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EuroLab News

THE EFLM BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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EUROPEAN LABORATORY DAY 2025

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Foreword

The latest edition of EuroLabNews highlights a period of significant progress within the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM). Outgoing President Mario Plebani reflects on two transformative years marked by structural reorganization, expansion of membership, and advances in strategic planning, sustainability, and value-based laboratory medicine. A major milestone is the establishment of the EFLM Committee on Value-Score for Clinical Laboratories, aiming to develop objective, automated, and measurable quality indicators across the total testing process. Prestigious international recognitions were awarded to several EFLM leaders, including the Roman Lecture Award to Prof. Plebani and the DGKL Scherer Medal to Prof. Klaus P. Kohse. The issue also announces the winner of the Walter Guder Preanalytical Award 2025, recognizing innovative research on lipemia interference. Professional development opportunities are prominently featured: the EFLM Scientific Research Grant, bursaries for the 2026 Strategic Conference in Prague, and multiple open positions in EFLM committees. The EFLMLabX Corner showcases impactful exchange experiences in Crete, strengthening translational and clinical collaboration across Europe. Functional unit updates focus on sustainability, presenting practical “green laboratory” actions and announcing the upcoming revised Green & Sustainable Laboratories certification checklist. The Young Scientist’s Corner reports on regional engagement activities supporting early-career professionals in research, mobility, and leadership. EFLM’s publication strategy is summarized, emphasizing quality, harmonization, and transparent approval pathways for guidelines, opinions, and scientific outputs. Recent webinars are recapped, covering cardiovascular diagnostics, NMR-based metabolomics, novel reference interval concepts, plasma pTau-217 in Alzheimer’s disease, and thrombophilia testing. A rich slate of upcoming events includes the EFLM Strategic Conference 2026, the 2025 Preanalytical Phase Conference, and several specialized webinars. National society contributions from Slovenia, Spain, Ukraine, the UK, Slovakia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina showcase broad activity across Europe - from biostatistics education to laboratory support for gender-affirming care, national quality initiatives, and major scientific congresses. The IFCC corner summarizes the international perspective in the field of Laboratory Medicine. Overall, this issue reflects a vibrant, highly engaged European laboratory community committed to scientific excellence, harmonization, sustainability, and professional growth.

As we close this issue - and the year - we here at the EFLM Communication Division extend our sincerest appreciation to all laboratory professionals, researchers, and collaborators whose dedication continues to advance the quality and impact of our field. May the coming year bring renewed inspiration, scientific progress, and continued unity across our laboratory community. Wishing you a peaceful holiday season and a healthy, productive New Year.



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

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Highlights



MESSAGE FROM
EFLM PRESIDENT



PREANALYTICAL
PHASE CONFERENCE



EFLM
OPPORTUNITIES

Message from the EFLM President



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As my term as EFLM President draws to a close on December 31st, 2025, I would like to take this opportunity to share some reflections on these two years of service and to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you who have contributed to the remarkable growth and vitality of our Federation. Serving as EFLM President has been an immense honour and a deeply enriching experience, both professionally and personally. I would like to assure you that I have done my utmost to be worthy of this challenging and demanding task.

Fortunately, I have had the support of an Executive Board composed not only of colleagues of outstanding professional competence, but also - and above all - of exceptional human quality and genuine friendship. Moreover, the EFLM Secretariat, now further strengthened by the addition of a new member, Alessia, is guided by an exceptionally skilled professional, Silvia Cattaneo, together with another invaluable resource, Silvia Terragni. This combination of professionalism and friendship has greatly facilitated my work.

Two years of growth and renewal

Over the past biennium, EFLM has continued to expand its reach and impact, now encompassing **42 full members, 10 affiliate members, and 8 corporate members**. This expansion represents a collective success, made possible through the dedication of my colleagues in the Executive Board, our National Societies, Corporate Members, Committees, and all professionals committed to advancing Laboratory Medicine in Europe.

A major achievement of this period was the **reorganization of EFLM's structure**, implemented in January 2025, aimed at reducing overlaps, providing a clearer strategic direction for the future, and, last but not least, aligning our functional terminology with that of the IFCC. This restructuring has strengthened the Federation's efficiency, collaboration, and ability to address future challenges, but, above all, it has given a shared identity and mission to all the functional units: to implement value-based laboratory medicine by transforming the perception of our discipline from a faceless one into a visible profession, recognized and valued by all stakeholders.

A new EFLM Committee: Value-Score for Clinical Laboratories

One initiative particularly close to my heart was the establishment of a new functional unit, the **EFLM Committee "Value-Score for Clinical Laboratories"**, which began its activities in **January 2025** under my chairmanship.

The Committee's mission is to develop a framework to objectively evaluate and benchmark the quality of clinical laboratory services. Its goals include:

- Identifying the **fundamental requirements** that define the true quality of laboratory services;
- Enabling an **objective assessment** of quality across the total testing process;
- Developing a **value-based score**, grounded in measurable, easily collectable data to facilitate automation;
- Establishing an **effective benchmarking program** among clinical laboratories.

This initiative represents a significant step toward promoting **value-based laboratory medicine**, enhancing transparency, providing laboratories with actionable tools to demonstrate their contribution to high-quality healthcare and moving the seminal concept of value-based laboratory medicine from theory to practice.

Education, Sustainability, and Strategic Development

The **EFLM Academy** continues to flourish, now counting over **10,000 subscribers**, including around **5,000 EuSpLM registrants**, reaffirming our commitment to lifelong learning and professional growth.

In parallel, the **EFLM Green & Sustainable Laboratories certification** has grown steadily, promoting environmental responsibility and encouraging laboratories to adopt more sustainable practices. I am particularly pleased to note that **23 laboratories across 12 different countries** have now achieved this certification, a clear sign of the growing commitment of our community to environmental sustainability and responsible innovation.

Harmonization, the issue of harmonization throughout the total testing process has become increasingly important to ensure the comparability of laboratory information. Recent initiatives have underscored the need to harmonize not only analytical aspects but also pre- and post-analytical phases, including the harmonization of measurement units.

Moreover, the **EFLM Strategic Plan 2024–2025** has successfully guided our priorities, focusing on innovation, education, scientific advancement, and cooperation across the EFLM community.

Building on this success, the preparation of the **EFLM Strategic Plan 2026–2027** is already underway, involving myself as Past President, Tomáš Zima as EFLM President (2026–2027), and Damien Gruson, the elected President for the 2028–2029 term. This collaborative approach aims to ensure a long-term strategic vision and continuity in EFLM's mission and goals.

International recognition

These two years have also brought moments of great personal and professional recognition. In November 2024, I had the honour of receiving an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Buenos Aires, a distinction that acknowledges both my career and the visibility of EFLM's values worldwide.

In 2025, I was deeply honoured to receive the Roman Lecture Award from the Australasian Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (AACB)—one of the highest distinctions in our field. On this occasion, I had the privilege of delivering lectures at leading universities across Australia and New Zealand, culminating in my keynote address at the AACB Annual Conference in Auckland.

Furthermore, I am grateful to the Korean Society of Laboratory Medicine for presenting me with a special plaque of recognition, a gesture that underscores the strong global collaboration between EFLM and the international laboratory medicine community.

Looking ahead: the 7th EFLM Conference on the Preanalytical Phase

Before concluding my presidency, I am particularly proud to invite you to the **7th EFLM Conference on the Preanalytical Phase**, which will take place in Padova on 12–13 December 2025.

This event promises to be a great success, with more than 500 participants already registered, making it one of the most well-attended editions of this flagship EFLM initiative.

In conjunction with this important event, I am also pleased to announce the **first edition of the EFLM Meeting of Science, Quality and Value of Laboratory Medicine**, scheduled for Thursday, 11 December 2025, in the afternoon at the Savhotel Mantegna in Padova, on the day preceding the Preanalytical Conference.

This new meeting has been developed together with Michel Langlois, Chair of the EFLM Science Committee, with the following aims:

- To enable Committee Chairs to directly present and explain their work and plans to a wide audience, **moving beyond the silo mentality** to promote broad and effective collaboration based on mutual awareness and understanding of the work and projects carried out by each functional unit
- To promote **bottom-up collaboration** between EFLM Functional Units for synergistic projects;
- To identify potential **IVD industry partnerships** to support joint projects, foster innovation, and potentially secure funding;
- To promote the **dissemination of Committee outputs** such as recommendations, guidelines, and activities;
- To encourage **active participation and progress** across the entire EFLM community.

This joint event represents a further step toward fostering integration, visibility, and collaboration among the various components of EFLM, and I am confident it will become a key appointment in our Federation's scientific calendar.

A message of gratitude and hope

As I complete my mandate, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the **EFLM Executive Board**, the **EFLM Office**, our **National Societies**, **Corporate Members**, and every member of our community. Your dedication, professionalism, and enthusiasm have been the driving forces behind our progress.

