

EFLM

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY  
AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

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# EuroLab News

THE EFLM BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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## Foreword

**First and foremost, the EuroLabNews Team wish you all a very Happy New Year with the best of health and prosperity!**

Our new EFLM President Mario Plebani greets the members of the EFLM delineating his vision during his term of office. The executive board informs us about the recent BioMed Alliance statement calling for urgent action to curb the persisting anomalies with implementation of the IVDR. Darius Vitkus, EFLM Executive Board Member-at-large presents his interview with Rob Jansen, former EC4 President, an iconic senior laboratory colleague. Under news from the functional units, Tomris Ozben, Chair of the EFLM Task Force Green and Sustainable Laboratories, presents four simple actions to be more sustainable and green. Tara Rolic presents EFLMLab X report summarizing her experience in Oslo, Norway. Silvia Terragni, from the EFLM Office, informs us on a vacancy in the EFLM WG "Ethics". Tara Rolić, Member of the EFLM Communication Committee, summarizes past EFLM webinars and draws our attention to upcoming webinars. In news from National Societies, the Serbian Society is presenting their latest happenings. Under its regular column, the IFCC corner presents global perspectives in Laboratory Medicine. The Calendar of Events lists major happenings in the field of Laboratory Medicine.



Reported by **Harjit Pal Bhattoa**,  
Editor EFLM EuroLabNews

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# Greeting from the new EFLM President

Dear Colleagues and Friends,  
I am delighted to serve the European Federation of Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) community as the new President of its Executive Board (EB): this is a great privilege and honor, and I am prepared to take a lead role, with support from equally motivated members of the Executive Board.

Over the last two years, I have very much enjoyed and appreciated the spirit of cooperation and collaboration within the Board and the friendship between all members. However, I am acutely aware that is no easy feat to take over the role of EFLM President from Tomris Ozben, who has achieved so much during her term of office, and I wish to congratulate her for her enthusiastic and inexhaustible activity devoted to developing and implementing innovative projects such as the "Green and Sustainable Medical Laboratories", which is receiving an increasing interest at an international level, particularly after finalization of the program for the certification of "green medical laboratories". Tomris has, moreover, promoted new Functional Units based on the dedicated work of many members, the program of accreditation of continuing education events (CPECS), and proposed the new Corporate Membership status.

Yet, there is more to be done. Healthcare systems are struggling, clinical laboratories are struggling, and patients are struggling. This is mainly due to the numerous challenges we are experiencing: economic pressure is affecting investment in the medical sector, and wars are involving members of our national societies, not to mention the effects of climate change. Furthermore, the value of laboratory medicine is underestimated, in spite of the fact that during the COVID-19 pandemic new and robust evidence has highlighted the important role played by our discipline in helping individual patients and the community at large. Now, more than ever, we need the laboratory medicine community to increase its efforts and collaborate in order to establish a critical force that is potent, visible and effective in driving laboratory services to the levels needed to facilitate efficient, effective and appropriate healthcare strategies and valuable patient diagnostic-therapeutic pathways. As the incoming President, I will prioritise EFLM business, striving to achieve workstreams that directly promote and facilitate the steps that are most important to our members and to the profession; these include achieving an appropriate and adequate workforce, stimulating new vocations and career development for young scientists, striving to improve the new European Directive on in vitro diagnostics (IVDR), and promoting harmonization and standardization in laboratory medicine in order to assure the comparability of laboratory information. As Virgilio wrote "mens agitat molem", so science and vision are the only right tools to cope with current challenges and ensure a bright future for our discipline and laboratory professionals.

To contribute to the further development of EFLM, I would like to share with you some key issues that I intend to address during my term of office:

a) Following discussion with the EB, I have finally prepared the program for the 4th EFLM Strategic Conference to be held on September 23rd-24th, 2024. Entitled "A vision to the future: value-based laboratory medicine", this hybrid event should gain wide participation (virtual), and allow for interactive discussion (in presence, in Padova-Italy). The four sessions will deal with 1) Creating value for users, 2) Changing the organization, 3) Addressing ethical aspects in laboratory medicine, and 4) Considering the future of laboratory professionals. The main aim of the Conference is to activate and/or reinforce Task and Finish Groups in order to effectively address the work of the EFLM by focusing on strategic objectives. I hope for wide and attentive participation of many Colleagues.

b) Re-organizing the work of current working groups (WGs) and



**Mario Plebani,**  
EFLM President

- Task and Finish Groups to ensure efficiency and effectiveness
- c) Increasing the number of EFLM Academy members
- d) Supporting the project on the certification of Green and sustainable medical laboratories
- e) Promoting projects on harmonization in the Total Testing Cycle
- f) Promoting closer cooperation and collaboration with clinical scientific societies and further developing the concept of "Integrated diagnostics", and cooperation with Biomedical Alliance and other Associations/Bodies which are advancing biomedical research in Europe
- g) Supporting efforts made in Regulatory Science, namely the discussion on the new EU in vitro diagnostics Regulation (IVDR), particularly concerning Laboratory Developed Tests (LDT)
- h) Encouraging young scientists to increasingly play a fundamental role in the activities of the EFLM, supporting them and other EFLM members with bursaries and Awards for participation in national and international scientific events

I would like to conclude by thanking all the Past EFLM Presidents, Executive Board members and officers of the functional units for their voluntary service, contribution and effort in building an increasingly strong and visible Federation, serving all members and providing leadership in laboratory medicine both throughout Europe and beyond. In particular, I wish to congratulate the ongoing EB member, Ana-Maria Simundic, who has achieved so much for the EFLM as President for a two-years mandate and also member of the Board for 15 years! Thank you so much Ana-Maria!

