



Communications and Publications Division (CPD) of the IFCC

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International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine



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EDITORIAL

Message from the eNews Editor

by Katherina Psarra
eNews Editor

Dear colleagues,

I really don't know what to write that could be exciting enough to tempt you to read this eNews issue in the middle of this unprecedented situation we are facing all over the world.

What would be interesting for you? What could make you focus and read the IFCC news? Most of you are working in labs, going back and forth to the hospitals and not staying at home. You definitely play an important role in the patients' management. Most of you worry about yourselves or your loved ones. Most of you are missing what is important, beautiful, normal in your lives.

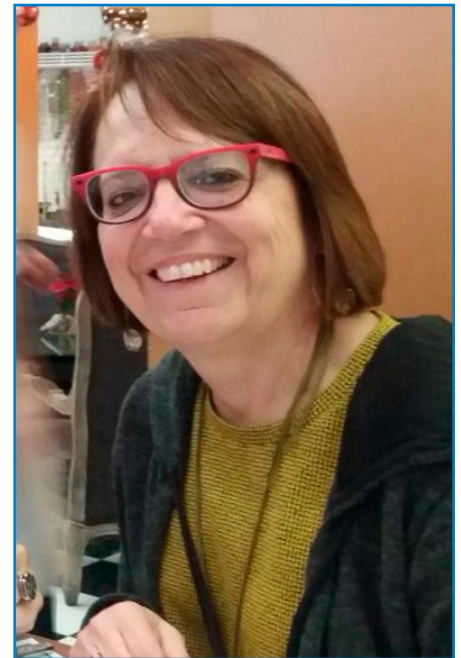
That is why we are here. To give you a sense of normality. To make you look forward to the next Wordlab in Seoul in January 2021. To make you look forward to your local meetings. To make you feel how important, how precious you are for your profession, for the IFCC.

IFCC has produced an eNews Flash with all the necessary available information about laboratories and COVID-19.

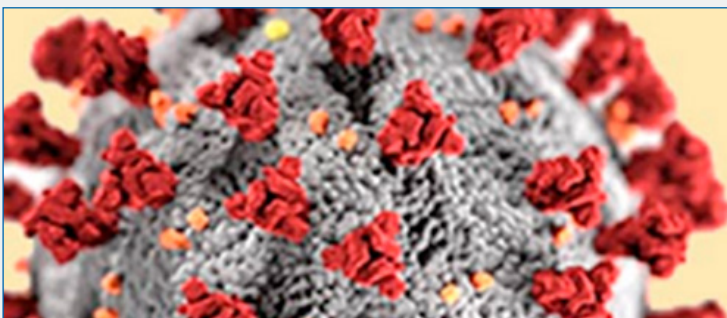
Dr. Bernard Gouget has written a superb text about the COVID-19 pandemic. The IFCC people are explaining who they are. Young scientists are wondering why some countries don't participate in IFCC voting and Dr. G. Beall states his opinion. Great reports from IFCC meetings are there too for you to learn and envy.

Stay safe, dear colleagues! We will all meet soon!

Katherina Psarra



News from the IFCC Website



IFCC Information Guide on COVID-19

The IFCC is pleased to publish an online resource providing key information on laboratory guidelines, biosafety, and other important resources, in order to assist its member societies around the world and their clinical laboratories as they face the challenges posed by the COVID-19 outbreak.

[The page is constantly updated with the most recent information.](#)

New dates for the IFCC WorldLab Congress in Seoul: January 6-10, 2021

*by Professor Maurizio Ferrari
IFCC President*

*Professor Khosrow Adeli
IFCC President-Elect*



On behalf of the IFCC Executive Board, we are delighted to inform you that the WorldLab Congress in Seoul has been rescheduled to January 6-10, 2021. The new dates were chosen based on the recommendation of the local organizing committee as well as congress and hotel space availability. Suitable space was not available during fall of 2020.

We are looking forward to welcoming all our invited speakers, registered delegates, and exhibitors to this rescheduled conference in the beautiful city of Seoul. We also apologize for any inconvenience caused by rescheduling the conference and hope to see all of you at this important international event to celebrate the end of the COVID-19 epidemic!

The Organising Secretariat MZ Congressi will be contacting all parties involved (Speakers, Sponsors & Exhibitors, Delegates, Poster Presenters, and others) with further information.

Kind regards,

Professor Maurizio Ferrari, IFCC President

Professor Khosrow Adeli, IFCC President-Elect

News from the IFCC Website

eJIFCC Vol 31 n°1 - March 2020



Improving the preanalytical phase in laboratory medicine

eJIFCC Vol 31 n° 1 is now available. Guest edited by Dr. Gabriel Lima-Oliveira, Department of Neurosciences, Biomedicine and Movement Sciences, University of Verona - Italy, and member of the WG-Preanalytical Phase -COLABIOCLI - the theme of this issue is "Improving the Preanalytical Phase in Laboratory Medicine".

The preanalytical phase is responsible for the most frequent errors in laboratory medicine [1], which represents a major source of result variability. Five original articles, two case reports, and two critical reviews offer different perspectives to help all clinical laboratory players – physicians, nurses, technicians, in vitro diagnostic devices providers, and laboratory professionals – to reduce the clinical laboratory variability.

[Read more](#)



NEW DATE

IFCC WorldLab **SEOUL 2021**

24th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF
CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

Jan **6-10**, 2021
Coex, Seoul, Korea



THE VOICE OF IFCC

'Voting trends in IFCC member countries' – by Young Scientists Task Force (YS-TF)

Disclaimer: The views expressed here are those of the authors and not of the IFCC.

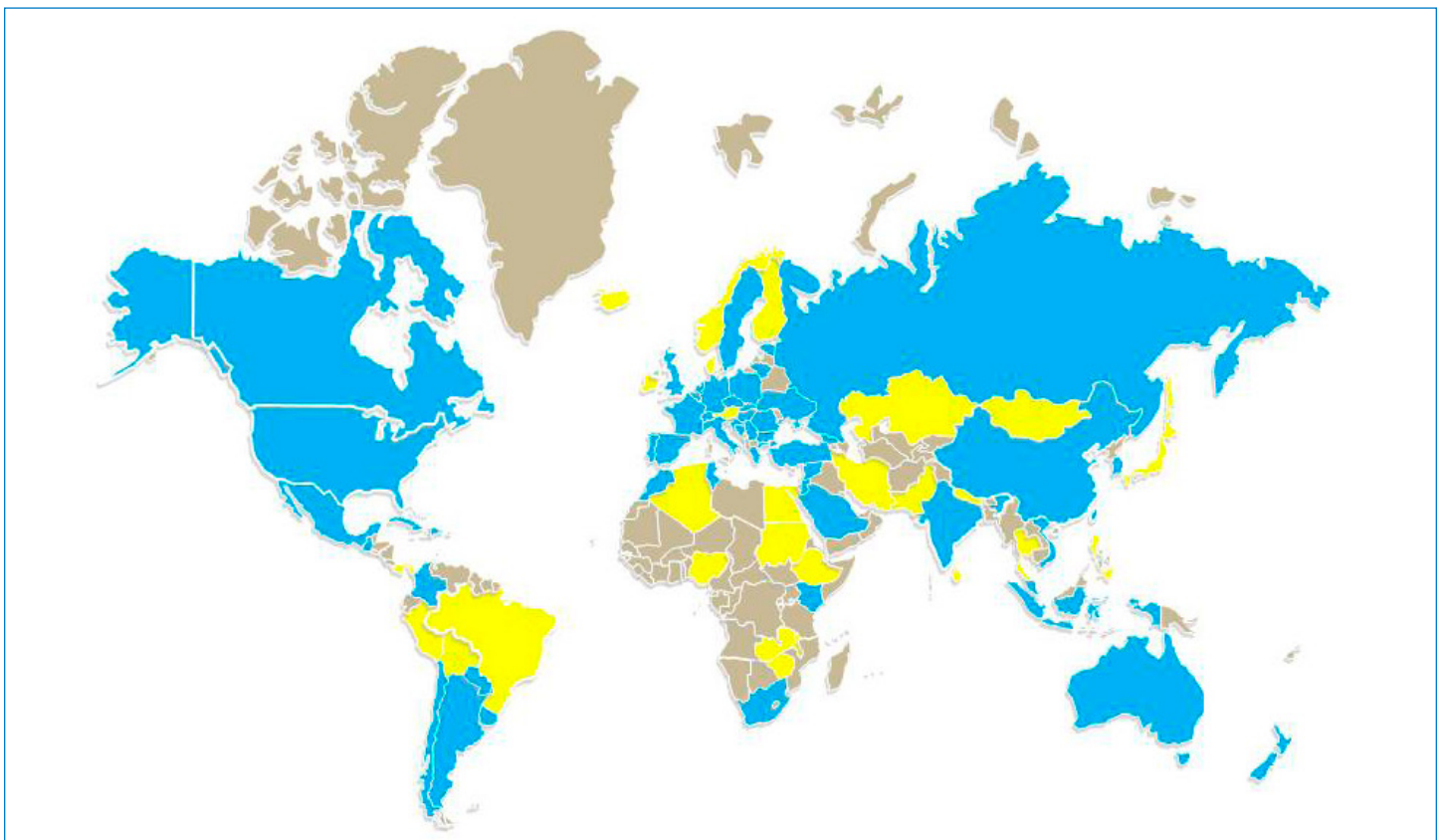
Members of the YS-TF analyzed publicly provided Election Buddy data of the recent IFCC election in January 2020 to determine the level of participation of IFCC countries. Of the total of 94 member countries, there were 60 votes cast. Here is their report:

We analyzed the IP (Internet Protocol) addresses where the votes originated from. Figure 1 shows a map of member countries where an IP address was recorded. It should be noted that the IP address does not necessarily pinpoint a country because the voter could potentially send a vote from an internet provider in another country, but most of the addresses will

correlate with a voting country. We also analyzed the temporal dynamics of the voting process (Fig 2). In the last week, as might be expected, a large proportion of voting was done at the beginning and at the end of January 2020.

