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EFLM Connects National Societies of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine and Creates a Platform for all European "Specialists in Laboratory Medicine"

Foreword

Reported by Harjit Pal Bhattoa, Editor EFLM EuroLabNews

THE EFLM EXECUTIVE BOARD INFORMS

The EFLM Certification for Green and Sustainable Laboratories

Reported by Tomris Ozben, EFLM President and Chair of the EFLM Task Force "Green & Sustainable Laboratories"

In line with the European Green Deal, the EFLM Executive Board has established in November 2021 the [EFLM Task Force "Green & Sustainable Laboratories"](#) with the aim that EFLM should lead the way in implementing sustainable practices in clinical and medical laboratories in Europe.

The goal is to transform 15 000 Clinical Laboratories in 49 EFLM member societies in Pan-Europe into a safe and sustainable spaces by decreasing their deleterious environmental impact and implementing efficient everyday actions in laboratories, and taking steps to minimize energy, water, and hazardous chemical use, as well as waste generation without compromising the quality of healthcare.

In the last months, the EFLM TF-GSL has worked hard to produce educational material such as the guidelines, the presentations to introduce the main 4 sections of the guidelines (Chemicals, Energy, Waste and Water) and the checklist to guide laboratories to the certification. The Guidelines has been translated into French and there is also interest to translate them into Spanish, Italian and Deutsch.

To be continued on page 2



Welcome to another summer issue of the EuroLabNews. The president of the EFLM Tomris Ozben informs us, on behalf of the Executive Board, about the EFLM certification for Green and Sustainable Laboratories. In her regular column, coffee

with the EFLM President, Tomris Ozben interviews Inga Zelvyte, Constanta Popa and Jean-Marc Giannoli who are distinguished Presidents of EFLM member societies. Under the news from EFLM Functional Units, Tomris Ozben, also chair of the EFLM Task Force Green and Sustainable Laboratories, points 4 simple actions to be more sustainable and green in our laboratories. Tara Rolic, as chair of the EFLM Task Group European Laboratory Day, invites us to join the 2nd EuLabDay on the 5th of November. Tara Rolic and Daniel Charles Turnock, as members of the EFLM Task

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Editorial Information

Newsletter Editor. Dr. Harjit Pal Bhattoa, Faculty of Medicine, Dep of Laboratory Medicine, University of Debrecen Hungary

EFLM Executive Board:

T. Ozben, AM. Simundic, M. Plebani, S. Jovicic, K. Kohse, P. Fernandez-Calle, D. Vitkus

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Group EFLMLabX, present the advantages of EFLMLabX for all involved parties, highlighted with EFLMLabX user experience. Silvia Terragni, from the EFLM Office, announces a vacancy at the EFLM WG Biomarkers of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury. Natalia Kozopas, EFLM Young Scientist, reports on a milestone EFLM publication by Vanstapel et al with yet another signature infographics capturing the summary of the publication. As a member of the EFLM Communications Committee, Tara Rolic summarizes past EFLM webinars that allow a glimpse into various important topics in Laboratory Medicine. Ales Kvasnicka, member of the EFLM Communication Committee, summarizes quite a few outstanding upcoming not to be missed EFLM webinars. In news from National Societies, the Serbian and the Spanish Society present their latest happenings. The Belgian, Romanian and UK Societies announce its change of guard. The IFCC corner highlights global happenings in laboratory medicine. Mark your calendar for a variety of upcoming EFLM events and especially the upcoming conferences. The Editorial Team here at the EuroLabNews wishes all its readers a pleasant

Now, we are proud to announce that we are ready to receive applications from medical laboratories. This possibility is open to any public or private laboratory of the following disciplines: Clinical Chemistry, Hematology, Microbiology, Transfusion Services, Immunology, Pathology and Cytology.

The laboratories interested to apply should identify a contact person inside their own institution/laboratory who will be responsible for entering the replies for all the laboratories to certify. The application consists in filling a check-list which is composed of 4 main sections: Chemicals, Energy, Waste and Water.

Good collaboration among the European Union healthcare systems and a common vision for future actions would help to achieve such goals and environment-friendly laboratories. The Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety of the European Commission in a recent letter to the attention of the EFLM President, has commended the effort and commitment of EFLM to ensure that medical laboratories across Europe have environment-friendly practices.

They see the work of the EFLM Task Force “Green and sustainable labs” as contributing to the green transition of the EU in line with the European Green Deal, whilst safeguarding the high quality of laboratory services, to the benefit of patients and asked to be informed on future updates on this very interesting initiative. To know more and to apply for the EFLM Green Lab certificate, please visit: <https://greenlabs.eflm.eu/>

With this issue of the newsletter, I have the pleasure to announce the start of a new regular column: “Four simple actions to be more sustainable and green in your laboratory”.



THE EFLM CERTIFICATION PROGRAMME FOR GREEN AND SUSTAINABLE LABORATORIES



the First Green Lab certified by EFLM

Green & Sustainable Laboratories Certified

Below is the list of the current Laboratories certified by EFLM as “Green & Sustainable Laboratory”. Do not miss the opportunity to see yours among the below ones. Click [here](#) to know more.

ROMANIA

Labrom | S.C. Labrom S.R.L.
Liliacului no.4 – Bacau (607235) ROMANIA
Certificate issued on 2023-07-24 13:21:49 and valid till 2025-07-24.





BECOME A
Green Lab



**SUSTAINABILITY IN LABORATORY MEDICINE:
THE ROLE OF LABORATORIES**

Sustainability measures in the healthcare sector are needed to reduce its negative impacts on the environment and economy. Laboratory medicine should contribute to a sustainable healthcare system ensuring that resources are used efficiently from ecological, social, and economical perspectives, while providing high-quality services to patients and physicians.



**WHY TO BECOME A GREEN & SUSTAINABLE LAB
CERTIFIED BY EFLM...**

- to ensure a healthy, safe and efficient laboratory environment.
- to reduce resources consumption such as energy, water, hazardous chemicals, and waste.
- to align clinical labs with sustainability goals and strategy.
- to attract qualified personnel providing them to work in a Green Lab.
- to help hospitals and laboratories to achieve their sustainability goals.
- to grow the community of Green Lab Leaders.



WE ARE NOW READY TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FROM MEDICAL LABORATORIES

VISIT: <https://greenlabs.eflm.eu/>

Clinical laboratories worldwide interested in receiving EFLM Green Lab Certification are welcome to apply!

COFFEE WITH THE EFLM PRESIDENT



Dear EFLM friends,

In this edition of the EFLM eNewsletter, in the section "Coffee with the President", I present to you with great pleasure interviews with distinguished Presidents of the EFLM Members Societies: Inga Zelvyte, Constanta Popa and Jean-Marc Giannoli.

I am grateful for their substantial contribution to the EFLM and mission that make EFLM great today and I sincerely must thank for the time set aside to share their experiences, thoughts and opinions about EFLM and Laboratory Medicine Profession.

I hope you will enjoy reading these interviews with our esteemed colleagues and get to know them and their society better.

Tomris Ozben - EFLM President



Coffee with Inga Zelvyte, President of the Swedish Society for Clinical Chemistry (SFKK)



Could you briefly introduce your society? When was it founded, who can become a member, activities of your society, what has been done so far and future activities, projects, plans?

The Swedish Society for Clinical Chemistry (SFKK) was founded in 1954. Our society is multidisciplinary and practically all individuals working

in clinical chemistry laboratories, including laboratory doctors, biomedical technicians, chemists and engineers may become members of SFKK. Initially, SFKK focused on quality assurance as a necessary component of good patient safety. We pride ourselves in that today, more than 95% of Swedish clinical chemistry laboratories are accredited and quality assurance is a natural part of daily work. SFKK functions as a national advisor by reviewing requests and recommendations from national and international healthcare authorities. SFKK collaborates with other stakeholders in Sweden and other Nordic countries and functions as the main organiser of annual national meetings in clinical chemistry that we call Vårmöte i klinisk kemi. During recent years, the society has released national recommendations for handling of the postanalytical phase in Swedish clinical laboratories. SFKK has ambitions to enhance the work carried out by the society by broadening its member base in order to share unique and useful competencies and experience nationally and worldwide.

What are your suggestions for better education? Is the current education in your country fit for the purpose? Do you have a core curriculum for the training of medical biochemistry professionals?

As a part of our activities, SFKK monitors opportunities and initiates education courses for resident doctors within the clinical chemistry specialization. Our society collaborates with different course organizers and recommends and announces courses for all biochemistry professionals on the society's website. It is

quite unique to Sweden that the majority of employees in our clinical laboratories are licensed, as biomedical technicians and doctors. At the same time we face future challenges where the need for more complex diagnostics is growing and new perspectives in basic and continued education and training is necessary not only for licensed professionals but also for other roles such as IT-specialists, customer service representatives, technical staff, system administrators, etc.

In what direction do you see the laboratory medicine heading? What do you think for the position of the laboratory specialist to increase their visibility within the healthcare system? What challenges do you and your colleagues face?