In my term of office, I intend to carefully listen to the voices of all national societies and members, accept proposals, criticism and suggestions as I realise this will underpin the alignment of the EFLM program to the true needs of laboratory professionals and, hopefully, help us all to attain our shared goals.

Finally, let me express my gratitude to Silvia Cattaneo and Silvia Terragni, who are working in the EFLM secretariat; they certainly are of great value to the Federation, and to all members.

I look forward to fruitful cooperation with the EFLM Board members, officers, National Societies and other stakeholders in ongoing and future EFLM activities, and I wish you all a beautiful, happy and prosperous 2024.

With my best regards

Yours

Mario Plebani, EFLM President



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Wishing the new  
**EFLM Executive Board**  
the best success for  
the next 2 years of mandate

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**Mario PLEBANI**

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Padova, Italy



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# URGENT ACTION NEEDED TO PREVENT WIDESPREAD SHORTAGE OF DIAGNOSTIC TESTS



TAKE  
ACTION

## The EFLM Executive board informs

Urgent action needed  
to prevent widespread  
shortage of diagnostic  
tests

Reported by **Mario Plebani**,  
EFLM President

I would like to share with you an important document released by BioMed Alliance on the In vitro diagnostics regulation (IVDR) and persisting problems with its implementation. Just a brief introduction to explain what is BioMed Alliance and the relationships between this Association and EFLM. The Biomedical Alliance in Europe (BioMed Alliance) is the result of a unique initiative of leading European medical societies that together include more than 400,000 researchers and health professionals. EFLM is part of the the Association and in the last Board meeting, it was decided to appoint Christa Cobbaert, current Chair of the EFLM Task Force European Regulatory Affairs (TF-ERA), as the liaison between BioMed Alliance and EFLM, as we consider the implementation of the new IVDR a strategic project even for the future of clinical laboratories.

**Mission of BioMed Alliance:** the Association shall aim to speak as a common voice of all its members in seeking to:

- facilitate and improve biomedical research in Europe;
- develop a framework for better training and mobility of researchers and healthcare professionals in Europe;
- represent its members being medical associations in common policy and strategic matters;
- improve public understanding of medical science in Europe.

**The Association intends to:**

- promote excellence in European biomedical research;
- strengthen the representation of biomedical researchers, disciplines and associations;
- advocate for increased funding in favour of biomedical research;
- thereby improve the health and well-being of all citizens of Europe.

I would like to strongly recommend you the reading of this statement and related document and to contribute to the debate we would like to promote to avoid shortage of essential IVDs and ensure a valuable diagnostic testing and patient care.

[Read the Biomed Alliance statement](#)

  
Biomedical Alliance in Europe

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# Interviews with senior laboratory colleagues

## Interview with **Prof. Rob Jansen**, former EC4 President, The Netherlands

Conducted by **Dalius Vitkus**, EFLM Executive Board Member-at-large

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

My motivation was the ambition and drive to bring our profession to a higher level and to increase its visibility for patients, other specialists in the medical field and also national and European authorities.



**What was in it for you?**

The feeling to really contribute not only in my own hospital but also in a national and especially international environment.



**If you would need to name a role that was most rewarding to you, what would it be?**

EC4 was raised as the EU organization for clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine. It was raised in 1975 by my father professor Ad Jansen and British, German and French colleagues. After 1982 the activities in EC4 diminished, however these were taken up again in the beginning of the nineties in particular by professor Gerard Sanders. The importance was seen of recognition of the profession in the EU. During the 1990-ties also FESCC was founded. EC4 focussed on the EU and FESCC on the whole of Europe in particular the National and European congresses. When the EU was enlarged in the first decade of 2000 EC4 and FESCC merged. The most rewarding role for me was to be president of EC4 and to start the structure of it based on Strategic Plans. Thus, EC4 became active focussing on the European Commission, ISO, the European co-operation for Accreditation (EA) and many other organizations. We focussed on five main topics: • Harmonisation of profession in the EU by a Common Platform (later Common Training Framework, CTF) based on the EC4 Register, the Guide to the Register, the Guide to defining Competence, the EC4 Syllabus for post-graduate training and the EC4 Code of Conduct • Harmonisation of the training based on the EC4 Syllabus for post-graduate training • Harmonisation of quality of laboratories based on accreditation according to a new ISO standard for medical laboratories which we established (ISO 15189) • Harmonisation of laboratory data via EQA and commutable materials in the Calibration 2000 project For these goals to achieve we installed a number of Working Groups led by notorious colleagues: • WG Registration Commission (Simone Zérah) • WG Profession (Simone Zérah) • WG Laboratory Accreditation (Wim Huisman) • WG ISO and CEN (Demond Kenny and David Burnett) • WG Desired Competencies for Consultants (Graham Beastall) • WG Guidelines for the Investigation of Disease (Päivi Laitinen) Page van 110 All the work done led to numerous publications mainly in CCLM. It was very rewarding to co-operate with a great number of celebrities among which Mario Plebani (now EFLM president), Graham Beastall, Rita Horvath, Simone Zérah, Gerard Sanders, Mike Hallworth, David Burnett, Desmond Kenny, Ian Watson, Dalius Vitkus, Päivi Laitinen, Nuthar Jassam, Wim Huisman, Vic Blaton, José Queraltó, Sverre Sandberg, Mauro Panteghini, and many other. Another role that was rewarding for me was my involvement in the Strategic Conference on the defining of analytical performance specifications in Milan 2014. It was in fact the second conference focussed on such specifications 15 years after the Stockholm conference in which I also participated. The publication of the conference (Sandberg S, Fraser CG, Horvath AR, Jansen R, Jones G, Oosterhuis W, Petersen PH, Schimmel H, Sikaris K, Panteghini M. Defining analytical performance specifications: consensus statement from the 1st Strategic Conference of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine. Clin Chem Lab Med 2015; 53(6): 833–8) is frequently cited. Probably the most rewarding was to be awarded with the EFCC (now EFLM) Roche Scientific Award for Laboratory Medicine. It is "to honour an individual from an EFCC member country who has made unique contributions to the promotion and understanding of clinical chemistry throughout Europe or who has made one or more contributions that have had a major impact on clinical chemistry". I received it during EuroMedlab 2009 in Innsbruck from the hands of Roche CEO Severin Schwan. Mike Hallworth addressed me in a very kind laudatio.



