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Foreword

This Spring EFLM EuroLabNews issue commences with the news from the EFLM Executive Board where Mario Plebani, EFLM President, announces the appointment of Michael Neumaier as the new Chair of the BioMedAlliance Task Force on In Vitro Diagnostics.

Michel Langlois, Chair EFLM Science Committee, congratulates Iaccino Enrico and Alic Lejla as the recipients of the EFLM Research Grant 2024. Furthermore, Michel Langlois also gives us insight into the evaluation procedure of the EFLM Academy Award, where Daria Pasalic was the winner in 2023. Tomris Ozben, Chair of the EFLM TF Green and Sustainable Laboratories, highlights the Four simple actions to be more sustainable and green in your laboratory. Tomris Ozben, along with Guzin Aykal and Ebru Kale, report on their meeting with the Directors and Scientists of the Turkish Medical Laboratories. Tara Rolic, EFLM TG LabX member, welcomes a new EFLMLabX opportunity from Sweden. The Chair of the TG Young Scientists, Ales Kvasnicka, introduces the task group members elected in the Fall of 2023. Silvia Terragni, from the EFLM Office, announces the change of guard in Societies of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Hungary and Italy, as well as the Academy of Clinical Science and Laboratory Medicine. Anamarija Rade, EFLM TG Young Scientists, uses infographics to report on the latest EFLM Publication by Cavalier et al published in CCLM. Mario Plebani, EFLM President invites all members to participate in the EFLM Strategic Conference 2024 in Padova, Italy. The IFCC corner highlights global happenings in laboratory medicine. Mark your calendar for a variety of upcoming EFLM events and especially the upcoming conferences.



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

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THE EFLM EXECUTIVE BOARD INFORMS

Prof. Michael Neumaier, new Chair of the BioMedAlliance Task Force on In Vitro Diagnostics

Reported by **Mario Plebani**, EFLM President

I am delighted to inform you that Michael Neumaier, EFLM President 2018-2019, was successfully elected as Chair of the BioMedAlliance Task Force on In Vitro Diagnostics.

This BioMedAlliance Task Force composed of IVD experts was established in 2019 in preparation of the new EU regulation on In Vitro Diagnostics and to facilitate member society cooperation on the regulatory aspects of in vitro diagnostics.

Prof. Neumaier was co-founder with Prof Christa Cobbaert, of the EFLM Task Force "European Regulatory Affairs" and has a great expertise and knowledge in this field, not to mention his outstanding scientific curriculum and affiliations in international scientific bodies and societies.



Prof. Michael Neumaier

This is a further strategic opportunity for EFLM after the recent appointment of Christa Cobbaert as the liaison between BioMed Alliance and EFLM in the process to joint forces for the implementation of the new IVDR.

[Know more on the Biomed Alliance TF-IVD](#)



Biomedical Alliance in Europe

EFLM RESEARCH GRANT

Winners of the EFLM Research Grant 2024

Reported by **Michel Langlois**,
Chair EFLM Science Committee



The EFLM Scientific Research Grant has been established to promote science and facilitate research in laboratory medicine in Europe. Two grants of the maximum amount of € 10.000 each, are awarded each year, one for an applicant coming from a country enjoying "Vic Blaton" scholarship program and the other for an applicant coming from any other country in Europe. Applicants must submit a research project proposal and a detailed budget with a list of all required products, necessary to perform their study. For the 2024 EFLM Grant, we received 24 applications from 12 different countries. Applications were evaluated by a committee composed of the Chair of the EFLM Science Committee (Michel Langlois), the Chair of the EFLM Education and Training Committee (Daria Pasalic), and one member of the EFLM Executive Board (Snezana Jovicic). The evaluation process was conducted according to the criteria established by the EFLM Executive Board. Evaluation included a scoring for study design and feasibility, study budget justification by aims and methods of the project, innovative value of the scientific project, potential of the study to generate relevant findings in laboratory medicine and improve patient outcome, relevance of previous work of the applicant to the proposed study, and scientific and

professional experience of the applicant (CV). Based on these criteria, the selected applications for 2024 are those from:

- **Iaccino Enrico (Italy)** – Research: "Exploring Exosome-Based Liquid Biopsy Approaches for Enhanced Management of Parkinson's Disease and Progressive Supranuclear Palsy"
- and
- **Alić Lejla (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Vic Blaton Grant)** – Research: "Independent validation of association between complement factor H (CFH) polymorphisms and kidney graft survival"

We thank all participants sending an application for the EFLM Research Grant 2024.

Although two applications were given the highest score for each of the two Grants, the Evaluation Committee wishes to acknowledge and congratulate other applicants in this year's competition who submitted high-quality, innovative study proposals which received almost equally high scores. We strongly encourage young scientists to continue to apply for EFLM Grants in the following years.

Let's know more about the selected researches in the following pages.

Let's know more about the selected researches

TITLE OF THE STUDY

"Exploring Exosome-Based Liquid Biopsy Approaches for Enhanced Management of Parkinson's Disease and Progressive Supranuclear Palsy"

Reported by **Enrico Iaccino**

Our Laboratory

Early diagnosis is undoubtedly the key to addressing the major health challenges of our time, including cancer, metabolic and neurological diseases. The set of circulating components responsible for cell-cell interactions is included in the concept of "circuloma" and consists of tumor-derived nucleic acids, circulating tumor cells, and a large subset of extracellular vesicles (EVs). Reflecting the course of the disease EVs can be used as biomarkers for diagnosis, monitoring, and prognosis, thus contributing to its control. With the rapid development of precision medicine, the demand for new tools for dynamic and non-invasive monitoring of the molecular characteristics of diseases has increased. In this context, over the years, our studies have increasingly focused on the development of innovative and non-invasive approaches for the treatment and diagnosis of chronic-degenerative diseases such as monitoring tumor progression (1-2), neurodegenerative diseases (3), and in the context of SARS-CoV-2 infections (4).

