The use of internet and associated new technologies has already changed the way we communicate. E-mail, e-commerce, e-books, e-learning, everything is e-in our lives now, including health. E-health has been called a revolution, and this is for the better provided we know how to adapt and certify software and data hosting for more security, not to mention cloud computing, which is bound to increase. In both private and hospital practice, information technology is increasingly important. Patient medical records are computerized and appointments are managed by electronic schedulers in both private and hospital practice. Computerized patient medical records improve coordination of healthcare when there are multiple providers and disciplines involved. Both pharmaceutical records and laboratory records are growing quickly. The phenomenon of computerization and digitization has led to a profound change in organizational and production methods. This digital revolution obviously concerns test reports issued by laboratories, but it also concerns the entire process of medical data processing. In hospitals, the entire course of patient care has become computerized, from admission to discharge, and medical imaging and lab testing in between. On the wards, mobile computer carts are increasingly seen, replacing paper records, and doctors’ smart phones record reports and communicate via video. It has become impossible to prescribe without the physician’s electronic signature, without a time limit for the prescription and without a dosage regimen. Doctors receive notifications when prescriptions need adjusting via connected prescription, and this also prevents redundant lab testing. Any results released by the laboratory are the responsibility of the specialist in lab medicine. The search for efficiency and modernization of information systems are strategic issues for preparing the foundation for sustainable development in health.

Patients are increasingly likely to turn to the internet to learn about their health, and the more informed patient takes more responsibility and is more observant and alert. In this sense, websites that target prevention or chronic diseases introduced by public or certified agencies are useful tools and have been very successful. With the advance of these digital technologies, new forms of practice can be envisaged that go along with the development of genetics and personalized medicine. The initial and ongoing training of all health professionals, doctors, pathologists, allied health professionals, and managers must evolve. In the world 2.0, internet users can interact with each other and society, like in forums in a world 3.0 which is very near, there will be a third player with a machine, a website or a smart object, an expert system that will be required to give advice and guidance in a human-computer interaction. This revolution is underway; it will be impossible to avoid it. But beware of erroneous advice. What we call new tools can also be called new risks; there is a risk of software malfunction that can impact patient health. In addition to solving the problems involved in training and accrediting staff to use this software, its use must be regulated to control safety and plans must be made for market surveillance and vigilance. E-health is a reality in daily lives of healthcare professionals in many countries, playing a leading role in the transformation of the medical laboratory management. One of the main duties is to ensure that the data stored electronically are held securely and in accordance with the rights of users in order to improve the care they receive.

This fascinating technology is very tempting, but it should not be applied without considering the ethical implications of the applications. These new tools allow access to extensive knowledge via this external brain that they create, but there is a need for a well-trained mind to select relevant information and human intervention to correct errors. The deployment of e-health also requires a national and European political will, with a major financial investment to anticipate problems and find solutions, especially when it comes to long-term strategy.
Vic Blaton and Nicholas Mills Receive 2013 EFL Awards; Italian Society Honors Scientific Leaders

The 2013 EFLM-Roche Award for Laboratory Medicine is presented to Prof. Vic BLATON (Brugge/Leuven, Belgium) for his unique contribution that significantly impacted the profession at scientific, clinical, educational, quality and organizational level and supported the promotion and understanding of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine throughout Europe. Prof. Blaton was head of the Department for Laboratory Medicine at the AZ Saint-Jan Hospital in Brugge. During his career, he was president of the Belgian Society of Clinical Chemistry and founder of the Belgian Lipid Club, a prestigious club of experts in cardiovascular disease, where he was president. He was also NATO adviser for scientific affairs. He participated in the creation of the Forum of the European Societies in Clinical Chemistry (FESCC) and EC4 in 1991 in Poland and in 1993 in Nancy, respectively. He was FESCC Executive Board member (1996–2000) and president (2001–2007). In 2007, he was a key catalyst of the merger of FESCC and EC4 into the new European branch of IFCC, namely the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM, formerly EFCC). He was the first president of EFCC between 2007–2009, sharing his term with Mike Hallworth, then becoming past president (2010–2011). He was also cofounder of the European Society of Atherosclerosis. He was adviser or editor of several scientific journals, writing more than 190 peer reviewed articles and three books on atherosclerosis and lipids. During his career, he was also a strong supporter of the profession in developing countries. Prof Blaton is currently consultant in Laboratory Medicine and remains active in cardiovascular research.