It has been a true privilege to serve as your President. I am confident that EFLM will continue to thrive under its new leadership, building upon the strong foundation we have established together and further reinforcing the essential role of laboratory medicine in modern healthcare.

With my warmest regards and appreciation,

Mario Plebani

EFLM President (2024–2025)

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THE EFLM EXECUTIVE BOARD INFORMS

Integrated Diagnostics: From Vision to Implementation Across Radiology, Pathology, and Laboratory Medicine

Reported by Giulia Sancesario and Daniel Rajdl, EFLM Division “Communication”

Experts: Regina Beets-Tan, European Society of Radiology, Scientific Director EIBIR
Joe Lennerz, Chair of the EFLM Committee on Integrative Diagnostics

Introduction

Integrated diagnostics has moved from a conceptual aspiration to a strategic commitment. With the signing and recent renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding between the European Society of Radiology (ESR) and the European Federation of Laboratory Medicine (EFLM), both societies affirmed a shared ambition: to strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration and jointly advance the diagnostic pathways that underpin modern medicine.

Nowhere was this more visible than at the EuroMedLab 2025 symposium in Brussels, where radiologists, laboratorians, and pathologists presented and debated the scientific, organizational, and cultural challenges of building unified diagnostic systems.

The European Federation of Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) upholds this approach as a key element of value-based laboratory medicine. Specifically, this issue highlights the key takeaways and next steps presented at the Integrated Diagnostics EuroMedLab symposium in Brussels (18-22 May 2025), which focused on the collaboration between the EFLM and the ESR, with a theme of Interdisciplinary Strategies and Approaches. The event featured outstanding presentations by Joe Lennerz (USA), Pieter Vermeersch (Belgium), Regina Beets-Tan (Netherlands), Norman Zerbe (Germany), and Katrin Frauenknecht (Luxembourg).

Here, this Q&A brings together key perspectives from Prof. Regina Beets-Tan and Dr. Joe Lennerz, reflecting on the cultural shifts, data infrastructure, and professional evolution required to make integrated diagnostics routine. Their remarks underscore a common theme: integration is no longer optional. It is the next phase of diagnostic medicine, and it requires a shared language, shared systems, and shared responsibility.

What does integrated diagnostics mean today, and why is it becoming unavoidable?

Beets-Tan:

“We are already entering data-driven medicine, and there is simply no path back. Radiology has long focused on image interpretation, yet every image contains quantitative data that should be shared across disciplines. The coming decade will bring fully automated data collection and information sharing. Integration is not an extension of our current work; it is the necessary evolution of it.”

Lennerz:

“In practice, integrated diagnostics is a single, clinically actionable readout that synthesizes laboratory, genomic, imaging, and contextual data into one coherent interpretation. We know it works when we see shorter time-to-treatment, improved guideline-concordant care, fewer repeat procedures, and lower cost per correct treatment.”

You both refer to a cultural shift toward ‘medical information specialists.’ What does this role entail?

Beets-Tan:

“I believe the traditional borders will fade. The diagnostician of the future is a medical information specialist, functioning almost as a conductor of an orchestra. They will integrate imaging, pathology, laboratory data, genomics, and the outputs of AI tools. This requires clinical insight, literacy in basic science, and routine collaboration with data scientists. We already see this convergence in cardiovascular care. Diagnostics will follow the same trajectory.”

Lennerz:

“Becoming a medical information specialist means being multimodally literate. What I mean with this is not doing everyone’s work, but understanding enough across imaging, pathology, and genomics to collaborate effectively and interpret the whole picture. This paradigm shift will move us from parallel expertise to shared diagnostic leadership. Our roles evolve from producing separate reports to answering the clinical question with all available evidence.”

What barriers, cultural or structural, still hinder implementation?

Beets-Tan:

“First, the infrastructure is fragmented. Radiology systems, pathology systems, and electronic health records frequently do not communicate.

Second, many clinicians view AI as a perpetual promise: ‘We talked about it for twenty years, and we still see only minimal implementation.’ That skepticism reflects the truth that most systems are not AI-ready, and we lack vendor-agnostic, cloud-agnostic platforms.

Third, research remains siloed. There is extensive work in AI and in sequencing, yet very little in multimodal data integration. We must generate evidence across imaging, molecular features, and clinical context.

Practically, not all hospitals start from the same baseline. Differences in digital infrastructure and staffing mean that integration strategies must include scalable, stepwise models that work for institutions at varying levels of readiness.”

Lennerz:

"Most barriers to integrated diagnostics are not technical but structural. Radiology, pathology, molecular testing, and pharmacy still operate as independent silos with their own policies, authorization steps, and coding rules. In lung cancer workup, for example, this resulted in the unintentional creation of 30-plus disconnected workflow steps leaving no one accountable for the entire pathway. Small delays compound easily to weeks because the system is fragmented by design. That's a great way to start and we have demonstrated that you can streamline this to days from order to targeted therapy intake. **The diagnostic care pathway, not the department, is the new unit of quality.**

At the same time, we must acknowledge that institutions differ widely in digital maturity, staffing, and regulatory flexibility. Integration cannot be a one-size-fits-all mandate. To avoid widening disparities or over-centralizing expertise, we need tiered implementation models, shared metrics, and transparent data-governance rules that let each center adopt integration at a feasible pace. In short, integration must scale to the institution, while cultural alignment and shared workflow ownership remain the real catalysts of progress."

Where is integrated diagnostics already demonstrating measurable clinical value?

Beets-Tan:

"A clear example is rectal cancer. Current guidelines require assessment of the microsatellite instability (MSI) profile and MRI-based risk features. When these data are combined, MSI-high patients with specific high-risk MRI characteristics can receive immunotherapy with approximately 100% response, often avoiding surgery. Without integration of molecular and imaging data, this pathway would not exist.

However, implementation remains inconsistent. Some centers still perform CT instead of MRI for staging, despite evidence and guidelines. This inconsistency illustrates the gap between knowledge and practice."

Lennerz:

"We see similar benefits in non-small cell lung carcinoma (NSCLC), neuro-oncology, sepsis, and cardio-metabolic disease, where integrated imaging and molecular data accelerate decisions and improve biomarker yield. But what we have learned from real-world implementation is that multimodal integration only works when the entire diagnostic pathway is coordinated, not just the data streams.

When imaging, biopsy, molecular analysis, and pharmacy workflows are triggered together, patients receive targeted therapy sooner, biomarker yield improves, and repeat procedures decline. The same principle applies across diseases: the value of integrated diagnostics depends not only on combining data, but on coordinating the people and processes around those data. Without that alignment, even excellent multimodal insights fail to produce timely patient benefit."

"The diagnostic care pathway, not the department, is the new unit of quality"

Interoperability is often cited as a bottleneck. What misconceptions persist among clinicians?

Beets-Tan:

"The misconception is that once a diagnostic tool is analytically validated, it is automatically useful in clinical decision-making. Yet most clinical decision support systems have never been tested in real clinical pathways, and too often they increase confusion rather than clarity.

We also lack outcome studies demonstrating that diagnostic improvements translate to better care. Even for well-established guidelines, implementation is variable. For rectal cancer, MRI is clearly recommended, but adoption remains uneven."

Lennerz:

"A common misconception is that interoperability is mainly an IT challenge. When, in reality, diagnostic services still use different vocabularies, workflows, and accountability structures. So, even shareable data, are not organized around the clinical question. Not yet.

Clinicians expect clarity, but without shared data models, harmonized terminology, and cross-disciplinary governance, tools that appear validated often fail in practice. We continue to validate components (an assay or an algorithm) rather than the end-to-end diagnostic care pathway, which limits trust and adoption.

Ultimately, interoperability is less about connecting systems and more about aligning people and workflows so that imaging, laboratory, and molecular results arrive as one coherent, actionable answer rather than disconnected reports."

How can scientific societies, through the EFLM-ESR collaboration, accelerate integration?

Beets-Tan:

"Joint education is essential. At ESR, we began structured AI education in 2020. After five years, we are now seeing residents submitting abstracts with substantive machine-learning components. That shift came from sustained exposure, not isolated sessions.

A similar five-year integrated diagnostics education plan across radiology, pathology, and laboratory medicine would have a profound impact. We should also consider joint courses, expanded joint congress tracks, and eventually even a joint diagnostic congress.

In 2027, I will chair the biannual meeting of the International Society for Strategic Studies in Radiology (IS3R). This will be an ideal moment to bring leaders of diagnostic disciplines together; EFLM, ESR, and international partners."

Lennerz:

"The MoU created the framework, and the Brussels symposium was its first concrete expression. Professional societies are uniquely positioned to turn integration from a concept into a routine expectation. The first accelerant is shared standards: not only endorsing FHIR, DICOM, LOINC, and OMOP, but translating them into joint implementation guides, example templates, and reference workflows that laboratories and imaging departments can adopt without reinventing the wheel. The second is pathway-level alignment: defining disease-specific integrated pathways,

shared metrics, and data dictionaries that radiology, pathology, and laboratory medicine all commit to. Finally, societies can accelerate integration by creating a culture of co-design and shared accountability: offering joint courses, combined congress sessions, and practical toolkits that help institutions operationalize what the MoU promises. When societies speak with one voice, integration becomes the default rather than the exception."

