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## EuroLabNews

THE EFLM BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Season's Greetings from  
the President of the EFLM

Dear Colleagues,

I want to take the opportunity of this 2018 December issue of EuroLabNews and the rapidly approaching Christmas to send season's greetings to all of you from me personally and also on behalf of my fellow EB members.

This past year I have had the chance to meet many of you on various occasions, e.g. when visiting national gatherings and congresses. I have been very much impressed by the devotion and the enthusiasm you have conveyed in our face-to-face encounters and our discussions. It is very encouraging to see that many of you have followed or are considering to respond to our calls to become engaged in EFLM matters and contribute in the various committees and groups, thereby also improving the exchange between the member countries. This is proof that our federation is lively and a thriving one. There are a number of issues the EB is now working very actively on the challenges that Laboratory Medicine will be facing in the coming years. Firstly, among the most pressing are strategies to be developed in Laboratory Medicine to deal with digital health and digital health care. Faster than other areas in medicine, the diagnostic disciplines will be involved early, as they usually generate structured and standardized data and manage them by appropriate Information Technology – something undoubtedly a core competency of our profession. While this would suggest that the medical laboratory is in a good starting position for a pioneering role in digital

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## Foreword

by Harjit Pal Bhattoa, Editor EFLM EuroLabNews



The final issue of this year is inaugurated by the EFLM President Michael Neumaier with the Season's Greetings. Dr. Patricia Wilkie, President of the UK National Association for Patient Participation, writes on what Laboratory Medicine can do to meet patient expectations under the Hot Topic column and

the importance of the subject is highlighted by comments from Dr. Ian Watson, Chair EFLM WG on Patient Focused Laboratory Medicine.

Prof. Ana-Maria Simundic, Chair EFLM WG-Preanalytical Phase, announces the Joint EFLM-COLABIOCLI recommendation for venous blood sampling. Call for nomination for 2 full members and a young scientist member is advertised by the EFLM Patient Focused Laboratory Medicine Working Group. Another extraordinary opportunity for young participants is presented as an EFLM bursary programme to attend the 5th EFLM Conference on Preanalytical Phase to be held in Zagreb on 22-23 March, 2019, kindly note the deadline for application is 31 January, 2019. Prof. Dr. Ozkan Alatas, Chair – Congress Organizing Committee summarizes the 5th EFLM-UEMS European Joint Congress in Laboratory Medicine- "Laboratory Medicine

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*Continued from Foreword*

at the Clinical Interface". MariaStella Graziani, Chair of the EFLM Communications Committee, provides an update on the EFLM publications list. The National Society of Spain and Italy outline their recent professional activities. Please note the EFLM awards to be presented at the 23rd IFCC-EFLM EuroMedLab Congress in Barcelona, 2019 with a 17 February, 2019 deadline for application. The IFCC News Corner makes it debut in this issue of the EuroLabNews and we are looking forward to publish IFCC news items on a regular basis. The EuroMedLab Congress in Barcelona is one of the exciting upcoming events enlisted in the Calendar of Events.

On behalf of the EuroLabNews team, I wish you all a peaceful festive season and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

*Continued from Season's Greetings from the President of the EFLM*

structures and processes over the next years. Secondly, this formidable quest is inextricably linked to the requirements of adapted or even new concepts in education and continuous professional development addressing both new ways of test interpretation and communication with patients and doctors. It is very reassuring that EFLM has a strong Education and Training committee, the programs of which we should strongly support – a very promising example is the new LabXchange program that you find on the EFLM homepage or the important upcoming syllabus courses based on the newly published EFLM syllabus (Jassam N, et al Clin Chem Lab Med. 2018;56:1846–63). Please go visit and stay tuned!

Many of you will know that in June 2018 the EFLM organised a successful strategic conference entitled "The End of Laboratory Medicine as we know it? Dealing with Disruption of Laboratory Medicine in digital Health". In this well-attended conference, we have discussed the issues raised above with known international experts, and you will find the proceedings of this congress on the eLearning platform of the EFLM webpage and position paper in an upcoming special issue of CCLM. Finally, as a consequence of the strategic conference, EFLM has now started to establish a Task Force "Disruptive Technologies" comprising several Task and Finish Groups (TFGs) that will propose strategies and solutions. Calls will be issued shortly, and you are welcome to contribute.

I want to leave you with these thoughts and wish you a pleasant holiday season and a good start into 2019.

*Michael Neumaier*  
EFLM President

## HOT TOPICS IN LABORATORY MEDICINE

# What can laboratory medicine do to meet the expectations of patients?

by Patricia Wilkie, President UK National Association for Patient Participation



### The world is changing

The 1940's saw the development of early computers. The 1960's saw the beginnings in Europe of the consumer health movements leading in the 21st century to a more questioning public.