Laboratory diagnostics is much easier accessible to public today compared to some years ago. At the same time laboratory medicine is becoming highly complex with regards to techniques, methods, amount and content of medical information required to diagnose, follow-up, predict or prevent pathology. Therefore, laboratory specialists have a vital and growing role when it comes to being the link between an individual patient and his doctor in all parts of the diagnostic process, preanalytical, analytical and postanalytical. As we are a smaller group of professionals compared to other medical specialties, we have to think about tools to visualize that linkage. I think that a lot of laboratory specialists are pretty comfortable not being as visible as other medical specialists. The time to step out of the comfort zone is now. To educate, inform and support society in laboratory investigations is today's actuality. I am sure that it is the way to better patient safety and better management of financial resources in health care.

Do you think medical biochemistry professionals are ready for the emerging technologies such as Digitalization, Laboratory Diagnostic Algorithms, AI, ML, Integrative Diagnostics, Big Data? Do you believe in Partnership model for efficient integration and adoption of emerging technologies and innovations?

I think that the emerging technologies are essential components of the future laboratory as all healthcare is inclined to go that way. Integrative diagnostics and the partnership model are key factors in digitalized healthcare where different medical disciplines gather around a patient's health.



Some personal questions...

Please introduce yourself with a few sentences.

My name is Inga Zelvyte and my roots are in Lithuania. I started my career in Sweden in 2000 as a PhD student in Lund University after several years work as a specialist doctor in laboratory medicine in Kaunas Hospital of Lithuanian University of Health Sciences. I started my clinical laboratory work at the laboratory of clinical chemistry, County hospital of Ryhov in Smaland, Jonkoping in 2005.

In your professional career, you have served in many leading roles both in your country and internationally. What was your motivation?

Healthcare in Jonkoping region is well known as a site where healthcare improvements and exceptional focus around a patient (we call her Esther) is welcomed and incorporated in daily clinical practice. I was so impressed by the fact that three county hospital laboratories and plenty of primary care laboratories in our county had been working according to the same quality standard. This motivated me to learn more about quality improvements and management in healthcare. After my masters studies at Jonkoping Academy for Healthcare improvement I went on to lead clinical chemistry laboratories in Jonkoping regions. Today I enjoy my work as a chief medical officer and senior doctor in clinical chemistry. I try to share my knowledge and experience with my colleagues nationally and internationally.

Could you share your way in biochemistry? Why did you choose this field? What do you like about your current job? Do you think that you chose the right job for you? If you have another chance?

My way to clinical biochemistry was more accidental than planned. I was always more interested in quick processes in medicine and initially wanted to be a specialist in intensive care/anesthesiology. However, I did not get a place as a resident doctor. As soon as I got resident place in laboratory medicine I fell in love with it. Here I found very fast processes and never-ending development. I feel that I can realize myself and do a good job for Esther

What would be your advice to young scientists who wish to pursue their career in laboratory medicine?

I wish that my colleagues and especially young scientists would fall in love with laboratory diagnostics. When you love what you are doing you will have a meaningful and happy career

Do you have some hobbies? What are the things outside of your work that you are passionate about? How do you like to spend your free time?

My friends like to remind me that I am good at decorating interiors and exteriors and creating a cozy atmosphere. I also love to cook and organize parties. I spend my free time discovering the world and other cultures by travelling, reading and visiting art museums. I always try to visit some clinical laboratory even when I travel with my family. So, my colleagues in Europe, be prepared for stranger Inga knocking on Your laboratory doors.



Me celebrating Swedish midsummer



With my colleagues, national meeting in Clinical Chemistry, Höstmöte Klinisk kemi 2022

Do you think your society members participate and/or contribute enough to EFLM activities? Do they know the advantages to be EFLM Academy membership, for example, the unique educational resource "Syllabus course", free attendance to the recently held 3rd EFLM Strategic Conference, its sessions were recorded and are available for one year?

Despite SFKK being a smaller society, we have a wide spectrum of competencies. The SFKK board contributes with Swedish candidates to different EFLM working and task groups. As the new chairwoman of SFKK I have an ambition to initiate dialogue concerning block enrolment in EFLM Academy with SFKK members and we would appreciate more beneficial membership in case of block enrolment.

What do you think about the ongoing and recent EFLM activities/initiatives? Do you have suggestions to increase communication and cooperation with EFLM? What you like and dislike about EFLM?

I am very happy to be a part of EFLM and its ongoing activities and initiatives enrich me in my professional work and as a member of the SFKK society. Sometimes I catch myself thinking that results of different EFLM working groups, for example some laboratory recommendations, should reach diverse stakeholders directly in order to incorporate these elements in healthcare systems in European countries. That would promote even better quality of healthcare in all Europe. I wish for EFLM to be a hub for laboratory professionals to grow and develop, and a vital partner to other European medical societies.



Could you briefly introduce your society? When was it founded, who can become a member, activities of your society, what has been done so far and future activities, projects, plans?

The professional organization of non-medical specialists from medical laboratories, the Order of Biochemists, Biologists and Chemists from the Romanian Health System (OBBCSSR), was founded on 24.04.2004 based on Law 460/2003.

OBBCSSR is according to art. 22 para. (1) of this law "professional, non-governmental, apolitical, non-profit organization, with legal personality, which represents the interests of its members" and also the Competent Authority for Regulation of the profession of biochemist, biologist, chemist in the Romanian health system according to Annex 3 of Law 200/2004 (Photo 1).



Photo 1 - OBBCSSR National Conference Attendees

It's mandatory for any biochemist, biologist and chemist working in the Romanian health system according by the laws in force to become a member of the OBBCSSR, provided that they meet the legal requirements for the exercise of these professions regulated at the national level. Based on the Romanian laws, OBBCSSR is empowered to have numerous attributions: it is a negotiator in relation with the National Health Insurance House (CNAS) and collaborates with the Ministry of Health regarding the profession of biochemist, biologist and chemist (BBC) in the Romanian health system, being involved and so far obtaining for its members multiple professional and even salary rights, the latter implicitly linked to the hierarchy of functions within the medical laboratory. Since April 2020, OBBCSSR became an Affiliate Member of EFLM and IFCC, in which capacity it carried out numerous specific activities. We actively participated and made an international contribution to the fight against SARS CoV 2 during the COVID-19 pandemic by drafting the GUIDE "15 Important Medical Laboratory Tests in COVID-19" (Photo 2) publicly available on the IFCC official website at the link https://cms.ifcc.org/media/478459/obbcssr-guide_no3_english-edition.pdf.



Molecular, serological, and biochemical diagnosis and monitoring of COVID-19: IFCC guideline evaluation of the best evidence Laboratory practices to mitigate laboratory risk during the COVID-19 outbreak: An IFCC global survey Operational Considerations and Challenges of Biochemistry Laboratories During the COVID-19 Outbreak: An IFCC Global Survey

Key Resources:

- American Association for Clinical Chemistry: COVID-19 Resources for Labs
- Center for Disease Control: Information for Laboratories
- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control: COVID-19 Resources
- National Institute for Health: COVID-19 Information Page
- Royal College of Pathologists Australasia: Useful COVID-19 Resources
- Royal College of Pathologists UK: COVID-19 Recommendations
- World Health Organization: COVID-19 Technical Guidance for National Laboratories

Scientific Journal Resources:

- British Medical Journal: COVID-19 Best Practice Bundle
- Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA): Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
- New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM): Coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Springer Nature: Latest Research in COVID-19

Global Practice Guidelines/Handbooks:

- Rapid health technology assessment of alternative diagnostic testing approaches for the detection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2): Interim guidance for Laboratory Diagnosis of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) (World Health Organization)
- Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia Diagnosis and Treatment Plan (Provisional 7th Edition, Chinese Guidelines)
- Handbook of COVID-19 Prevention and Treatment: Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences

Photo 2 - The public presentation on the IFCC official web page of the OBBCSSR Guide

On September 29, 2021 we organized under the IFCC auspices an international webinar entitled "Management of the quality of medical test results during the pandemic" (Photo 3) which registered according to the IFCC the participation of 4909 specialists in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine from all over the world , 2154 participants registered by IFCC being from Romania (Photo 4). In 2023, we sent proposals for the EFLM Urinalysis Guide project developed by the EFLM Task & Finish "Urinalysis" Group chaired by Prof. Timo Kouri, a guide that will be made public by EFLM in the following period. Some of our colleagues are involved in the activities carried out by IFCC and EFLM. EuSpLM Dr. Georgeta Sorescu, vice-president of the OBBCSSR, acts as a Corresponding Member of the EFLM WG - Harmonization (<https://www.eflm.eu/site/page/a/1152>). EuSpLM Dorina Popa, General Secretary of the National Executive Office of the OBBCSSR and National Representative of our NS at EFLM, is a member of EFLM TF – GSL and an active participant in the scientific events organized by EFLM and IFCC (Photo 5). In 2022, at the celebration of the 70th anniversary of IFCC's existence, I gave an interview as Acting President of the OBBCSSR published by the IFCC in the anniversary magazine. (Photo 6) . In April 2023, on the occasion of the GLOBAL MEDLAB WEEK 2023 at the invitation of the IFCC as the initiator of the event (Photo 7), like my counterparts from other member countries I addressed a short audio congratulatory message to the professionals from all over the world for their unseen work carried out in the interest of patient safety (available at the link https://open.spotify.com/episode/7b3lejlkNmQAH07GW9Km0P?go=1&sp_cid=e2458f346c753547463c9c257378a1a7&utm_source=embed_player_p&utm_medium=desktop&nd=1). Currently 272 members of the OBBCSSR are enrolled in the EFLM Academy and 76 members appear in the European Register as Specialists in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EuSpLM) according to the EFLM block enrolment procedure. OBBCSSR aims to convince more colleagues to join the EFLM Academy in the future considering the advantages of free participation in scientific events and continuous professional training at a high academic level as well as the possibility of registration in the European Register as Specialists in Chemistry Clinical and Laboratory Medicine (EuSpLM) with all the benefits arising from it.