Young diagnostic professionals face rapid change. What guidance would you offer them?

Beets-Tan:

"Young colleagues are already highly skilled with digital tools; they use them daily. The task is to extend that fluency into postgraduate training.

After five years of continuous AI courses at ECR, we observed a clear turning point. Residents producing sophisticated, data-science-driven research. With a deliberate five-year training plan across all diagnostic disciplines, we will see similar transformation.

They must prepare to become data-conscious diagnosticians with comfort interpreting and integrating information across modalities."

Lennerz:

"For early-career colleagues, the most important skill is multimodal fluency. Not mastering every discipline, but understanding how imaging, laboratory results, molecular findings, and AI-derived insights fit together to answer a clinical question. The future diagnostician must be comfortable with data literacy, standards, and informatics, as well as with traditional clinical reasoning. My advice is to engage early with multidisciplinary teams, learn to read outside your own specialty, and treat data provenance, workflow design, and communication as core clinical competencies. The next decade will reward diagnosticians who can move seamlessly between modalities and help shape integrated pathways rather than inherit them."

What is your vision for the diagnostic department of the future?

Beets-Tan:

"In a recent lecture, I depicted a diagnostic department in 2050 that is no longer organized in silos. Instead, there is a unified Medical Information Laboratory, where imaging, pathology, and laboratory medicine share workflows and expertise.

This model addresses two challenges:

1. Workforce scarcity – which will not be resolved by expanding three separate departments.
2. Cost efficiency – duplicative infrastructures are unsustainable.

There is also a strategic imperative: if we do not build integrated diagnostics ourselves, technology companies will. They understand the power of combining radiology, pathology, and laboratory data. Diagnostic expertise must remain central."

Lennerz:

"I see a shift from separate radiology, pathology, and laboratory departments toward a unified diagnostic ecosystem; a coordinated 'medical information service' that produces a single integrated report for the multidisciplinary team (MDT). This does not erase disciplinary expertise, but it reorganizes it around shared workflows, shared infrastructure, and shared accountability. Instead of thirty

fragmented steps across multiple departments, the pathway becomes one coordinated process where imaging, sampling, molecular testing, and pharmacy benefit management move in synchrony. Supported by AI, standards-based data exchange, and interoperable systems, the diagnostic department of the future is defined not by its modalities but by its ability to deliver the right integrated answer, at the right time, for every patient."

What concluding message would you like to share with the EFLM diagnostic community?

Beets-Tan:

"Dialogue between disciplines must become routine. The MoU is an important signal at the European level, but its real impact will come from everyday collaboration in hospitals and diagnostic centers. Local teams should start identifying small, practical steps where radiology, laboratory medicine, and pathology can align. For example, shared

case reviews, unified reporting templates, common data standards, or even a single joint discussion about workflow bottlenecks.

Integration does not begin with technology; it begins with people talking to each other, understanding each other's constraints, and building trust. Once that culture is in place, larger initiative become not only possible but natural. The time to start is now, and every team can take an actionable step toward that shared future."

Lennerz:

"Integration is no longer an aspirational project. It is our joint clinical responsibility. Start by adopting the standards, measuring what matters, and aligning your workflows with the clinical question rather than with departmental boundaries. Treat integrated diagnostics as a quality program, not a pilot: fund it, govern it, and report on it regularly. And above all, build together. The collaboration between EFLM and ESR shows what is possible when disciplines commit to shared language, shared tools, and shared outcomes. If we coordinate our efforts now, we can define the future of diagnostics rather than react to it. Most importantly, we want to signal the willingness towards a unified diagnostic strategy when applicable. While that sounds simple, it is a meaningful step in aligning European societies toward a more coherent patient-centered diagnostic future."

"Integration does not begin with technology; it begins with people talking to each other"

THE EFLM EXECUTIVE BOARD INFORMS

EFLM Walter Guder Preanalytical Award 2025: winner announcement

Reported by **Snezana Jovicic**, EFLM Executive Board Secretary

The EFLM Walter Guder Preanalytical Award recognizes the best paper published since January 2024, as judged by an independent panel of experts, that demonstrates an important and novel contribution to the advancement of the preanalytical phase.

EFLM is very pleased to continue its long-standing collaboration with BD on this award, through which we aim to promote wider recognition of the importance of high-quality research in the preanalytical field among laboratory professionals across Europe.



The Award includes a monetary prize of EUR 5,000, to be shared among the authors of the winning paper, as well as full coverage of the conference registration and travel/accommodation expenses. It will be presented during the 7th EFLM Conference on Preanalytical Phase, to be held in Padova (Italy) on 12–13 December 2025.

About the 2025 Call

As per tradition, the call was open to young scientists under 40 years of age (as of 1 January 2025), who are the first authors of an original research paper published (or accepted for publication) between 2024 and 2025, and affiliated with a National Society/Association that is a Full Member of EFLM.

EFLM received 10 eligible applications, each showcasing innovative research advancing the preanalytical phase.

After a careful evaluation according to transparent criteria by the independent committee composed of Michel Langlois (Chair), Olga Ciepiela (Poland), Janne Cadamuro (Austria) and Alexander von Meyer (Germany), it was decided to grant the award to the paper of:

Emel Colak Samsum t al. (Türkiye) titled **"Comparison of lipemia interference created with native lipemic material and intravenous lipid emulsion in emergency laboratory tests"**
Published in: Biochemia Medica 2024;34(2):020701

On behalf of the EFLM Executive Board, congratulations to the winning team for their outstanding contribution to advancing laboratory medicine and enhancing the quality of preanalytical processes!

WINNER 2025

Dr. Emel Çolak Samsum

Medical Biochemistry, Ministry of Health
Pursaklar State Hospital, Ankara, Türkiye
First Author of the paper



EFLM OFFICE INFORMS

Prestigious recognitions recently received by members of the EFLM Executive Board

Reported by **Silvia Terragni**, EFLM Office

It is a great honor for the entire EFLM community to continuously share news of the prestigious recognitions received by EFLM Executive Board Members across Europe and around the world. Recently, EFLM President Prof. Mario Plebani and EFLM Treasurer Prof. Dr. Klaus P. Kohse have both been distinguished with notable awards.

2025 Roman Lecture to EFLM President



Prof. C.M. Florkowski and Prof. M. Plebani
Christchurch (NZ)

The EFLM President, Professor Mario Plebani, has been awarded the 2025 Roman Lecture, one of the highest honors by the Australasian Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (AACB). In recognition of this achievement, Professor Plebani undertook a lecture tour across leading universities and academic institutions in Australia and New Zealand, culminating in his keynote address at the AACB Annual Conference in Auckland.

Mario Plebani obtained his medical degree summa cum laude from the Medical School of the University of Padova in Italy and completed residency training and specialization in Laboratory Medicine, and subsequently in Gastroenterology, at the same University. He is Honorary Professor of Clinical Biochemistry and Clinical Molecular Biology at the School of Medicine of the University of Padova, Honorary Professor at the University of Buenos Aires (Argentina), Facultad de Farmacia y Bioquímica and Adjunct Professor at University of Texas, Medical Branch (Department of Pathology). President of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM), Member of the Executive Board of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC), Editor-in-Chief of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (CCLM) and Co-Editor-in-Chief of Diagnosis (Dx). President of QILABMED, spin-off of the University of Padova. Dean of the Medical School of the University of Padova (2016-2019), Member of the Management Board of Directors of the University of Padova (2012-2016), Director, Post-graduate School of Clinical Pathology and Clinical Biochemistry (2007-2020) of the Medical School of the University of Padova. He has published 1550 full papers, more than 900 abstracts and several books and book chapters, with an h-Index (HI) of 125. Invited speakers at many national and international meetings and conferences such as the AACC annual meetings in 1998, 2005 and 2007-2012, the IFCC/EFCC International Congresses in Florence

(1999), Kyoto (2002), the IFCC-EFLM EuroMedLab in Prague (2001), Barcelona (2003), Glasgow (2005), Innsbruck (2009), Berlin (2012) and Milan (2013), Rome (2022), Dubai (2024) and key-note speaker at many national meetings of IFCC member societies, including Australia, UK, Ireland, Spain, Switzerland, Belgium, Finland, Turkey, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Perú. Awards received: 1991-King Prize for achievement and original research in Clinical Enzymology, International Society for Clinical Enzymology (ISE); 2007-AACC Management Sciences Division, Outstanding Contributions to Management Sciences Award; 2008-AACC Award for Outstanding Clinical Laboratory Contributions to Patient Safety; 2011-ACB (UK) International Lecture Award, 2014-IFCC (International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine) Distinguished Award for Laboratory Medicine and Patient Care and 2014-AACC/NACB Award for Outstanding Contributions to Clinical Chemistry in a Selected Area of Research and the 2014 Canadian Society (CSCC) "Travelling Lecture" Award; 2019- AACC 2019 Outstanding Contributions Through Service to the Profession of Clinical Chemistry Award. Main areas of research are quality management in laboratory medicine, diagnostic and laboratory errors, biomarkers in cancer and cardiovascular diseases, and in vitro allergy diagnostics.