**You were the EC4 President (1999-2005) and Register Commission Chairman (2011-2013). What were the greatest challenges during your EFLM engagement? How would you describe EC4, EFLM (and EFCC) in those days?**

The Amsterdam meetings in the years 2000- 2004 are historical. A large group of national representatives (I named some of them above) took part in these meetings. In the meetings the progress was discussed of Strategic Plans which covered four years each. For all working groups actions were defined in the Strategic Plans and the chairs of the WG's presented their progress. This introduced an enormous enthusiasm and resulted in great achievements among which: • ISO accepted a new standard especially for medical laboratories, ISO 15189. Its first version was the literal text of the EC4 publication Essential Criteria for Quality Systems in Medical Laboratories by Jansen, Baton, Burnett, Huisman, Queraltó, Zérah and Allman. • EA accepted to accredit medical laboratories according to the new ISO 15189 • European Commission accepted the documents of EC4 to establish a CTF. Sadly enough it is not implemented yet. • Publication of the Guide to the Register, the Syllabus and the Code of Conduct led to adaptation of training schemes in many countries. Several version of these documents have since been published • Publication of the European Model Quality Manual helped many laboratories to set up their quality systems EC4 enthusiastic group laid the basis of EFLM as it is now, including its structure and procedures. Page van 2 10 The enlargement of the EU logically led to merger of EC4 and FESCC to EFCC by Vic Blaton, Mike Hallworth and me. Later EFCC was transformed in EFLM by Ian Watson with some help of me. In EFLM I chaired the Registration Commission for some years. The Register is now incorporated in the Academy.



**How do you see the future of EFLM?**

The world is changing rapidly and this also pertains to the medical laboratory. The merging of laboratories to large sometimes internationally operating organizations is in my opinion not the most desirable direction. We need to keep and see the human scale. EFLM should look for strategies to counteract this. What is needed, however, is more co-operation between the different laboratory disciplines. The diagnostic laboratory should serve patients and requesting specialists in providing interpretation of laboratory data. The visibility to the public is a main challenge for EFLM and its members. Direct help for patients in interpreting their data in the light of individual biological variation is crucial. Harmonisation of laboratory data is essential for this and remains a major task. The same applies for POCT and home testing. It should be the responsibility of laboratories to assist doctors, nurses and patients to use these systems and to asses and control the quality of these. EFLM should set the standard for the level of the profession, the laboratories, and the laboratory data.



**The EFLM functional units (Executive Board/WGs/TFs) are composed of members voted by EFLM National societies, who come from different cultures, have different priorities, views and preferences. That is not the team you select, but you have to work with that team and manage all kinds of important projects, towards common European goals. Is it difficult to lead such a heterogeneous team? Could you describe your experience in the functional unit during your engagement?**

People like to work together as long as they get responsibly and a clear objective. Therefore, actions should be defined resulting from Strategic Plans. Yearly evaluation of the Strategic Plan and the actions should be done in a meeting of all people involved. This gives them the opportunity to contribute to the Plan but also the obligation to report on the progress of their actions. This approach resulted in the succes of EC4 and formed a strong basis for EFLM.



**Your field of expertise were clinical chemistry and EQA. Could you name some major achievements, milestones and future challenges in that area?**

Major achievements are related to three cornerstones: • Harmonization of the profession • Harmonization of the quality of laboratories • Harmonization of laboratory data Firstly Harmonization of the profession. The setting up of the Register including the Guide to the Register, the European Syllabus, and the Code of Conduct are crucial for harmonization of the profession. The Register is Page van 3 10 now within the Academy as is the ongoing work on the Syllabus. Many countries follow the EC4 and now EFLM approach. My name is in most of the original publications. Secondly Harmonization of the quality of laboratories. The publication of the EC4 Essential Criteria for Quality Systems in Medical Laboratories (Jansen RTP, Blaton V, Burnett D, Huisman W, Queraltó JM, Zérah S, Allman B. Essential Criteria for Quality Systems in Medical Laboratories.



European Journal Clinical Chemistry Clinical Biochemistry 1997; 35 : 121-132) was the reason of the appearance of ISO 15189. The first version of it was the literal text of this paper. The adaptation by the European cooperation for Accreditation was also a major achievement (see Jansen RTP. Accreditation in The European Union: Where we are, where should we go? Journal of the Association for laboratory automation 1999; 4, 74). In addition the EC4 Model Quality Manual helped laboratories to set up their quality system (Queralto JM, Huisman W, Jansen RTP, Blaton V, Burnett D, Kenny D, Lieshout JL, Plebani M, Zerah S. The EC4 Quality manual model. Clin.Chem.Lab.Med. 2001; 39 Special Supplement pp S1-S448, S268). Thirdly Harmonization of laboratory data. The necessity of commutable materials to assess and harmonize the results of laboratories was recognized and introduced in the Calibration 2000 project in the Netherlands (e.g. Jansen R, Schumann G, Baadenhuijsen H, Franck P, Franzini C, Kruse R, Kuypers A, Weykamp C, Panteghini M. Trueness verification and traceability assessment of results from commercial systems for measurement of six enzyme activities in serum. An international study in the EC4 framework of the Calibration 2000 project. Clinica Chimica Acta 368 (2006) 160-167 Jansen R, Jassam N, Thomas A, Perich C, Fernandez-Calle P, Faria AP, Correia H, Barth JH, Weykamp C, Cobbaert C, Thelen M, Ricós C. A category 1 EQA scheme for comparison of laboratory performance and method performance: An international pilot study in the framework of the Calibration 2000 project. Clin Chim Acta. Clin Chim Acta 432 (2014) 90–8). Another major achievement regarding laboratory data is the publication of the Milan conference on the defining of analytical performance specifications in 2014 (see above)



**The effect of climate changes is more and more obvious. How do they relate to our profession? Is there something we should be concerned about? How can we as a profession contribute in that respect?**

The waste of laboratories is large. We have to look for means to reduce it. Also the use of energy can be reduced, e.g. the -80 °C freezers can be set to -70 °C without deterioration of materials. Samples are transferred sometimes across large distances sometimes by helicopters or planes. Keep it local!