Photo 3 - IFCC's public presentation regarding the international webinar organized by OBBCSSR on 29.09.2021



Photo 4 - Communication by IFCC of the number of registered participants in the webinar organized by OBBCSSR in 2021



Photo 5 - After the EFLM General Meeting, Rome May 2023 (BCLF President Prof. Dobrin Svinarov, OBBCSSR NR for EFLM Dorina Popa, IFCC President Prof. Khosrow Adeli, EFLM President – Elect Prof. Tomas Zima, IFCC Treasurer Prof. Alexander Haliassos)



Photo 6 - Interview of the Acting President of OBBCSSR, Dr. Constanța Popa, published by IFCC in the anniversary magazine (Oct 2022)



Photo 7
"Quality management – An useful tool for TTP improvement in medical labs" : Presentation by the IFCC of the OBBCSSR President message on GLOBAL MEDLAB WEEK 2023



Photo 8 - Members of the OBBCSSR management together with foreign lecturers invited to the OBBCSSR Conference (Bucharest, 2017): Dr. Benard Gouget (France), Dr. Gilbert Wieringa (UK), Dr. Gabor Kovacs (HU), Dr. Dalius Vitkus (LT), Dr. Bogdan Solnica (PL)

The visibility of these "invisible professionals" who work for the patient could be better through a collaboration between the Ministry of Health, universities, professional organizations and the media, by organizing meetings and scientific events brought to the knowledge of the general public, to raising awareness of decisive role of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine in making diagnostic, therapeutic and monitoring medical decisions by the clinicians. Currently, in Romania, the legislation applicable to medical laboratories and professionals in the field is being updated according to the national strategy in a sense that OBBCSSR is not aware of until now.

Do you think medical biochemistry professionals are ready for the emerging technologies such as Digitalization, Laboratory Diagnostic Algorithms, AI, ML, Integrative Diagnostics, Big Data? Do you believe in Partnership model for efficient integration and adoption of emerging technologies and innovations?

At this time, I believe that no laboratory professional has adequate university training for these activities. There may be individual professionals who have trained but not in an organized institutional setting. I think that the Partnership model it is useful for the future of the medical laboratory, it remains to prove its effectiveness in practice.

Do you think your society members participate and/or contribute enough to EFLM activities? Do they know the advantages to be EFLM Academy membership, for example, the unique educational resource "Syllabus course", free attendance to the recently held 3rd EFLM Strategic Conference, its sessions were recorded and are available for one year?

Yes, the benefits of OBBCSSR members deriving from EFLM Academy membership have been and are publicized both on the official web page www.obbcssr.ro and on the official FB account of OBBCSSR, all members of our Professional Body enrolled in EFLM Academy benefiting from the advantages OBBCSSR's accession to the EFLM Academy. I believe that the medium-term extended accessibility to the educational resources offered by EFLM is beneficial for the continuous training of European professionals in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine.

What do you think about the ongoing and recent EFLM activities/initiatives? Do you have suggestions to increase communication and cooperation with EFLM? What you like and dislike about EFLM

I think EFLM together with the members national societies and organizations need to be more involved in training professionals

What are your suggestions for better education? Is the current education in your country fit for the purpose? Do you have a core curriculum for the training of medical biochemistry professionals?

I personally contributed to the introduction in several Romanian universities of master's programs intended for graduates with a bachelor's degree in Biology/Biochemistry/Chemistry who have in their training curriculum the subjects from the European Syllabus (TES), including the discipline on quality management in medical laboratories so that the young graduates of the master's degree acquired a better professional education in order to improve the quality assurance of the activity in medical laboratories. Since 2021 the OBBCSSR members registered in the National Unique Register after graduating from bachelor's and master's studies since 2011 hold an academic training according to the European Syllabus (TES) and Common training framework (CTF) requirements, public on the EFLM web page (<https://eflm.eu/site/page/a/1299>):

- General chemistry of at least 35%;
 - General chemistry plus Hematology of at least 65%;
 - Flexibility as to the remaining 35%, including general chemistry, hematology, microbiology, and genetics and IVF in a proportion consistent with the requirements in the country of destination.
- OBBCSSR members who hold a doctor's degree in medicine, chemistry, biology, biochemistry have a legal maximum level of professional qualification (level 8) according to the national provisions of GD no. 918/2013. OBBCSSR organized in 2017 a Conference with international participation dedicated to the harmonization of the training of specialists in laboratory medicine (Photo 8).

In what direction do you see the laboratory medicine heading? What do you think for the position of the laboratory specialist to increase their visibility within the healthcare system? What challenges do you and your colleagues face?

Increasing the degree of automation of laboratory equipment and digitization of processes will require the acquisition of complex knowledge by specialists working in medical laboratories.



for the patient in laboratory medicine. The most recent book that was published in 2022 by Bucharest Medical Publishing House (Photo 9) entitled "Control of the quality of the results of medical analyses", written together with Dr. Sorescu Georgeta, received since its release favourable reviews from medical doctors regardless of their specialty.

What would be your advice to young scientists who wish to pursue their career in laboratory medicine?

In the courses I taught at the University of Bucharest, I also met young people who believed that through this job they would quickly get a lot of money and fame. I explained to the master's students that if they want have quickly money and glory, if they don't like and do not put passion into the work they doing, this profession is not suitable for them.

Do you have some hobbies? What are the things outside of your work that you are passionate about? How do you like to spend you free time?

I adore my niece and enjoy spending my free time with her, although my free time is extremely limited because I write books on QM wich is my passion and my field of expertise, manage as a managing director and scheme coordinator the day-to-day business of an external quality control provider with over 900 laboratories participating doctors and lead the professional organization OBCCSSR. I like to prepare young colleagues that I have by my side (Photo 10) to continue everything I have achieved so far professionally for the preservation, mediatization and development of our role and status in the medical world.

for the transition and implementation of the new edition of the 15189 standard through the EFLM Academy and beyond. I believe and appreciate that EFLM makes sustained efforts to increase the professional competence of all professionals in the global interest of communities.

Some personal questions... Please introduce yourself with a few sentences.

I hold the academic title of Doctor of Medicine at the "Carol Davilla" University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Bucharest, I am a senior medical chemist in the Medical Biochemistry specialty, I am EuspLM, I am a professional dedicated to my passion for external quality control in medical laboratories leading in as General Manager and coordinator of an external quality control provider for medical laboratories.

I believe and have objective scientific evidence that I have contributed to increasing the quality of the activity of medical laboratories in Romania by organizing and carrying out skills testing schemes for medical laboratories since 2007, completed with the issuance of over 150,000 performance evaluation reports of medical analysis laboratories, through the books published in this field, through the courses we held in the field of quality management for medical laboratories and through the introduction, together with the Ministry of Health, of the specialty "Quality management for medical laboratories", legally owned and obtained only by the OBCCSSR members through a national exam organized by the Romanian Ministry of Health.

In your professional career, you have served in many leading roles both in your country and internationally. What was your motivation?

My lifelong belief that constantly motivates me is that at the end of a working day I can say that I did everything in my power to help people solve various situations and problems - professional, legislative and human that I face as President of a professional organization even if sometimes my effort meant neglecting my the family especially when I was a deputy in the Romanian Parliament within the Health Commission.

Could you share your way in biochemistry? Why did you choose this field? What do you like about your current job? Do you think that you chose the right job for you? If you have another chance???

Yes, I like to study, I like to make correlations, I like to be able to contribute to a correct medical diagnosis, I like to study continuously, write books, analyze and make useful correlations



Photo 9 – Front cover and back cover of the book "Quality control of medical analysis results" (Medical Publishing Bucharest, 2022)



Photo 10 – About the present and future for the professions of non-medical specialists in medical laboratories in Romania



Could you briefly introduce your society?