The **Roman Lecture** is a prestigious annual lectureship and award, given by the Australasian Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (AACB). It was established in 1971 to honor Dr. Wadim Roman, a founding member and former president of the Association, and is awarded to a distinguished individual who gives a lecture on a significant topic in Laboratory Medicine.

Plaque of Appreciation at LMCE KSLM 2025

Representing the EFLM, Prof. Mario Plebani was also presented with a plaque of appreciation in recognition of his distinguished and invaluable contribution as an invited speaker for Plenary Lecture at the LMCE 2025 (Laboratory Medicine Congress & Exhibition) and 66th KSLM (Korean Society for Laboratory Medicine) Annual Meeting held from October 29 to 31, 2025, at Inspire (Incheon, Korea).



Highest award from the DGKL: Scherer Medal 2025 goes to Prof. Dr. Dr. Klaus P. Kohse



On Wednesday, 22 October, the German Society for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (DGKL) honoured Prof. Dr. med. Dr. rer. nat. Klaus Peter Kohse with the Scherer Medal during its Annual Meeting, at the MedLabAwards 2025 ceremony. This highest award from the professional association honours his life's work and his outstanding services to science and the further development of laboratory medicine.

The award ceremony, conducted by the acting DGKL President, Prof. Dr. Harald Renz, underscores the immense appreciation for Kohse's life's work. The professional association honours him as a brilliant scientist, tireless innovator and important mentor in the field. His decades of commitment at national and international level have had a lasting impact on laboratory medicine. The DGKL considers it a special honour to bestow this well-deserved recognition on this highly esteemed member at the end of his impressive active career.

(Photo: Franziska Werner, copyright: DGKL)

Professor Klaus P. Kohse is a clinical chemist and specialist in laboratory medicine with an impressive career. After completing his doctorate in natural sciences in Bochum and his medical doctorate in Stuttgart and Tübingen, he continued his training under Professor Herrmann Wisser in Stuttgart and Ulm. A formative research stay as a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University Medical School in the laboratory of Nobel Prize winner Ferid Murad underscores his scientific achievements.

In 1992, he moved to Oldenburg, North West Germany, where he served as director of the Institute for Laboratory Diagnostics and Microbiology at Oldenburg Hospital until 2020 and also held the position of medical director for a time. Shortly after the founding of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg, he was appointed Professor of Clinical Chemistry and Pathobiochemistry there in 2013 and, as Dean of Studies from 2016-2021, played a key role in shaping the development of medical education. The breadth of his research interests is remarkable, ranging from muscle biochemistry, the development of immunoassays and carnitine metabolism in kidney disease, to adrenergic receptors and cardiac natriuretic peptides, to pioneering work on reference intervals in paediatric laboratory medicine. His commitment to professional associations is exceptional. A member of the DGKC since 1983 and the DGLM since 1995, he was already active long before the merger to form the DGKL. He held numerous positions in the DGKL, including as a member of the executive committee and secretary. He was involved as a lecturer in the revision course and as a member of the examination board for clinical chemists, and in 2017 he was congress president of the DKLM in Oldenburg. He also contributed his expertise internationally as treasurer (2020-2025) of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) and as representative of the DGKL in the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC). His work as interlaboratory test manager for clinical chemistry, appointed by the German Medical Association, and as advisor to the Reference Institute for Bioanalytics (RfB) round off his comprehensive profile. Nevertheless, his commitment to the field of laboratory medicine is difficult to describe in its entirety.

About the Scherer Medal

The Scherer Medal is the highest award given by the DGKL. It is awarded by the Presidium to experts who have distinguished themselves through outstanding achievements in science and the promotion of clinical chemistry. It is named after the renowned court councillor Professor Dr Johann Joseph von Scherer (1814–1869), who is considered a pioneer in the field of clinical chemistry. As a physician and professor of organic chemistry at the medical faculty of the University of Würzburg, he spent his life researching the connection between chemistry and medical practice.



(Photo: Dr. Katharina Kohse-Höinghaus)

Do not miss two current EFLM open opportunities!

Reported by **Silvia Terragni**, EFLM Office

EFLM is pleased to continue supporting its National Society Members and EFLM Academy Members with a wide range of professional opportunities. We are delighted to announce the confirmation of two well-established initiatives for the upcoming year. Read on to learn more and make sure to prepare your application materials before the deadline.

Don't miss your chance to take part and benefit from these valuable opportunities!

The EFLM Scientific Research Grant

The EFLM Scientific Research Grant aims to encourage scientific advancement and support research initiatives in Laboratory Medicine across Europe. Each year, two grants of up to € 10,000 are awarded: one to an applicant from a country eligible for the 'Vic Blaton' scholarship programme and one to an applicant from any other European country.

Applicants are required to submit a detailed study budget, including a comprehensive list of all necessary reagents and consumables. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the requested funding is sufficient to complete the study. If additional funding is required, a letter of support from a third party must be included, confirming that the remaining costs will be covered by that party. The selected applicant is responsible for publishing the study findings in a peer-reviewed journal (preferably international) within two years of receiving the grant.

ENTRY CRITERIA – The applicant

- must be from an EFLM Full National Society Member
- must be the member of the EFLM Academy at the time of the application
- none of the EFLM Executive Board officers are eligible for the award during their term of office

KNOW MORE ON THE OFFICIAL LEAFLET
DEADLINE TO APPLY: 15 JANUARY 2026



EFLM bursaries to attend the EFLM Strategic Conference 2026 in Prague

The EFLM is offering **10 bursaries** to support participation in the upcoming Strategic Conference in Prague: 5 for Young Scientists (≤ 40 years) and 5 from selected EFLM National Societies (see the Vic Blaton Bursaries Programme for details).

Each bursary covers travel and accommodation costs up to EUR 750 and the registration fee is waived by EFLM.

Read [here](#) the full announcement and apply by sending your application form to eflm@eflm.eu no later than 11 January 2026.



EFLMLabX Exchange Program Report

Reported by **Ayse Isik**, Turkiye, EFLM bursary recipient



Host Institution: University of Crete, Medical School and the University Hospital of Heraklion (Greece)

Supervisor: Prof. Christos Tsatsanis

Training Period: 13 - 27 September, 2025

Through the EFLMLabX international exchange, I completed a two-week training in Heraklion, Crete, jointly hosted by the Laboratory of Clinical Chemistry at the University of Crete (School of Medicine) and the Clinical Chemistry–Biochemistry Laboratory at the University Hospital of Heraklion, under the supervision of Professor Christos Tsatsanis. The training took place between 13 and 27 September 2025.



My primary assignment was in the research laboratory, where I was actively involved in day-to-day bench work while collaborating closely with researchers and staff from both the research and clinical laboratories. In the research setting I gained hands-on experience across core translational techniques, including Western blot, ELISA, cell culture with cell lines and primary cells, primary macrophage isolation in mice, qPCR, and confocal microscopy. The team's guidance was practical and generous: protocols were explained with their scientific rationale, troubleshooting steps were demonstrated at the bench, and documentation expectations were clear so that results remained reproducible and audit-ready. Close collaboration with the clinical laboratory complemented my work; while I was not embedded in routine diagnostics, I observed how pre-analytical checks, validation, and reporting are structured, and I was introduced to the logic of panel-based genetic screening through CFTR mutation detection on a defined panel using capillary electrophoresis. These interactions clarified how quality control, instrument calibration, and concise reporting sustain high-throughput clinical workflows, and how insights from research can translate into pragmatic improvements.



I am deeply grateful to Professor Christos Tsatsanis, who welcomed me warmly and supported me at every stage. I never felt like an outsider; instead, I felt part of the team.

I am confident that what I learned in Heraklion will significantly support the progress of my PhD thesis. I would also like to thank the Department of Medical Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine, Erciyes University, for enabling and encouraging this training opportunity. Finally, I was honoured and delighted to participate in the exchange through an EFLM bursary—an experience that was both personally motivating and professionally invaluable. **My sincere thanks go to the EFLMLabX programme, to the University of Crete and the University Hospital of Heraklion teams, and in particular to Professor Tsatsanis, for creating an exceptionally supportive**

learning environment. I return with sharper experimental skills, a clearer understanding of the clinical–research interplay, and renewed commitment to precise documentation and open, collegial communication.