**How did you approach retirement? How do you like to spend your time?**

My wife and I enjoy taking care of our grandchildren each fortnight and they regularly stay with us. We also do courses on history of art. We are interested especially in modern and contemporary art. We often go to museums and make art trips. I enjoy playing tennis, golf and do fitness exercises. We like to go bicycling as good Dutch people, making trips of a day or a few days. Page van 4 10 Already before my retirement I was involved in projects regarding mentally retarded children aiming at giving them a life as normal as possible. The project where my son lives now for 14 years with nine of his friends (four women and six men) is very successful. I raised an umbrella organization for such projects in my region and nowadays 45 of such living projects are members. In addition I chair a national advisory group of such projects for the government. I also started a mirror project for homeless people. The project was successful in the sense that the eleven inhabitants were free of debts and addictions in two years and could live independently in four years. The project was ended then. Regarding our profession I chair the Society of Nestors of the NVKC (the retired colleagues).



**For the end, as an expert and a senior colleague, what would be your advice to young individuals who wish to pursue their career in laboratory medicine? Is our education fit for the purpose? Is there something missing in our curriculum?**

For the young colleagues: our profession is a fantastic profession. Everything is in it. You need to know the chemistry of the body in health and disease, the chemistry of all tests, you have to manage a whole business as member of the staff of a laboratory, you should consult specialists and other doctors about their requests and the results, you should seek contact with patients to further explain about trends in results and the relevance in the light of biological and analytical variation, and you should take part in the diagnostic team with other laboratory specialists. It is a wonderful mix of challenges. In addition, you need to be continuously educated. It is good to keep your mind fit. And of course, you should play a role, small or bigger, in your national society and later on in EFLM. It brings you in contact with colleagues all over the world giving insight in other cultures, other views and bringing friendship.



Some of my distinguished colleagues.

From left to right: Peter Schuff Werner, Sverre Sandberg, Ian Watson, Simone Zerah, Huib Storm, me, Rita Horvath, Tomáš Zima, Mauro Panteghini



At my retirement from EFLM in the EFLM booth with Simone and Silvia Cattaneo at EuroMedLab 2013 in Milan.



Together with the late Vic Blaton and others.



Handing over the EC4 Distinguished Office medal to Päivi Laitinen



Receiving the EFCC (now EFLM) - Roche Award

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

## Section "Chemicals Management"

Is there a chemical tracking system routinely used?

## Section "Energy Management"

Do you use sensor lights in corridors and infrequently used areas or storage rooms?

## Section "Waste Management"

Have you introduced sustainability requirements at the tendering stage for purchases of goods and services?

## Section "Water Management"

Do you have a clear strategy on choosing water saving/water efficient devices when selecting new laboratory equipment?

## 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 continue the column started in the previous issues of 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).

The selected actions of this issue are:

- ✔ **Section "Hazardous Chemicals Management"**  
ACTION: Is there a chemical tracking system routinely used?
- ✔ **Section "Energy Management"**  
ACTION: Do you use sensor lights in corridors and infrequently used areas or storage rooms?
- ✔ **Section "Waste Management"**  
ACTION: Have you introduced sustainability requirements at the tendering stage for purchases of goods and services?
- ✔ **Section "Water Management"**  
ACTION: Do you have a clear strategy on choosing water saving/water efficient devices when selecting new laboratory equipment?

[Click here to download the PDF](#)



## EFLMLabX Corner

EFLMLabX user experience: Tara Rolić, Osijek, Croatia in Oslo, Norway

Reported by **Tara Rolić**, Croatia



Mazyar, Sonia and Tara at Oslo University Hospital, Oslo, Norway



Sonia and Tara at Department of laboratory medicine, Oslo University Hospital, Oslo, Norway



Presenting professional and scientific journey at Oslo University Hospital



Department members at teambuilding, Room escape, Oslo, Norway

I have vivid memories of the beginning of my academic journey at the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry. It was marked by overwhelming enthusiasm for the field of laboratory medicine, and I eventually earned a master's degree in medical biochemistry. Despite thinking I was done with learning during specialization, life had different plans. An unexpected opportunity arose for a Ph.D. journey at the University of Osijek, Faculty of Medicine. Focused on altered iron metabolism in colorectal cancer patients, compelling project reignited my commitment to the learning process. Alongside working at Osijek University Hospital's Department of Laboratory Diagnostics since 2015 as EuSpLM, I initiated activities in the Croatian Society of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (CSMBLM) and the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM). I had the honor to meet and collaborate with colleagues from Europe, directing their enthusiasm to elevate Laboratory Medicine in healthcare system. The possibility of applying for an internship through the EFLM LabX program, intrigued me since first time I heard about it. Despite initial doubts as a fresh specialist and young scientist, I decided to pursue it, fueled by the unwavering support of my colleague, boss, and mentor, Sanja Mandić. Pitching the idea to Sonia Distante from Oslo University Hospital, a mastermind in iron metabolism, proved successful. Sonia, with over 20 years of experience in professional and scientific research in iron metabolism, agreed to host me. My time in Oslo turned out to be a fantastic and mind-blowing escapade. Sonia arranged a surprise lecture by Prof. Tomas Ganz, the discoverer of the hepcidin