In the 1990's, the world wide web was developed and the 2000's saw the widespread availability of smart phones, health Apps and the internet as a source of health information. This brings challenges as no longer are clinicians the only source of medical information.

### The world is changing: patients and lab tests

Frequently patients are told that a sample will be taken and some "tests" carried out. There may or may not be an explanation by the clinician of why

*Introduction by Ian D Watson, Former EFLM President, Chair EFLM WG on Patient Focused Laboratory Medicine*

Laboratories need to focus on the patient was recognised many years ago (1), and although we in EFLM have established a Working Group on Patient Focused Laboratory Medicine this did not initially include input from patient advocates. We have had the benefit of the perceptive input of Dr Patricia Wilkie who is the President of the National Association for Patient Participation (UK) (2,3). An awareness of the patient perspective as outlined in the accompanying article is essential for laboratory service providers genuinely interested in progressing and assisting patient understanding of laboratory results.

There is increasing awareness of this aspect of the patient revolution, which, along with the technological revolution in monitoring and data accessibility and manipulation, formed the basis of the

2nd EFLM Strategic Conference in Mannheim in June 2018; the proceedings will soon be published in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine and will inform the basis of progressing this exciting frontier in collaborative Laboratory Medicine provision with patients.

### References

1. Lundberg G. Managing the Patient Focused Laboratory (1977) Van Nostrand Reinhold New York.
2. Watson ID, Wilkie P, Hannan A, Beastall GH. Role of Laboratory Medicine in Collaborative Healthcare. Clin Chem Lab Med doi.org/10.1515/cclm-2017-0853.
3. Wilkie P. Patients Views on Understanding Laboratory Results: Challenges for Laboratory Staff. Clin Chem Lab Med. (accepted for publication)

this needs to be done, what these tests are for, which conditions can be identified and who does the test. It is understood that clinicians who may suspect a serious condition may not wish to disclose this to the patient until they have evidence. However, it should be remembered that patients themselves often suspect problems. Patients may receive an explanation about the results from a clinician or they may be told by a receptionist that the results are "fine" without any explanation of what fine means.

The scenario described above is changing and must change as more and more patients are learning to self-manage their long-term conditions as well as having easier access to their medical record including laboratory results. Increasing numbers of patients expect to be a partner in their health care (1) and many use health Apps and home testing equipment. In addition, technology is enabling many UK and European patients to have easy access to their medical notes including laboratory results (2).

### Patients expectations of laboratory medicine

In this short paper, both patients' expectations of laboratory medicine and how these can be addressed by laboratory staff are described.

- Patients need to know that results are reliable, accurate and safe.
- Patients assume that they will be told when they can expect to receive their results and from whom.
- In the digital age patients assume that results can be sent very quickly.
- Many patients now assume that they will be able to receive the results on their smart phone
- Patients need a clear explanation of the meaning of the results
- Some patients may wish to speak to laboratory staff directly about their test results

### The language of laboratory reports

Traditionally laboratory reports have been written and produced for the referring clinician. In 2018 patients are increasingly having access to their test results often without an explanation from a referring clinician. Patients need a clear explanation of the meaning of the results and do not necessarily know where to find such information apart from the internet, magazines and the media. The referring clinician and Lab Tests Online-UK (3) are reliable sources of information for patients about the meaning of laboratory tests. Patients need an explanation of how results are interpreted with implications for the individual patient. There needs to be a clear explanation of risk and uncertainty (4) using different methods including graphics, pictograms, figures and words. There is considerable variation in the general population of how people interpret risk. Patients do not form a heterogeneous group. A patient's perception of risk may be quite different from that of a health care professional. Many patients do not appreciate that medicine is not an exact science (5). Thus, laboratory professionals need to be able to share uncertainty with patients. An explanation of what is normal for the particular patient is also required by patients.

### IT and patients having direct access to laboratory staff

Increasing numbers of patients are IT literate including the over 60's and these numbers will grow. Many patients assume that they can receive laboratory results quickly. Some patients expect to receive their results directly from the lab without first seeing their clinician. This is particularly important for patients involved in the management of long-term conditions. Some of these patients may receive their results digitally while for others this may be a paper copy. It is understood that receiving results directly from the lab may not be appropriate for all results and all patients.

Patients often express a desire to receive information from the person with specialist knowledge. How easy will it be for patients

to contact the laboratory to speak to someone about their results? Will this be offered, and will it be advertised as a service to patients? There will also be an increasing need for laboratories to communicate directly with patients

### Accountability and responsibility

When laboratory tests are initiated by a clinician and the results given to the patient by a clinician, the lines of responsibility and accountability are clear. When the results are sent by the laboratory directly to the patient, can patients expect that the responsibility for the accuracy of the results, lies with the laboratory staff? Increasing numbers of patients are opting for on line testing. Such people need to know that the laboratory is appropriately accredited. Millions of patients have accurate tests performed. On the occasions when mistakes are made, laboratories need to be honest and give appropriate explanations to patients. Patients expect to know who is accountable. Honesty encourages respect and trust.