LABAC (association pour la Promotion des Laboratoires de Biologie Médicale accrédités-association for the promotion of accredited medical laboratories) was established in 2000 in the form of an association "law 1901", as it is usual for French scientific associations. Its objective is to

promote a coordinated quality approach for Medical Laboratories so that members can fully meet regulatory requirements in medical biology, ensure a good quality of service for each client and strengthen the image and the key role of medical biology in the national Healthcare system. All the members are medical biologists. When Bernard Gouget was president of the COFRAC human health section committee, he regularly participated in the opening Labac sessions, he pushed us hard to join the EFLM as an affiliate member, with the support of the SFBC. This was done in 2018, enabling us to have a European and international audience. In France, during the last decade of the 20th century, there were some 4,800 medical laboratories (LBMs), 4,000 private and 800 hospitals based. The private LBMs were mainly single site with an integrated technical platform, sometimes in groups of up to five sites, but this varied greatly from region to region. Hospitals had either a multi-disciplinary medical Laboratory or specialty medical laboratory in biochemistry, hematology, microbiology... Le Guide de Bonne Executions des Analyses/ the guide for the proper execution of analyzes (GBEA), published in 1994, laid the foundations of the quality approach. Visionary biologists, seeking recognition and a quality "label", have embarked on an NF EN ISO 17025 accreditation process with the COFRAC, National accreditation body. The voluntary accreditation project took shape. Accreditation is an enabler of quality and a core component of good clinical management; it is patient-focused, impartial, objective and operates within a peer review model. It provides many benefits for healthcare professionals end regulators, for patients and for medical labs, providing an opportunity for external perspectives on lab practices, encouraging the sharing of best practices, stimulating innovation, reducing risks, and providing international recognition. LABAC is inspiring and driving improvements in the quality and safety in the medical laboratory world. Its role quickly became an obvious choice to initiate and integrate the "quality philosophy" in Lab medicine, as well as to understand its tools, to work in a team with quality referents, to facilitate the harmonization of the LBM internal practices, to exchange ideas between colleagues and to ask question today to anticipate tomorrow. From the very beginning, LABAC has succeeded in anticipating new obligations and spreading a culture of quality and safety in Lab medicine and healthcare. A new accreditation standard developed for LBMs, NF EN ISO 15189, was already applicable in France in 2007. Assessments were managed and conducted by experts who are recruited, trained and qualified by Cofrac (the French national accreditation body), to master all the aspects of the assessed functions. To help the colleagues, LABAC quickly organized training courses to better understand all the chapters that cover the essential elements for medical labs to demonstrate the quality and competence of their services. -

It is interesting to know that the ISO standard has been developed with strong involvement from the medical, scientific, and clinical community. The LABAC representatives are still participating within the AFNOR (Agence Francaise de Normalisation). This was followed by the law of May 30, 2013, which radically reformed a number of areas, particularly quality, and imposed mandatory accreditation of LBMs according to a defined timetable. Since the start of the medical biology reform, several LABAC members have participated in Cofrac (Comité Français d'accréditation) working groups, either in the accreditation commission or in the human health section committee. Many LABAC members are technical assessors with expertise in their relevant discipline of expertise. Today, the concept of a quality approach has become one of the tools used in the reorganization of LBMs. Twenty years ago, no biologist would have imagined reaching such high standards. Under the impetus of our LABAC association, quality has made it possible to optimize and harmonize practices, to better manage medical labs. Currently, the LBMs have massively regrouped, today there are less than 630 legal entities, although the number of sites has not decreased (4500). At the beginning of this year, the Cofrac counted 265 hospital LBMs and 365 private LBMs at the national level. LABAC is a leading association that brings together 1,850 medical biologists/10 400 in France. Our LABAC members are working in 200 accredited LBMs (60% private sector, 15% public, 25% institutions, IVD companies, and various statutes) spread across the national territory. LABAC actively cooperate with other relevant scientific societies, as well as with other relevant international organizations. LABAC also publishes a range of literature on topics covering, quality, internal quality control, EQA, pre-analytical requirements, risk analysis, risk management and accreditation and IT data management. Continuing educational sessions are organized to understand and apply the new version of ISO 15189:2022. Jean-Marc Giannoli and Jean-Pierre Bouilloux, LABAC Treasurer, were part of the ISO TC 212 group for the 2022 version of ISO 15189. LABAC delegations attend conferences such as EuroMedLab and the AACC to keep abreast of scientific developments. We host on-demand "Ask the Expert" webinars to discuss our practices with a leading expert on topics such as impartiality, uncertainty, quality control, and clinical variation... LABAC members are invited to listen the Syllabus educational lectures. Because the English, it would be better to have a multilingual system to facilitate attractiveness. LABAC is organizing Consensus conferences on a regular basis. The first one this year focused on immune-hematology, in collaboration with the Etablissement Français du Sang (EFS) and another one is planned to discuss on Spermiology in October. Guidelines as "Recommendations for the application and follow-up of quality controls in medical laboratories » and "Temperature metrology applied to the medical biology laboratory" are also published. LABAC's dynamic Executive Board regularly organizes conferences on practical quality-related topics. The annual national congress is an opportunity to invite personalities such as Tony Badrick (AU), Sverre Sandberg (NW), Mario Plebani (IT), Tomris Ozben (TR), Abdurrahman Coskun (TR), Hassan Bayat (IR), Greg Miller (US), Nader Rifai (US), Koshrow Adeli (CA). LABAC translated the EFLM recommendation for venous blood sampling of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory and the EFLM Green Lab Booklet which was presented at the general assembly during EuroMedlab Rome 2023.



What is the core curriculum for the training of medical biology professionals?

In France, medical biology is a medical discipline specializing in the management of medical biology examinations, from the actual sampling to the interpretation of the results. These medical biology examinations can only be carried out in a medical biology laboratory under the responsibility of a medical biologist (medical doctor or pharmacist), holder of a specialized diploma in Medical Biology (DESBM: Diplôme d'Etudes Spécialisées en Biologie Médicale). The DESBM is organized into 8 hospital internships of 6 months, including at least one internship outside university supervision. It is necessary to be registered at the National Order (Medicine or Pharmacy). The Continuous Professional Development is mandatory in France. The decree of July 8, 2016, relating to the organization of the continuous professional development of health professionals proposes several ways for the validation of the three-year course of continuous professional development. The training in France of the medical biologist is of very high level, the exchange programs at the European level are to be reinforced. Several professional exercises are available to graduates: university hospital or public hospital careers, or exercise in private sector in big groups, or in the IVD or IT industry.

What is the benefit to be EFLM affiliate member?

As an EFLM affiliate member, we have the privilege of applying to the EFLM academy, having open access to the best laboratory medicine journals and being a corresponding member in the functional EFLM units. However, our expenses are not covered, which limits the membership of young people who are very demanding. They are registered as young scientists but would like to be more present at congresses and other EFLM activities. Being in France, scholarships are rightly distributed more to the most fragile member countries. Fortunately, there are social networks to communicate! Not having the right to vote at the General Assembly is also frustrating! LABAC started to enroll its members in EFLM academy. To get free access to the publication (CCLM) as well as to the webinars. LABAC is very interested by the EFLM strategic conferences which are an assembly like no other: cutting-edge research, world-renowned speakers, and the opportunity to exchange knowledge with specialists in lab medicine from across Europe at large. The exceptional scientific programs inspires and challenges participants to reach new ideas and perspectives of the profession in a new health care environment.

In what direction do you see the laboratory medicine heading?

No longer science fiction, AI, big data smart technologies and robotics are transforming healthcare. Some Futurists predict a world that will be dominated by large regional laboratory networks that will be formed because of laboratory consolidation. The number of laboratories will reduce, driven by outsourcing of laboratory services, and the commoditization of laboratory tests expanding new market for near-patient testing. There is a growing awareness among general people about the availability of direct-to-consumer genetic tests in developed as well as developing nations.

Laboratory staffing shortages will continue to be a source of concern with the digitalization and AI generative. The care of the elderly and chronic diseases, the unequal access to care will

impose new modes of organization. Cost-containment and cost-effective operation of medical laboratories will be an important issue in the future. Better-informed patients will eventually drive down the cost of laboratory testing.

Are the medical biologists ready for the disruptive technologies?

New technologies are bringing innovation and effectiveness. Modern health systems will treat and cure more diseases than ever before. The explosion of technologies - digitally enabled, wireless connectivity across increasingly mobile and sophisticated devices - has created an increasing democratization of access for healthcare. But the biggest challenge for health professionals is the culture shift in learning and innovation. If we look at the future of the profession, we must ensure that genomics, data analytics and AI are prominent in curricula for healthcare professionals. Future healthcare professionals also need to understand not only the possibilities of AI and digital healthcare technologies, but they must be aware on the ethical, the sustainable and patient safety considerations. Cloud is an attractive solution in healthcare because of its unparalleled convenience and user-friendly framework. The predictive analytics using AI generative will change the roles and functions of clinical and Lab staffs over the next decades. Digital technologies will help empower patients to manage their own conditions. The convergence and complementarity of the major disruptive technologies will enable the development of personal virtual medical avatars....

