, in order to interpret and transform them into useful information for other healthcare professionals and to help patients. This finding contributes to expanding the catalog of known variants in the HBD gene and reinforces the need to be alert to subtle alterations in chromatograms

or electropherograms. Therefore, the importance of attention to detail and clinical-analytical integration must be emphasized. Variants such as Hb A2 - Getafe can go unnoticed if the initial findings are not correctly interpreted. Our work as Laboratory Medicine specialists is key to detecting these anomalies, guiding the diagnosis, and, ultimately, improving the care of our patients.

Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEMEDLAB)

The Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEMEDLAB) – formally established on January 1, 2025 – is an active member of the International and European Federations of Clinical Laboratory Medicine (IFCC and EFLM). It currently encompasses 4,000 professionals and is the result of the merger of three scientific associations of Laboratory Medicine-Clinical Laboratory in Spain: AEBM-ML, AEFA, and SEQC-ML. The Society aims to improve patient service, optimize resources, and strengthen the continuing education of professionals in the sector.

Furthermore, with this merger, it seeks to centralize collaboration among experts; improve international outreach, generate more resources, improve legal assistance for members, as well as to optimize continuing education courses, research, and the organization of scientific conferences. For more information: <https://semedlab.es/>



Members of the Clinical Analysis and Clinical Biochemistry Department at Getafe University Hospital. From left to right: Carmen Blanco Barros (Head of Department), Yolanda Benito Lobato (Laboratory Technician), Lourdes García del Prisco (Laboratory Technician), Ramiro Antonio Torrado Carrión (Clinical Biochemistry Faculty), and Marta Cruz Maceín (Laboratory Technician).

News from the Indonesian Association for Clinical Chemistry : Dr Lia G. Partakusuma elected as new President

The Indonesian Association for Clinical Chemistry has a new president elected from September 5, 2025, during the National Congress. Dr Lia G. Partakusuma, SpPK (K), MM, MARS replaced Dr Tjan Sian Hwa as IACC's President for 2025-2028.

Dr. Lia Partakusuma is a Clinical Pathologist with nearly 30 years of leadership experience in laboratory medicine and hospital management. She currently serves as Medical Director of Indonesia Healthcare Corporation (IHC), the state-owned enterprise hospital network in Indonesia.

At the national level, she previously led a 600-bed hospital laboratory for 13 years, achieving WHO standardization for tuberculosis diagnostics and international accreditation standards. She has also held senior directorial roles in government hospitals in Jakarta. In professional organizations, she served two terms as Secretary General and two terms as President of the Indonesian Society of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (PDS PatKLIn). In addition, she was Secretary General of the Indonesian Hospital Association (PERSI) for two terms and Chair of the Green Hospital Division at PERSI for one term.

At the international level, Dr. Partakusuma served one term as President of ASCPALM (Asian Society for Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine), was a Council Member of WASPALM (World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine), a Governing Council Member of the International Hospital Federation (IHF), and previously a Member of the Education Committee for Environment at APFCB (Asia-Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine). She is currently a member of the IFCC Task Force on Environment.

In 2025, she was appointed President of the Indonesian Association of Clinical Chemistry (IACC), where she continues to advance quality, innovation, and sustainability in laboratory medicine and healthcare.





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IFCC's Calendar of Congresses, Conferences & Events