### Turning the page (Emmanuel Macron 2017)

Advances in technology create great opportunities for patients and laboratory staff. But these advances also create challenges. With an increase in patient knowledge and understanding comes an increase in patient expectations of what is possible. Laboratory staff will need to ensure that reports are produced in a form understandable to most patients and that patients receive them in a timely manner. Laboratory staff need to consider both how they may work directly with patients and where accountability lies. We are living in a rapidly changing world. The goal posts do not remain static!

### References

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2. Moll J, et al. (2018). Patients experience of accessing their online electronic health records: results of a national patient survey in Sweden Journal medical internet research. ISSN:1438-8871
3. Lab Tests Online-UK - [www.labtestsonline.org.uk](http://www.labtestsonline.org.uk)
4. Ahmed H, et al. (2012). Communicating Risk. BMJ 344:e3996
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### NEWS FROM THE EFLM WORKING GROUPS

## News from the EFLM Working Group Preanalytical Phase

by Ana-Maria Simundic, Chair of the EFLM WG-Preanalytical Phase

EFLM WG-PRE proudly announces that Joint EFLM-COLABIOCLI Recommendation for venous blood sampling have already been translated into French, Spanish and Portuguese. We therefore invite all EFLM National Societies to consider translating this important document into their local language, publish it in their National Society journals and send a link to the PDF of the Translation to EFLM. All links to translations of the recommendation in different languages shall be made available at the EFLM website. We hope that this will encourage widespread implementation of this document into all laboratories throughout Europe and beyond.

Please note that translations and original documents are considered as one reference in different languages, and authors





of the translation are the authors of the original document. In the translation there should be a note stating that the document is a translation of the official document. Also, the following statement should be inserted into the translation (on the first/front page of the article): "This is a (insert language name) language translation of the (insert document name). (insert name of organization) prepared this translation with support from (insert name of funding source, if any). The EFLM has not endorsed nor approved the contents of this translation. The official version of the Document is located at [www.eflm.eu](http://www.eflm.eu). Users should cite this official version when citing the document."

#### VACANCIES IN EFLM FUNCTIONAL UNITS

## EFLM Working Group "Patient Focused Laboratory Medicine" – deadline to submit nominations: 16 December 2018

The Working Group "Patient Focused Laboratory Medicine" (WG-PFLM) was established in 2013 with the aim to explore and promote the engagement of patients and professionals in enabling patients to receive individualised support in understanding what their results mean for them. This group headed by the EFLM Past President Ian Watson, has been very successful e.g. performing surveys that have led to various papers like the one on the interpretive support from Specialists in Laboratory Medicine or on the European views on patients directly obtaining their laboratory test results. Some members of WG-PFLM will be finishing their terms by the end of 2018, therefore we are calling for nominations of:

- **2 full members**
- **1 young scientist member (must be ; 35y of age at the time of nomination).**

In order to complement the successful work on guidelines and recommendations of the past, the EB of EFLM has decided to put major emphasis and support future collaborative laboratory studies in areas of Preanalytics, also with the goal of attracting public grant funding. Accordingly, the scientific profile of the nominates candidates will be highly considered. The EFLM EB expects that the nominated group members are willing to interact with scientists within the EFLM to further said collaborative project activities.

The WG terms of reference are available at [www.eflm.eu](http://www.eflm.eu). For all the above mentioned positions, the term of office will be for 2 years (1 Jan 2019 - 31 Dec 2020). The position could be renewable for other two more terms if the work for the Group is deemed essential at that time. The work is mainly conducted by e-mail and teleconferencing, the WG usually meets once per year.

Procedure for applications: each EFLM National Society Member in good standing with the membership fee can submit one nomination using the form circulated to the National Society's representatives to be sent back to [silvia.cattaneo@eflm.eu](mailto:silvia.cattaneo@eflm.eu). A brief plan of the applicant's contribution to the aims and objectives of the relevant Working Group has to be included in the form. Together with the application, a short CV should also be submitted underlining the qualifications and prior experience and publications in the relevant area. Candidates have to be officially recommended by their National Society through a formal letter of support. Applicants who are not selected as full members may be eligible for corresponding membership.

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## EFLM BURSARY PROGRAMME TO ATTEND THE

5<sup>th</sup> EFLM CONFERENCE ON  
PREANALYTICAL PHASE

"Preanalytical challenges - time for solutions"


<http://www.preanalytical-phase.org/>

This is to inform you that EFLM is promoting a bursary programme for young scientists attending the 5th EFLM Conference on Preanalytical Phase to be held in Zagreb on 22-23 March 2019.