Our Proposal

Parkinson's disease (PD) is the second most common neurodegenerative disease and affects 5% of the elderly population. Due to overlapping clinical features, the diagnosis is erroneously based on atypical conditions such as progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP). Among the circulatory components, exosomes are a subclass of extracellular vesicles (30-150 nm) that regulate cell communication and participate in various physiological and pathological processes. Recent studies have shown that exosomes, present in all body fluids of patients, are ideal biomarkers for diagnosis and therapeutic monitoring. Identifying specific markers and their subsequent association with exosome subtypes could hold the key to the successful adoption of exosomes into clinical practice. Using high-throughput multiplex immunoassays, we recently identified a set of potential biomarkers differentially expressed in the context of these two disorders with respect to the controls. The proposal aims to characterize the molecular features of these disease-associated subpopulations, including a first neuronal-oriented validation of the cellular origin and a comprehensive analysis of the miRNA component. In this scenario, the expected new shreds



Enrico Iaccino

Department of Experimental and Clinical Medicine,
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of evidence will allow the potential adoption of exosomes as diagnostic biomarkers and allow differentiation between PSP and PD patients.

Our Vision

The proposed study seeking to identify new biomarkers for the differential diagnosis between Parkinson's disease and progressive supranuclear palsy is of paramount importance in advancing our understanding of these neurodegenerative disorders. Distinguishing between these conditions, which share symptomatic similarities, is currently a significant clinical challenge. The potential impact of this research lies in its ability to revolutionize early diagnosis, enabling timely intervention and tailored treatment plans. By elucidating distinct biomarkers, the study aims to contribute to the development of more accurate diagnostic tools, ultimately improving patient outcomes and enhancing the efficiency of healthcare resources.

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2. Iaccino E, et al. Monitoring multiple myeloma by idiotype-specific peptide binders of tumor-derived exosomes. Mol Cancer. (2017)
3. Manna I, et al. Exosomal miRNA as peripheral biomarkers in Parkinson's disease and progressive supranuclear palsy: A pilot study. Parkinsonism Relat Disord. (2021).
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Let's know more about the selected researches

TITLE OF THE STUDY

"Independent validation of the association between complement factor H (CFH) polymorphisms and kidney graft survival"

Reported by **Lejla Alić**

Malondialdehyde (MDA) is a pro-inflammatory lipid peroxidation product that accumulates upon oxidative stress tissue injury (1). It mediates the clearance of damaged structures by engagement of the innate immunity components such as complement proteins, e.g. complement factor H (CFH) and complement factor H-related proteins 1 and 3 (CFHR1&3) (1–3). Previously, we have shown that the deletion of CFHR1&3 genes enhances CFH binding to MDA-epitopes and protects from complement activation on MDA-decorated surfaces (2). In the context of kidney graft survival, MDA-epitopes are considered markers of injury, delayed graft function, and reduced graft survival (4).

In our previous study, we observed a tendency of CFH polymorphisms that affect the binding of CFH to MDA-epitopes to be associated with kidney graft survival (manuscript in preparation). In the present study, we aim to validate the observation that the ability of CFH to bind to MDA-epitopes influences allograft rejection in an independent cohort of kidney transplant patients. The study will include kidney transplantation patients from the tertiary-level care hospital in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The planned duration of the study is 18 months. Despite the advancement of immunosuppressive and other posttransplantation treatments, kidney graft rejections within the first year are as high as 75% in most countries globally (5). Apart from the fact that it significantly aggravates patients' survival and quality of life, kidney graft rejections represent a substantial burden on healthcare systems. Thus, there is a strong need to reduce the incidence of graft rejections. Findings from this study using an independent validation cohort could contribute to establishing reliable graft rejection risk stratification and developing potential therapeutical interventions that could enhance kidney graft survival. Importantly, this study has the potential to offer meaningful and clinically relevant results that might be utilized in the formation of laboratory medicine protocols for kidney transplant patients.



Lejla Alić

Department of Medical Biochemistry, University of Sarajevo, Faculty of Medicine, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

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THE EFLM ACADEMY AWARD

EFLM Academy Award 2023

Reported by **Michel Langlois**,
Chair of the EFLM Academy Award's
Evaluation Committee and Chair
of the EFLM Science Committee

In order to demonstrate the importance of education in Laboratory Medicine and to foster activities in this field in Europe, the EFLM Executive Board has implemented the EFLM Academy Award. According to its definition, **the award is given to EFLM Academy Members who have made a substantial contribution to the education in laboratory medicine in Europe.** Although consideration is given to national, EFLM and IFCC projects, the preference is the most outstanding European projects. The nominated individual must be the author of **the most distinguished educational activity or a project in the past 5 years.** Until the deadline EFLM Office received only one nomination for the 2023 Award, from the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia submitting the nomination of Prof. Daria Pašalić, but the candidate fulfils the formal requirements in educational activities and projects.

The nomination was evaluated by a committee composed of the Chair of the EFLM Science Committee (Michel Langlois) and a representative of the EFLM Executive Board (Klaus Kohse), applying the criteria established by the Executive Board for scoring the nominee's educational activities in the EFLM (max. 100 points), the IFCC (max. 50 points) and the National Society or Institution (max. 50 points), such as active membership of a functional unit (positively evaluated by the Chair of the unit), author of EFLM/IFCC/National Society publications and documents, member of Organizing or Scientific Committee for educational events, lectures at educational events, and evaluator of poster abstracts, scientific project proposals (grants) and bursaries applications. The Award committee has greatly appreciated the distinguished educational activities, engagements and achievements of the nominee, and the committee's high scores confirmed Prof. Pašalić as winner of the Award.