EFLMLabX Exchange Program Report

Reported by **Ochocińska Agnieszka**, Poland, EFLM bursary recipient



Host Institution: Laboratory of Clinical Chemistry School of Medicine University of Crete, Clinical Chemistry-Biochemistry Laboratory University Hospital of Heraklion

Supervisor: Prof. Christos Tsatsanis

Training Period: 30 September – October 11, 2025



As part of the EFLMLabX international exchange programme, I had the opportunity to visit two laboratories in Heraklion on Crete: the Laboratory of Clinical Chemistry, School of Medicine, University of Crete, and the Clinical Chemistry-Biochemistry Laboratory, University Hospital of Heraklion, both led by Professor Christos Tsatsanis.

The visit provided a comprehensive overview of both clinical laboratory operations within the Greek hospital system and fundamental medical research conducted at an academic laboratory. It was a valuable experience that enabled not only the exchange of professional knowledge and practices but also the establishment of a promising scientific collaboration between our teams.

As a result of this exchange, both sides are planning to initiate joint research activities. For our institution — The Children's Memorial Health Institute in Warsaw — this collaboration offers the opportunity to assess the clinical relevance and translational potential of the basic research findings generated by the Greek

group. Conversely, for the Greek team, collaboration with a pediatric center and access to relevant biological material and clinical data will allow them to expand their studies and potentially address key scientific questions that have emerged following their initial publications.

In addition to the scientific and professional aspects, the international exchange was also an excellent opportunity to discover new places and culture, to share insights about our work and daily life in Poland, and to extend a warm invitation for a return visit to our institution.



NEWS FROM EFLM FUNCTIONAL UNITS

4th European Laboratory Day Celebrating the Beating Heart of Healthcare!

Reported by **Tara Rolić**, Executive Committee Member of the EFLM D:C

European Laboratory Day 2025 was nothing short of spectacular! EFLM proudly invited all of you to celebrate EuLabDay2025 on November 5, EFLM members and the members of National Societies who once again brought European Laboratory Day 2025 to life with incredible enthusiasm, creativity, and dedication. This year's celebration confirmed, yet again, that laboratory medicine truly sits at the heart of healthcare in Europe.

Your passion made this day shine brighter than ever. Through the wonderful photos, heartfelt impressions, and dynamic videos you shared, we had the joy of experiencing an extraordinary variety of events: creative workshops, exciting open-door laboratory tours, inspiring educational sessions, and countless other moments that showcased the strength, unity, and purpose of our profession.

Ahead of the celebration, we launched the "Share the Love" photo and video contest, and you truly delivered! Thank you for embracing this challenge with such enthusiasm. Your contributions are now proudly featured for everyone to enjoy.

A heartfelt THANK YOU to you all!

Special mention:

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Kamil Taha Uçar for his creative contribution in producing the celebratory anthem "EuroLabDay Forever", now available here. His work perfectly captures the spirit of our profession and added a memorable musical dimension to this year's celebration.

European Laboratory Day 2025 has been a remarkable tribute to the dedication, expertise, and innovation that laboratory professionals bring to healthcare every single day. Together, we have once again brought laboratory medicine from the shadows to the spotlight, where it rightfully belongs!

To every participant, supporter, and contributor...Thank you. Your commitment to educating, inspiring, and advocating for the importance of our field has illuminated the essential role of laboratory medicine across Europe. Because of you, this year's celebration was bigger, brighter, and more impactful than ever before. Most of Europe joined in the celebration, with 18+ countries taking part and hundreds of unique activities organised across the continent!

Here's to the passion that drives our work, the community that connects us, and the future we continue to shape, at the very heart of healthcare!



Call for Vacancies: several open positions are available in EFLM Committees!

Reported by **Alessia Carere**, EFLM Office

As we look ahead to a new year brimming with fresh projects and activities, we are happy to remind you the open positions within EFLM functional units and warmly invite you to visit the dedicated page to obtain detailed information:

Available positions are:

Division "Science: Value-Based Laboratory Medicine"

Committee "Biological Variation" (C-BV)

- 1 Full Member

Committee "Direct-to-Consumer Testing and Patient Empowerment" (C-DTCT-PE)

- 1 Young Scientist Member

Division "Education & Profession"

Committee "CPECS" (C-CPECS)

- 1 Full Member + 1 Young Scientist Member

Committee "Ethics in Laboratory Medicine" (C-E)

- 1 Young Scientist Member

Division "Communication"

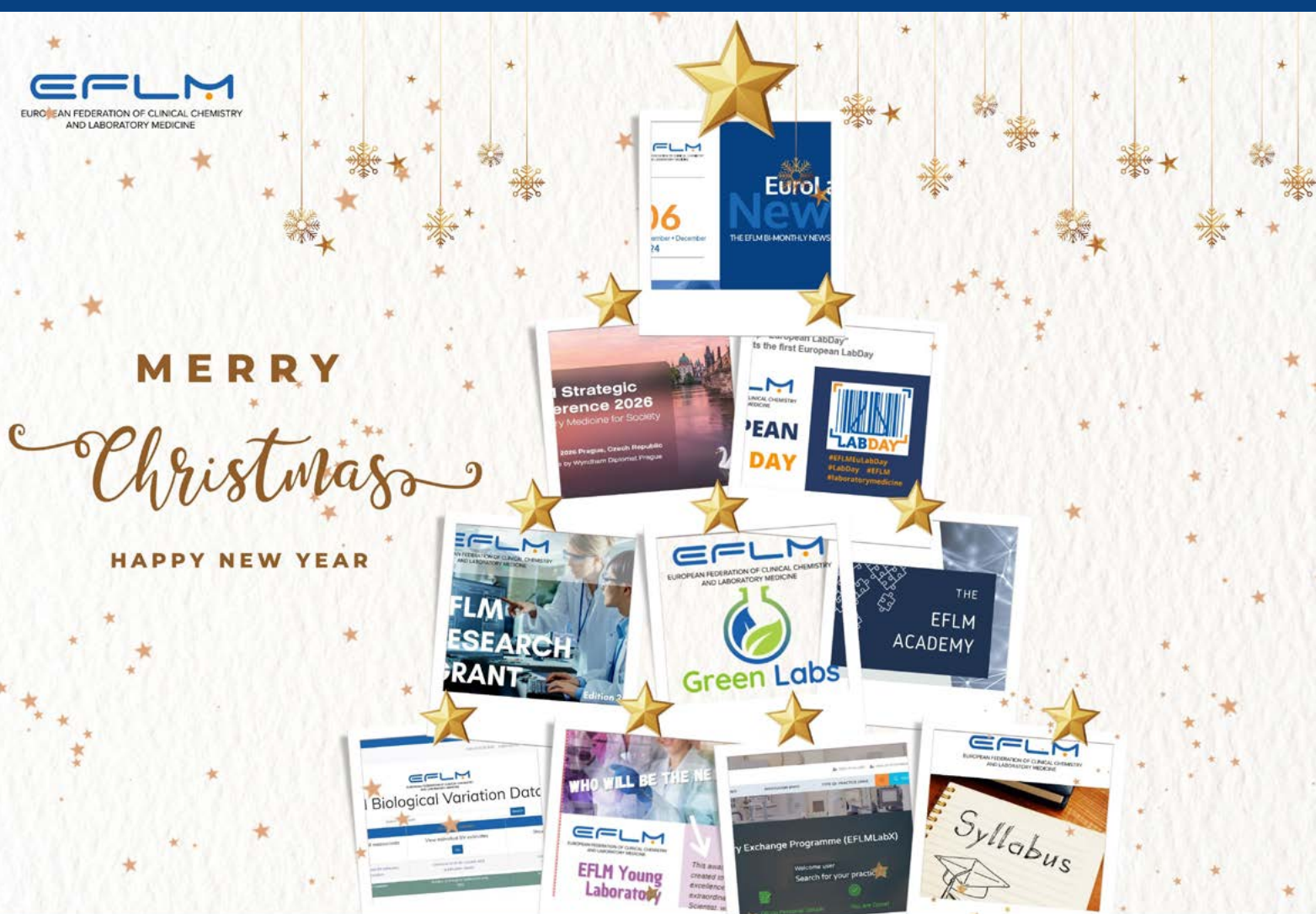
- 1 Executive Committee Member

Mark in your agenda the deadline of 15 December and do not miss the opportunity to actively participate in the EFLM community, starting from January 2026.

We hope to receive many expressions of interests from EFLM National Societies!

<https://www.eflm.eu/site/EFLM-open-positions>

Click on the link above to know more about the requirements and the evaluation procedure. The term of office will be for 2 years. The position could be renewable for other two more terms if the work for the Committee is deemed essential at that time. The work is mainly conducted by e-mail and teleconferencing, the Committee usually meets once per year. Procedure for applications: each National Societies Full Member of EFLM can submit one nomination using the dedicated form to be sent back to eflm@eflm.eu. A brief plan of the applicant's contribution to the aims and objectives of the relevant Committee 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.



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 Committee "Green & Sustainable Laboratories"



In line with the goal of the [EFLM Committee "Green & Sustainable Laboratories"](#), I have the pleasure to continue the column: 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 C-GSL members (Chemicals, Energy, Waste and Water) to start implementing the daily routine in your laboratories and getting familiar with the checklist.