A limited number of bursaries is available, the bursaries will cover the cost of the travel and 2-night accommodation for a maximum of Eur 750,00. EFLM bursary recipients will also receive the free conference registration and a free on-line yearly subscription to CCLM, kindly offered by W. de Gruyter.

Eligible candidates must come from an EFLM Member Society and meet the following criteria:

- Young participants ( $\leq 35$ y at the date of the conference);
- Having a poster abstract accepted as First Author (deadline for abstract submission December 1, 2018)

Applications must be submitted through the dedicated application form (downloadable from [www.eflm.eu](http://www.eflm.eu)) and accompanied by the following documentation:

- 1) Copy of the ID or passport,
- 2) Document proving the membership to the National Society,
- 3) Notification of poster acceptance (acceptance/rejection will be sent by the conference organizers within January 13)

**Applications have to be sent to [silvia.cattaneo@eflm.eu](mailto:silvia.cattaneo@eflm.eu) within January 31, 2019.**

We assume that people submitting the application for the bursary have already decided to attend the conference (having an abstract accepted). So we expect that non-selected applicants do not withdraw the abstract. Thanks!

With kindest regards,

*Daria Pasalic*

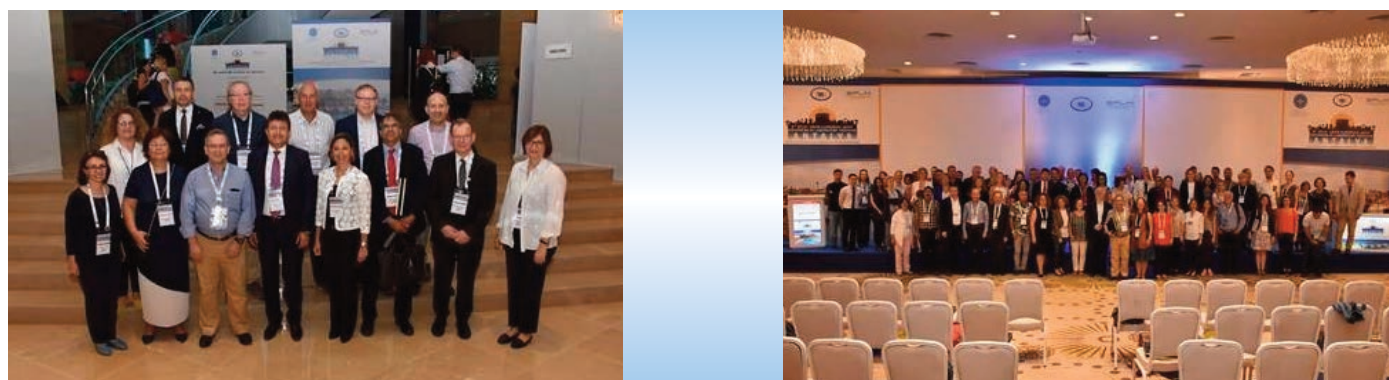
Chair of the EFLM Education and Training Committee

## PAST EVENTS

5<sup>th</sup> EFLM-UEMS European Joint Congress in Laboratory  
Medicine - "Laboratory Medicine at the Clinical Interface"

by Ozkan Alatas, Chair - Congress Organizing Committee

5th EFLM-UEMS European Joint Congress in Laboratory Medicine was successfully held between 10-13th October 2018 in Antalya. Over 400 registered participants had the chance of listening to 60 distinguished speakers, 33 oral presentations, and visiting 206 posters on various topics. They had the opportunity of exchanging ideas not only scientifically, but also understanding where laboratory medicine stands as a medical discipline today and it will stand in the future. The presidents of WASPaLM, IFCC, EFLM, UEMS Section of Laboratory Medicine, TSCB, the secretary of IATDMCT and the treasurer of UEMS honored the congress.





#### UPDATES ON EFLM PUBLICATIONS

## Updates of the EFLM Publication list

by Maria Stella Graziani, Chair of the EFLM Communication Committee

A couple of EFLM papers have been added recently to our publication list.

The first one has been produced by the EFLM WG on Test Evaluation (WG-TE).

#### **Practical guide for identifying unmet clinical needs for biomarkers**

*Monaghan PJ, Robinson S, Rajdl D, Bossuyt PMM, Sandberg S, St John A, O'Kane M, Lennartz L, Röddiger R, Lord SJ, Cobbaert CM, Horvath AR. for the Test Evaluation EFLM WG.*

EJIFCC. 2018;29:129-37

The paper illustrates the work carried on by the EFLM TE-WG in approaching the development of new biomarkers and testing strategies with a close attention to existing clinical pathways, including mapping of current pathways and identifying areas of unmet need. The WG has produced first a conceptual framework of the test evaluation cycle which is driven by the clinical pathway, inherent to which is the test purpose and role within the pathway that are defined by clinical need. To supplement this framework, the EFLM TE-WG has also published an interactive checklist for identifying unmet clinical needs for new biomarkers; a practical tool equally usable by laboratories, clinicians, researchers and industry. Both tools are available at the WG-TE web page (<https://www.eflm.eu/site/page/a/1158>)

The second one has been published by the indefatigable WG on Biological Variation (WG-BV).