The purpose of this analysis was to understand the dynamics of voting in the IFCC member countries and to understand possible reasons why member countries do not cast votes. Voter turnout in a democratic process has an influence on the direction of an organization and if member countries appear disinclined to vote, perhaps the reasons should be understood.

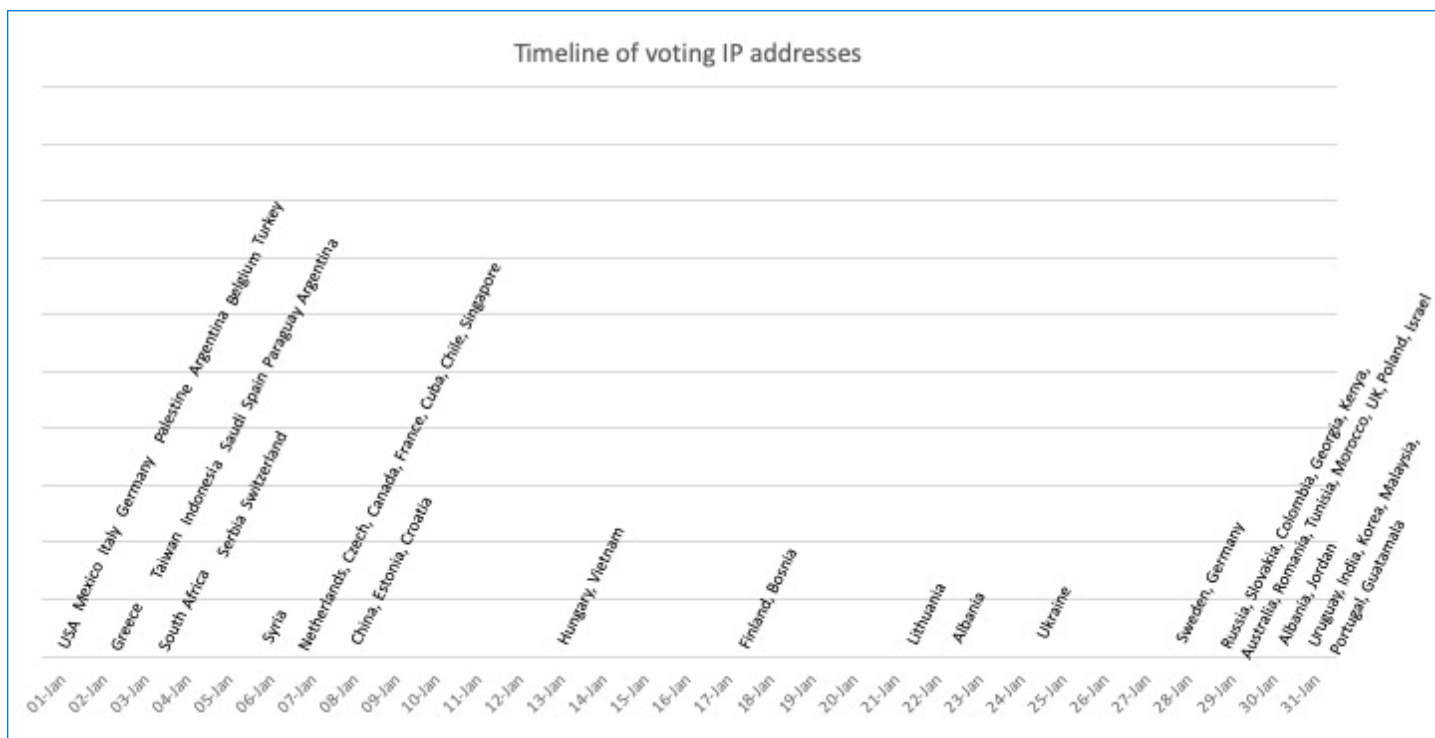
Figure 1 Voting trends in IFCC member countries*



*Blue: recorded IP address; Yellow: no recorded IP address; Grey: non-IFCC member countries

Article continued on next page

Figure 2 Timeline of voting based on the IP addresses*



*Note - The following appear twice: Argentina, Albania, Germany. This may reflect the fact that the responsible voter from another country may have used an internet service provider in a country different from the country of origin (e.g. whilst travelling).

Some of the YSTF members come from countries where votes were not cast. One can speculate on the reasons: were the voting emails not received? Several voting countries had to use a “key” because they either did not receive the email or could not access the vote via the URL supplied. Is there apathy amongst countries because they feel their vote does not count?

However, as much as a third of the membership does not appear to have voted and if countries wish to influence the IFCC, the national representatives need to participate. As members of the Young Scientist Task Force representing different member countries, we believe it is important for member countries to be more involved as it impacts directly on us.

'Voting trends in IFCC member countries' – response from Dr. Graham Beastall



I was delighted to read the article from the IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists (TF-YS). It is excellent that our YS are interested in the IFCC democratic processes and that they are encouraging us ‘to do better’. That is a sentiment that everyone in IFCC should share.

Prior to the digital age IFCC elections were held either by postal ballot or by ‘live votes’ at the IFCC Council meeting. The percentage participation by IFCC Full Members was always disappointing but could perhaps be explained by the practicalities involved.

The introduction of digital technology enabled IFCC to move to electronic voting. To ensure independence and integrity in this process, IFCC chose to use a third

party (Election Buddy) to conduct the ballots. Initially, there was a big increase in the percentage of Full Members and Corporate Members casting their votes but this has tailed off over recent years and the time is right to see if there is an explanation for the dwindling interest in the IFCC electoral process.

I can think of three possible explanations for the recent trend in voting participation:

1. We do not reach the right person to cast the vote for each Full Member society;
2. We do not explain the process and the timelines clearly enough;
3. There is simply a lack of interest from Members in the IFCC electoral process

It is tempting to distribute a survey to explore these possible explanations. However, the response rate to that survey would probably be low, meaning that it would be pointless.

Instead, I would like to challenge all Full Member Societies and Corporate Members who did not participate in recent IFCC elections to tell me (in confidence) why that is the case. The non-participant Full Members can be inferred from the YS article. A short email to gbeastall@googlemail.com with suggestions for what IFCC can do to improve participation in elections would be really helpful.

So, over to you!

Dr. Graham Beastall, *Chair of the IFCC Nominations Committee*

A pandemic crisis and globalization: a long-term fight



Bernard Gouget

by Bernard Gouget

*Chair-IFCC Committee on Mobile Health and Bioengineering in Laboratory Medicine (C-MHBLM)
co-Chair IFCC -TF on History, SFBC-International Committee
President-Human Health Care Committee-Cofrac
President-Committee for selection of the French reference Laboratories, Ministry of Health*

An epidemic of viral pneumonia of unknown etiology emerged in the city of Wuhan (Hubei province, China) in December 2019. On January 9, 2020, the discovery of a novel coronavirus was announced officially by the Chinese health authorities and the WHO (first called 2019-nCov2, then officially SARS-CoV2, different from the SARS-CoV virus responsible for the SARS epidemic in 2003 and the MERS-CoV virus, responsible for an epidemic evolving since 2012 in the Middle East). This novel virus is the agent responsible for this new infectious disease called COVID-19 (for CoronaVirus Disease).

In these days of great anxiety, the crisis has painfully taught us what globalization really is. This often controversial term, on everyone's lips, is rarely taken as a guide for analysis. Borders are closed and nations organize themselves piecemeal. Since doing nothing would result in millions of deaths, two alternatives arise, one qualified as "mitigation", with the aim of

strengthening collective immunity during the epidemic, and the other "containment", as China did in an authoritarian way, reflected by five types of action: isolation of cases at home, quarantine, social distancing of those over 70 years old, distancing of the whole population, closing schools and universities, or even total confinement.

The fight against the pandemic places us in a quandary. To protect the community, it is necessary to isolate yourself from it, to protect the collective, it must be fragmented into a multitude of individual withdrawals. Political affiliation, ideology and territory no longer matter; the priority is the citizens. We know that one infected person will infect at least two others. Growth is exponential in many countries. If we change our behavior, we may see effects quickly. This is what was observed in China, where the population was literally immobilized from one day to the next: no contacts between people, schools closing, and teleworking facilitated to allow healthcare systems to absorb the influx of sick people. To prevent a wave of deaths, contacts must be reduced by at least 60%. The challenge is how to arrive at a form of confinement that will be accepted and complied with by the population. The hard-hit Italians are imposing strict discipline on themselves and the world is in a state of viral warfare.