protein, setting the tone for an exceptional learning experience. Together with Sonia, I attended Oslo University Hospital laboratory department meetings, professional and scientific lectures, and had the opportunity to discuss and compare laboratory organization differences between Norway and Croatia. The warm welcome and hospitality at the Metabolomics research group, led by Katja Benedikte Prestø Elgstøen, left a lasting impression. During my time at Oslo, I presented a lecture on the clinical significance of hepcidin, iron metabolism, and trace elements in diagnosing colorectal cancer. This provided a platform for valuable discussions and expanded my scientific perspective. The annual seminar and networking opportunities at MBK research seminar in which I was invited as attendee, further enriched my experience. The list of impressive aspects during my LabX at Oslo University Hospital is extensive, but the warmth and home-like feeling, the scientific enrichment in iron metabolism, and the professional insights stand out. The exchange program significantly broadened my perspective as a young laboratory medicine professional and researcher, influencing a positive transformation in my approach. I extend sincere gratitude to those who made LabX possible, including EFLM Sil and Terry, Evgenija, Tomris, Snežana, Klaus; Sanja, Osijek University Hospital; CSMBLM; Oslo University Hospital, Mazyar and all the colleagues at the research groups led by Katja, Lars, and Bjorn. Special thanks to Sonia for accepting me into this challenging journey, becoming a true friend and mentor. This cherished memory will forever remain in my heart. Tusen takk!



**EFLM Full National Society Members are invited to send nominations**

## Vacancies in EFLM functional Units

### Vacancies in the EFLM Working Group "Ethics"

Reported by **Silvia Terragni**, EFLM Office

#### **WG "Ethics" (WG-E)**

#### **Deadline to apply 25 February**

#### **1 Young Scientist Full Member (≤ 35 years of age at the time of appointment)**

Click on the above position to know more about the requirements and the evaluation's procedure.

The term of office will be for 2 years (Jan 2024 - Dec 2025). The position could be renewable for other two more terms if the work for the Group is deemed essential at that time. The work is mainly conducted by e-mail and teleconferencing, the WG usually meets once per year.

Procedure for applications: each National Societies Full Member of EFLM and in good standing with the membership fee can submit one nomination using the form circulated to the National Society's representatives to be sent back to [silvia.terragni@eflm.eu](mailto:silvia.terragni@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. 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.



## Past EFLM Events

### Past EFLM webinars

Reported by **Tara Rolić**,  
Member of the EFLM Communication Committee

End of the 2023 has finished with EFLM Lessons in Immunochemistry dedicated to Coronary Artery Disease and Predicting the development of coronary artery disease in apparently healthy individuals highlighting the role of Lp (a) presented by Michel Langlois from Belgium, Christa Cobbaert and Nick Nurmohamed from Netherlands followed with presentation held by Mariëlle Kaplan from Israel at EFLM e-learning platform: Biomarkers of sepsis: procalcitonin and more. If you have missed one of these webinars you can search and watch them all on demand. Only EFLM Academy members have this privilege at the EFLM e-learning platform



## EFLM Strategic Conference 2024

# A Vision to the future: value-based laboratory medicine

Padova (IT), 23-24 September 2024

### September 23<sup>rd</sup>

First session:  
Creating value for users

Second session:  
Changing the organization

### September 24<sup>th</sup>

Third session:  
Ethical aspects in laboratory medicine

Fourth session:  
The future of laboratory professionals

Conclusion remarks and open discussion on the  
expectations from participants

For information:

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## Upcoming EFLM Events

# EFLM Strategic Conference 2024 "A vision to the future: value-based laboratory medicine"

Padova (IT), 23-24 September

The EFLM Strategic Conference is a specialized conference organized under the coordination of the President-Elect and managed by the Executive Board. The previous editions were held in Milan (IT) in 2014, Mannheim in 2018, and a virtual event in 2022. The general goal of this Conference is to focus on important aspects of laboratory medicine in which some strategic actions/measures should be taken. The Strategic Conference is not just about gaining knowledge from scientific sessions: the aim is to create an interactive environment which allows opportunities to share visions, projects and actions.

The title of the 2024 edition is:  
**"A vision to the future: value-based laboratory  
medicine"**

The sessions will deal with important aspects of the organization of clinical laboratories, the increasing concern on ethical issues and the future of laboratory professionals.

The 2024 edition of the Strategic Conference will be a hybrid meeting for allowing a large participation of delegates (virtual) and an interactive discussion (in presence) to consensually identify important aspects in Laboratory Medicine in which some strategic actions/measures should be taken. Global leaders and participants from laboratory medicine, IVD diagnostics companies, Information technology experts, and other stakeholders will join the conference to deliver talks and discuss trends, opportunities and challenges in Laboratory Medicine. An important outcome of the Conference is the creation of an EFLM Task Force dealing with the main topics of the Conference through the creation of a number of Task & Finish Groups to provide new ideas, projects and programs. Lectures and contributions presented at the Conferences will be published in a special issue of the official EFLM Scientific Journal, Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (CCLM).

Save the date 





## Forthcoming EFLM webinars

Reported by **Tara Rolić**,  
Member of the EFLM  
Communication Committee

Do not miss excellent forthcoming webinars, free and available for EFLM Academy members at the EFLM e-learning platform!