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

[Click here to download the PDF](#)

The selected actions of this issue are:

✓ **Section "Hazardous Chemicals Management"**
ACTION: Is chemical use reduced when possible?

✓ **Section "Energy Management"**
ACTION: Do you regularly throw away from refrigerators and freezers items no longer required?

✓ **Section "Waste Management"**
ACTION: Are cleaning staff familiar with correct procedures for disposal of recycling waste streams?

✓ **Section "Water Management"**
ACTION: Do you check entering and leaving water temperatures and flow rates to ensure they are within the manufacturer's recommendations?



Coming soon: new updates to the GSL certification checklist

We aim to ensure our certification adheres to the highest environmental sustainability standards, with clear and accurate requirements, encouraging more laboratories from all over the world to obtain it. For this reason, we are happy to inform you that the check-list to apply for the EFLM certificate "Green & Sustainable Laboratories" is currently under revision and will be newly available starting from January 2026. Stay tuned for updates!

THE YOUNG SCIENTIST'S CORNER

EFLM C:YS Meets Young Scientists from Balkan Countries at 32nd Meeting of the Federation of Balkan Clinical Laboratories & 16th National Conference of the Romanian Association of Laboratory Medicine Sinaia Casino, October 8–11, 2025

Reported by **Monica Dugaescu**, **Tara Rolic**, **Aleksei Tikhonov**, EFLM C:YS core members, and **Daniel Rajdl**, EFLM D:C, Chair

A dedicated Young Scientists Session, supported by the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM), brought together early-career professionals from Balkan countries during this year's joint meeting of the Federation of Balkan Clinical Laboratories and the National Conference of the Romanian Association of Laboratory Medicine. Representatives from the EFLM Division: Communication (D-C) and its Committee: Young Scientists (C:YS) contributed to this initiative to support professional growth and enhance visibility for young scientists in laboratory medicine.

The session was chaired by Daniel Rajdl, Chair of the EFLM D-C for three terms, and Monica Dugăescu, Full Member of the EFLM Committee for Young Scientists. It featured two parts:

1. Scientific Presentations by Young Researchers from Romania
2. EFLM young scientists section: international networking and learning

The opening segment provided a platform for young scientists, many of whom were delivering their first conference presentations, to share their first literature reviews and original research. This friendly yet professional environment offered an encouraging debut experience, fostering confidence, visibility, and alignment with EFLM's mission to empower the next generation of laboratory medicine professionals.

The EFLM segment of the session was opened by Daniel Rajdl, who presented "Step Inside EFLM: Your Gateway to Growth in Laboratory Medicine." The talk provided young scientists

with a clear and engaging introduction to EFLM, offering both a personal perspective and a structured overview of how EFLM supports professional development. In addition to presenting the EFLM Academy, the EuSpLM Register, webinars, publications, and ongoing initiatives within the functional units, the session outlined the organisational structure of EFLM, the different types of membership, and the broad range of opportunities available to early-career professionals. Attendees were introduced to current vacancies within functional units, practical guidance on applying for EFLM positions, and ways EFLM can amplify the voice of emerging laboratory medicine professionals. The presentation also highlighted practical digital tools used to promote EFLM activities and to strengthen communication competencies essential for today's laboratory workforce.

The next topic of the session, Unlocking your future: EFLM-IFCC-ADLM Funding, Networks & Opportunities for Young Scientists, was thoroughly explained by Aleksei Tikhonov. The presentation provided a practical, comprehensive overview of key resources available through leading professional organizations: EFLM, the Association for Diagnostics and Laboratory Medicine (ADLM), and the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC). Attendees learned about bursaries, travel grants, fellowships, and educational programs designed to support early-career researchers and clinicians. Vibrant scientific networks, mentoring programs, publishing avenues, and valuable volunteer roles that foster professional development and expand career horizons were highlighted.

At the end of the session, Tara Rolic presented two key EFLM initiatives: **Share Knowledge with EFLM LabX and Showcase the Profession with EuLabDay**. Sharing knowledge is our professional duty, and the LabX network offers valuable enrichment for both applicants and host laboratories. Tara presented the benefits of the programme for both applicants and offerers, including how to provide practice and training free of charge and how to apply for and search for professional training using the LabX platform. Information on who can apply for an EFLM bursary, how to apply, and experiences from previous applicants and hosts was also shared. As laboratory medicine professionals, we are aware that our field is often underrecognized and hidden within the healthcare system. To raise awareness and appreciation, EuLabDay was

presented in this session. Each 5th of November, laboratories across the EU are encouraged to open their doors to the public and healthcare professionals, organize educational events, and run social media campaigns to improve the visibility of our profession. This session offered tips and tricks for organizing EuLabDay events and shared experiences from past celebrations. Together, the presented initiatives emphasized empowerment, professional visibility, mobility, and career development for young laboratory medicine specialists. The session fostered interactive dialogue and offered actionable guidance, encouraging young scientists to engage with EFLM's diverse opportunities actively.



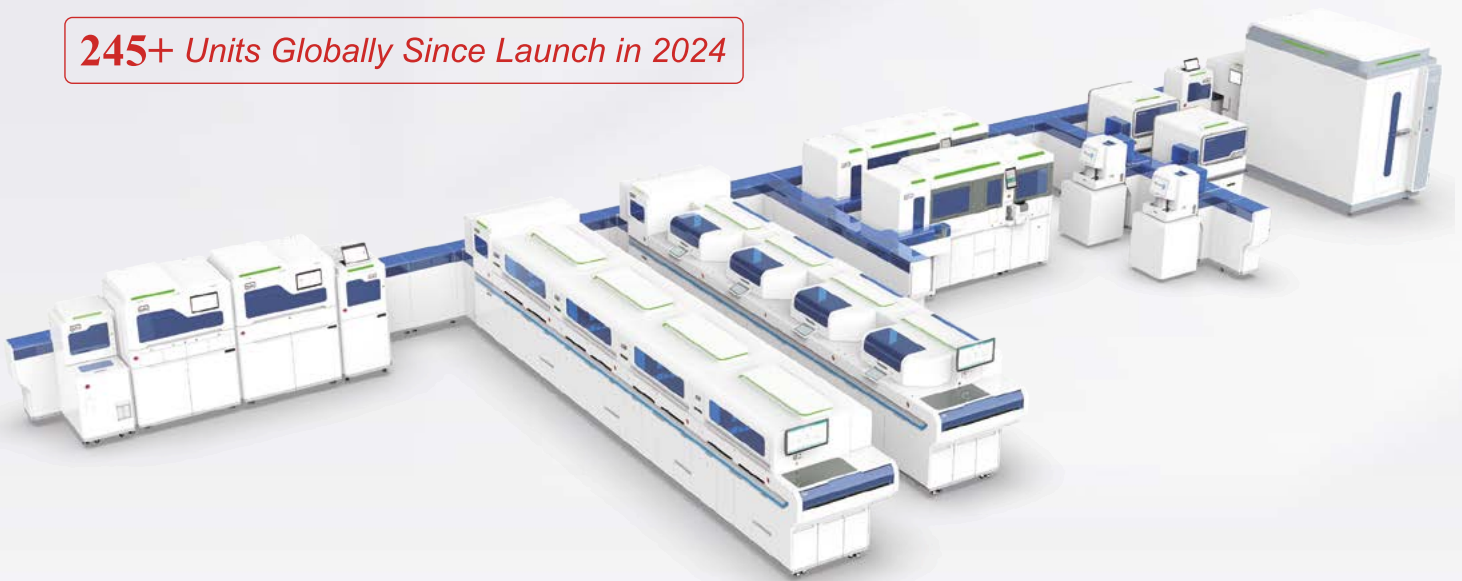


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Let's know more about EFLM Publications

UPDATES ON EFLM PUBLICATIONS

EFLM Publications: ensuring scientific excellence and harmonisation in Laboratory Medicine

Reported by **Silvia Terragni**, EFLM Office

EFLM publications represent the collective expertise of European laboratory professionals and aim to harmonise practice, support education and enhance the quality of clinical laboratory services across Europe.

One of the key outputs of EFLM's functional units is the publication of scientific papers. To ensure quality, consistency and transparency, every publication produced by an EFLM functional unit must comply with the EFLM Publication Policy. This policy outlines the process from concept development to publication, defining the types of official EFLM documents and setting out the steps for their approval and dissemination.

Acknowledging EFLM Affiliation

All EFLM publications must clearly state their affiliation by including the name of the functional unit in the authorship line. This ensures that the document is formally recognised as an EFLM output and contributes to the visibility of the Federation's work.

Types of EFLM Publications

EFLM recognises three main categories of scientific publications:

- 1. EFLM Recommendations/Guidelines (Type 1)**
- 2. EFLM Opinion Papers (Type 2)**
- 3. EFLM Abstracts/Posters at Scientific Events (Type 3)**

Each type serves a distinct purpose and follows specific procedures for development and approval.