#### **Systematic review of the biological variation data for diabetes related analytes**

*González-Lao E, Corte Z, Simón M, Ricós C, Coskun A, Braga F, Aarsand A.K, Carobene A, Bartlett WA, Boned B, Asland B, Díaz-Garzón J, Marqués-García F, Minchinela J, Perich C, Fernández-Calle P, Roraas T, Fernández-Fernández P, Jonker N, Sandberg S.*

Clin Chim Acta 2018. doi: 10.1016/j.cca.2018.10.031

The aim of this study was to quality assess publications reporting biological variation data for diabetes-related analytes using the Biological Variation Data Critical Appraisal Checklist (BIVAC) developed and made available to the scientific community by the WG-BV. BIVAC assessment of 47 publications delivered 1 A (highest quality), 3 B, 39 C and 4 D (poorest quality) gradings. Publications relating to adiponectin, C-peptide, IGF-1, IGFBP-3, lactate and pyruvate were all assessed as grade C. Meta-analysis enabled global BV estimates for all analytes except pyruvate, lactate and fructosamine. It can be concluded that there remains a need for delivery of new high-quality BV studies for several clinically important analytes.

#### NEWS FROM EFLM NATIONAL SOCIETIES

## SEQC<sup>ML</sup>

Sociedad Española de Medicina de Laboratorio

## News from the Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQC<sup>ML</sup>)

On October 24, 25, and 26 Bilbao hosted the main national scientific event for Laboratory Medicine, the National Clinical Laboratory Congress (LabClin 2018)

#### **Clinical laboratory professionals defend their role in improving health outcomes**

- Organized by the Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQCML), the Spanish Association of Medical Biopathology-Laboratory Medicine (AEBM) and the Spanish Clinical Laboratory Association (AEFA)
- More than 100 speakers and moderators participated in the various scientific activities of the Congress, such as pre-congress courses, symposia, workshops, communications, posters, and conferences
- Autoimmunity, allergy, and immunology; genetics and molecular techniques; reproductive pathology and prenatal diagnosis; endocrinology and hormones; infectious diseases, medications and drugs of abuse, quality assurance; and cardiac and tumour markers, are just some of the topics that were addressed at this gathering

Bilbao, October 2018 - In October, Bilbao hosted the XII National Clinical Laboratory Congress (LabClin 2018), organized by the three national clinical laboratory societies, the Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQCML), the Spanish Association of Medical Biopathology-Laboratory Medicine (AEBM) and the Spanish Clinical Laboratory Association (AEFA), which allowed for a Congress in which the interests of all laboratory professionals came together. The importance of this congress is that it represented the principal national scientific event for laboratory medicine, which together with the multiple and varied training activities provided by each of the scientific societies and by the professionals themselves, made it a scientific reference for the field and reflects the enormous professional stimulation of the laboratory specialties. Dr. Mercedes Martínez-Novillo González, president of the Congress Organizing Committee, affirmed that at the present time "the clinical laboratory area





is being recognized as a field of knowledge whose leadership and visibility we must defend and proclaim, highlighting the role of the laboratory professional as a key figure in the current healthcare model, which is focusing increasingly on the patient, and reinforcing the role of Laboratory Medicine in improving health outcomes for citizens".

#### High scientific level

The purpose of the Congress was to be a professional meeting point of the highest scientific quality, encouraging the attendance of expert professionals-in-training, facilitating the updating of knowledge and the approach to new challenges in the laboratory, as well as constituting a platform for the exchange of knowledge and experiences of enormous value, facilitating collaboration between different working groups. For this, the scientific content and format of the Congress was key. Dr. Antonio Buño, president of the Committee of Congresses of the Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine, explains that the creation of the scientific program involved specialists of recognized prestige, both nationally and internationally, in each of the areas addressed". Specifically, the scientific program was based on 13 thematic areas: autoimmunity, allergy and immunology; genetics and molecular techniques; reproductive pathology and prenatal diagnosis; endocrinology and hormones; infectious diseases and microbiology; technical evaluation, point-of-care testing (POCT); medications and drugs of abuse; renal and digestive function; pre-analytics; quality assurance, information technology and management; haematology and haemostasis; cardiac markers, and lipid and tumour markers. Thanks to this variety of areas of knowledge, the Congress covered most of the fields that nowadays concern Laboratory Medicine specialists. In addition, given that "laboratory professionals are increasingly involved in hospital life, it is important to have knowledge of a broad range of disciplines, such as quality, management, research and teaching, innovation, etc., so these subjects also have their place in the scientific program," said Dr. Martínez-Novillo. "The official activities of the Congress program, such as pre-congress courses, symposia, and other sessions, were combined with workshops. All of this means that there were more than 35 different activities in total, and this ensured a broad coverage of the different clinical laboratory disciplines in a way that enabled the continuous training of the attendees (among whom were future specialists

who are currently carrying out their periods of specialized training), and provided updates on hot topics in our specialty," says Dr. Buño.