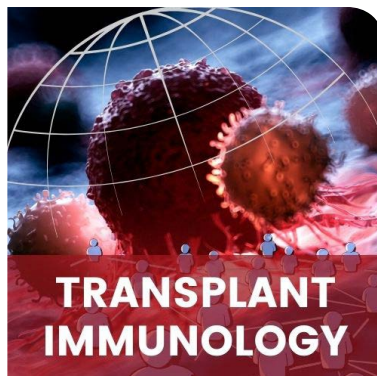
**Chronic Stress and Exosomes as key players in precipitation and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease**

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 18:00 CET time



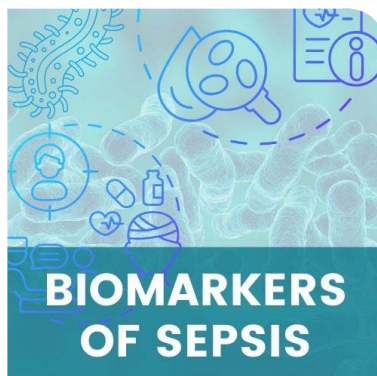
**MEET THE EXPERT:**  
Analysis and interpretation of testing for antiphospholipid syndrome

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 16:00 CET time



**Current trends in transplant immunology in the global village**

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 18:00 CET time



**Functional biomarkers of Sepsis immunosuppression**

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 18:00 CET time



**Role of the Clinical laboratory in the implementation of non-invasive tests for screening and diagnosis of MASLD**

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 18:00 CET time

# News from EFLM National Societies

## News from the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia

Professor Ivan Berkeš Scientific Fund

Reported by **Nada Majkić-Singh**, The Scientific Fund

Appreciating the work of his teacher and eminent expert, the Society of Medical Biochemists of Yugoslavia, (today the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia) after the death of Prof. Dr. Ivan Berkeš in 1997, in his honor, the Scientific Fund »Professor Ivan Berkeš« was formed and established the »Annual Scientific Conference« dedicated to the life and work of Professor Ivan Berkeš at the suggestion and organization of Prof. Dr. Nada Majkić-Singh.

Annual awards (diplomas and cash prizes) are awarded from the Fund to Pharmacy students, which we are doing for the twenty-sixth time this year.

The patrons of the »PROFESSOR IVAN BERKEŠ« SCIENCE FUND are:

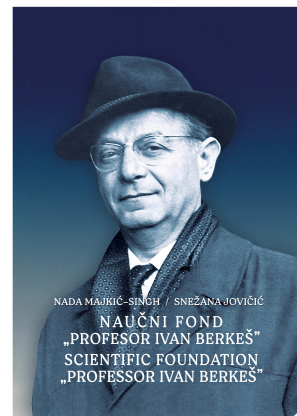
- SOCIETY OF MEDICAL BIOCHEMISTS OF SERBIA
- INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL BIOCHEMISTRY OF THE FACULTY OF PHARMACY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE
- INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL BIOCHEMISTRY OF THE MILITARY MEDICAL ACADEMY

Professor Dr. Ivan BERKEŠ, an important figure in the field of pharmacy and medicine, is the founder of medical biochemistry and clinical enzymology in the healthcare of Serbia and Yugoslavia.

Under his leadership, numerous generations of medical biochemists were educated at the Faculty of Pharmacy in Belgrade. In Serbia for a long time there was not a single laboratory, without a student of Professor Ivan Berkeš working in it.

On November 16, 2010, the Thirteenth Annual Scientific Conference dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the birth of Professor Ivan Berkeš was held in Belgrade, in which experts from Belgrade (N. Majkić-Singh), Zagreb (S. Margetić) and Skopje (S. Efre-meova-Aaron) where Professor Ivan Berkeš lived and worked, held their lectures. Diplomas and monetary awards were also traditionally awarded from the Scientific Fund »Professor Ivan Berkeš« to the best students of the Faculty of Pharmacy in Belgrade, namely: Zori Četković and Jeleni Joksić.

In 2020, the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia marked the 110th anniversary of the birth of Professor Ivan Berkeš, on which occasion the Monograph – LIFE AND WORK OF PROFESSOR IVAN BERKEŠ and FUND LAUREATES: WHERE ARE THEY AND WHAT ARE THEY DOING TODAY?



**Professor Dr. Ivan Berkeš**  
(1910–1997)

So far, the Fund has 56 laureates and their biographies are described in the Monograph.

The First Annual Scientific Conference »Professor Ivan Berkeš« was held on November 25, 1998. in Belgrade in the »Inter-Continental Belgrade« hotel with the Second Congress of Pharmacists of Yugoslavia.

The first laureates of the Fund were:

[VESNA VUKOVIĆ](#) (graduate pharmacist-medical biochemist) i [NEBOJŠA CEKIĆ](#) (pharmacist graduate)

The Twenty Third Annual Scientific Conference »Professor Ivan Berkeš« were co-organized and hosted by the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade was held on 15. December 2022 (see [www.dmbj.org.rs](http://www.dmbj.org.rs)).

Laureates of the Scientific Fund »Professor Ivan Berkeš« in 2022 were:

[ORĐE STANIVUK](#) (Master of Pharmacy - Medical Biochemist) and [JOVANA ŽIVANOVIĆ](#) (Master of Pharmacy)

The received Diplomas and monetary awards.

This year, diplomas and monetary awards were presented on November 4 at the opening of the IV TMB CONGRESS – Cardiovascular risk factors - diagnostic challenges and importance

The laureates of the Scientific Fund »Professor Ivan Berkeš« in 2023 are:

[MINJADERIKONJIĆ](#) (Master of Pharmacy – Medical Biochemist) and [NASTASIJA ANDELKOVIĆ](#) (Master of Pharmacy)



**Minja Derikonjić** was born on 23.03.1999. in Pancevo, where she finished elementary school as a student of the generation, after which she entered the »Uroš Predić« Gymnasium-natural sciences and mathematics.