Some Personal questions...

Please introduce yourself with a few sentences.

Medical Biologist at Biogroup Laboratories (Technical Direction). After a PhD in pharmaceutical sciences in Lyon, I followed an internship ((biochemistry, hematology, hemostasis and microbiology) in the city of Rennes (Brittany, FR). In 1994, I started as medical biologist in a small medical lab in Lyon. Many years later, I joined the Biogroup which is a leading private group of medical biology laboratories created, managed and developed exclusively by medical biologists.

I am currently the LABAC President, I am involved in different official functional units in France:

- Since 2005: Technical assessor at the Cofrac (Comité Français d'accréditation) since 2013 for NF EN ISO 15189 and NF EN ISO 17025
- Since 2022: Member of the Healthcare Division Executive Committee, Comité Français d'accréditation (Cofrac)
- 2012- 2021: Member of the accreditation commission Cofrac Health care division.
- Since 2012: Member of different functional units at the AFNOR (Association Française de Normalization)
- 2020-2021: Member of the Covid 19 technical committee, Ministry of Health.
- 2021-2023 (1st Term): Member of the IFCC Task Force on Global Lab Quality TF-GLQ
- 2022- AACC member and SFBC member



Do you have some hobbies?

I like cinema and literature. I am a sports addict. I regularly practice cycling and running. I have run two Marathons and climbed with great effort and tenacity some great passes in the Alps. I am always attentive to the quality of the reception of my friends, as a lover of good cuisine and good wine. In my region of residence (Lyon), I use to discover the hills and vineyards of the Rhone Valley, also called the Valley of gastronomy!



NEWS FROM EFLM FUNCTIONAL UNITS

Four simple actions to be more sustainable and green in your laboratory!

Reported by Tomris Ozben,
Chair of the EFLM Task Force "Green & Sustainable Laboratories"

In line with the goal of the EFLM Task Force "Green & Sustainable Laboratories", I have the pleasure to start a new column in our newsletter: Four simple actions to be more sustainable and green in your laboratory!

In each issue of the newsletter, we will select 4 actions from each section of the checklist prepared by the EFLM TF-GSL members (Chemicals, Energy, Waste and Water) to start implementing the daily routine in your laboratories and getting familiar with the checklist.

The below actions are accompanied by a graphical leaflet that you can download and post in the notice board of your laboratory to be shared with your colleagues (in this case, please remember to use recycled paper 😊). [Click here to download the PDF](#)

The selected actions of this issue are:

Section "Hazardous Chemicals Management"

ACTION: Are chemicals labelled?

Section "Energy Management"

ACTION: Do you switch off lights, computers, instrumentation and equipment at the end of the day or when not in use?

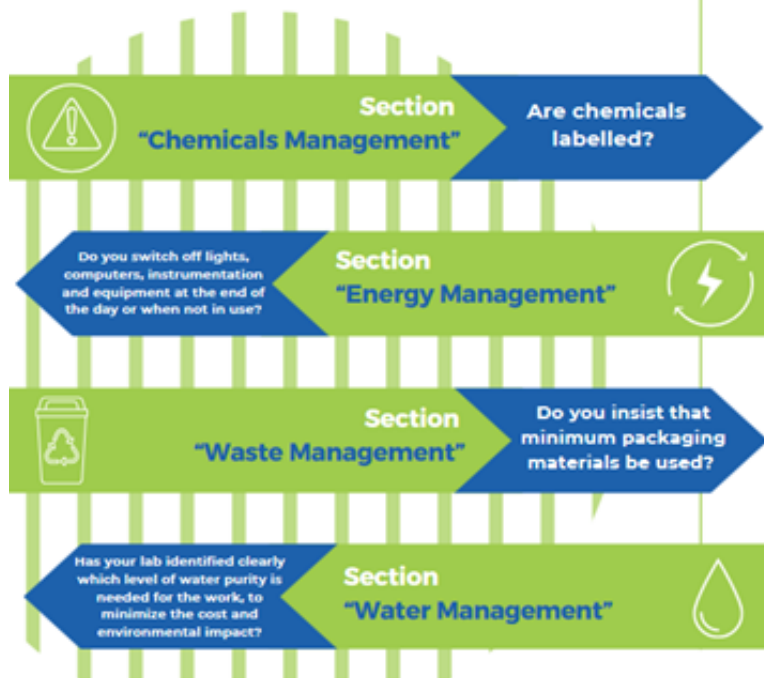
Section "Waste Management"

ACTION: Do you insist that minimum packaging materials be used?

Section "Water Management"

ACTION: Has your lab identified clearly which level of water purity is needed for the work, to minimize the cost and environmental impact?

FOUR SIMPLE ACTIONS TO BE MORE SUSTAINABLE AND GREEN IN YOUR LABORATORY!



NEWS FROM EFLM FUNCTIONAL UNITS

Save the date:

November 5 is the official day to celebrate European Laboratory Day!

Reported by Tara Rolic, Chair of the EFLM Task Group European Laboratory Day



Every year, EuLabDay is unique opportunity to mark and to celebrate laboratory medicine profession and to increase our visibility. At this day, all laboratory medicine professionals organize activities which promote and advocate for the important role of

laboratory medicine in every corner of Europe. First EuLabDay was organized in 2022 and now EFLM Task

Group European Laboratory Day is proudly presenting 2nd edition of the EuLabDay which will be held November 5th 2023. You can find one or more ideas how to join in marking this day [here](#). EFLM Task Group European Laboratory Day invites you to organize LabDay in opening doors of your laboratories, let interested people see how laboratory work, explain who works in your laboratory, show laboratory medicine profession. We encourage you to organize activities for general public (workshops, lecturers, events...). While planning, please follow EFLM social media and webpage to keep up with the news. We all know how laboratory medicine profession is #morethanonenumber and now is the time to show it to people of all age and other healthcare professionals!

Take advantage of the EFLMLabX both as offerer and applicant

Reported by Tara Rolic and Daniel Charles Turnock Members of the EFLM Task Group EFLMLabX



EFLMLabX is the scientific exchange programme of the EFLM. This activity is supervised by a dedicated functional unit chaired by Evgenija Homsak, Task Group EFLMLabX. The EFLMLabX platform offers to specialists/young trainees in Laboratory Medicine the opportunity to exchange practical knowledge and skills in different fields of Laboratory Medicine. In the dedicated platform, trainees can search for institutions offering placement, training opportunities, research work/cooperation and establish direct links with the selected institution. It possible to search practice by keywords, methods or analytical systems. This EFLM initiative ensures that a higher level of professional connections, knowledge and different method skills is achieved across EFLM member countries.



Register your institution as offerer: it is free and provides the visibility of your institution as partner of EFLM in this educational activity!

[Click here to view at the EFLMLabX platform](#)

(to see the detailed list of training opportunities, please register as user/offerer first)

We would like to welcome and extend our appreciation the latest laboratories joining LabX platform as partners with the EFLM in this important project.



GREECE

Laboratory of Clinical Chemistry, School of Medicine, University of Crete, Greece
Prof. Christos Tsatsanis



ITALY

University "Magna Graecia" of Catanzaro, Italy
Dr. Enrico Iaccino



BULGARIA

Department of Clinical Laboratory, Mhat Uni University Hospital "Tsaritsa Yoanna – ISUL", Bulgaria
Prof. Vasil Vasilev



CROATIA

Institute of Clinical Laboratory Diagnostics, Osijek University Hospital Centre, Osijek, Croatia
Ass. Prof. Vatroslav Šerić, PhD, EuSpLM



CROATIA

Clinical Department for Laboratory Diagnostics, University Hospital Dubrava, Zagreb, Croatia
Dr. Lovorka Đerek, PhD, EuSpLM



NORWAY

Department of Medical Biochemistry, Oslo University Hospital, Oslo, Norway
Dr. Sonia Distanto, PhD



Wydział Farmaceutyczny
z Oddziałem Medycyny Laboratoryjnej

POLAND

Dept of Clinical Laboratory Diagnostics, Faculty of Pharmacy with the Division of Laboratory Medicine, Medical University of Białystok, Białystok, Poland
Prof. Joanna Matowicka-Karna



EFLMLabX USER EXPERIENCE

EFLMLabX: one of the most practical ways to take your career one step ahead

Reported by Rabia Tan, Aydin Public Health Laboratory, Aydin, Turkey



I would like to express my endless gratitude to the EFLM association for giving me that opportunity. Before going into the details of the wonderful experience, let me briefly introduce myself. After completing medical school in 2014, I worked in the emergency room for a year and a half. During that time, I realized that I was interested in the wide world of biochemistry and I turned to this field. I entered Medical

Biochemistry Specialization Program which requires top scores with the National Medical Specialization Exam in Türkiye and completed my 4-year specialization education in 2020. For 3 years, I have been working as a Specialist Doctor in a governmental laboratory that has been dealing with more than 6500 samples of 2000 patients on average daily. I am married and have a wonderful 6-year-old son.