Despite alarming simulations, increasingly stringent measures and worsening assessments, the risk often still seems to be only for others. The threat appears as something hanging over the distant future. In its invisible progression COVID-19 has joined forces with two great scourges of our time: selfishness and short-term thinking. The first annihilates the ability to consider the public interest. Confining ourselves, like vaccinating ourselves, is in fact less protective of ourselves than of those around us. Short-term thinking, which temporarily hampers awareness of the seriousness of the disease, looks like a very accelerated version of the kind of thinking that has been holding back the consideration of global warming for years. Despite warnings, data and increasing manifestations, denial and disbelief persist in delaying the necessary changes to tackle a peril that is still very abstract. No doubt that in the face of COVID-19 and its increasingly numerous victims, this blindness will end quickly.

In economics as well as epidemiology, it is better to be prudent. The danger of the virus increases tenfold in fragile bodies. The same could apply to the global economy, which has a vulnerability revealed by the growth rate of Covid-19. Throughout this crisis, it is seen that it is weakness and not strength that rules the world. We are at the mercy of a handshake The

epidemic has revealed a center of weakness, a precarious health market. A health or environmental threat plays a bigger role than military threats with regard to the real challenges we need to face. Social issues are becoming the defining issues of our globalization. The common good and collective interest assume a common governance that goes beyond national sovereignty. The eradication of smallpox in Africa by the WHO is a good example.

The number of people affected by the coronavirus disease COVID-19 keeps increasing globally. A small minority of them will develop serious forms that could lead to death. Their number is starting to overwhelm medical services. It is therefore urgent to get serious and implement drastic measures. While governments and international institutions promise to spend without reserve in order to quickly bring the disease under control, this pandemic crisis and everything that it reveals to us, also forces us to face things as squarely as possible when thinking about the role of the experience of death in our society.

Although the focus has been on vaccines and drugs, the importance of diagnosis for Covid-19 should not be neglected. There is a high global demand to quickly identify COVID-19 cases. More accurate and faster diagnostic tests are essential to understand the contagiousness, morbidity and lethality of the disease to better combat it. All the major players in the IVD sector are mobilized, with trans-Atlantic collaborations, even if it means distributing tests developed by the biotech industry. Recently, tests suited to automated high-speed machines and accessible to community laboratories, will increase diagnosis productivity tenfold and allow more people to be tested.

If there is an international mobilization for the development of vaccines and drugs, charities will not be outdone in this battle. The British charity The Wellcome Trust, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Mastercard today launched an initiative to stimulate public-private collaboration and accelerate the time to market for COVID-19 treatments. Biotechnology news is reviewed internationally. All the players in the fight to develop COVID-19 vaccines are in the preclinical stage. It is difficult to say who will succeed

in developing the vaccine, but research supported by large drug companies is drawing the most attention.

As the epidemic spreads, the number of scientific publications is increasing. The urgent need to share information is obvious, but it must be good quality and peer reviewed. New communication tools have appeared, preprint servers, but missteps have reminded us that the preliminary information and results online are not peer reviewed and should not be considered conclusive and should not guide clinical practice or be disseminated in the media as solid information. COVID-19 will change our practices with regard to quality and speed. For a long time, the scientific publication model has been a pay one. In mid-February, many publishers made COVID-19 articles free to access. This public health crisis has rendered immediate access to research necessary for the effective and appropriate advance of knowledge.

Today we are faced with circumstances whose impact on public life are difficult to predict. Already, the restrictive measures chosen are causing concern and disruption at all levels of social life. The phenomenon of globalization has been transposed to the experience of a pandemic, reinforcing a feeling of fragility

and dependence, even impotence, which is not likely to reassure. If provisions amounting to a state of emergency were to be imposed and, in a limiting context, a choice should be made between who is being cared for and who is being given up, what would happen to their acceptance and the risk of dissent and public disorder?

The pandemic may force many democracies to face dizzying questions. How far should we consent to the restriction of our basic freedoms and how much should we paralyze the economy to stop the disease? In the aftermath of this crisis, we will remember how priceless the hospital and our health in general are. This ordeal may permanently change the course of our society. It may be that it will improve if two essential conditions are met: trust and reason. This means sharing the data and scientific opinions that guide decisions, with the strategies, risks and developments clearly exposed. Opacity can only be detrimental to the long-term fight and delay individual accountability. Let's act forcefully, but let's remember this: the day after, when we have prevailed, will not be like the day before. We will be morally stronger, we will have learned, and we will draw the necessary conclusions.

News from the IFCC Website

IFCC Call for Nominations



The IFCC Education and Management Division invites nominations for the following position:

Committee on Point of Care Testing (C-POCT)
- One corporate member position as of year 2020.

Deadline to receive nominations and supporting documents has been extended to **31st May 2020**.

Nominations should be sent to Silvia Cardinale at the IFCC office, by email: cardinale@ifcc.org.

Refer to your National Representative or Corporate Representative for information on procedures for nominations.

[Read more](#)

IFCC: THE PEOPLE

Welcome and thanks to the Chairs

FAREWELL TO PRADEEP KUMAR DABLA (India)



Pradeep Kumar Dabla

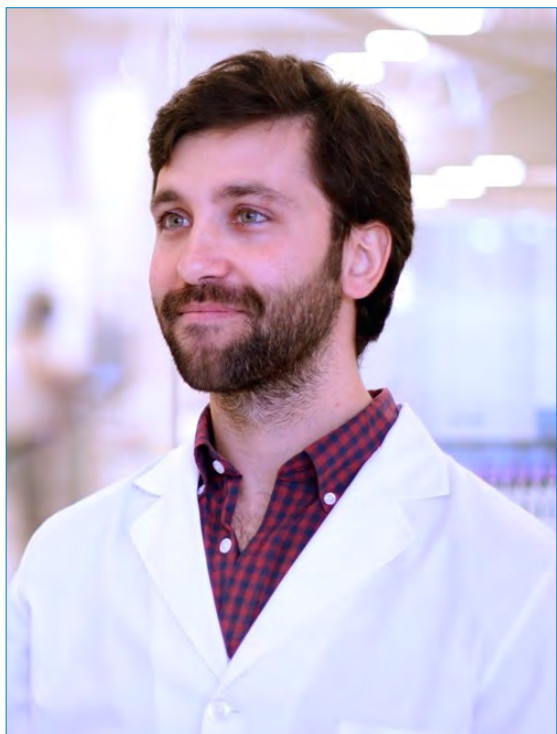
Dr. Pradeep Kumar Dabla has been the Chair of the IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists from 2014 to 2019.

Prof. (Dr.) Pradeep Kumar Dabla is an experienced Chairperson with a history of demonstrated leadership & management while working in the hospital & health care industry. He is a laboratory physician skilled in Medical Devices, Molecular Biology, Laboratory Medicine and Clinical Research. He is a strong research professional and associated with TQM as a NABL Assessor ISO 15189:2012 Medical Laboratory with National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL), Quality Council, Govt. of India. He has completed MBBS from Maulana Azad Medical College, Delhi University and MD (Biochemistry) from Lady Hardinge Medical College, Delhi University, India. In addition, in order to increase his proficiency in management, he pursued Post-graduate studies in the Business Administration (PGDBA) & Hospital Management (PGDHA). He was also qualified with Advanced Training in Supply Chain Management, Govt. of NCT Delhi, India.

He is working as a Professor, Department of Biochemistry, Tertiary Care G.B. Pant Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education & Research (GIPMER), associated to Maulana Azad Medical College (MAMC), Govt of NCT of Delhi while serving as Consultant, International Core Committee of IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists (IFCC-TFYS) & Core Member APFCB-Communication & Publication Committee as well. He has demonstrated leadership skills with team ability and served IFCC as Chair IFCC-TFYS (2015-2019) while working for networking, training, education and support programmes for young colleagues.

TF-YS was able to cross the barrier and created a strong young scientists support group of more than 3000 lab professionals globally involving more than 30 global IFCC member countries reaching almost all regions for its educational and leadership activities. It uses modern information technology & social media to establish networks and facilitate the communication 24/7 using Facebook, Twitter, Linked In and other modes. TFYS partnered with member societies & federations to deliver educational workshops, trainings, mentorship programmes & webinars to teach perspectives, principles of Laboratory Management & Leadership. We were able to achieve everything because of the strong Team members, their unique abilities and the unconditional support of senior members. To name TFYS Team members: Damien Gruson, Guilaine Boursier, Danni Li, Miljan, Santiago Fares Taie, Giulia Sancesario, Ashlin Rampul, Joe El Khoury.

Thank you, Pradeep for your hard work and commitment to connecting Young Scientists from all around the world!



Santiago Fares Taie

WELCOME TO SANTIAGO FARES TAIE, MSc (Argentina)

Santiago Fares Taie is the new Chair of the IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists.

He gained the Biochemist degree at Faculty of Exact Science in La Plata National University (UNLP) in the year 2011. He completed in 2016 the residency and specialist training in Clinical Biochemistry at CEMIC Buenos Aires. Two years later, he achieved the Specialist degree in Endocrinology by SAEM in Buenos Aires city.

Santiago is Co-Founder of Lab-Surfing.com and Member of the Scientific Committee of IFCC Radio programme: “El Microscopio”. Since 2014, he is Invited Professor of Biochemistry at Instituto Universitario CEMIC (IUC).