The 2013 EFLM-Labs Are Vital Award is presented to Doctor Nicholas MILLS (Edinburgh, UK) for the article “Implementation of a sensitive troponin I assay and risk of recurrent myocardial infarction and death in patients with suspected acute coronary syndrome” by Mills NL, Churchhouse AM, Lee KK, Anand A, Gamble D, Shah AS, Paterson E, MacLeod M, Graham C, Walker S, Dervis MA, Fox KA, Newby DE. (British Heart Foundation Center for Cardiovascular Science, University of Edinburgh) - JAMA 2011;305:1210-6. The article presents a well-designed and properly conducted study on the usefulness of the 99th percentile upper reference limit as cutoff when associated to a sensitive troponin assay in patients presenting with signs and symptoms of acute myocardial infarction. The results show that this combination may significantly improve healthcare and clinical outcomes in this population of patients.

SIBiOC Career Awards

- Prof. Pierangelo Bonini. For his strategic view and his skills in international relations, which have greatly contributed to enhancing SIBiOC’s worldwide reputation.
- Prof. Franco Frangini. For his scientific rigor and dedication to developing and promoting clinical biochemistry, making SIBiOC a reference point in Italy and around the world.
- Prof. Paolo Mocarelli. For his unique contribution to SIBiOC’s development and to spreading the society’s ideas at the international level.
- Prof. Franco Salvatore. For his invaluable contribution to Italian clinical biochemistry and his substantial help in moving SIBiOC into the era of clinical molecular biology.
- Prof. Guido Tettamanti. For bringing teaching and research experience into SIBiOC and for making the society and the clinical laboratory known to the academic world.


As Presidents of the 21st IFCC-EFLM European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EuroMedLab), we have the pleasure to contact you to officially inform you on the date and place of the event that will be held in Paris (France) on June 21-25, 2015, at Palais des Congrès. In view of this event, the Congress Organizing Committee created an “International Scientific Advisory Board” (ISAB) constituted by representatives of each European Society member of the EFLM. The ISAB will act as link between the EuroMedLab Scientific Program Committee (SPC), chaired by Prof. Philippe Gillery, and the European Societies, with the main aim to propose topics to be included in the scientific program of the congress. Any ideas or suggestion for the EuroMedLab Paris 2015 are always welcome. We thank you in advance for your cooperation that we are sure will greatly contribute to the success of the EUROMEDLAB 2015. If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact:

Patrizia SIRTORI either by phone (+39 02 66802323), fax (+39 02 6686699) or e-mail. Dr. Bernard GOUGET, chair COC b.gouget@fhf.fr; Prof. Philippe GILLERY, Chair SPC pgillery@chu-reims.fr

Congress Organizing Committee

Dr. Bernard Gouget, Chair/Finance; Prof. Philippe Gillery, Scientific Program Chair; Prof. Joelle Goudable, SFBC Liaison; Dr. Damien Gruson, PR and Communication; Dr. Michel Vaubourdolle, SFBC-CCC Liaison/Social events; Prof. Tomris Ozben, IFCC CC-C Liaison; Dr. Ulrich Schweizer, IFCC Corporate Members Liaison; Prof. Elizabeta Topic, EFLM Liaison; Dr. François Blanchecotte, SDB Liaison; Member: Dr. Stefano Montalbetti, MZC-PCO Liaison; Mrs. Laurence Gaborieau, REF-co PCO Liaison (EML – JIB exhibition)

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JIB 2013, France's Leading Clinical Laboratory Gathering, the Take Place on November 13-14

For its 58th edition, the annual meeting of the medical biologists is naturally thought in an efficiency spirit. In order to place the event as the profession key meeting of the year, the International Days of Biology renew themselves so that they’re not seen as a basic recurring event, but lived as a fresh air, a digression outside the laboratory to put things into perspective, to distance oneself from one’s job and to see one’s daily practice in a more positive way.

The JIB event will be held at the CNIT Paris La Défense, France on November 13, 14, and 15, 2013. A key working time, to prepare, from now on!