My EFLMLabX journey started when I received the e-mail stating that the bursary applications of the association have initiated in this field. It was a very attractive offer to get to know my colleagues who have gone through similar paths as me and to be able to see new devices, models and techniques.

Moreover, getting a bursary for my expenses would really ease my burden. I decided to apply to the Flow Cytometry Diagnostics Unit, Institute for Clinical Chemistry, University Medicine Mannheim, Germany which inspires me with its ability to perform immunophenotyping and wide area to diagnose illnesses. After receiving acceptance from the University of Mannheim and qualifying for the bursary, the EFLM office was always ready to help for each step. I contacted them when I hung out and they got back to me sincerely and quickly. After deciding the dates with my speaking partners in Mannheim, PD Dr. med. Verena Haselmann and Dr. rer. nat. Maren Hedtke, I completed my passport, visa, and vaccination procedures.

For a month in May 2023, I was in a sophisticated and accredited laboratory with the best in their field, in an environment where I could ask all my questions without hesitation. Director of the Institute Prof. Dr. med. Michael Neumaier was always polite and hospitable, both personally and professionally. M.Sc. Mathis Römer briefed me on the analytical measurement of the devices. Dr. Hedtke and Dr. med. Marco Paparella, openly presented their experience on how the results should be interpreted. For many manual operations, I was allowed to do many things on my own under observation. They did everything for me to understand each step-in detail, from the arrival of the samples to the output of the final report. I had the opportunity to participate to bone marrow conferences with the colleagues from Hematology Department daily. It was definitely an informative experience for me. I would like to thank my colleagues and laboratory staff who did whatever they can to make me feel at home. Also, Mannheim is a big city with its Baroque Palace, magnificent Water Tower, plenty of majestic churches, Maimarkt, Cityfests and this year hosting BUGA (Bundesgartenschau- The German National Garden Show). I really enjoyed every second of my time there. Nowadays, knowledge is readily available everywhere, but experience is only in competent hands. Therefore, I hope that practice, which allows sharing of experience, will continue for many years and many of my colleagues will benefit from this valuable opportunity.



VACANCIES IN EFLM FUNCTIONAL UNITS

Vacancies in the EFLM WG "Biomarkers of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury"

Reported by Silvia Terragni, EFLM Office

The call for nominations of a new member for the EFLM Working Group "Biomarkers of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury" (WG-BTBI) under the chairmanship of Prof. Vincent Sapin is open. The WG-BTBI aims to:

- provide recommendations on biomarkers in the diagnosis and prognosis of mTBI
- promote biological expertise between clinical biologists and clinicians (in emergency department) to better manage patients with mTBI
- provide scientific papers summarizing the main findings of the literature on mTBI biomarkers and of their integration of global algorithm/management of mTBI patients.

Specifically, we are calling for nominations of 1 **Young Scientist Member position** (≤ 35 years old at the time of nomination). "[Click here](#)" to know more about the requirements for the requested position and the evaluation's procedure.

Deadline to send nominations: 30 September 2023.

The first term of office will be for 2 years starting after the appointment in October 2023 and ending on 31 December 2024 with the potential extensions for two more terms beyond 2024.

Procedure for applications: each EFLM Full 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 eflm@eflm.eu. A brief plan of the applicant's contribution to the aims and objectives of the relevant Working Group must 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 must 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 provided there is no another corresponding member from the same country.

UPDATES ON EFLM PUBLICATIONS

ISO 15189 is a sufficient instrument to guarantee high-quality manufacture of laboratory developed tests for in-house-use conform requirements of the European In-Vitro-Diagnostics Regulation

Reported by Natalia Kozopas, member of the EFLM Task Group Young Scientist

Vanstapel FJLA, Orth M, Streichert T, Capoluongo ED, Osterhuis WP, Cubukcu HC et al. Clin Chem Lab Med 2023; Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1515/cclm-2023-0045>

The presented joint position paper of the EFLM Task Force on European Regulatory Affairs (TF ERA) and Working Group Accreditation and ISO/CEN standards (WG ISO/A) focuses on regulations of in-house laboratory-developed tests (LDTs).

The EU In-Vitro Diagnostics Device Regulation (IVDR) aims for transparent risk- and purpose-based validation of diagnostic devices, traceability of results and post-market surveillance. The IVDR regulates the design, manufacture and using devices but not medical services. LTDs serve specific clinical needs, often for low-volume applications or correspond to the translational phase of new tests and treatments, extremely relevant for patient care.

In the framework of this article, the authors discuss the appropriate interpretation of ISO 15189 to cover IVDR requirements. The workload depends on modifications to the commercial test when turning them into LDT and how national legislation and competent authorities will handle new competencies and responsibilities.

Based on the opinions expressed in the article, the authors argue with respect to LDTs that the ISO 15189 standard is fully suited for validation and assurance of IVDR performance and safety requirements and does not stand in the way for fulfilling the manufacturing and documentary requirements of the IVDR. Intended to improve patient safety, unintended side effects may cause damage. Commensurate implementation of the IVDR can limit the operational and financial burden for the healthcare system. Unintended damage of the IVDR comprises loss of non-profitable applications, increases costs and wasted resources and migration of innovative research to more cost-efficient environments.

REGULATION

Commercial diagnostic devices – by IVDR:

- transparent risk- and purpose-based validation
- traceability of results to uniquely identified devices
- post-market surveillance

Laboratory-developed tests (LDT) for in-house use:

- documentary obligations - IVDR Art 5.5
- performance and safety specifications - ANNEX I
- development and manufacture - under an ISO 15189 equivalent quality system apply

LDTs roll-out

- many commercial tests will require urgent LDT replacement
- workload depends on which modifications turn commercial devices into LDTs, and on specifics of regulation by national legislators and competent authorities
- a well-conceived LDT covers medical needs with commensurate management of risk emanating from intended use and/or design of devices (illustrated by selected cases)

RECOMMENDATIONS

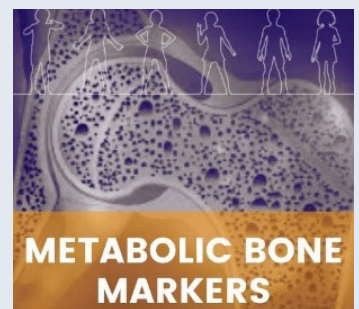
- Appropriate interpretation of ISO 15189 covers conclusively IVDR requirements
- The legislative framework should reduce the administrative burden on the health care system, using existing frameworks (ISO 15189 accreditation mechanisms) taking into consideration local specifics

Infographic by Natalia Kozopas, EFLM-YS

PAST EFLM EVENTS

Past EFLM webinars

Reported by Tara Rolić, Member of the EFLM Communication Committee



In June 2023 three excellent live EFLM webinars were taking place: Machine learning based clinical decision support using laboratory data, Maintaining Quality with Digital Pathology and Anemia as part of the EFLM project Lessons in Immunochemistry. In July, interesting live webinar about the use of metabolic bone markers in childhood was held at EFLM e-learning platform. Application of a new technology in laboratory, clinical significance of a new or old biomarker in a new view are always interesting topics, so do not miss the opportunity and play webinars on demand if you missed live. Only for EFLM Academy members at the EFLM e-learning platform.



Forthcoming EFLM webinars

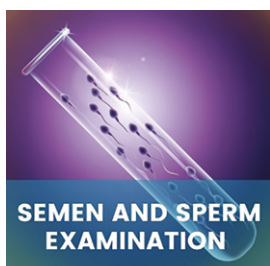
Reported by Aleš Kvasnička, Member of the EFLM Communication Committee

Do not miss excellent forthcoming webinars, free and available on demand for EFLM Academy members at the [EFLM e-learning platform!](#)



Digital Transformation: What to do and How to do

Date: 12th September 2023 at 18:00 CET time



Semen and sperm examination as a tool to investigate the man - validation of new methods

Date: 19th September 2023 at 18:00 CET time



EFLM Lessons in Immunochemistry Hepatic fibrosis - the role of laboratory biomarkers in diagnosis and monitoring

Date: 26th September 2023 at 16:00 CET time



Current concepts for early diagnosis of malignant disease

Date: 10th October 2023 at 18:00 CET time



Nutrition and biochemistry

Date: 24th October 2023 at 18:00 CET time

UPCOMING EFLM EVENTS



The diagnostic abilities of POC instruments

Date: 7th November 2023 at 18:00 CET time



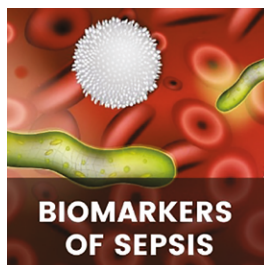
Implementation of sustainable practices in medical laboratories switching Clinical Laboratories to Green Labs

Date: 28th November 2023 at 18:00 CET time



EFLM Lessons in Immunochemistry - Coronary Artery Disease - Predicting the development of coronary artery disease in apparently healthy individuals - the role of Lp (a)

Date: 6th December 2023 at 16:00 CET time



Biomarkers of sepsis: procalcitonin and more

Date: 13th December 2023 at 18:00 CET time

Report from the 18th conference of the scientific and technical committee - accredited laboratories

Reported by Ass. Prof. Neda Milinković,

Department of Medical Biochemistry, University of Belgrade - Faculty of Pharmacy, Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia

Quality control in the entire laboratory process is the basis of the reliability of laboratory testing. That is why it is important that, in addition to the awareness of the implementation of continuous control of the total process of laboratory testing, constant education on this topic is held. The Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia (SMBS), knowing the importance of maintaining continuous education, has traditionally organized the First Category Seminar, the 18th Conference of the Scientific and Technical Committee of Accredited Laboratories, for the 18th time.