At present, he is the Director of the Laboratory Department at Sanatorio Belgrano of Mar del Plata and Head of Endocrinology Clinical Laboratory at Laboratorio Mar del Plata. In addition, he works as Consultant for the Endocrinology Laboratory at Hospital Housay of the same city. His areas of interest include Endocrinology, Molecular Biology, Mass Spectrometry, Tumor Markers and EQAS.

Previously he was a core member at the IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists and Past-President of CoReBio (Comisión de Residentes Bioquímicos de Argentina). He is currently working with the Endocrinology and Metabolism Society of Mar del Plata.

Best wishes for many successful results to the new Chair of the Task Force for Young Scientists!



Giulia M. Sancesario

WELCOME TO GIULIA M. SANCESARIO, MSc, PhD (Italy)

Giulia Sancesario is the new co-Chair of the IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists.

Since 2017 she is the Coordinator of the Young Scientists Working Group of the Italian Society of Clinical Biochemistry (SIBioC). In these years, as a group, they have organized three annual Conferences for YS, with the auspices of IFCC and EFLM. Moreover, they promoted several initiatives and scientific sessions in the SIBioC annual National Congress aimed at enhancing the participation and cooperation among researchers and residents.

Given this experience in SIBioC, Giulia promoted the “Capillary Program”, to stimulate the formation of groups for YS within the Societies which belong to the IFCC, and to create a connection between the already existing YS-WGs under the umbrella of IFCC.

She has been involved actively in both basic and clinical laboratory research and has published over 40 articles and abstracts in the field of Clinical Chemistry and clinical research. She is currently the Head of Biobank Laboratory in the Santa Lucia Foundation, a

Scientific Institute for Research, Hospitalization and Healthcare (IRCCS), specialized in the fields of neuro-motor rehabilitation and neurosciences. She got a PhD in Medical Biotechnology and Molecular Biology at Tor Vergata University of Rome, with the mentorship of Prof. Sergio Bernardini.

Dr. Sancesario's basic research is focused on the mechanisms of neurodegeneration, the translational medicine and the discovery of novel biomarkers. She received funding from the Italian Ministry of Health as Principal Investigator for a three-year project (GR-2011-02349822) on the soluble biomarkers in body fluids in Alzheimer's disease. She attended the Course of Laboratory Management, Permanent training course of Laboratory Medicine, SIBioC.

Giulia says: "I'm honoured to be the co-Chair of the IFCC TF-YS. I would like to thank the IFCC TF-YS, in particular, the past Chair and friend Pradeep, the President and the IFCC EB for giving me this awesome opportunity".

Best wishes to Giulia for her new position as TF-YS co-Chair!

IFCC: THE YOUNG SCIENTISTS

The 6th Congress of the African Federation of Clinical Chemistry

by Ashlin Rampul

*Member, IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists
RK Khan Hospital, Church of Scotland Hospital
Chemical Pathology Steve Biko Academic Hospital
South Africa*



Young Scientists from Africa in a meeting discussing future YS AFCC activities

The 6th Congress of the African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC) and the 19th Moroccan Congress of Clinical Biology was held between the 25th and the 28th September 2019 in Marrakech. Young scientists from Africa attended this meeting thanks to travel scholarships sponsored by the IFCC. The AFCC also awarded some travel scholarships for young scientists to attend. The aims of the conference were to provide an innovative and comprehensive overview of the latest developments in management and research in the field of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine. This international conference was a very important event for Africa, as it brought together many laboratory professionals from around the world focusing on three areas, encompassing innovation, internationalization and interdisciplinary research. During this event the AFCC young scientists met for a meeting to discuss plans and draft a memorandum of action for young scientist activities in Africa. Prof. Damien Gruson and Prof. Rajiv Erasmus were willing

to assist activities related to young scientists in Africa. There is currently a research activity spearheaded by Otmane Touzzani, a young scientist from Morocco to include other member countries from Africa, which will be supervised by Prof. Gruson. There were many distinguished speakers at the congress, including the likes of Prof. Maurizio Ferrari (IFCC President), Prof. Damien Gruson (consultant for young scientists), Prof. Rajiv Erasmus (AFCC President) and Prof. Layachi Chabraoui (Congress President). There were also multiple workshops held at the conference, which included Point of Care Testing, Molecular diagnostics and Laboratory Management to mention a few. The congress was very important for building and networking of young scientists from all over Africa as Africa needs young scientists to be involved in building clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine. The young scientists aim to have their own forum in Zambia for the 2021 congress and they hope for continuous support and mentorship from both the IFCC and the AFCC.



Prof Damien Gruson (Task Force for Young Scientist consultant) and Prof Rajiv Erasmus (AFCC President) – respectively second and third from left, with AFCC young scientists at the Gala Dinner



IFCC, AFCC executive members and speakers at gala dinner

CONTRIBUTE TO THE IFCC eNEWS

Podcasts: an unutilised and virgin education resource medium for the IFCC

by Tahir Pillay

Chair, IFCC Communications and Publications Division



Prof Tahir Pillay

“Podcasts” are digital audio files, usually of lectures or talks on a variety of topics. It is basically an audio recording. The term is derived from “Ipod” (an Apple product used for playing audio files) and “broadcast”. They can range from a conversation between a talk show host and a guest or a monologue. The topics are generally wide-ranging and cover cooking to yoga or travel. With the availability of portable phone handsets capable of holding audio files, it has become easier to listen to audio on the go. In addition, the audio files can be accessed from computers or from any instrument that is capable of playing an audio file. A big advantage of (audio) podcasts compared to video is that one can listen to them in the background whilst engaged in activities that do not require your full attention.

A chance conversation with one of my residents led me to think about podcasts. Here was a trainee who was commuting for several hours daily (by car in traffic) and needed to get to grips with the subject matter.

Article continued on next page

I wondered whether I could record podcasts for my department and distribute them. So I set up an experiment to do this and my first one was on calcium, magnesium and phosphate. It was a little challenging to do this because essentially you are trying to give a talk without the assistance of a visual presentation and you have to try to paint a picture with your voice.

It then struck me that there are many areas in laboratory medicine that are very amenable to this approach and the equipment and software is easily available. Using digital compression, I kept the files below 3-4 MB (up to 20-30 minutes) to allow easy transmission over Whatsapp.

The podcasts ended up being distributed through a South African national Whatsapp group that the trainees had and I was highly encouraged by the feedback I received (students thought it was an excellent resource and wanted more) and thought the concept should be expanded and shared. The podcasts can be accessed at the following URL: <https://labmedicine.buzzsprout.com/>.

It also struck me that the IFCC has a galaxy of experts from all over the world who could easily contribute to an IFCC podcast library and this is something that should be investigated. Furthermore, it will be possible to add podcasts to journal articles in the eJIFCC. The production rate of webinars is much lower, because

these are labour- and time-intensive, whilst the proposed IFCC podcast library could be implemented and expanded rapidly.

Listening to podcasts is one way in which one can increase time on learning. Podcasts help to improve listening skills and enhance focus in a distinctly different way compared to reading an article or watching a recorded lecture. It may be difficult to encourage students to spend 30 minutes reading an article or watching a webinar.

Listening to a podcast can be done in otherwise wasted time or during a routine or mundane activity. Students are far more likely to listen to podcast material if they can do it on the bus, driving the car, washing the dishes or in the gym.

It is human nature that if one is distracted with a rote task, an audio recording is likely to get full attention. Compare this with the limited attention span one will get with visual presentations.

Podcasts offer immense portability and convenience and they can be downloaded to a mobile device allowing access to the learning resources anywhere and anytime. One should also not forget that podcasts allow visually impaired individuals to access scientific and intellectual material that may not be available from other sources.

News from the IFCC Website

Announcement regarding COVID-19 mini-course (*free of charge*)



Over the past few days, Prof. Nader Rifai and Giuseppe Lippi generated a Learning Lab **mini-course** on COVID-19 along with a short lecture (**Pearl**). They are available free of charge.

Please consider disseminating among your societies. Links to **Course** and **Pearl** are available below.

To access the **Course** click on the link:
https://area9lyceum.com/covid19_course/.

To access the **Pearl** click on the link: <https://www.aacc.org/clinical-chemistry-trainee-council/trainee-council-in-english/pearls-of-laboratory-medicine/2020/coronavirus-disease-2019>.



UNIFY FOR SOMETHING GREATER



UNIVANTS™
OF HEALTHCARE EXCELLENCE

The **UNIVANTS** of Healthcare Excellence Award program celebrates teams who have achieved measurably better outcomes in healthcare.

If you are a team of **UNIFIERS** who have applied **AVANT-GARDE** approaches to achieve better healthcare outcomes, [learn more and apply at UnivantsHCE.com](https://www.univantshce.com).



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



INSTITUTE OF HEALTH ECONOMICS

Ten tips for achieving global recognition with the 2020 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Award Program



Healthcare excellence is a target that all hospitals and healthcare systems aim to achieve. Integration across disciplines and mobilizing data to drive actionable insights are key success factors in achieving measurable better healthcare performance. Last year, twelve integrated clinical care teams received global recognition in association with their measurably better healthcare performance best practice by the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Award Program. This article provides ten strategic tips for all applicants and/or integrated clinical care teams who have interest in receiving valued recognition for their best practices of healthcare transformation.