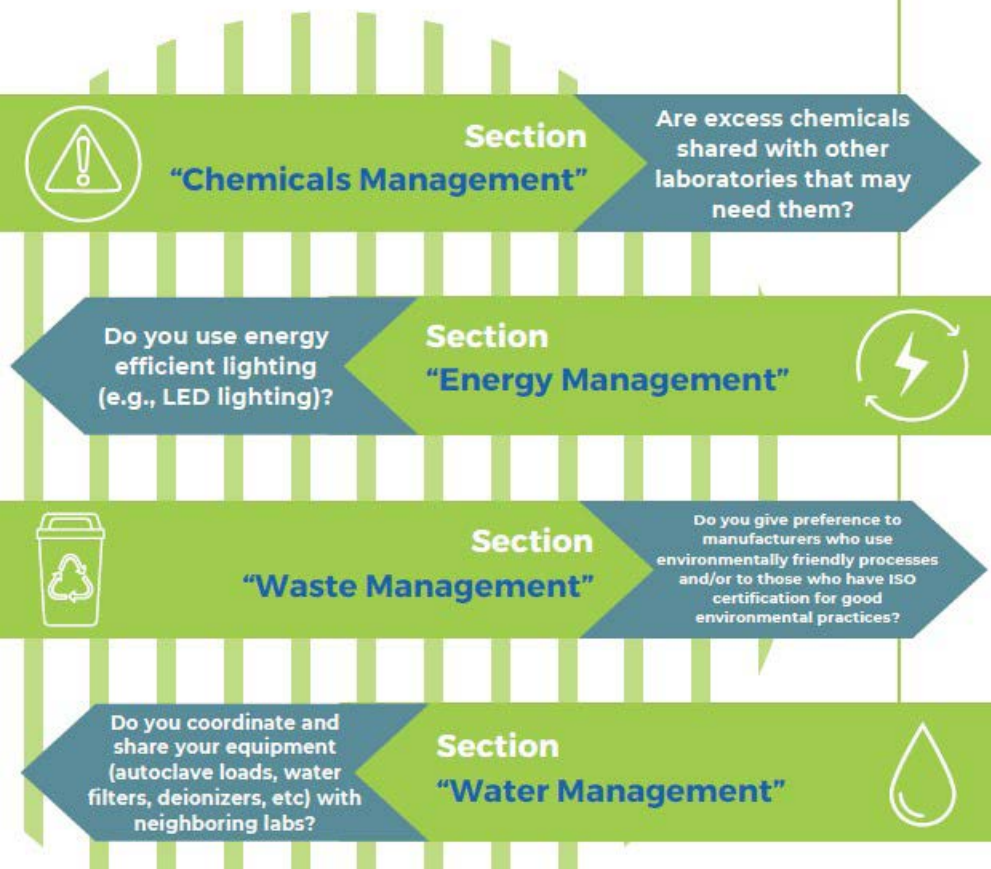
The 2023 winner is

Prof. Daria Pašalić is a full professor at the Department of Medical Chemistry, Biochemistry and Clinical Chemistry of the Zagreb University School of Medicine, with a significant research and teaching experience. She organized and participated in many educational activities organized by the Croatian Society for Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine, where she acted as President in two terms. She was also the Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Biochemia Medica*. Prof. Pašalić is currently acting as Chair of the EFLM Committee for Education and Training (C-ET), where she coordinates, supports and actively participates in the activities of Working Groups under the C-ET. She contributed significantly to the continuous education in laboratory medicine in Europe with organizing and lecturing on EFLM Postgraduate Courses including "How to write and publish a good scientific and professional article", "Biostatistics", and "Leadership skills" that were very well received among colleagues. Prof. Pašalić also authored a number of EFLM papers and documents, evaluated poster abstracts for EuroMedLab Congresses and applications for EFLM bursaries for EuroMedLabs in Barcelona (2019), Munich (2021), and Rome (2023). Appreciating Prof. Daria Pašalić's admirable contribution to education in her country and in Europe, the EFLM Executive Board with pleasure accepted the Award committee's conclusion. The EFLM Academy Award will be announced during the Opening Ceremony of the 26th IFCC-EFLM EuroMedLab Congress in Brussels on May 2025.



Prof. Daria Pašalić

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



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: Are excess chemicals shared with other laboratories that may need them?
- ✓ **Section "Energy Management"**
ACTION: Do you use energy efficient lighting (e.g., LED lighting)?
- ✓ **Section "Waste Management"**
ACTION: Do you give preference to manufacturers who use environmentally friendly processes and/or to those who have ISO certification for good environmental practices?
- ✓ **Section "Water Management"**
ACTION: Do you coordinate and share your equipment (autoclave loads, water filters, deionizers, etc) with neighbouring labs?

[Click here to download the PDF](#)

NEWS FROM EFLM FUNCTIONAL UNITS

Meeting with the Directors and Scientists of the Turkish Medical Laboratories

Reported by **Tomris Ozben**, Guzin Aykal, Ebru Kale

On February 23, 2024, the second meeting of the "Biochemical Days" series, was organized by the Department of Medical Biochemistry, Hamidiye Faculty of Medicine, University of Health Sciences (UHS) in Istanbul, Türkiye. The meeting, which took place in person with the participation of academicians and assistants from affiliated hospitals of the Department of Medical Biochemistry at the Hamidiye Faculty of Medicine, University of Health Sciences (UHS), and were also followed online from all over Türkiye. Prof. Dr. Ebru Kale, the Chair of the Medical Biochemistry Department and Dean of the Pharmacy Faculty, hosted the meeting. She commenced the meeting expressing her thanks to Prof. Dr. Tomris Ozben, esteemed Chair of the EFLM Task Force-Green and Sustainable Laboratories (TF-GSL) for accepting their invitation.