She graduated from high school in 2018 with a »Vuk Karadžić« diploma. In the same year, she entered the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Belgrade, majoring in pharmacy-medical biochemistry, from which she graduated in September 2023 with an average grade of 9.72. Graduate thesis entitled »Examining the predictive and diagnostic potential of insulin-like growth factor 1 in patients with colorectal cancer«, under the mentorship of Prof. Dr. Aleksandra Zeljković, she defended at the Department of Medical Biochemistry.

She received award »Professor Ivan Berkeš« from the Scientific Fund as the best graduated student of the Faculty of Pharmacy majoring in pharmacy-medical biochemistry in the 2022/2023 year. During her studies, she got three times the Annual Award of the Faculty of Pharmacy for the best students. She is a scholarship recipient of the Fund for Young Talents of the Republic of Serbia-Dositeja for the year 2022/2023, and for four years she was also a scholarship holder of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia. During her studies, she engaged in scientific research at the departments of medical biochemistry and toxicology.



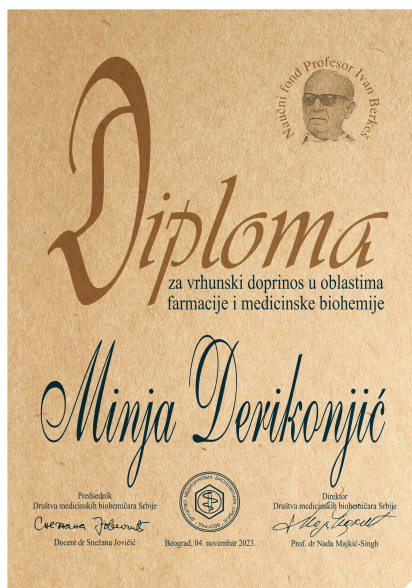
**Minja Derikonjić**



Minja Derikonjić with Nada Majkić-Singh and Snezana Jovicic



The student scientific research paper on the topic »Examination of biochemical indicators of cardiometabolic risk in patients with hypothyroidism«, carried out at the Department of Medical Biochemistry under the mentorship of Prof. Dr. Aleksandra Zeljković, she presented at the XV Mini-Congress of students of the Faculty of Pharmacy and the 61st Congress of Biomedical Sciences Students of Serbia on Kopaonik in 2022. The following year, she participated in the XVI Mini-Congress of the students of the Faculty of Pharmacy, where her student scientific research paper entitled »Exposure assessment of inhabitants of Pancevo to benzene«, carried out at the Department of Toxicology under the mentorship of Prof. Dr. Marijana Ćur~ić, declared the best in the field of toxicology. She enrolled in doctoral academic studies in the 2023/2024 school year at the Department of Medical Biochemistry of the Faculty of Pharmacy in Belgrade. From October 2023, she is doing an internship at the Clinical Hospital Center »Dr. Dragiša Mišović-Dedinje«, at the Laboratory Diagnostics Service.





**Nastasija Anđelković** was born on 27th February 1999 in Kraljevo. She completed Medical high School-Kraljevo as the best student of generation. In 2018 she enrolled in the Faculty of Pharmacy in Belgrade (Master of Pharmacy) and graduated in July 2023. During her studies she was the member of the Student Scientific-Research Center (CNIRS) in Faculty of Pharmacy in Belgrade and Social media-team coordinator. She was engaged in scientific research work at the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry where she did three research papers under mentorship of Prof. Branka Ivković and at the Department of Pharmaceutical Technology under mentorship of Prof. Snežana Savić and Ass. Ines Nikolić. One of the papers named »How do we actually see the invisible: analysis of the impact of measuring conditions and sample preparation procedure on the size estimation of nanoparticles/nanodroplets through dynamic light scattering« which was awarded as the best work in the field of pharmaceutical technology on the XV Mini-Congress of Students of the Faculty of Pharmacy and on the 61th Congress of Biomedical Sciences Students of Serbia in Kopaonik mountain in 2022. and the paper named »Characterization of propiophenone derivatives as potential antiseptics/disinfectants« which was awarded the best work in the field of pharmaceutical chemistry on the 62th Congress of Biomedical Sciences Students of Serbia in Kopaonik mountain in 2023. She is co-author of one research paper which is published



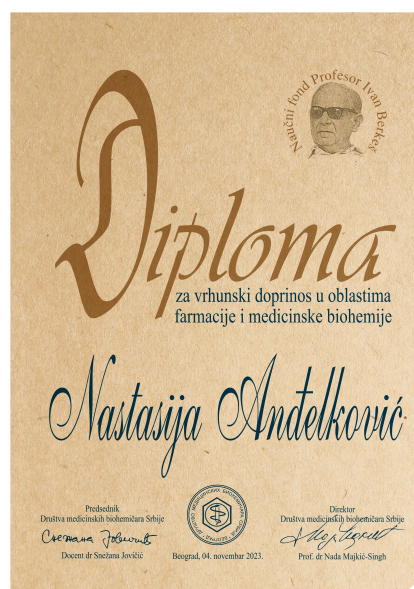
**Nastasija Anđelković**



Nastasija Anđelković with Nada Majkić-Singh and Snezana Jovicic



in the Journal of the Serbian Chemical Society – JSCS, named: »Application of liquid chromatography in defining the interaction of newly synthesized chalcones and related compounds with human serum albumin«. She defended her graduate thesis entitled »Characterization of propiophenone derivatives as potential antiseptics/disinfectants« at the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry under mentorship of Prof. Branka Ivković. During her studies, she was awarded for her success by the Faculty of Pharmacy for several years. She received award for the best graduated student (Pharmacy programme) during 2022/2023 at the University of Belgrade – Faculty of Pharmacy from the Scientific Foundation »Professor Ivan Berkeš«. During her studies, she was a scholar of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Republic of Serbia. She is a scholarship holder of the Fund for Young Talents of the Republic of Serbia – Dositeja, and holder of »Talent program in the public sector«.