Tip 1: Submit an application

Each year, hundreds of applications are initiated for the award. Last year, however, less than 15% of those who initiated applications had completed their application by the program deadline in order to be considered for an UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Award. A guaranteed way to not receive program recognition is to not apply for the award. By contrast, all

applicants who apply for the award receive valuable feedback on their application and many receive prestigious award recognition.

Tip 2: Use the program reference guides

Multiple Reference Guides have been created to support the application process including an Application Guide, Program Checklist and Application Templates. All support materials can be found on the program portal which can be accessed via links from the program website at www.UnivantsHCE.com. The Application Guide, in particular, is often considered the most valuable tool for the application process.

Tip 3: Meet the minimum program criteria

The key criteria for program eligibility include: (1) the necessity of having at least 3 key partners of varied disciplines, reinforcing integration of clinical care including but not limited to laboratory medicine; (2) the necessity of at having at least one key performance indicator (KPI) for each of the following stakeholders: patients, payors, clinicians and health system; and (3)

the importance of having the project implemented into clinical care. This third criterion ensures that the outcomes of the application are authentic, and not simply studies or projections of outcomes that “could” happen if the project were to ultimately be implemented into practice.

Tip 4: Don't underestimate the power of qualitative KPI Metrics

Measuring the impact of individual KPIs can be difficult and may not always be quantified with ease. For example, patient experiences can be improved without a patient appreciating that difference in a measurable way (i.e., quantitative survey, etc.). Some qualitative metrics have received higher overall scores than quantitative metrics based on meaningful impact. Examples of qualitative versus quantitative metrics, including the minimum criteria for valid qualitative metrics, can be found in the application guide referenced in Tip 2.

Tip 5: Use common language that all stakeholders would understand

The scoring process for the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Program is multifactorial with every application receiving expert review by world-renown leaders across healthcare disciplines. Thus, the terminology used within the application should be easy to understand and relevant to the judge, regardless of their specific background. It is important to, therefore, avoid undefined acronyms or local terms that may not have global relevance. If judges cannot understand the application, the application will not be rated highly and could risk not being able to be scored at all.

Tip 6: The best titles/summaries focus on the “WHY”

It is not uncommon for care projects to be submitted with titles that speak to the “what” or the “how” of any given project. Titles that focus on the “how” or “why”, while accurate, tend to be less powerful (or memorable) than applications with titles or focus on the “why” or the “so what” of their care project. An award submission for example with a title of ‘saving lives for patients who undergo hip replacement surgery’ is more interesting than a submission with a title that speaks to ‘using biomarkers in non-traditional settings’ whereas

both can be true for the same application since the use of biomarker in a non-traditional settings can be the “how” to drive the “so what” (saving lives).

Tip 7: Be concise, clear and impactful

The best applications are brief, measurable and impactful. While it is important to be specific on the process that led to measurable value across partners (including but not limited to laboratory medicine) to drive impact, it is also important to be concise. Leverage the opportunity to provide supplemental data with the application if figures or flow charts are necessary for the understanding of the project. Moreover, leverage translation support from key agencies or other team members to ensure the application can be easily understood in English for the reviewers/judges.

Tip 8: Ensure all team members review/contribute to the application

It is not uncommon for applicants to under-estimate the value or impact of their care initiative. Leverage full teams to optimize ideas and submit the strongest application possible. Since every KPI can have a significant impact on the overall scoring process, and since team members across disciplines can have unique perspectives, there is great value in ensuring all team members review and contribute to the final application. Whether it is catching errors or maximizing value, team review is an asset.

Tip 9: Learn from other best practices

A great way to learn about new care projects while also obtaining ideas from existing care projects who have already been successfully recognized with program recognition is to review the best practices from previous award winners. More details about the previous winners can be found on the program website at www.UnivantsHCE.com.

Tip 10: Timeliness matters

The UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Program has a dedicated email to support questions about the award process (UNIVANTSofHealthcareExcellence@abbott.com). An administrative team also reviews early applications for minimum program eligibility prior to judge review. Thus, if applications received in advance of the program deadline and do not meet the minimum

criteria for program advancement, an early submission has ample time to resolve the potential gap(s) needed for resubmission and subsequent award recognition.

All applicants who adhere to the recommendations above will have an excellent chance of receiving global program recognition for their valued best practice(s). The aim of the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Award Program is to recognize teams for their valued best practices while also inspiring more best practices across the globe by additional teams who aim to achieve similar success.

The UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Award Program was created by Abbott Laboratories and is enabled by seven valued program partners including International Federation of Clinical Chemistry (IFCC), AACC, EHMA (European Health Management Association), Modern Healthcare, HIMSS (Health Information and Management Systems Society), NAHQ (National Association of Healthcare Quality) and IHE (Institute of Health Economics). The deadline to receive 2020 award consideration requires an application to be submitted by August 31st, 2020. Thus, the time is now to begin your award application!

Leading healthcare organizations UNITE to offer 2020 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Awards

The UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Awards are global, prestigious honors for integrated clinical care teams who have made a measurable difference in healthcare. Winning teams, including those recognized for distinction and/or for achievement, have demonstrated improvements to patients, payors, clinicians and to health systems through cross-disciplinary UNITY and the integration of laboratory-insights in novel (or AVANTE-GARDE) ways.

The inspiring award program was created in 2018 by Abbott Laboratories and is led in partnership with 7 leading healthcare organizations that share common missions and visions for the transformation of healthcare. More details about each partner organization can be found below.

Key leaders across the organizations met this March to discuss the evolution of the award program as well as cultivation of applications for the 2020 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence awards. The deadline for 2020 applications is August 31st, 2020 with opportunities for recognition both globally and regionally. If you and your team have a best practice to submit, please visit www.UnivantsHCE.com.

International Federation of Clinical Chemistry (IFCC)

IFCC advances excellence in laboratory medicine for better healthcare worldwide. The IFCC is the leading organization in the field of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine worldwide. Through leadership and

innovation in science and education, IFCC strives to enhance the scientific level and the quality of diagnosis and therapy for patients throughout the world. IFCC builds on the professionalism of its members to provide quality services to patients. IFCC is a Federation of 93 Full Member and 15 Affiliate member Societies of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine representing more than 45,000 individual clinical chemists, laboratory scientists, and laboratory physicians and 48 Corporate Members covering the major areas of clinical laboratory developments.

AACC

AACC, formerly known as the American Association for Clinical Chemistry, brings together more than 50,000 clinical laboratory professionals, physicians, research scientists, and business leaders from around the world focused on clinical chemistry, molecular diagnostics, mass spectrometry, translational medicine, lab management, and other areas of progressing laboratory science. AACC represents the diverse interests of a global lab community with members from 110 countries holding the spectrum of lab-related professional degrees, certifications, and credentials.

European Health Management Association (EHMA)

EHMA is a non-for-profit membership organization open to all those committed to improving health and healthcare. Their focus is on health management capacity and capabilities and on supporting the

successful implementation of health policy and practice, to make a real difference to the lives of Europe's 500 million citizens. EHMA is the only membership organization in Europe to bring together health managers, health professionals, policy makers, researchers and educators. EHMA provides an environment where evidence, challenge and experience are valued and complex debates on current topics take place. With a secretariat located in the heart of Europe, EHMA maximizes its impact by placing its membership of over 100 members in 30 countries at the heart of all that it does.

Modern Healthcare

Modern Healthcare is the industry's leading source of healthcare business and policy news, research and information. They report on important healthcare events and trends, as they happen, through a weekly print

magazine, websites, e-newsletters, mobile products and events. Modern Healthcare readers use that information to make informed business decisions and lead their organizations to success. It's for this reason that Modern Healthcare magazine is ranked No. 1 in readership among healthcare executives.

Health Information and Management Systems Society, Inc. (HIMSS)

HIMSS is a global advisor and thought leader supporting the transformation of the health ecosystem through information and technology. As a mission-driven non-profit, HIMSS offers a unique depth and breadth of expertise in health innovation, public policy, workforce development, research and analytics to advise global leaders, stakeholders and influencers on best practices in health information and technology. Through an innovation engine, HIMSS delivers key



Executive Partner Meeting: UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence, Scottsdale (AR,USA) – March 2-3, 2020

insights, education and engaging events to healthcare providers, governments and market suppliers, ensuring they have the right information at the point of decision. Members include more than 80,000 individuals, 480 provider organizations, 470 non-profit partners and 650 health services organizations across the globe.

National Association of Healthcare Quality (NAHQ)

NAHQ is the only organization dedicated to healthcare quality professionals, defining the standard of excellence for the profession, and equipping professionals and organizations across the continuum of healthcare to meet these standards.

Institute of Health Economics (IHE)

The IHE is an independent, not-for-profit organization that performs excellence in health economics research and health technology assessment. Our core objectives

include: supporting decision-making in health policy and practice with evidence from research in health economics and health technology assessment; assessing the medical, economic, social, and ethical implications of both established and new health practices, procedures, and technologies; and facilitating discussions and partnerships among government, academia, industry, and healthcare providers to address important issues in health care.