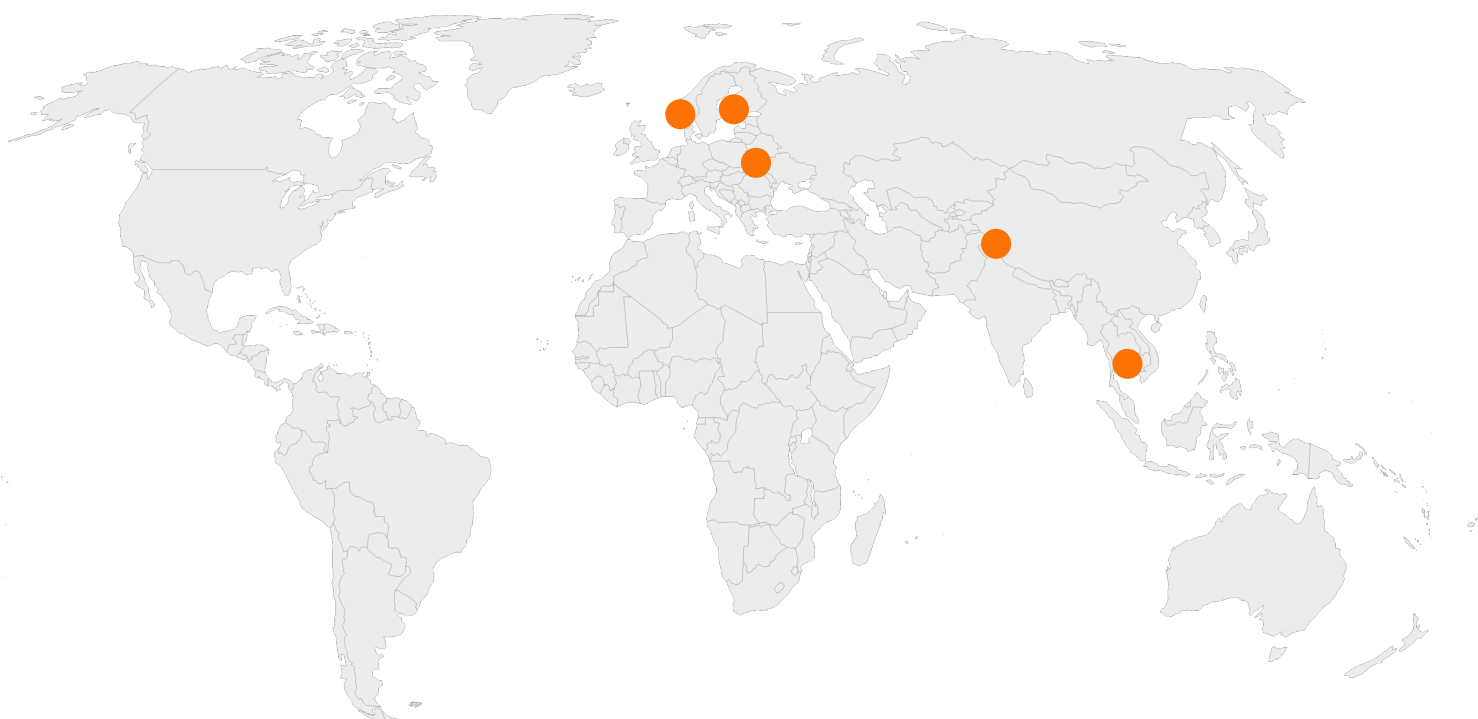
IFCC and Regional Federation Events			
Date		Title	Place
Nov 19-20 2025		IFCC TF-GLQ Laboratory Quality Assurance Workshop: Quality of Laboratory Examination Beyond the Analytical Phase	Nairobi, KE
Nov 24-25 2025		IFCC TF-GLQ Laboratory Quality Assurance Workshop: Strengthening Laboratory Quality: Foundations and Practical Approaches	Montevideo, UY
Dec 1-2 2025		JCTLM Members' and Stakeholders' meeting with Workshop on 'Result harmonization in medical laboratories: accomplishments and challenges'	Sèvres, FR
Dec 7-9 2025		6th International Course on Basics of Flow Cytometry Basic Concepts and Clinical Applications	Cairo, EG
Oct 25 - 30, 2026		XXVII IFCC WORLDLAB 2026	New Delhi, IN
May 16-20, 2027		XXVII IFCC-EFLM EUROMEDLAB 2027	London, UK
Oct 7 - 11, 2026		COLABIOCLI 2026 SANTA CRUZ	Santa Cruz, BO
Oct 10 - 13, 2027		APFCB 2027 KUALA LUMPUR	Kuala Lumpur, MY

Corporate Member Events with IFCC Auspices

Date	Title	Place
Oct 1, 2025 - Jul 31, 2026	Diplomado international in Analytical Quality Management	Quality consulting, online event
Oct 18, 2025	Global MicroLabTalk Forum 2025	AUTOBIO, Zhengzhou, CN
Oct 26, 2025	International Symposium on Laboratory Medicine	SNIBE, Shenzhen, CN
Oct 28, 2025	Wondfo Global POCT Summit	Guangzhou Wondfo Biotech Co., Ltd - Guangzhou, CN
Oct 30, 2025	DiagHub 7th Session: Coagulation	Zybio, Online event

Other events with IFCC auspices

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Editor

Dr Marilena STAMOULI
Head of the Department of Biochemistry
Naval and Veterans Hospital
Athens - Greece
E-mail: enews@ifcc.org

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