#### New this edition

Throughout the three days of the congress (October 24, 25, and 26) there were numerous scientific activities - endorsed by the excellent results obtained in previous editions -, such as 4 pre-congress courses and 10 symposia, not counting the close to 15 workshops organized by in vitro diagnostic companies (DIV), conferences, and the presentation of communications and posters, among other activities in which more than 100 speakers and moderators participated. Among the new highlights of this edition, it is worth mentioning the introduction of a debate session format, presenting a current topic that was the subject of debate between two positions. This new approach allowed us to provide new ways of sharing professional opinions, framed in the current healthcare situation. Likewise, for the first time, communications in English were presented, allowing us to receive work by professionals who were interested in participating in the congress but who were not able to do so in Spanish. In addition, the DIV companies presented their latest news on both technical and knowledge fronts in this high level forum, contributing the criteria of innovation in the latest trends. "This platform represents a forum of interest for everyone, and in addition the participation and ongoing collaboration of these companies represents an endorsement of the specialties of Laboratory Medicine", concluded the president of the Organizing Committee of the Congress.

#### The SEQC<sup>ML</sup>

The Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQCML) -founded in 1976- currently includes more than 2,500 professionals, and its main objective is to bring together all scientists interested in the field of Laboratory Medicine, to promote the dissemination of scientific and technical publications, to organize meetings, courses and congresses of a national and international nature, to cooperate with other Scientific Societies, and to defend and promote the specialties within Laboratory Medicine as well as its associates. Likewise, the Society wishes to contribute to the study and recommendation of standardized methods and the establishment of guidelines and recommendations for training in the field of Laboratory Medicine.

#### NEWS FROM THE ITALIAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY

## InnovaSIBioC: A Laboratory of Ideas for Laboratory Medicine

by Rossella Tomaiuolo, University of Napoli

In October 2017, SIBioC launched InnovaSIBioC, a project that aims to spread the corporate culture in the field of Laboratory Medicine, thus fostering the relationship between researchers, the business world and finance. Sixteen teams, composed of young researchers engaged in basic and translational biomedical research, have joined the initiative for developing business idea with high technological content of innovation and possible practical implications in the field of Laboratory Medicine. The proposed activities were biotechnological and digital in essence, and were oriented towards optimization of laboratory workflows together with important improvements of services offered to patients. After following a training program on the issue of technology transfer, they presented the "Business Idea", describing high-tech ideas, and result of the group's original work. An interdisciplinary jury composed of medical doctors, biologists, biotechnologists and managers has evaluated all the applicants' business ideas according to their scientific validity (high level of innovation, feasibility of the project), and to the skills of the proposing team.

Eight teams were selected for InnovaDays where, thanks to the support of specialized mentors, they had the opportunity to deepen the development of the proposal and to optimize their business idea through construction of an elevator pitch and business writing techniques. At the end of the InnovaDays, the jury has examined the business idea and has finally awarded a prize to the best 3 Business Idea: Tumor biomarker predictive of response to immunotherapy (S. Romano) Screening of genetic risk factors for Alzheimer's (G. Sancesario) TuBeWitness (F. Cariatì) A special Mention (TENPROProstate project, D. Terracciano) has also been assigned to female entrepreneurship: the inspiring principle of this special mention is the recognition and promotion of new female and social roles in line with European and national policies on welfare. InnovaSIBioC was created thanks to the non-conditioning contribution of Roche and Fujirebio. Now, we are getting ready for the II edition!!



**Il Laboratorio di Idee  
per la Medicina di Laboratorio**

**EFLM and Abbott Diagnostics are pleased to announce:**

## EFLM Award for Excellence in Outcomes Research in Lab. Med. - sponsored by Abbott Diagnostics



The Award is given to the best published paper, as judged by an independent panel of experts, which demonstrates improved clinical and/or economic outcomes of an in vitro diagnostic test or better management of laboratory/test data. Entries must be published studies demonstrating improved clinical and/or economic outcomes of an in vitro diagnostic test or better management of laboratory/test data

## EFLM Award for Excellence in Performance Specifications Research - sponsored by Abbott Diagnostics



The Award is given to the best published paper, as judged by an independent panel of experts, which demonstrates an important and novel contribution to the theory or practical application of performance specifications. Entries must be published studies demonstrating an important and novel contribution to the theory or practical application of performance specifications.