The meeting was held in a hybrid format and attended by the participants in the venue in-person, and also followed on-line by the academicians and assistants of medical laboratories of Education and Research Hospitals, City Hospitals, and Universities in different cities of Türkiye. **Prof. Dr. Tomris Ozben** attended the meeting online via Zoom and delivered her presentation entitled "Implementation of Sustainable Practices in Medical Laboratories." In her speech, she emphasized that 50% of the world's environmental pollution has occurred in the last 35 years, mentioning decisions taken by the United Nations and the European Commission regarding these issues. Prof. Dr. Ozben mentioned that medical laboratories consume more energy and water compared to similar-sized office buildings. In order to implement sustainable practices in medical laboratories and to decrease their negative impact on environment across Europe and beyond, EFLM "Task Force- Green and Sustainable Laboratories (TF-GSL)" was established in 2021 consisting of 13 core members and 49 EFLM National representatives. The establishment of EFLM TF-GSL was reported to the European Commission and MedTech Europe. She stated that the goal of the EFLM TF-GSL is to transform Clinical Laboratories in the EFLM member societies in the Pan-European region into safe and sustainable



spaces by decreasing their deleterious environmental impact. This will be done by implementing efficient everyday actions in laboratories, taking steps to minimize use of energy, water, and hazardous chemicals, as well as generation of waste, without decreasing quality of healthcare services provided by medical laboratories. Prof. Dr. Ozben stated that the TF-GSL members has prepared comprehensive documents consisting of guidelines, checklists, educational videos, and PowerPoint presentations, accessible at the website of the TF-GSL. <https://greenlabs.eflm.eu/>. EFLM "Green Lab Expert" certificate is given to the National Representatives passing the exams. A call was launched to receive applications of the medical laboratories to receive "Green and Sustainable Laboratory" certificates. Laboratories fulfilling the requirements sufficiently are given EFLM "Green and Sustainable Laboratory" certificates.

The second speaker was **Prof. Dr. Guzin Aykal** from the Department of Medical Biochemistry at the Antalya Training and Research Hospital, University of Health Sciences (UHS), Antalya, Türkiye. She talked about the efforts regarding adaptation to climate change in Türkiye. She mentioned that the Republic of Türkiye has also signed the Paris Climate Agreement and talked about the legislative regulations, strategic documents, action plans, and national notifications made to fulfill its obligations. After discussing what she did to become a TF-GSL expert, Dr Aykal shared, step-by-step, the process how they received the EFLM Green Laboratory certificate for the Medical Biochemistry Laboratory of Antalya Education and Research Hospital. Dr Aykal, shared the rightful pride of being the first laboratory in Türkiye and the fifth in Europe receiving this certificate. She concluded her speech stating that they are always ready to support all laboratories in Türkiye wishing to enter this process.

The meeting concluded with closing remarks of **Prof. Dr. Ebru Kale**, who expressed her gratitude to the attendees and presented certificates of appreciation to Prof. Ozben and Prof. Aykal. The event, attended by a total of 150 participants in-person, the session was concluded taking a group photo.



EFLMLABX CORNER

Welcome to the new EFLMLabX offerer from Sweden

Reported by **Tara Rolić**,
Task Group EFLMLabX member



Picture from laboratory, ANOVA, Karolinska University Hospital and Karolinska Institute

Sincere welcome to the new EFLM partner in laboratory professionals exchange programme (EFLMLabX) from Stockholm, Sweden, ANOVA, Karolinska University Hospital and Karolinska Institute and Prof. Lars Björndahl (<https://staff.ki.se/people/lars-bjorndahl>).



ANOVA – Andrology Laboratory is part of the public Swedish hospital Karolinska University Hospital and the university Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden. The laboratory is specialized in basic semen examination and has participated in the development of the ESHRE Basic Semen Analysis Course and the EAA– ANDRONET (Training School in Basic Semen Examination). We have also recently taken an active part in producing the most recent WHO manual on the examination of human semen 2021 and in the development of the recent ISO standard (ISO 23162:2021).

The ANOVA venue is in central Stockholm, close to local transportation and airport coach stops. The ANOVA center moved to its modern refurbished premises in 2016 and has ample room for both clinical routine, research and training of different professionals within the scope of ANOVA: Laboratory Medicine, Endocrinology, Urology, Psychiatry, Psychology, Psychotherapy, and Nursing; in Andrology, Sexual Medicine, and Transgender Medicine.

Further information/links

- www.eshre.eu
- <https://www.andrologyacademy.net/>
- <http://www.andronet.cat/training/>
- <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240030787>
- <https://www.iso.org/standard/74800.html>

THE YOUNG SCIENTISTS' CORNER

New chair of the Task Group Young Scientists has been elected and new team of core members established!

Reported by **Aleš Kvasnička**,
Chair of Task Group
Young Scientists

During the fall of 2023 we had elections for the new chair of Task Group (TG) Young Scientists (YS) with 7 candidates applying. After presentations from the candidates (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5ZFPYGsurw>) and voting from YS members the candidate with the most votes won and **Aleš Kvasnička** was elected as the new chair of TG YS. We would like to give big thanks a pay respect to our esteemed colleague, friend and past chair Miron Sopic, who has led

the TG YS actively and responsibly in the past two years.