Type 1: EFLM Recommendations/Guidelines

The purpose of EFLM Recommendations and Guidelines is to harmonise scientific and educational standards and to guide best practices in clinical chemistry and Laboratory Medicine.

The preparation of Type 1 papers follows a rigorous approval process. Once a functional unit finalises a document, it must first be reviewed by the pertinent Committee Chair and then approved by the EFLM Executive Board (EB). Following EB approval, the document is circulated among EFLM National Societies and Associations (NSs) for public consultation, allowing feedback and suggestions for improvement. After consultation, the document undergoes a formal voting process managed by the EFLM Office. If more than half of the Full Member Societies endorse the document, it is officially approved as an EFLM Recommendation or Guideline. Type 1 papers are mandatorily published in the official EFLM scientific journal of the time, currently Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (CCLM). These papers are not subject to external peer review, as they already represent the final, consensus-based position of EFLM. Instead, they are accompanied by a letter signed by the EFLM EB Secretary confirming official

approval. These publications serve as definitive statements from EFLM and are key references in laboratory medicine across Europe.

Type 2: EFLM Opinion Papers

EFLM Opinion Papers include original research, reviews, and perspectives prepared by EFLM functional units. They may cover a wide range of topics, such as education, standardisation, management and professional issues, and present the expert opinion of the authors on behalf of EFLM. These papers require approval by the pertinent Division Chair, who then informs the EB Secretary. Once approved, they may be submitted either to the official EFLM Journal or to any other peer-reviewed scientific journal, at the discretion of the authors. Unlike Type 1 papers, Type 2 publications undergo the journal's usual peer review process. Once a Type 2 paper is accepted for publication, it is the responsibility of the Chair of the functional unit to inform the Division Chair and the EFLM Office, ensuring the publication is included in the official EFLM Publications List on the EFLM website.

Type 3: Abstracts and Posters

EFLM functional units are also encouraged to present their work at scientific conferences. Abstracts and posters must first be approved by the relevant Division Chair, who informs the EB Secretary. As with all EFLM outputs, these contributions must clearly indicate the EFLM functional unit affiliation in the authorship line.

Translation of Official EFLM Documents

EFLM National Societies are encouraged to translate official EFLM documents into their local languages for publication in national journals. These translations must maintain identical authorship and include a statement acknowledging that they are translations of the original EFLM document. All translations will be referenced and linked on the EFLM website to ensure wide accessibility across Europe.

Sharing knowledge through the EFLM Newsletter

The EFLM Newsletter, EuroLabNews, serves as an important communication platform, providing updates on EFLM activities, publications, and professional developments. All EFLM Officers, Members and partner organisations are invited to contribute articles, which can be submitted directly to the Newsletter Editor or via the EFLM Office.



PAST EFLM EVENTS

Past EFLM webinars

Reported by **Lejla Alić**,
member of EFLM C:PP



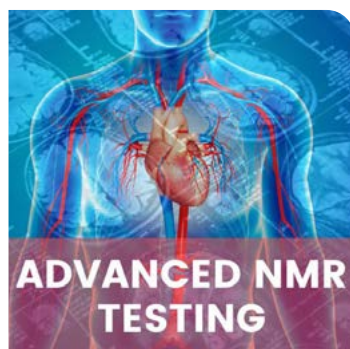
CARDIOVASCULAR MARKERS IN POCT

Cardiovascular biomarkers in a Point-of-care Testing environment

Date: 7 October 2025 at 18:00 CET time

Speaker: Álvaro García Osuna (Spain)

On October 7, 2025, Dr. Álvaro García Osuna discussed the role of cardiovascular biomarkers within Point-of-Care Testing (POCT) environments. The session contrasted POCT with central laboratory methods, highlighting critical differences in location, turnaround time, accuracy, and cost. Participants learned about the practical applications of these biomarkers for immediate clinical decision-making, with a focus on leveraging POCT to improve the diagnosis, monitoring, and treatment of cardiovascular conditions.



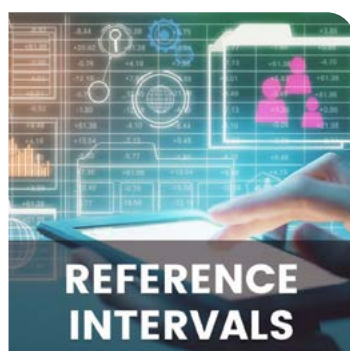
ADVANCED NMR TESTING

Advanced molecular testing by Nuclear Magnetic Resonance for cardio-metabolic disease diagnostics

Date: 21 October 2025 at 18:00 CET time

Speaker: Núria Amigó Grau (Spain)

On October 21, 2025, Dr. Núria Amigó Grau explored the application of Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) technology in cardio-metabolic diagnostics. The session defined the concept of cardiovascular residual risk and looked beyond standard LDL-C measurements to identify specific lipoprotein and glycoprotein parameters linked to atherogenicity. Participants learned how advanced NMR testing can assist clinicians in refining cardiovascular risk assessments through more precise molecular profiling.



REFERENCE INTERVALS

Reference Intervals Based on the Metabolic Activity of Analytes

Date: 4 November 2025 at 18:00 CET time

Speaker: Abdurrahman Coşkun (Turkey)

On November 4, 2025, Dr. Abdurrahman Coşkun introduced a new approach to defining reference intervals based on the metabolic activity of analytes. Participants learned how to develop suitable models for creating both personalized and population-based intervals. The session also focused on the practical application of these new reference intervals to improve the interpretation of patient laboratory data.



BIOMARKERS FOR ALZHEIMER

Plasma pTau-217 as a New Diagnostic Tool for Alzheimer Disease Diagnosis

Date: 18 November 2025 at 18:00 CET time

Speaker: Mireia Tondo Colomer (Spain)

On November 18, 2025, Dr. Mireia Tondo Colomer discussed the role of the clinical laboratory in the diagnosis of Alzheimer Disease. The session reviewed the landscape of currently established biomarkers before focusing on the diagnostic performance of plasma pTau-217. Participants learned how this specific biomarker serves as a promising new tool for accurate disease detection and how it compares to existing diagnostic methods.



EFLM COURSE MEET THE EXPERT

Meet the Expert: Analysis and interpretation of laboratory testing of inherited thrombophilia

Date: 20 November 2025 at 16:00 CET time

Speaker: Christelle Orlando (Belgium)

On November 20, 2025, Dr. Christelle Orlando explained the specific testing methods used for diagnosing inherited thrombophilia. The session provided a detailed description of how to interpret these hemostasis tests, with a particular focus on understanding the interferences that can affect laboratory results.

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UPCOMING EFLM EVENTS

EFLM Strategic Conference 2026 - "Laboratory Medicine for Society" Prague (CZ), 23-24 April



It is my pleasure to welcome you to the EFLM Strategic Conference 2026, which will take place on 24–25 April 2026 in the beautiful city of Prague, a historic centre of science and education at the heart of Europe.

The Strategic Conference will once again serve as a dynamic platform to address key developments, opportunities, and challenges in Laboratory Medicine.

With the participation of leading experts, representatives of EFLM functional units, and professionals from across Europe and beyond, the conference aims to stimulate forward-looking dialogue on the direction and priorities of our field in the coming years.

Beyond the rich scientific programme, the meeting will also provide a valuable space for strategic discussions, networking, and collaborative planning, reinforcing the role of laboratory medicine in shaping effective and sustainable healthcare.

We are currently preparing an engaging programme with interactive sessions, expert panels, and contributions from both academia and industry. Your presence will be key to making this event a success.

I look forward to welcoming you in person to Prague in April 2026 and to working together on shaping the future of laboratory medicine.

Warm regards,
Tomáš Zima, President of the Conference

Visit the official website to register and know more: <https://www.eflm-strategic-conference2026.cz/>

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EUROMEDLAB 2027

27th Congress of Clinical Chemistry and
Laboratory Medicine
LABMEDUK27 of the Association for Laboratory
Medicine

Forthcoming EFLM webinars

Reported by Lejla Alić, member of EFLM C;PP

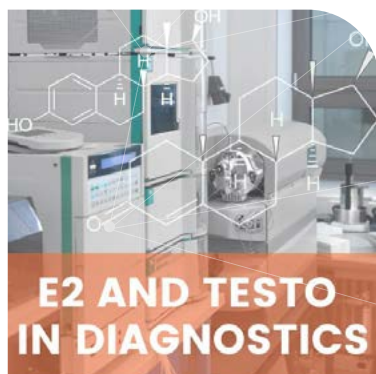
All webinars are free for EFLM Academy members.



**Analysis of Circulating DNA and
Clinical Utility in Cancer:
A Perspective from the Clinical Laboratory**

Date: 2 December 2025 at 18:00 CET

Speaker: Angel Díaz-Lagares (Spain)



**Clinical use of E2 and TESTO
and the significance
of their low values, measured by LC-MS**

Date: 16 December 2025 at 18:00 CET

Speaker: Annemieke Heijboer (Netherlands)

Become an [EFLM Academy member](#).