**Both awards, consisting of a certificate and a sum of 5,000 Euro, will be presented at the 23rd IFCC-EFLM EuroMedLab Congress in Barcelona (May 19-23, 2019).**

### General criteria

- Entries must have been published or finally accepted for publication between 1 January 2018 and 15 February 2019.
- Entries must be published in English in a peer-reviewed medical, scientific or health economics journal.
- The submitting author must be the first or last author of the paper and a member of an EFLM National Society.
- The Award will be presented to the first author, who is responsible for division of the award among his/her co-authors.

### Submission Procedure

Applications, clearly marked for which award, must be submitted by first or last author of the paper and must be accompanied by:

- Reprint of the publication or (in the case of publications in press), a manuscript copy and a copy of the journal Editor's letter indicating the final acceptance for publication;
- Short CV of the submitting author;
- Document proving membership to an EFLM Society;
- Statement signed by all authors of the publication consenting to submission of the paper for the Award and to the conditions of entry.

**Applications should be submitted via e-mail to EFLM at [eflm@eflm.eu](mailto:eflm@eflm.eu) by 17 February 2019**



## EFLM Cardiac Marker Award

for remarkable scientific work in the field  
of cardiovascular diseases  
sponsored by HyTest

*The EFLM Cardiac Marker Award sponsored by HyTest is granted to a young scientist for remarkable scientific work in the field of cardiovascular diseases. EFLM is very pleased of the collaboration with HyTest for this award, through which we intend to achieve wider recognition of the importance of high quality research in the field of cardiac markers among laboratory professionals in Europe*

The Award is given to the best published paper, as judged by an independent panel of experts, which demonstrates a remarkable scientific work in the field of cardiovascular diseases. Articles must have been published or accepted for publication between 1 January 2018 and 17 February 2019 and must be published in English in a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

### Eligibility criteria:

The applicant must fulfill the following criteria:

- First or last author of the paper and a member of an EFLM National Society;
- Age  $\leq$  40 years at the time when the paper was published.

### Award timing:

The EFLM Cardiac Marker Award sponsored by HyTest is awarded every two years. The award 2019 will be presented at the 23rd IFCC-EFLM EuroMedLab Congress to be held in Barcelona (SP) from 19 to 23 May 2019.

### Award details:

The selected scientist will receive an award of € 5.000 and the costs for attending the EuroMedLab Congress (economy class travel, reasonable accommodation and the congress registration fee). The Award will be presented to the first author, who is responsible for division of the award among his/her co-authors.

### Submission procedure:

Applications must be submitted by first or last author of the paper and must be accompanied by:

- Reprint of the publication or (in the case of publications in press), a manuscript copy and a copy of the journal Editor's letter indicating the final acceptance for publication;
- Short CV of the submitting author;
- Document proving membership to an EFLM Society;
- Document proving the age;
- Statement signed by all authors of the publication consenting to submission of the paper for the Award and accepting the conditions of entry.

**Applications should be submitted via e-mail to EFLM at [eflm@eflm.eu](mailto:eflm@eflm.eu) by 17 February 2019**

### WG-Vit D: a new IFCC Working Group on Vitamin D Standardization Program

The Vitamin D Standardization Program (VDSP) has moved and given rise to a new IFCC Working Group (WG-Vit D). It is chaired by Prof. Christopher Sempos. In January 2019, this working group will become part of a new IFCC Committee on Bone Metabolism to be chaired by Prof. Étienne Cavalier. The terms of reference include a re-evaluation of the VDSP's performance criteria for serum total 25-hydroxyvitamin D [25(OH)D], i.e. Total CV  $\leq$  10% and Mean Bias  $\leq$  5%, and developing new performance criteria for 3-epi-

25(OH)D3 and 24,25-dihydroxyvitamin D3. Given the history of the VDSP and the importance of assay standardization in the IFCC this new working group will be an integral component of the Committee on Bone Metabolism.

### eJIFCC archive fully available in the new format on the IFCC website

The Communication and Publications Division (CPD) of the IFCC announces that the electronic Journal of the IFCC (eJIFCC) archive is now completely reorganized and fully accessible on-line with a new format. This important result has been achieved thanks to the combined effort of Insoft Digital, IFCC's publishing partner. The reorganization of the eJIFCC material is another valuable milestone for IFCC: it significantly improves access to eJIFCC articles and will help to promote IFCC as renowned source for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine scientific articles and research. The electronic Journal of the IFCC (eJIFCC) is a platinum open-access journal, it is a member of the Committee on Publications Ethics - COPE, and it is indexed on PubMed Central® (PMC) since 2016. eJIFCC numerous high-quality articles, debates, reviews, case studies and editorials are addressed to clinical laboratorians. eJIFCC aims to assist the development of the field of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine worldwide. Manuscripts are fully peer reviewed and immediately free to access and download at the following link: <http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-communications-publications-division-cpd/ifcc-publications/ejifcc-journal/>.