The seminar was held within the framework of the Unified Association of Serbia for Quality (JUSK), which is a significant logistical support of SMBS for this meeting. SMBS has been a member of JUSK for many years, and the continuity of annual gatherings under the auspices of JUSK speaks of their quality. The main objectives of the program are set in relation to familiarity with terminology and concepts related to quality assurance of the pre-analytical, analytical and post-analytical phases of the work process in a medical biochemical laboratory, familiarization with the process of quality control and management in laboratories specific to the primary, secondary and tertiary level of health care, understanding internal and external quality control procedures, as well as testing the laboratory's capabilities, familiarization with the challenges and potential of new diagnostic tools in molecular diagnostics, familiarization with the basics of implementation and management of Point-of-Care testing in routine laboratory and non-laboratory practice, and familiarization with the concept of risk management in the laboratory process.

The first lecture was given by Bojana Pavlović, specialist in medical biochemistry, from the Center for Medical Biochemistry of the University Clinical Center of Serbia. She elaborated the importance of quality indicators of the pre-analytical phase of laboratory testing. Also, she showed which quality indicators were monitored over time as part of the project of the International Federation for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine "Model of Quality Indicators" which was implemented in the polyclinic diagnostics laboratory.

In this way, it is possible to assess critical procedures and improve them, prevent errors and apply corrective measures, all with the aim of improving the overall performance of the medical laboratory.

The second speaker was Ivana Vujatov, specialist in medical biochemistry, EuSpLM, the Head of the Jugolab Health Institution, Institute for Laboratory Diagnostics, Novi Sad, Serbia.

Her talk was about the importance of conducting external quality control, presenting the results of a competence assessment of a private laboratory. The lecture contributed to the understanding of the interpretation of external quality control reports. In addition, it presented the procedures needed to be implemented in order to correct any deviations.

The third lecture was given by Dr. Danijela Ristovski Kornic, EuSpLM. Dr. Ristovski Kornic is a specialist in medical biochemistry and the -Head of the Department of Laboratory Diagnostics, Pančevo Health Center, Serbia. The lecture presented the experience of a health care institution of the primary level of health care in the conditions of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. She presented the challenges faced by her team regarding the control of the examination process as well as the entire diagnostics of the health center. She also presented an example of an adequate organization of her service, which enabled the

work under intense pressure and successfully maintained the quality of laboratory testing. The fourth lecture was given by specialist in medical biochemistry Jasna Bjelanović, EuSpLM, from the Center for Medical Biochemistry, University Clinical Center of Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia, where she is the Head of the laboratory department at the Clinic for Digestive Surgery, University Clinical Center of Serbia. The lecture presented the basics of quality assurance in the hematology laboratory, which refers to all stages of the testing process and is defined by the international and national guidelines and regulative. She emphasized the importance of continuous compliance with the rules of good laboratory practice and conscientious follow-up of quality control guidelines, which is a condition for identifying priorities in quality improvement and encouraging focus on preventive and corrective steps in the hematology laboratory. Application of special quality control techniques such as moving average, and assessment of the quality of the testing process using the six-sigma concept, can significantly improve the quality of testing in the hematology laboratory.

The fifth lecture was given by Ass. Prof. Jelena Munjas, from the Department of Medical Biochemistry, University of Belgrade-Faculty of Pharmacy. Although the lecture was based on the issue of molecular diagnostics and specific PCR tests, Prof. Munjas showed that micro-RNA molecules also have the potential to be important diagnostic tools even in routine conditions. Of course, under the condition of established quality control of the total laboratory testing process. And in the case of specific molecular diagnostic tests, it is imperative to standardize both the analytical and the extra-analytical phase of the testing process.

Only in this way is it possible to ensure that these potential biomarkers, represent reliable evidence of a pathological process in the body, but can also be used as a significant therapeutic tool. The sixth lecturer was Ass. Prof. Neda Milinković, specialist of medical biochemistry, EuSpLM, from the Department of Medical Biochemistry, University of Belgrade-Faculty of Pharmacy. Prof. Milinković presented the basic requirements needed to successfully implement and manage Point-of-Care testing (POCT). She emphasized the importance of knowing the specific requirements for POCT testing and explained the importance of its accreditation, as well as the conditions that must be met for the end result of this kind of testing to be clinically reliable and legally justified. The penultimate lecture was given by Dr Iva Perović Blagojević, specialist in medical biochemistry, EuSpLM, from the Department of Laboratory Diagnostics, Clinical Hospital Center "Dr. Dragiša Mišović Dedinje", Belgrade, Serbia. Dr. Perović Blagojević explained in detail the importance of the Interpretive Comments as well as the professional obligation of medical biochemists in understanding and applying them. In addition to the basic interpretation of laboratory reports, interpretive comments can significantly increase the clinical significance of the laboratory result and assist the physician in the final care of the patient. Although they are classified in the post-analytical process of examination, in fact they refer to and include the situations of both the pre-analytical stages and the stages of testing and analyzing itself. Although there are no universal guidelines regarding the use of interpretive comments, ISO standard 15189 states that the laboratory report should include them where necessary, indicating the importance of using interpretive comments in routine work. Although at the end, but most importantly, the concept of risk

management in laboratory processes was presented. The last lecture was presented by Ass. Prof. Snežana Jovičić, specialist in medical biochemistry, EuSpLM, from the Department of Medical Biochemistry, University of Belgrade-Faculty of Pharmacy, Belgrade, Serbia. Prof. Jovičić emphasized that risk assessment and the implementation of an adequate control plan guarantee the responsibility of laboratory expert. In this way, medical laboratories ensure that the results of their analytical processes are of appropriate quality, reliable and accurate in accordance with the capabilities of the methods and technology in use. Developing a quality control plan requires an understanding of the total testing process. That is why it is important to identify weaknesses and potential deficiencies in each individual phase of testing. In this way, it is possible to prevent errors that may occur as well as damage that may be caused to the patient himself. This conference has finally reached adulthood and, in its essence, it has reached the maturity of international meetings. Also, with this meeting, new higher-level tasks were set for each subsequent meeting, both for the participants and the organizer, which we hope will be achieved.



Lecturers and chairpersons of the 18th conference of NTK-Accredited Laboratories (from left to right): Dr Iva Perović-Blagojević, Ass. Prof. Neda Milinković, Jasna Bjelanović, Dr Danijela Ristovski Kornic, Ass. Prof. Snežana Jovičić, Prof. dr Nada Majkić Singh, Dr Vera Lukić, Prof. dr Svetlana Ignjatović, Prof. dr Ana Ninić, Ivana Vujatov and Bojana Pavlović

NEWS FROM EFLM NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Collaboration between 15 scientific societies to improve cardiovascular quality of care and prevention

SEQCML

Sociedad Española de Medicina de Laboratorio

The SEQCML plays leading role in the preparation of the first consensus document for lipid profile determination in Spanish clinical laboratories

The document, "What parameters should a basic lipid profile include?", has been published in the official journal of the Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQCML), "Advances in Laboratory Medicine/Avances en Medicina de Laboratorio". Recommendations are included for the development and standardization of criteria that allow the incorporation of lipid control objectives in laboratory reports that are appropriate to patients' vascular risks.

The Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQCML) has played a crucial role in the preparation of the first Spanish consensus document for the determination of a lipid profile in clinical laboratories. The publication, "What parameters should a basic lipid profile include?" was created with the collaboration of the Spanish Society of Arteriosclerosis (SEA) and the Spanish Society of Cardiology (SEC), with the consensus of 12 other Spanish scientific societies involved in the study of cardiovascular risk. The work has been published in the official journal of the SEQCML, "Advances in Laboratory Medicine/Avances en Medicina de Laboratorio", as well as in the other journals of scientific societies that have subscribed to the consensus document. This document, and the role of each of the members of the medical treatment process for cardiovascular monitoring, were discussed during the debate panel of the 35th edition of the SEA Congress, "From the laboratory to the clinic without a solution of continuity: The debate is open." In this talk, as reported by Redacción Médica, a Spanish media outlet specializing in health information, it was revealed that the Clinical Laboratory has gone from being a mere executor of requests for analytical tests to becoming an active participant in the identification of important lipid alterations.