Abbott Laboratories

Abbott is a global healthcare leader that helps people live more fully at all stages of life. Their portfolio of life-changing technologies spans the spectrum of healthcare, with leading businesses and products in diagnostics, medical devices, nutritionals and branded generic medicines. They have 103,000 employees serving more than 160 countries.



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OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

NEWS FROM REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND MEMBER SOCIETIES



News from the Japan Society of Clinical Chemistry (JSCC)

2019 Technology Award of JSCC

by Dr. Hideo Sakamoto

International Exchange Committee of JSCC

The Japan Society of Clinical Chemistry (JSCC) Technology Award is given to persons who have made outstanding academic research in clinical chemistry. In 2019, Koji Igarashi, Ph.D. and Amiko Hayashi, Ph.D. are the winner of the JSCC Technology Award. The award presentation was held at the 59th Annual Meeting of JSCC in Sendai, Japan from September 27-29, 2019. At the award presentation, Dr. Igarashi and Dr. Hayashi were congratulated by Dr. Masato Maekawa, president of JSCC for their outstanding work in clinical chemistry. In this article, we would like to introduce two winners to present their outstanding works.

Koji Igarashi, PhD
(Bioscience Division, TOSOH Corporation) is the winner of the 2019 JSCC Technology Award, entitled with “Development of novel liver fibrosis marker Autotaxin immunoassay kit”.

Liver fibrosis increases the risk of liver cirrhosis and of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Liver biopsy is gold-standard method, but it is difficult to be undertaken regularly because of the risk of bleeding, the length of hospitalization required to manage these risks, and the associated costs. Transient elastography determines the degree of hepatic fibrosis, but it requires expensive equipment, recruitment of experienced technicians, and extended consulting hours, and patient throughput is low.

Measuring fibrosis serum marker concentration is noninvasive, conventional and can indicate the stage of liver fibrosis. Autotaxin (ATX) is a novel liver fibrosis

marker that can be used to effectively evaluate liver fibrosis and a prognostic indicator of disease activity. ATX metabolism has been extensively investigated and clarified. In brief, ATX is present in serum and is metabolized by liver sinusoidal endothelial cells. Liver fibrosis reduces the capacity to metabolize ATX, resulting in increases of the ATX level in serum. ATX has



Koji Igarashi PhD, winner of the 2019 JSCC Technology Award, entitled with “Development of novel liver fibrosis marker Autotaxin immunoassay kit”

Article continued on next page

been shown to be useful as a serum marker by determining the fibrosis stage in hepatitis C, hepatitis B, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), and Primary Biliary Cholangitis patients. ATX was reported to be especially superior to other serum markers. to diagnose significant fibrosis (stage ≥ 2)

The sensitivity of ATX was reported to be excellent for the diagnosis of \geq stage 2 and \geq stage 3 in NAFLD patients. ATX measurement may be useful for the selection of numerous NAFLD patients, requiring further assessment for liver fibrosis using non-invasive imaging methods. In addition, ATX is suggested to be useful as an indicator of the severity of liver disease and for determining the prognosis of cirrhotic patients and HCC recurrence. Serum ATX concentration is determined using a specific 2-site enzyme immunoassay and the assay reagent use in an automated immunoassay analyzer AIA-system (TOSOH). The increase of ATX concentrations is specific for liver fibrosis, and the serum ATX concentrations can be analyzed without consideration of chronic kidney disease, diabetes mellitus, rheumatoid arthritis, cardiac dysfunction, hypertension, age, timing of bleeding and food intake. The novel serum fibrosis marker ATX immunoassay kit is useful for clinical laboratory testing and is expected to contribute to diagnose various liver diseases.

Amiko Hayashi, PhD
(Medical, Quality & Regulatory, Roche Diagnostics K.K.) is the winner of the 2019 JSCC Technology Award, entitled “*Technique and application of molecular testing with plasma specimens for EGFR gene mutation test*”

The COBAS EGFR Mutation Test v2 is a real-time PCR test for the qualitative detection of defined mutations of the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) gene in non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) patients. The defined EGFR mutations are detected in DNA isolated from FFPE tissue or circulating-free tumor DNA (cfDNA). This test is indicated as a companion diagnostic to be used as an aid in selecting NSCLC patients eligible for the targeted therapies.

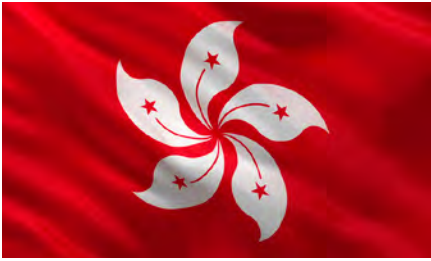
Moreover, EGFR testing with cfDNA was approved as the first genetic test using plasma specimens in patient with solid cancer in Japan. The test using plasma

as a specimen is generally called “liquid biopsy test”. This product detects EGFR gene mutations from DNA fragments leaked into the blood by apoptosis or necrosis using the real-time PCR method. The molecular testing for the lung cancer patients has been performed using tissue specimens. However, obtaining the tumor tissue by highly invasive biopsy, there are certain risks such as pneumothorax, pulmonary hemorrhage, infections, etc. Given the risk of tissue collection, some patients had limited access to the EGFR testing. Plasma testing with this product is less invasive and able to reduce both physical and mental burden on the patient, making it possible to provide testing opportunities even for the patients who cannot undergo tissue biopsy due to their poor condition.

They will work on to contribute to medical care providing the comprehensive solutions for the cancer related tests covering pathological, genetic examinations, tumor markers, and digital products.



Amiko Hayashi PhD, winner of the 2019 JSCC Technology Award, entitled “Technique and application of molecular testing with plasma specimens for EGFR gene mutation test”, along with some colleagues at the office in Tokyo, Japan



News from the Hong Kong Society of Clinical Chemistry (HKSCC)

2020 - 2021 Council of HKSCC

by Cybil Wong

Secretary, Hong Kong Society of Clinical Chemistry (HKSCC)

The year started with the newly elected office members, elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Hong Kong Society of Clinical Chemistry (HKSCC) held on 11 January 2020. The elected office members are:

President	Dr. Jeffery SS KWOK
Vice President	Dr. Iris HS CHAN
Immediate Past President	Mr. Yun Chuen LO
Secretary	Ms. Cybil TY WONG
Treasurer	Mr. Emmett WK LAW
Council Members	Prof. YM Dennis LO
	Prof. Allen CK CHAN
	Prof. Joseph LEE
	Dr. Lydia CW LIT
	Dr. Doris CK CHING
	Dr. Sammy PL CHEN
	Dr. Felix CK WONG
	Mr. Emmett WK LAW
	Mr. Eric WK WONG
	Ms. Judy PS LAI
Mr. Vincent HK LEUNG	
National Representative to IFCC	Dr. Jeffery SS KWOK

At the 2020 Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM), Professor Ronald CW MA, Department of Medicine & Therapeutics, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Professor Alex PW LEE, Laboratory for Cardiac Imaging and 3D Printing, Prince of Wales Hospital presented the topics “Advances in Diabetes Diagnosis and Management” and “NT-proBNP in Heart Failure”, respectively.

There were also 4 industrial presentations by Abbott Laboratories, Beckman Coulter, Bio-Rad and Roche Diagnostics during the ASM.

The ASM was well attended by 181 members and guests.

Article continued on next page



Prof. Ronald MA,
speaker at the Annual Scientific Meeting 2020,
with Prof. Allen CHAN, HKSCC Council Member



Prof. Alex LEE,
speaker at the Annual Scientific Meeting 2020,
and Prof. Allen CHAN, HKSCC Council Member



The Hong Kong Society of Clinical Chemistry (HKSCC): 2020 – 2021 Council



News from the Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQC^{ML})

SEMI and SEQC^{ML} sign agreement to launch projects in the field of patient care, training, and research

SEQC^{ML}

- The agreement has been signed by the president of SEMI, Dr. Ricardo Gómez, and the president of SEQC^{ML}, Dr. Imma Caballé
- It will promote mutual cooperation between the two entities, and facilitate the exchange of scientific knowledge and professional training

MADRID, FEBRUARY 13, 2020

The Spanish Society of Internal Medicine (SEMI) has signed a collaboration framework agreement with the Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQC^{ML}) through which both entities will collaborate in the

implementation of projects and actions in the areas of healthcare, training, and research.

The agreement was signed today by the president of SEMI, Dr. Ricardo Gómez, and by the president of SEQC^{ML}, Dr. Imma Caballé, and involves the creation of a strategic alliance through which both entities will undertake to facilitate the exchange of scientific information, organize work sessions, and cooperate in the continuing education of professionals.

This framework agreement will also serve to promote the dissemination of medical knowledge about the



Snapshot of the SEMI and SEQCML agreement signature

Article continued on next page

specializations of both organizations. It will also serve to promote research, as well as joint collaboration initiatives of various kinds between professionals of the two societies.

In the words of SEMI president Dr. Ricardo Gómez, this alliance represents “a decisive step in establishing synergies of collaboration that will allow for the establishment of stable and permanent cooperation links between both organizations, and will contribute to launching initiatives of interest to the partners of both organizations in the field of healthcare, training, and research.”

For the president of the SEQC^{ML}, Dr. Imma Caballé, “this agreement is a way to bring laboratory medicine closer to internal medicine specialists, one of the groups with greatest importance in the activity of the laboratory. This collaboration will be seen in the healthcare area with the publication of joint documents, and in the informative field in conferences, presentations, congresses, etc.”