**Dear colleagues,  
This is the first IFCC eNews issue for 2024.**

A new year is in front of us full of activities and with an IFCC Worldlab in Dubai, full of promises. This issue begins with our new IFCC President Prof Tomris Ozben's important first message.

Go through this full of significant content message, dear colleagues, and you will learn a lot about IFCC brilliant future in accordance with its wonderful past.

Happy New Year!  
Dr Katherina Psarra, eNews Editor

## Greetings from the New IFCC President

### Prof. Tomris Ozben



**Prof. Tomris Ozben**  
Turkey

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Stepping into the role as the President of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) Executive Board is not only a tremendous honor, but also a great privilege for me. I am excited about the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead as I embark on my journey of serving the IFCC community, commencing my term on January 1st, 2024. I want to express my sincere gratitude to the IFCC member societies within the 6 IFCC Regional Federations for their kind support and trust. I sincerely appreciate their confidence and assure them that I am fully committed to deserving their trust. I am dedicated to contributing my time, expertise, knowledge, and energy to enhance the functions and activities of IFCC.

Taking on a leadership position, with other dedicated members of the IFCC Executive Board, IFCC officers, Regional Federations, National Societies, and Corporate members, our collective mission is to strengthen the robust foundations on which the Federation stands. Our efforts will be centered on identifying new opportunities and formulating innovative strategies that empower Laboratory Medicine to play a crucial role in patient care. Our goal is to ensure that the IFCC continues to stand as the leading global organization representing Laboratory Medicine worldwide.

IFCC demands a dedicated and proficient management team. The President, along with the members of the new IFCC Executive Board and officers of the IFCC Functional Units, will devote both commitments, time and effort. The day-to-day operations of IFCC will be managed efficiently by the exceptional capacity, enthusiasm, and efforts of the IFCC office secretaries working closely with IFCC officers. Our aim is not just to sustain, but to enhance IFCC functions and activities, making significant contributions to the advancement of Laboratory Medicine and the growth of its professionals. We are set to carry the IFCC flag even higher, maintaining past initiatives and introducing new projects. The collective expertise, knowledge, and fresh ideas from the Executive Board members and IFCC officers, working with enthusiasm across various functional units, will drive this progress. We emphasize the importance of close collaboration with IFCC Regional Federations, IFCC Member Societies, and Corporate Members, encouraging their active participation in all IFCC activities.

I express my sincere thanks and congratulations to Prof. Khosrow Adeli for his outstanding leadership, motivating and encouraging IFCC officers and Executive Board members to actively engage in numerous IFCC projects. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the former IFCC Presidents, outgoing members of the IFCC Executive Boards, and officers of the Functional Units for their exceptional contributions, voluntary services, knowledge, and enthusiasm over the years. [Click here to read the whole message of Prof Ozben.](#)



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## 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](mailto:eflm@eflm.eu)

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EFLM Webinar

**Chronic Stress and Exosomes as key players in precipitation and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease**

On-line, 6 February 2024



Labquality Days

**International Congress on Quality in Laboratory Medicine and Health Technology 2024**

Helsinki (FI), 08-09 February 2024



EFLM Webinar - Meet the Expert

**Analysis and interpretation of tests for antiphospholipid syndrome**

On-line, 15 February 2024



EFLM Webinar

**Current trends in transplant immunology in the global village**

On-line, 20 February 2024



EFLM Webinar

**Functional biomarkers of Sepsis immunosuppression**

On-line, 5 March 2024



**Symposium non-infectious serology**

Bruges (BE), 8 March 2024



EFLM Webinar

**Role of the Clinical laboratory in the implementation of non-invasive tests for screening and diagnosis of MASLD**

On-line, 26 March 2024



- ] **The 15<sup>th</sup> International & 21<sup>th</sup> National Congress on Quality Improvement in Clinical Laboratories**  
Tehran (IR), 30 April - 3 May 2024
- ] **EFLM Webinar - Meet the Expert**  
**Analysis & interpretation of cardiac markers and deciphering of high sensitive troponin**  
on-line, 9 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"**  
Santorini (GR), 21-24 May 2024
- ] **9<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Critical Care Testing and Blood Gases**  
Saint Malo (FR), 13-14 June 2024
- ] **EFLM Webinar - Meet the Expert**  
**Interpretation of laboratory results on kidney function**  
on-line, 5 September 2024
- ] **XXIII Serbian Congress of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine with international participation**  
Belgrade (RS), 16-18 September 2024
- ] **4<sup>th</sup> EFLM Strategic Conference**  
**A Vision to the future: value-based laboratory medicine**  
Padua (IT), 23-24 September 2024
- ] **EFLM Webinar - Meet the Expert**  
**M-Protein diagnostics: analysis and interpretation of protein electrophoresis of serum, urine, and cerebrospinal fluid**  
On-line, 7 November 2024
- ] **EuroMedLab 2025**  
**26<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine**  
**49<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Royal Belgian Society of Laboratory Medicine**  
Brussels (BE), 18-22 May 2025

27 May

**EFLM SESSION**



**09:00-11:00 GREEN LABS. IMPLEMENTING SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES IN MEDICAL LABORATORIES**  
Chair: Tomris Ozben (Turkey)

Green labs: Implementing sustainable practices in medical laboratories  
*Tomris Ozben (Turkey)*

Striking the Right Balance: Sustainability and Innovation  
*Ffion Jackson (UK)*

Strategies for energy conservation and sustainability  
*Snezana Jovicic (Serbia)*

Waste management for clinical laboratories  
*Alistair Gammie (UK)*

**Join the WordLab Congress in Dubai!**  
<https://www.dubai2024.org>