Enhance the highlights to underline the need of the event

Real platform for innovations launch, the JIB event present about 200 innovations—75% of which for Europe and the rest of the World and 78% of which presented for the first time.

Because it is in the nature of the event, innovation is always particularly visible on the Innovation Gallery and highlights dynamic structures (SME, start-ups, biotechs, etc.). This area also welcomes during the JIB event discussions and exchanges between specialists on Paroles d’Experts.

Innovation is also emphasized during the Ceremony of the JIB Awards which, for their 2nd edition and buoyed by their success in 2012, thank the industry constant efforts in 6 new categories (Procedures improvement, Innovation Gallery, Quality and Accreditation, Emergency biology and POC, Post analytics innovation and Jury’s Award).

Innovation also places the JIB event as the key theatre for the presentation of state-of-the-art solutions since they are numerous on the stands: nearly 200 technological advances are awaited on the JIB, 75% of which have a European and worldwide scope and 78% are presented for the first time.

The JIB are committed to answer the hurdles of the new generation and naturally decided to dedicate an area to the future of the young biologists: the Recruitment Sphere proposes on the exhibition practical workshops on résumé writing, application letters, and preparation to an interview, etc.

Optimize the attendees presence

Optimize the presence of medical biologists on the event – that’s the goal of the International Days of Biology. It is about enabling all the actors and participants in each specialty to gather, individually or collectively and on the long term, the fruits of their participation. By placing the JIB event on the “Laboratories Agenda”, whether it is on the congress (with the professional sessions of the Colloquium, the scientific sessions to update one’s knowledge), or on the exhibition (with the discovery of major innovations presented on the exhibition and at the JIB Awards, with workshops of the Recruitment Sphere to facilitate the access of the youngsters to the professional world), all the medical biology actors find answers and solutions to the different missions they practice in parallel (HR, quality, logistics, finance, etc.), and in their field (hematology, virology, biochemistry, etc.).

Finally, the JIB reserve a warm welcome for regional associations, societies, orders, ministries, syndicates or humanitarians on the Institutions Corner which puts together the profession largest authorities.

Orientate the congress around 3 majors axis: Technology, Scientific Content & Laboratory Organization

The congress sessions are the expression of medical biology and its missions. The JIB structures the congress contents. The proposed program takes account of three large parameters, which are essentially composed by the place of biology in health policies and healthcare organization, the multidisciplinary aspects of medical biology (microbiology, immunology, clinical biology, etc.) as well as innovative equipment and technologies.

Among the proposed topics, one sets the tone of the edition: the prevention and the screening, notably at the program of the inaugural session “Medical biology and screening policies.” By bringing this topic forward, the JIB event highlights biology as a major support of preventive and individualized medicine, desired alternative to curative medicine, on which the current healthcare system relies.

In keeping with these topics, the awaited session on widespread and organized screening of the HPV (papillomavirus) “HPV and STI: latest news and common practices” draws up an overview of the practices in the cervical cancer, and notably the backwardness in France in the organization of a HPV screening program for prevention of cervical cancers. This session is part of the medical biologists continuing training of the new CPD scheme – Continuing Professional Development.

In a more prospective note, the session on “Nanotechnologies, first outcomes and perspectives in medical biology” presents an overview of the biomedical miniaturized technologies that will transform in a “not so far” future the diagnosis and populations medical follow-up methods.

Finally, as part of the Colloquium programming, working sessions in parallel with the scientific sessions are proposed to the medical biologists. These 5 sessions aim to assist more particularly the private biologists in their professional environment, which evolves very fast. These sessions provide them with parts of the solutions in various topics, such as laboratory services, the role of a medical biology laboratory in local health policies, and more generally in the evolution of the biomedical practice organization.

The JIB event, in brief

Real platform of exchanges between professionals and scientists, key place for medical biology business meetings, the International Days of Biology gather each year all the actors of the field and represent all the medical biology specialties. They welcome 7,663 visitors coming from the hexagon [France], and also from Europe and several French speaking countries. In 2012, the JIB event counted 177 exhibitors (33 of which are new companies and 18 come from abroad). A total of 196 technological innovations were presented to visitors coming from 67 countries.

The 2013 edition relies on new governance

It is organized around a steering committee, a renewed scientific committee, and a brand new professional practice committee. All these structures are composed of representative members of the profession and its specialties.