The signing of the agreement took place today in Madrid, at the headquarters of the SEMI, in which Dr. Gómez and Dr. Caballé held a work meeting that led to the signing of this agreement, which will be automatically renewed annually.



Snapshot of the SEMI and SEQCML agreement signature

For the coordination and follow-up of activities, a Joint Monitoring Commission will be established, which will include members of the two societies, and which will meet at least once a year.

About the Spanish Society of Internal Medicine (SEMI)

The Spanish Society of Internal Medicine (SEMI) is made up of approximately 8,400 internal medicine doctors from all over Spain. Among its priority objectives are to promote research in this field, as well as to combine the efforts of the different working groups that are part of the Society. At present, there are a total of 22 monographic groups for prevalent pathologies or areas of interest within Internal Medicine, a medical specialty that is defined by a comprehensive view of the patient and which plays a central role in the care of complex chronic patients.

For more information: www.fesemi.org.

About the Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQC^{ML})

The Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQC^{ML}) -founded in 1976- is an active member of IFCC and EFLM. The SEQC^{ML} currently encompasses more than 2,500 professionals, and its main objectives are to bring together all scientists interested in the field of Laboratory Medicine, promote the dissemination of scientific and technical publications, organize meetings, courses and congresses of national and international character, cooperate with other Scientific Societies, and defend and promote the specialties of the field of Laboratory Medicine as well as those of its members. Likewise, the Society wishes to contribute to studying and recommending methods and guides, and to establishing guidelines and recommendations for training in the field of Laboratory Medicine.

More information at: www.seqc.es.



EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY
AND LABORATORY MEDICINE



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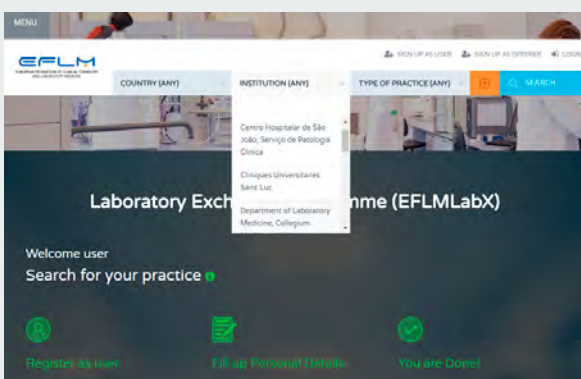
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EFLMLabX has been developed by Prof. Evgenija Homsak, Chair of the EFLM Profession Committee.

Contact: eflm@eflm.eu

JIB Paris: at the crossroads of innovation, ethics and professional performance

Dr. François Blanchecotte

JIB Congress President

*Chair, Committee European Affairs-Union Nationale des Professions Liberales (UNAPL)
and Union Nationale des Professionnels de Santé (UNPS)*

Member S-Conseil Economique, Social et Environnemental (CESE)

Pr. Virginie Ferre

Chair, JIB Scientific Committee

Department of virology, CHU de Nantes (FR)

Pr. Mariam Klouche

Chair, JIB International Francophone Committee

IFCC-DGKS representative (DE)

Dr. Bernard Gouget

Chair, JIB International Coordinating Committee

Chair IFCC-C-MHBLM (FR)



The 62nd Journées de l'Innovation en Biologie (JIB 2019) edition (Days of Innovation in Biology) was the year applauding the return at the “Palais des Congrès de Paris”, a place strongly marked by the memory of Paris 2015 for which the Syndicate of Biologists (SDB) was a strong partner. SDB is a professional and educational association of medical biologists, practicing in accordance with French applicable regulations in a public or private laboratory. All its members, doctors or pharmacists biologists are registered at their national Order (medicine or pharmacy). SDB mission is to promote medical biology and laboratory medicine and, more generally, everything related to the exercise of the profession both institutionally and scientifically. As such, the SDB organizes scientific works, congresses, colloquia and publishes a scientific and informative journal well known as “Biologie Médicale”.

Medical biology has never evolved so quickly in a rapidly changing health environment. It has never been more important to mobilize the profession regardless of the context of private or public exercise, university or general, in small groups or in commercial or reference laboratories. JIB 2019, which is the largest French event in the field of Lab Medicine, received the IFCC / EFLM auspices and brought together 3638 participants divided between 41% from the public sector, 36% from private, 23% coming from the multitude

of the national societies in the field of lab medicine. Young scientists represented 11.5% of the total registered. 35% of the participants came from abroad. An important delegation came from the Arabic and African countries. 78 IVD exhibitors were present on a space of 1100 m².

The speakers intervened into 57 conferences, 15 innovative pitches, 13 sponsored workshops and 115 posters were accepted. Different training paths were offered to the attendees: leadership and lab governance in the 20', innovative perspectives in medical biology and bioethics, latest lab medical breakthroughs and cutting-edge technologies, International benchmarking of quality of care.

The opening plenary session was an opportunity to present a BVA consulting survey on the public perception and the role and missions of the medical biologists in the new healthcare environment. The French population has a satisfactory opinion of the specialists in lab Medicine. Almost all French people had a biological sample taken in the laboratory (82%) at home (9%) in the medical office (4%) or by a nurse (5%). 96% of the population is less than 30 minutes from a medical lab. They are satisfied with the biological reports and confident in the quality of the results. Proximity, hygienic and security conditions, interval in reporting results, professionalism of medical and paramedical staff and opening hours are fundamental

Article continued on next page

attractiveness factors. The interpretation of the results is considered useful for 80% of the customers. 65% of the patients, at posteriori consult medical websites. The use of self-tests sold in pharmacies (Iron, HIV, PSA, etc.) still confused the population because they are considered as less reliable. Direct interactions with the medical biologist are still too rare, but considered as relevant, however 59% of patients consult their general practitioner or a specialist for the interpretation of their results and diagnosis. The French community has high level of trust in medical biologists in providing safe care to patients and practicing competently and ethically throughout their working lives. The survey showed that the general public was unaware of the evolution in the profession in terms of technological developments, consolidation and finances in the hands of investment funds. Young people are worried about their future and how to exercise this medical specialty. The medical biologist is still too unknown to the general public who would like to hear more about their areas of expertise and to see them involved in prevention.

The workshops sessions were focused on: diabetes monitoring; antibiotic resistance, personalized medicine, companion diagnostics, emergency care and terrorism, toxicology, POCT, fatty liver, kidney diseases and fibro genesis, intestinal microbiota, bariatric surgery and nutrition.

JIB 2019 welcomed many international speakers from 13 countries. Graham Beastall (UK), past IFCC-President, chaired a debate on shaping the future of Lab Medicine, describing the central role and future priorities and globalization of lab medicine. M. Klouche (DE), coordinated a round table with S.Callens, D. Stoffel (LU) and E Rial-Sebbag (FR) on the complex interaction between genetics and ethics. The heterogeneous regulations in Europe demonstrates the need for an interdisciplinary approach to assess the adequacy of genetic practices and the ethical reflections about them. J. Montamer (SP) spoke on the identification of biomarkers to be used as diagnosis and prognosis tools in ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke and as companion diagnosis for several stroke therapies. Medhi Khoussaji (MO) brilliantly represented D. Gruson, UCL, Bruxelles (BE), describing the value of new biological markers in cardiology. D. Stoppa-Lyonnet (FR),

Institute Curie, and member of the SeQOIA project, one of the sequencing platforms of the French Plan for Genomic Medicine 2025, shared her experience on the predispositions to breast cancer and targeted therapies with the studies of the BCRA1 and BCRA2 genes and the advantages of the NGS techniques. D. Meyronnet, medical pathologist and A. Perret-Liaudet (FR) illustrated the new biomarkers for Alzheimer diseases, mapping the road to the clinic. H. Puy and S. Bekri (FR) allowed us to understand the physiopathology of the hereditary diseases and cancer.

Several international round tables were organized. The accreditation in Europe was discussed with some EA representatives: H. Mehay (FR), I. de Villa (SP), JP. Bouilloux (Labac, FR), A.Vassault (FR) G. Nick-Maenpaa (FI), E. Van Rossen (BE). A second one, chaired by F Blanchecotte, was dedicated on the human papillomavirus prevention, screening and treatment in the European and Mediterranean countries with D. Mohammedi (DZ), A. Chachou (DZ), L. Chabraoui (MO), M. Corrado (IT), M. Haddad-Germanos (LB), J. Jonkheere (BE), T. Messaoud (TU), J. Nunes Oliveira (PT) (see attached photo). David Gruson (Jouve, FR) and JG Gobert and X.Palette (FR) exchanged on AI and the impact on *employment* and the medical workforces. B. Gouget (IFCC-CMHBLM), E. Gayat (FR), S. Payeur (FR), K. Peoc'h, I. Aimone-Gastin representing the clinical biology and informatics scientific societies spoke on AI Lab Medicine applications and cybersecurity. Finally, G. Pruvost (FR), as Medicius AI startup CEO, presented a smart platform and app that interprets and translates medical reports and health data into an easy-to-understand personalized explanation and health insights, all in an interactive experience.