Cardiovascular diseases, which include coronary heart disease and stroke, remain the leading cause of death and disability in the world. In Spain, they are the leading cause of death, ahead of tumors. The Clinical Laboratory is a fundamental part of the healthcare process in prevention, diagnosis, monitoring and control in the treatment of cardiovascular disease.

According to Dr. José Puzo, member of the Committee on Lipids and Vascular Diseases of the SEQCML and participant in the panel debate, this publication is a "basic consensus proposal on the determination of a lipid profile in cardiovascular prevention, which includes recommendations for its implementation and unification of criteria; in order to incorporate in laboratory reports the lipid control objectives appropriate to the vascular risk of the patients. All medical laboratories should incorporate these recommendations into our normal work procedures".

The scientific committee of the SEQCML includes the Commission on Lipids and Vascular Diseases. This Commission, as Dr. Puzo asserted, has been decisive in the creation of the consensus document. "The courses carried out by this Commission, as well as the aforementioned document, address key aspects to be considered in the determination of lipids; in the pre-analytical phase (fasting or not, position at the time of extraction, clinical context of the patient), analytical phase (determination and calculation methods), and post-analytical phase (how the results should be reported, reference or alarm values)".

Further info about SEQCML at www.seqc.es



From left to right: Dr. Beatiz Candàs, Dr. Carlos Romero, Dr. Pepe Puzo, Dr. Teresa Arrobas and Dr. Antonio Buño. Members of the Committee on Lipids and Vascular Diseases of the SEQC-ML and President of the National Society respectively.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD IN EFLM NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Reported by Silvia Cattaneo, EFLM Office

A warm welcome to the new incoming National Society officers and a great thank you to the outgoing EFLM National Representatives and National Society Presidents for the support to EFLM activities during their terms of office.

Royal Belgian Society of Laboratory Medicine (RBSLM)

Pieter Vermeersch (Laboratory of Clinical Bacteriology and Mycology, Univ. of Leuven) is the new EFLM National Representative for RBSLM, before the position was ad interim covered by the RBSLM President, Etienne Cavalier.

Romanian Association of Laboratory Medicine (RALM)

Daniela Jitaru (Head of Laboratory, Regional Institute of Oncology, Iasi) is the new President of the Romanian Association of Laboratory Medicine, replacing Cristina Mambet.

The Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (ACB)

Katharine Hayden (Consultant Clinical Biochemist & Clinical Head of Division, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust) is the new President of the Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine, replacing Bernie Croal.

IFCC NEWS

Reported by Katherina Psarra, Editor of IFCC eNews and Chair eNews WG



Dear colleagues,

I hope you are enjoying your holidays. I am imagining you at the seaside or under a tree in the countryside relaxing and resting as you deserve. Well, it is hard to believe that you are thinking of your emails but, let's hope, that if you do, you are running into the new issue of the [IFCC eNews](#). And you will see that something has changed. It is a brand-new format created by the new IT company, the DiGiWeDo. It is the same company that created the new website and we do hope that you like this new environment: It would be really great if you send us your opinion. We are looking forward to it.

The cover of the new IFCC eNews

In this issue IFCC [President Prof Khosrow Adeli](#) is inviting all of us to the WorldLab2024 in Dubai, explaining to us what to expect from this great event. In this issue **more reports from Rome** can be found like the one about the [PointOfCare satellite meeting](#). POCT seems to be more and more a part of everybody's life, and at the same time more and more connected to the lab life. I found in this article even the word flow Cytometry mentioned, which is my area of work and I was very surprised. Go through this article and you will know a lot more about POCT and the future. And then Prof János Kappelmayer, the eJournal editor, is sharing with you his experience from the [IFCC PSEP at Harvard](#).

I am sure you will be willing to follow his example and take the opportunity to have a similar experience if you are eligible of course. Go through this issue dear colleagues and a lot more experiences and opportunities will appear before your eyes and perhaps, while resting and enjoying your holidays you will dream of a new future offered to you by IFCC. Until then, will you, please, not forget to share with us your opinion about the new eNews format? Enjoy your holidays!

Katherina

Prestigious Global Recognition Awaits

The UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award program recently announced the elite winners of the [2022 UNIVANTS Awards](#). Feeling inspired? Applications for the 2023 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award program open Aug 1st. To submit your application and/or learn more, please visit www.UnivantsHCE.com. To learn about educational opportunities for healthcare excellence, please visit www.healthcareelx.com.

IFCC Task Force on Outcome Studies in Laboratory Medicine (TF-OSLM) Calls For Outcome Study Proposals 2023 - Research Funding Available

The IFCC TF-OSLM is seeking research proposals for studies evaluating the impact of laboratory testing on healthcare outcomes. Study proposals should seek to evaluate the clinical effectiveness and impact of new and/or commonly available medical laboratory tests and/or laboratory information on patient care outcomes in clinical practice.

All applications are due by: September 1, 2023 – [click here](#) for full eligibility criteria and details on how to apply



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 [here](#) or email eflm@eflm.eu

12 September 2023



EFLM Webinar: Digital Transformation: What to do and How to do
on-line,

[Click here for information](#)

Herceg-Novi, Boka Bay (ME), 27-30 September 2023

BCLF 2023 – 30. Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation Congress and 2. Montenegrin Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Lab. Medicine

[Click here for information](#)

Hradec Kralove (CZ), 17-19 September 2023

XVI. National Congress of Clinical Biochemistry

[Click here for information](#)

Barcelona (ES) & virtual sessions, 4 October 2023

III Meeting on External Quality Assurance Programs

[Click here for information](#)

19 September 2023



EFLM Webinar: Semen and sperm examination as a tool to investigate the man – validation of new methods
on-line,

[Click here for information](#)

Stará Lesná (SK), 8-10 October 2023

LABKVALITA 2023

[Click here for information](#)

Skiathos (GR), 20-23 September 2023

6th ACTC meeting “Liquid Biopsy and Precision Oncology: where do we stand now”

[Click here for information](#)

10 October 2023



EFLM Webinar: Current concepts for early diagnosis of malignant disease

on-line,

[Click here for information](#)

Padua (IT), 20 September 2023

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF LABORATORY MEDICINE: 30 YEARS LATER Symposium dedicated to the memory of Professor Angelo Burlina

[Click here for information](#)

Antibes (FR), 11-13 October 2023

JFBM 2023 - 6èmes Journées Francophones de Biologie Médicale

[Click here for information](#)

Tbilisi (GE), 23 September 2023

Laboratory medicine role in clinical outcome and Challenges of Laboratory Medicine in Georgia

[Click here for information](#)

Prague (CZ), 12-13 October 2023

5th Symposium CELME 2023. Analytical Performance Specifications (APS): moving from models to practical recommendations

EFLM Event

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26 September 2023



EFLM Lessons in Immunochemistry: Lesson n. 7 - HEPATIC FIBROSIS: the role of laboratory biomarkers in diagnosis and monitoring
on-line,

[Click here for information](#)

Dublin (IE), 20-21 October 2023

45th Annual ACBI Conference

[Click here for information](#)



Brussels (BE) & hybrid meeting, 17 November 2023

Annual Meeting of the RBSLM 2023

[Click here for information](#)

28 November 2023



EFLM Webinar: Implementation of sustainable practices in medical laboratories switching Clinical Laboratories to Green Labs

on-line,

[Click here for information](#)

6 December 2023



EFLM Lessons in Immunochemistry: Lesson n. 8 - CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE predicting the development in apparently healthy individuals: the role of Lp(a)

on-line,

[Click here for information](#)

24 October 2023



EFLM Webinar: Nutrition and biochemistry

on-line,

[Click here for information](#)

13 December 2023



EFLM Webinar: Biomarkers of sepsis: procalcitonin and more

on-line,

[Click here for information](#)

Copenhagen (DK), 25-27 October 2023

7th ESPT International Congress "Precision Medicine and Personalised Health" (ESPT 2023)

[Click here for information](#)

Santorini (GR), 21-24 May 2024

The 10+1 Santorini Conference "Systems medicine and personalised health & therapy"- "The odyssey from hope to practice: Patient first - Keeps Ithaca always in your mind"

[Click here for information](#)

Fethiye, Muğla (TR), 29 October- 01 November 2023

TBS International Biochemistry Congress / 34th National Biochemistry Congress

[Click here for information](#)

Saint Malo (FR), 13-14 June 2024

9th International Symposium on Critical Care Testing and Blood Gases

[Click here for information](#)

7 November 2023



EFLM Webinar: The diagnostic abilities of POC instruments

on-line,

[Click here for information](#)

Brussels (BE), 18-22 May 2025



26th European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine 49th Annual Meeting of the Royal Belgian Society of Laboratory Medicine

EFLM Event

[Click here for information](#)

Time to relax

refreshing your knowledge
with the EFLM e-learning platform



The EFLM Office is closed from 7 to 18 August