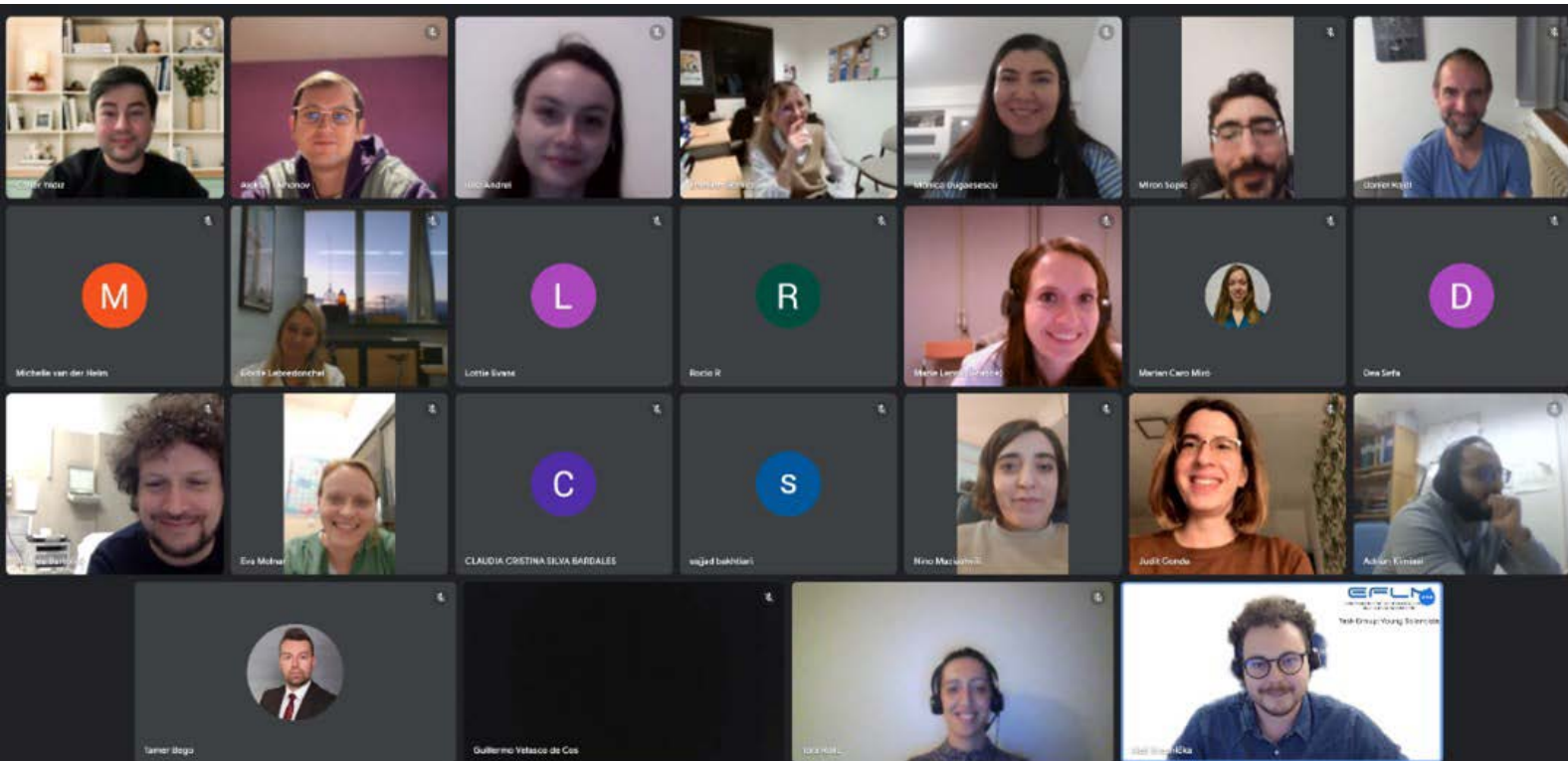
With the election of a new chair, there also came the selection of the new team of core members. After careful evaluation of proposed visions and motivation, four core members were selected. Two of them are already a well-known and recognized people from the EFLM community and we are talking about Tara Rolic (Inst of Clinical Laboratory Diagnostic, University Hospital Osijek, Osijek, Croatia) and Aleksei Tikhonov (Gustave Roussy, Paris, Île-de-France, France). Next, two new core members are Monica Dugaescu (Fundeni Clinical Institute, Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest, Romania) and Emeline Gernez (Centre de Biologie Pathologie Génétique, Service Hormonologie Métabolisme Nutrition Oncologie, CHU de Lille, Lille, France).

We have established monthly meetings of our TG and also a WhatsApp group (<https://chat.whatsapp.com/LdKkn3homuNltzfYRIhSb>) which has already 48 members and contains lots of intense discussions and supportive environment. We have several goals for the upcoming years how we want to make efforts of young scientists more visible and our voice more heard.

These goals revolve around:

- **Online presence** - The task is to come up with ways how to visualise EFLM TG YS efforts in the online space.
- **Education** - Ways how to enrich each other with their expertise and to invite experts for topics tightly connected to young scientists (also includes organization of webinars)
- **Communication** - Focus on more flexible way of communication e.g. using common services such as WhatsApp, Discord, Slack, and Teams to communicate, plan and organize our duties.
- **Conference** - Highlighting young scientists at conferences (especially EuroMedLab), making our poster sessions more impactful and visible.
- **Collaboration** - Finding potential and beneficial crossing with other groups (e.g. IFCC) and planning of joint activities.
- **Expansion** - Keeping track of our current (active) members and finding ways on how to increase the number of members in our network.

To conclude we are enthusiastic and motivated to push our efforts toward fulfilling our set goals and making young scientists more visible and their voice more heard in the EFLM community!



Screenshot from the first meeting of EFLM TG YS in the year 2024 in January. We had over 30 active members in this meeting!

Changing of the guard in EFLM National Societies

Reported by **Silvia Terragni**, 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.

Association of Medical Biochemists in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Radivoj Jadrić (Faculty of Medicine, University of Sarajevo) is the new National Society President of the Association of Medical Biochemists in Bosnia and Herzegovina, replacing Jozo Coric.

Bulgarian Society Clinical Laboratory (BSCL)

Yana Bocheva (Central Clinical Laboratory, University Hospital "St. Marina", Varna) is the new National Society President of the Bulgarian Society Clinical Laboratory, replacing Milena Velizarova, who will continue her activity as EFLM National Representative.

Hungarian Society of Laboratory Medicine (MLDT)

Zsuzsanna Bereczky (Division of Clinical Laboratory Science, University of Debrecen) is the new EFLM National Representative of the Hungarian Society of Laboratory Medicine, replacing Agnes Peterfalvi.

Academy of Clinical Science and Laboratory Medicine (ACSLM)

Jemma Kehoe, Officer ACSLM is the new EFLM National Representative of the Academy of Clinical Science and Laboratory Medicine, replacing Helen Barry.