Today, there is an immense uncertainty around coronavirus. We are identifying and isolating the sick, we hope the virus could be kept from spreading in communities around the globe with strict containment. At the beginning of the spring 2020, the world is shutting down. Places that were once teeming with the hustle and bustle of daily life have become ghost-towns with massive restrictions put on our lives - from lockdowns and school closures to travel restrictions and bans on mass gatherings. It is an unparalleled global response to a disease. But when will it end? When will we be able to get on with our lives? When can we “turn the

tide” against the outbreak? But even if the number of cases starts to fall in the next months, we will still be far from the end. It is a massive scientific and societal challenge. It can take a long time for the flow to go on.

What we need is a walking out strategy, a way of lifting restrictions and getting back to normal life. If this is the

case, the next JIB 2020 «*At the forefront of change and innovation in LabMed*» will be organized at the Palais des Congrès, Paris, on November 4-5 2020, in a safe and secure environment so as not to put the attendees at risk.

We need courage, we need to be brave, and right now who else is doing that but the healthcare workers!



L to R: François Blanchecotte, Taieb Ben Messaoud, Marino Corrado, Jef Jonckee, Mariam Klouche, Christian Haddad, Dakia Mohammedi, Bernard Gouget, Myrna Germanos, Jorge Nunes Oliveira, Abdelhalim Chachou, Layachi Chabraoui

NEW IFCC MEMBERS

IFCC welcomes a new Corporate Member: Tosoh Corporation



Tosoh's diagnostic systems feature advanced immunoassay technologies such as the AIA & AIA-CL series of automated immunoassay analyzers, G series of glycohemoglobin analyzers, and molecular testing solutions that support the monitoring of such life-threatening disease as diabetes, certain cancers, and microbial infections.

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Website: www.tosohbioscience.com/clinical-diagnostics.



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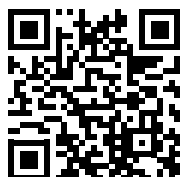
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IFCC'S CALENDAR OF CONGRESSES, CONFERENCES & EVENTS

We advise readers to keep up-to-date about the evolving situation and possible rescheduled dates.
Contact organizing secretariats for updates on upcoming events.

Calendar of IFCC Congresses/Conferences and Regional Federations' Congresses

<i>new date TBA</i>	 <p>XV ICPLM Emerging Technologies in Pediatric Laboratory Medicine</p>	<i>International Congress of Pediatric Laboratory Medicine - WorldLab Seoul 2020</i>	<i>venue TBA</i>
<i>new date TBA</i>	 <p>IFCC International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine</p>	<i>IFCC Young Scientists Forum</i>	Seoul, KR
<i>new date TBA</i>	 <p>IFCC International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine</p>	<i>IFCC C-POCT Satellite Meeting - WorldLab Seoul 2020</i>	<i>venue TBA</i>
<i>new date TBA</i>	 <p>International Consortium for Harmonization of Clinical Laboratory Results</p>	<i>IFCC - ICHCLR Workshop - Barriers to global standardization of clinical laboratory testing: reference materials and regulations</i>	<i>venue TBA</i>
Jan 6 - 10, 2021	 <p>IFCC WorldLab SEOUL 2020 24th International Congress of Pediatric Laboratory Medicine</p>	<i>XXIV IFCC WorldLab Seoul 2020</i>	Seoul, KR

Calendar continued on next page

May 16 - 20, 2021		<i>XXIV IFCC - EFLM EuroMedLab Munich 2021</i>	Munich, DE
Oct 15 - 18, 2022		<i>16th APFCB Congress 2022</i>	Sydney, AU
May 21 - 25, 2023		<i>XXV IFCC - EFLM WorldLab EuroMedLab - Rome 2023</i>	Rome, IT

Calendar of events with IFCC auspices

We advise readers to keep up-to-date about the evolving situation and possible rescheduled dates. Contact organizing secretariats for updates on upcoming events.

Feb 20 -Nov 15, 2020	<i>Virtual Diploma in Control of Analytical Quality in the Clinical Laboratory</i>	Internet series of lectures, MX
Postponed	<i>42th Conference LABAC "First International Conference on in vitro hemolysis"</i>	Paris, FR
Postponed to: 16-18 July 2020	<i>6th Serbian Biomarker Symposium (SERBIS) Lipid Metabolism in Health and Disease</i>	Belgrade, SRB
Apr 15 - 18, 2020	<i>The 13th International & 18th National Congress on Quality Improvement in Clinical Laboratories</i>	Tehran, IR
Postponed	<i>VI Jornadas Bioquímicas de Cuyo 2020</i>	San Luis, AR

Calendar continued on next page

Postponed	<i>LabMed Next</i>	Rome, IT
Apr 30 - May 3, 2020	<i>LXVI Congreso Estatal de Quimica Clinica y Expoquim 2020</i>	Ciudad Obregon, MX
Postponed to: 16-18 July 2020	<i>4th Conference of the Romanian Association of Laboratory Medicine</i>	Târgu-Mureş, RO
May 28 - 30, 2020	<i>II National Meeting Conquilab and Technological</i>	Mazatlan, MX
Jun 3, 2020 - Jan 3, 2021	<i>Virtual Postgraduate Course of Clinical Biochemistry</i>	Tultepec, MX - Virtual page
Jun 9 - 12, 2020	<i>XXXVII Nordic Congress in Medical Biochemistry</i>	Trondheim, NO
Jul 3 - 8, 2020	<i>24th International Conference on Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology - An Expert Forum on Innovation in Clinical and Laboratory Medical Sciences</i>	Samos, GR
Sep 6 - 8, 2020	<i>16th National and 7th International Congress of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology</i>	Tehran, IR
Sep 23 - 25, 2020	<i>The innovations and trends that are shaping the future of laboratory medicine and Neighbouring Countries: the Same Professional Aim in Laboratory Medicine</i>	Belgrade, SRB
Sep 23 - 25, 2020	<i>LMCE 2020 (Laboratory Medicine Congress and Exhibition) KSLM 61st Annual Meeting</i>	Incheon, KR
Sept 28 - Oct 1, 2020	<i>10th Santorini Conference "Systems medicine and personalized health and therapy" – "The odyssey from hope to practice: Patient first – Keeps Ithaca always in your mind"</i>	Santorini, GR
Sept 30 - Oct 2, 2020	<i>28th International Critical and Point-of-Care Testing (CPOCT) Symposium</i>	Montreal, CA
Oct 23, 2020	<i>Pathology and Laboratory Medicine: The Promise, The Hope, The Peril</i>	Padova, IT
Nov 27 - 28, 2020	<i>3rd EFLM Strategic Conference on Demand Management</i>	Zagreb, HR
Nov 30, 2020	<i>14th CIRME International Scientific Meeting "Implementation of metrological traceability in laboratory medicine: where we are and what is missing"</i>	Milan, IT
Dec 4 - 5, 2020	<i>54 èmes Journées de Biologie Praticienne - JBP</i>	Paris, FR
June 10 - 11, 2021	<i>8th International Symposium on Critical Care Testing and Blood Gases</i>	Biarritz, FR

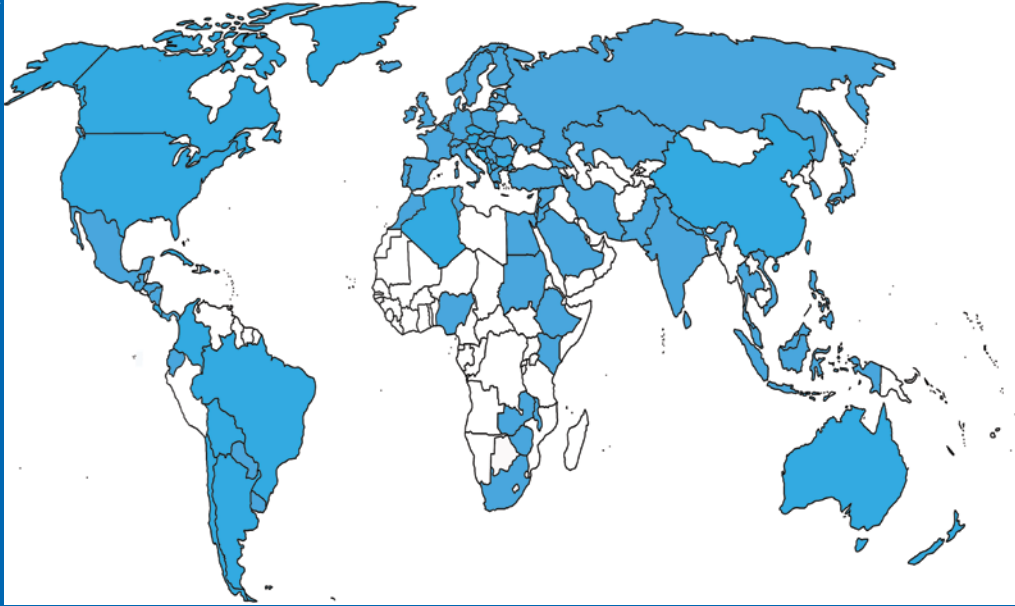
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African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC)
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Philippines: Philippine Council for Quality Assurance in Clinical Laboratories (PCQACL)
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Spain: Asociación Española de Farmacéuticos Analistas (AEFA)
Turkey: Society of Clinical Biochemistry Specialists (KBUD)
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