### IFCC welcomes two new affiliate members from France and Kazakhstan

The "Réseau de Laboratoires de Biologie Médicale Accrédités" (LABAC - Network of Accredited Medical Labs) is one of the main French associations in the field of medical biology and laboratory medicine. LABAC has been recognized as an EFLM affiliate member and accepted as an affiliate member of IFCC as well: LABAC members are ready to play an active role in laboratory medicine in both federations! The public association "Federation of Laboratory Medicine" is a professional community of laboratory diagnostics specialists whose main goal is to provide comprehensive assistance to the development of the laboratory service of the Republic of Kazakhstan, improvement of professional and scientific activities of specialists in the field of laboratory diagnostics and related disciplines.

## Calendar of EFLM events and events under EFLM auspices

Do not miss the opportunity to have your event listed here.

Apply for EFLM auspices! For more information visit: <https://www.eflm.eu/site/page/a/1048/> or email [eflm@eflm.eu](mailto:eflm@eflm.eu)

7-8 December 2018

**JBP 2018 - Journées de Biologie Praticienne**

Paris (FR)

[mf.gaudeau.toussaint@gmail.com](mailto:mf.gaudeau.toussaint@gmail.com)

18-21 April 2019

**12<sup>th</sup> International & 17<sup>th</sup> National Congress on Quality Improvement in Clinical Laboratories**

Tehran, Iran

[www.iqctehran.ir](http://www.iqctehran.ir)

24-27 December 2018

**ICB 2018 - 2nd International Congress on Biomedicine**

Tehran, Iran

<http://www.icb2018.com/>

19-23 May 2019

**EuroMedLab 2019**

**23<sup>rd</sup> IFCC-EFLM European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine**

Barcelona, Spain

<http://www.euromedlab2019barcelona.org>



7-8 February 2019

**International Congress on Quality in Laboratory Medicine**

Helsinki, Finland

<https://www.labquality.fi/en>

19 May 2019

**International Symposium: Breast Cancer and Environment. Satellite Meeting EuroMedLab 2019**

Barcelona, Spain

[www.seqc.es](http://www.seqc.es)

22-23 March 2019

**5<sup>th</sup> EFLM-BD European Conference on Preanalytical Phase Biannual Conference organized by the EFLM Working Group on "Preanalytical Phase" in collaboration with BD**

Zagabria, Croatia

<http://www.preanalytical-phase.org/>



19 May 2019

**International Symposium: Standardization and Recommendations in the Laboratory of Haematology. Satellite Meeting EuroMedLab 2019**

Barcelona, Spain

[www.seqc.es](http://www.seqc.es)

4-5 April 2019

**10<sup>th</sup> European Symposium on Clinical Laboratory and In Vitro Diagnostic Industry 'The clinical laboratory in the pregnancy monitoring'**

Barcelona, Spain

<http://www.iec.cat/jornades/laboratoriclinic2019.asp>

9-12 June 2020

**XXXVII Nordic Congress in Medical Biochemistry**

Trondheim, Norway

[www.nfkk2020.no](http://www.nfkk2020.no)

11-12 April 2019

**15<sup>th</sup> Belgrade Symposium for Balkan Region "Neighbouring Countries: The Same Professional Aim"**

Belgrade, Serbia

[www.dmbj.org.rs](http://www.dmbj.org.rs)



**MAY 19-23, 2019**  
CCIB, BARCELONA, SPAIN



[www.euromedlab2019barcelona.org](http://www.euromedlab2019barcelona.org)

## 23TH IFCC-EFLM EUROPEAN CONGRESS OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE • NATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE SPANISH SOCIETY OF LABORATORY MEDICINE

19/11/2018 - Meeting of the EuroMedLab 2019 Congress Organizing Committee

From left: Jaime Vives, Eric Kilpatrick, James Wesenberg, José Queralto, Michael Neumaier, Imma Caballé, Maurizio Ferrari, Stefano Montalbetti, Patrizia Sironi



### Boost your brand and increase your company's visibility through the EFLM Newsletter!

**EuroLabNews** is the digital bi-monthly newsletter of EFLM targeting more than 4,500 laboratory medicine professionals and is also published on the EFLM website. The Newsletter features information on EFLM initiatives and activities of its functional units, news from EFLM National Society members and includes a calendar of the major events in the Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine field.

	1 issue	6 issues
1 quarter of page	500 €	2000 €
Half a page	1000 €	4000 €

The EFLM IVD partners are offered the possibility to advertise on EuroLabNews as follows:

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