SIBioC - Laboratory Medicine (The Italian Society of Clinical Biochemistry and Clinical Molecular Biology)

Marcello Ciccio (Dept. of Biomedicine, Neurosciences and Advanced Diagnostics, University of Palermo) is the new National Society President of the Italian Society of Clinical Biochemistry and Clinical Molecular Biology, replacing Tommaso Trenti. Anna Carobene (Laboratory Medicine, IRCCS San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Milano) is the new EFLM National Representative of SIBioC, replacing Sergio Bernardini.



NEWS FROM EFLM NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Award for Biochemical Analytics donated by: SARSTEDT AG & Co. KG

A prestigious and internationally acclaimed award in biochemical analytics

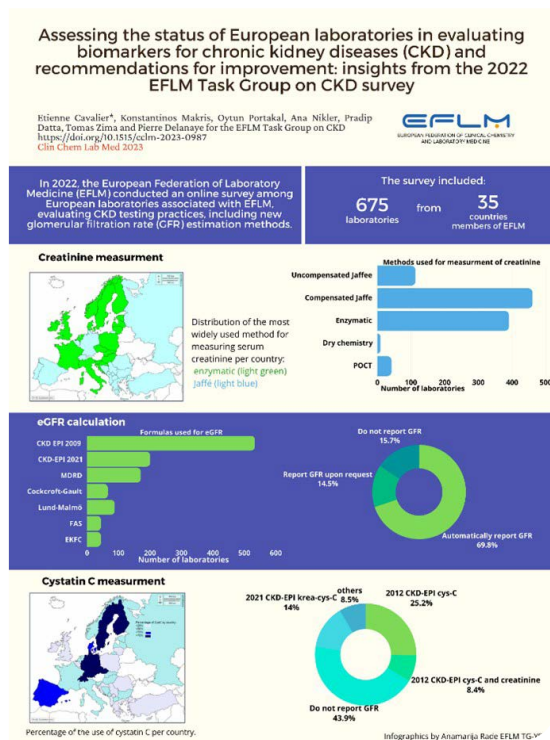
The German Society for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine e. V. (DGKL) awards the „Biochemical Analytics“ prize for outstanding scientific work in the field of biochemical and molecular analytics. The prize has been awarded for more than 40 years for methodological advances in the field of biochemical and molecular analytics and for new significant scientific discoveries in the field of biological sciences, particularly in clinical chemistry and clinical biochemistry involving the application of modern analytical methods. The prize is endowed with €50 000 and is thus one of the most significant awards presented in Germany by a medical society. A panel of judges appointed by the DGKL executive committee is tasked with selecting the recipient of this esteemed award.

[Find the tender here](#)

UPDATE ON EFLM PUBLICATIONS

Assessing the status of European laboratories in evaluating biomarkers for chronic kidney diseases (CKD) and recommendations for improvement: insights from the 2022 EFLM Task Group on CKD survey

Reported by **Anamarija Rade**, EFLM Task Group Young Scientists



<https://doi.org/10.1515/cclm-2023-0987>

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a global health issue, ranking as the third leading cause of death worldwide. CKD diagnosis and management depend on clinical laboratory tests, necessitating consistency for precise patient care. In 2022, the European Federation of Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) conducted an online survey among 675 European laboratories associated with EFLM. The results highlighted significant discrepancies among countries in unit expression, methods, cystatin C use, and GFR calculation equations. Additionally, limited attention to pediatric renal biology specifics, varied proteinuria and albuminuria result expressions, and limited awareness of GFR measurement methods through iohexol clearance were noted. In an effort to enhance the standardization of crucial biomarkers utilized in nephrology for evaluating renal function and diagnosing kidney injuries, the EFLM Task Group on CKD suggests nine practical recommendations tailored for European laboratories: Enzymatic methods should be the only ones to be used in children due to their better accuracy in the lower concentration ranges. Even if molar units are recommended from a metrological perspective, it is more important that the same unit is used in the same region/country. We recommend rounding to the nearest whole number when sCr results are expressed in $\mu\text{mol/L}$ and, for ponderal units (mg/dL), to round to the nearest 100th of a whole number. As a European Society, we favour the use of European equations, either EKFC or Lund Malmö ones since they have been established and validated in a European population. The most important remains however to avoid too much disparity at the regional level. Laboratories should also avoid using more than one equation to estimate sCr based eGFR. It is important for laboratories to provide an eGFR when CysC is requested. When both SCr and CysC are requested, an equation that calculates the eGFR based on both biomarkers should be provided. As for the equations to be used, we prefer European ones such as CAPA, Larsson, or EKFC. However, regional harmonization should also be pursued in this regard. We recommend that serum cystatin C concentration are expressed in mg/L and rounded to the nearest 100th of a whole number. We strongly recommend using an eGFR equation in children and adolescents. In this regard, we advocate for the utilization of European equations such as the CAPA or the EKFC equations. The EKFC equation is particularly noteworthy as it allows for a seamless transition from paediatric to adult equations without any artificial "jump," making it suitable for use across a wide age range starting from 2 years old and extending into adulthood. We recommend that at least one laboratory in each European country is capable of measuring iohexol clearance to measure GFR.

7 Albuminuria

- Normalisation of albuminuria by urine creatinine (ACR) in first morning urine sample should be used
- Results should be expressed in mg/g or mg/mmol
- Cut-offs should thus be $<30 \text{ mg/g}$ or $<3 \text{ mg/mmol}$
- Term "microalbuminuria" should not be used

The recommended sample should be first urine sample collected during mid-stream voiding in the morning. The term "microalbuminuria" should be abandoned and replaced with the term "albuminuria".

PAST EFLM EVENTS

Past EFLM webinars

Reported by **Lejla Alić**,
Member of the Working Group Promotion & Publications

In the previous period, EFLM hosted several notable webinars held by eminent experts on Alzheimer's disease, antiphospholipid syndrome, transplant immunology, and sepsis biomarkers.

On **February 15th, 2024**, in the frame of the Meet the Expert series, dr Katrien Devreese gave a comprehensive overview of testing and interpretation of lupus anticoagulants, anticardiolipin antibodies, and anti-beta2 glycoprotein antibodies, with a particular insight into analytical issues and challenges in the measurement of these parameters.

On **February 20th, 2024**, dr Moshe Israeli presented current trends in transplant immunology, with a special focus on population immunogenetics and HLA testing.

On **March 5th, 2024**, dr Christos Tsatsanis presented the pathogenic mechanisms of sepsis immunosuppression and discussed potential novel functional biomarkers of sepsis.

On **March 13th, 2024**, dr Patricia Gomez (Portugal) presented chronic stress-related molecular mechanisms contributing to the pathology of depression and Alzheimer's disease and how exosomes can be exploited in the diagnostics of Alzheimer's disease.

If you missed any of those webinars, you can easily access and watch them on-demand on the EFLM e-learning platform. Access to past webinars is available to EFLM Academy members only.

A Vision to the future: value-based laboratory medicine

Padova (IT), 23-24 September 2024



UPCOMING EFLM EVENTS

Value-based laboratory medicine: the time is now. Take part in the EFLM Strategic Conference 2024

Reported by **Mario Plebani**, EFLM President

A certain number of EFLM bursaries are available to attend the conference in Padua!

Applicants must be EFLM Academy Members in order with the annual fee 2024 and from EFLM National Societies.

Number of available bursaries

- n. 5 bursaries for Young Scientists $\leq 35y$
- n. 5 bursaries without age limit from selected EFLM National Societies, see "Vic Blaton bursaries programme" for details

What the bursary covers

- the travel and accommodation up to max Eur 750
- the registration fee is waived by EFLM

How to apply

- using the specific application form to be sent to eflm@eflm.eu within 30 April 2024

Applications must be accompanied by the following documentation:

- Copy of the ID or passport proving the age for Young Scientists' applications
- Any document proving the membership to the EFLM National Society
- EFLM Academy Certificate (downloadable from the Academy personal area)

In the last few decades, laboratory medicine has undergone monumental changes and the landscape of clinical laboratories is still evolving over time. Data on laboratory errors and associated diagnostic errors and risk for patient safety emphasize the need for a paradigmatic shift: from volumes to the value of laboratory information to promote value-based laboratory medicine.

The focus of the EFLM Strategic Conference 2024 is indeed to approach this challenge and to deal with important aspects of the organization of clinical laboratories, the increasing concern on ethical issues and the future of laboratory professionals.

Global leaders, IVD diagnostics companies, information technology experts, and other stakeholders have been invited to deliver talks and discuss trends, opportunities and challenges in Laboratory Medicine to create an interactive environment to allow opportunities for sharing visions, projects but, most important, to transform them into ACTIONS.

The scientific content of the conference is divided in 4 main sessions:

- CREATING VALUE FOR USERS
- CHANGING THE ORGANIZATION
- ETHICAL ASPECTS IN LABORATORY MEDICINE
- THE FUTURE OF LABORATORY PROFESSIONALS

The 2024 edition of the Strategic Conference will be held as a hybrid meeting (in person and on-line) to permit a large participation of delegates to consensually identify strategic measures to be taken during the interactive discussion.

Programme

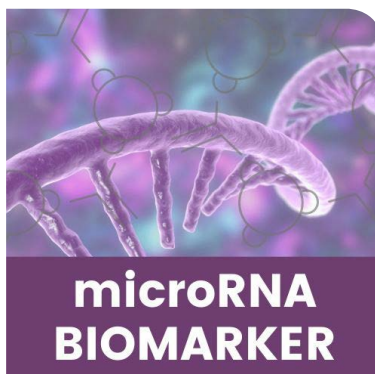




Forthcoming EFLM webinars

Reported by **Lejla Alić**,
Member of the
EFLM WG Promotion
& Publications

In the following period, EFLM is organizing a few exciting and contemporary webinars covering various emerging topics in laboratory medicine. Do not miss the opportunity to listen to the excellent speakers and to participate in inspiring and fruitful discussions after each webinar. All webinars are free for EFLM Academy members at the EFLM e-learning platform.



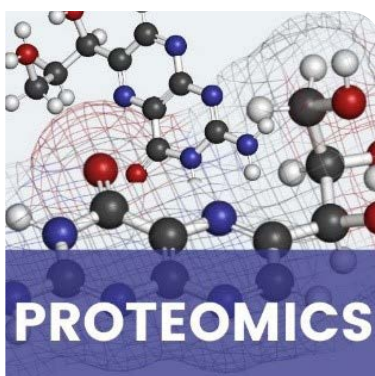
**EV associated Biomarkers in Liquid Biopsies-
How to identify valid microRNA Biomarker
Signatures in circulating extracellular
vesicles**

Date: 9th April 2024 at 18:00 CET time
Speaker: Michael W. Pfaffl (Germany)



**Prioritizing patients' safety by elevating
standards in our laboratory processes**

Date: 23rd April 2024 at 18:00 CET time
Speaker: Vincent De Guire (Canada)



**Application of proteomics in biomarker
discovery**

Date: 7th May 2024 at 18:00 CET time
Speaker: Antonia Vlachou



**MEET THE EXPERT Analysis & interpretation
of cardiac markers and deciphering of High
sensitive troponin**

Date: 9th May 2024 at 16:00 CET time
Speaker: Damien Gruson (Belgium)



**AI and digital Pathology implications on the
Pathologists and the Pathology Laboratory**

Date: 22nd May 2024 at 18:00 CET time
Speaker: Shaha Ish-Salom

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



Dear colleagues

Let's say that spring is ante portas and we are looking forward to spring or Easter holidays. IFCC Worldlab in Dubai is approaching and every few days you all get a relevant message full of promises in your email.

Our IFCC eNews issue begins with our new IFCC President Prof Tomris Ozben's important message. In her message Prof Ozben offers us a lot of information about the new IFCC EB first meeting. She mentions the importance of meeting with all IFCC officers, old and new chairs and of being in touch with all the IFCC members, even the National societies members. She is describing the draft strategic action plans for the years ahead as well.

In this issue we pay tribute to an important IFCC lady Dr Elizabeth R. Nuqui, who passed away last year, and we learn about her life and her important contribution to her national society (Philippines) and to IFCC. We say goodbye to the old chairs, thanking them for their services to their committees and IFCC in general, wishing them every success in their new positions and we welcome and get to know the new chairs. Don't forget, dear colleagues, to read the interview of Prof. Sergio Bernardini, IFCC Secretary, by Dra Maria del Carmen Pasquel, where you will learn a lot about his past and new positions and his commitment to IFCC. And of course, we have reports from the young scientists and their dedication to learn everything about digital transformation of our labs and our lives, reports from many national societies from all over the world, and from the scientists, who had the opportunity to visit other labs and gain a lot from this experience. And last but not least, I invite you to read articles about the UNIVANTS awarded teams, where the cooperation between clinicians and laboratories offers so much to global health.

Go ahead dear colleagues, read and enjoy!

Dr Katherina Psarra, eNews Editor

Empowering women to eliminate cervical cancer

Eliminating cervical cancer as a public health problem is high priority for the World Health Organization. As such, innovative programs like Program ROSE (Removing Obstacles to cervical Screening) are working to help reach this goal. Through novel implementation of self-sampling for human papilloma virus (HPV) and digital technology, this team is helping to ensure women are screened for HPV and subsequently linked to life saving care. To learn more about this initiative and more, please visit

www.UnivantsHCE.com



IFCC NEWS

Join us at the IFCC WorldLab Congress in Dubai, May 2024

Khosrow Adeli & Anwar Borai, Co-Chairs
IFCC WorldLab Congress 2024 - Dubai
Tomris Ozben, Conference and IFCC President

Dear Colleagues,

We are excited to extend a warm invitation to all IFCC Officers, members of IFCC National Societies, IFCC Regional Federations, as well as IFCC Corporate Members to participate in the upcoming IFCC WorldLab Congress, scheduled to take place in the vibrant city of Dubai in May 2024.

The IFCC WorldLab Congress is a premier event in the field of laboratory medicine, bringing together professionals, experts, and enthusiasts from all corners of the globe. This congress serves as a platform for collaboration, innovation, and knowledge exchange, fostering advancements in laboratory science and healthcare. Click here to read the full invitation

[Register here](#)

[Preliminary Program](#)

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



Point-of-Care Testing: state-of-the art and perspectives
Venice (IT), 4-5 April 2024



EFLM Webinar
EV associated Biomarkers in Liquid Biopsies-How to identify valid microRNA Biomarker Signatures in circulating extracellular vesicles
on-line, 9 April 2024



VIII International Symposium Laboratory medicine and quality
Barcelona (ES), 15-16 April 2024



EFLM Webinar
Prioritizing patients' safety by elevating standards in our laboratory processes
on-line, 23 April 2024

International Symposium on Laboratory Medicine
Tbilisi (GA), 27 April 2024



EFLM Webinar
Application of proteomics in biomarker discovery
on-line, 7 May 2024



EFLM Meet the Expert - Interpretation of Laboratory results
Analysis & interpretation of cardiac markers and deciphering of high sensitive troponin
on-line, 9 May 2024



XV Conference of RALM
Eforie Nord (RO), 15-17 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



EFLM Webinar
AI and digital Pathology implications on the Pathologists and the Pathology Laboratory
EFLM Webinar
on-line, 22 May 2024

- 

EFLM Webinar

Role of pharmacogenomics in the individual response to therapeutic drugs

on-line, 4 June 2024
- 

42nd Vicenza Course AKI-CRRT-ECOS and Critical Care Nephrology

Vicenza (IT), 11-13 June 2024
- 

9th International Symposium on Critical Care Testing and Blood Gases

Saint Malo (FR), 13-14 June 2024
- 

EFLM Webinar

Male and female hypogonadism - Laboratory workup

on-line, 18 June 2024
- 

EFLM Webinar

Between analyzer and laboratory medicine professional

on-line, 23 July 2024
- 

EFLM Meet the Expert - Interpretation of Laboratory results

Interpretation of Laboratory results on kidney function

on-line, 5 September 2024
- 

XVII Baltic Congress of Laboratory Medicine

Vilnius (LT), 5-7 September 2024
- 

XXIII Serbian Congress of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine with international participation

Belgrade (RS), 16-18 September 2024
- 

39th Nordic Congress in Clinical Chemistry

Stockholm (SE), 17-20 September 2024
- 

4th EFLM Strategic Conference

A Vision to the future: value-based laboratory medicine

Padua (IT), 23-24 September 2024
- 

XVI Bulgarian National Conference of Clinical Laboratory

Varna (BG), 27-29 September 2024
- 

XV. Congress of Slovak Society of Clinical Biochemistry

Demänovská Dolina, Low Tatras (SK), 6-8 October 2024
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Joint Congress of XXXI Meeting of the Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation (BCLF 2024) and 35th National Biochemistry Congress of TBS

Antalya (TR), 27-30 October 2024
- 

EFLM Meet the Expert - Interpretation of Laboratory results

M-protein diagnostics: analysis and interpretation of protein electrophoresis of serum, urine and cerebrospinal fluid

on-line, 7 November 2024
- 

ACBI Annual Conference

Athlone (IE), 8-9 November 2024
- 

EuroMedLab 2025

26th European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine

49th Annual Meeting of the Royal Belgian Society of Laboratory Medicine

Brussels (BE), 18-22 May 2025