Webinar registration at
the [EFLM e-learning platform](#)!

NEWS FROM EFLM NATIONAL SOCIETIES

News from the Slovenian Association for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (SZKKLM)

EFLM Postgraduate course in biostatistics in Slovenia

Reported by **Lidija Gobec**, President of the Slovenian Association for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine



The Slovenian Association for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (SZKKLM) successfully applied and received grant covering the travel expenses

of the speaker for the EFLM Postgraduate education program. In September 2025, in collaboration with EFLM, we hosted a 2-day postgraduate workshop »Biostatistics in Laboratory Medicine«. Programme of the course covered theoretical basics and practical contents using the MedCalc statistical program.

Interest for participation in the training among society members exceeded our expectations, so we had to select 35 participants based on the criteria, giving priority to younger colleagues, and also considering the representation of applications from different laboratories.

The workshop was organised at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Maribor, where participants had access to a computer classroom and were able to practice implementation of the statistical program on everyday routine examples.

After the workshop, we collected the impressions of the participants, who were very enthusiastic about the quality of the workshop, perfectly prepared and led by Prof. Dr. Ana-Marija Šimundić, who also made a good impression with her enthusiasm, communicativeness, and attitude towards the participants.

The conclusion of the organizer and participants after the training was that similar courses should be conducted more often, and therefore we have already considered to include the biostatistics workshop in the continuous education of residents and LM specialists in medical laboratories in Slovenia.



Figure 1: Participants at work



Figure 2: Prof. Šimundić



Figure 3: Participants before the beautiful panorama of Maribor city



SEMEDLAB holds "The Clinical Laboratory in Sexual and Gender Diversity" course as part of its SEMEDLAB Academy virtual training project.

The Clinical Laboratory assists transgender people in gender-affirming hormone therapy

- Gender-affirming hormone therapy is a medical treatment used by transgender people to align their secondary sexual characteristics with their gender identity, through the administration of estrogens and antiandrogens or testosterone.
- Clinical Laboratory professionals provide analytical support to transgender patients throughout all stages: from the initial health assessment, monitoring of hormone treatments, and evaluation of adverse reactions to screening, diagnosis, and follow-up of certain pathologies throughout their lives.
- The health of people with sexual and gender diversity is a challenge for Laboratory Medicine, which faces various challenges, such as the need to work within adapted reference intervals.

Clinical laboratory professionals play a crucial role in supporting transgender individuals who begin or continue hormone treatment, as this allows for monitoring both the safety and progress of the therapy, from controlling hormone levels to detecting and monitoring potential risks associated with hormone therapy, such as thromboembolism, cardiovascular disorders, and bone disorders, among others.

In this context, the Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEMEDLAB) held **"The Clinical Laboratory in Sexual and Gender Diversity"** course on Thursday, September 25th, as part of its **SEMEDLAB Academy virtual training project**. The course aimed to introduce and raise awareness among clinical laboratory professionals about the importance of sexual and gender diversity in their work environment. The course combined theory, practice, and regulations so that laboratory medicine specialists can interpret tests, monitor hormone treatments, and ensure inclusive, quality care for transgender and non-binary individuals.

Laboratory Medicine experts are key to performing precise and accurate measurements of hormones, essential molecules that regulate various physiological functions in the body. These tests can detect hormonal alterations associated with endocrine disorders such as hypothyroidism, diabetes, adrenal gland disorders, and various metabolic pathologies. As explained by course moderator Dr. Roser Ferrer, president of the SEMEDLAB Endocrinology Committee and head of the Clinical Biochemistry Service at Vall d'Hebron University Hospital, the work of the Clinical Laboratory is essential both for the diagnosis and for monitoring of endocrine diseases and for the development and application of new diagnostic and prognostic tools. "Furthermore, it plays a key role in the standardization of hormone measurements, which allows for more precise, effective, and safer clinical practice for the patient."

The Laboratory, Key to Monitoring Hormone Therapy

Laboratory Medicine provides accurate and consistent monitoring of hormone concentrations in patients receiving gender-affirming hormone therapy. Gender-affirming hormone therapy (also known as transgender hormone therapy), as Dr. Ferrer described, “is a medical treatment used by transgender people to align their secondary sexual characteristics with their gender identity.”

In the initial evaluation, as stated by course speaker Dr. María Inmaculada Pastor, Clinical Analysis Specialist and Head of the Hormone Department at Son Espases Hospital, the laboratory helps in the baseline assessment of the risks associated with hormone therapy “through the analysis of liver biomarkers, lipid profiles, carbohydrates, blood counts, coagulation, etc.” Furthermore, as Dr. Pastor emphasized, baseline measurements of sex hormones and gonadotropins (a group of hormones essential for regulating the reproductive system in both men and women) are necessary “to individualize the treatment that best suits the desires and health of the gender diverse individual.”

During the first year of treatment, laboratory checks are usually performed every three months, as this is the period when most dose adjustments are required. Afterward, as the Clinical Laboratory experts explain, only two tests per year are required to continue monitoring the safety and efficacy of the treatment.

The treatment of people with sexual and gender diversity should preferably be carried out in specialized multidisciplinary units, considering their health from a holistic perspective. The Clinical Laboratory, as stated by course speaker Dr. Marina Giralt, member of the SEMEDLAB Endocrinology Committee and head of the Hormone Department at Vall d’Hebron University Hospital, “is still in the process of adapting to sexual and gender diversity, with significant shortcomings.” Among these, Dr. Giralt highlighted the absence of adapted reference values and the lack of both clinical guidelines based on scientific evidence and adapted information systems.

Likewise, according to Dr. Giralt, she argued that adapting the Clinical Laboratory is not only a matter of inclusion, but also of medical safety. In the words of the physician, “the use of unsuitable reference values in the transgender population represents a clinical risk when interpreting results, so it is essential to implement measures to ensure that reports are accurate and safe for all patients.” Finally, she emphasized that the training of professionals, both in the laboratory and among the staff in charge of blood draws, “is a fundamental pillar in this process, ensuring respectful, inclusive, and evidence-based care.”

Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEMEDLAB)

The Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEMEDLAB) — formally established on January 1, 2025 — is an active member of the International and European Clinical Laboratory Federations (IFCC) and EFLM. It currently encompasses 4,000 professionals and is the result of the merger of the three previous scientific associations of Laboratory Medicine-Clinical Laboratory in Spain: AEBM-ML, AEFA, and SEQCML. The Society aims to improve patient service, optimize resources, and strengthen the continuing education of professionals in the sector. Through this merger, it also seeks to centralize collaboration among experts; improve international outreach, generate more resources, improve legal assistance for members, and optimize continuing education courses, research, and the organization of scientific conferences.

News from the Association of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine of Ukraine (ACCLMU)

Report on the Master Class "Current issues of clinical laboratory diagnostics in Ukraine - 2025"

Reported by **Sergiy Klymenko**, President of ACCLMU

On October 2, 2025, the Association of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine of Ukraine (ACCLMU), together with the P.L. Shupyk National University of Healthcare of Ukraine, SDA's Clinical Hospital "Feofania", and the Emergency Medical Care Agency NGO, held a master class entitled "Current Issues in Clinical Laboratory Diagnostics in Ukraine - 2025," which took place as part of the 34th International Medical Exhibition "HEALTHCARE" - 2025 under the auspices of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine at the International Exhibition Center.

The master class was attended by over 500 specialists from medical laboratories, higher education institutions, scientific institutions of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and the National Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine, and other interested parties.



The master class was opened by a presentation from Mario Plebani, MD, Honorary Professor of Clinical Biochemistry and Clinical Molecular Biology at the University of Padua (Italy), adjunct professor of pathology at the University of Texas Medical Branch, president of the European Federation of Laboratory Medicine (EFLM), and editor-in-chief of the journal Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, dedicated to current global trends in the development of laboratory medicine.

The audience learned about the implementation of the interactive electronic course "Venous Blood Collection" in Ukraine, based on the recommendations of EFLM-COLABIOCLI, from Hanna MAKSYMUK (Doctor of Biological Sciences, Professor of the Department of Clinical Laboratory Diagnostics, Faculty of Postgraduate Education, Danylo Halytsky Lviv National Medical University).

ACCLMU Vice President Oleksiy VALOVYI (Director of B.M.L. LLC in Lviv, technical expert of the NAAU on ISO 15189) reported on the results of the preparation and implementation of the requirements of the ISO 15189:2022 standard by medical laboratories in Ukraine as of 2025.

Several reports were devoted to the problems of quality assurance and control in the activities of medical laboratories in Ukraine. In particular, Anzhela SBOEVA (bacteriologist of the Bacteriological Research Sector of the Reference Laboratory for the Diagnosis of Tuberculosis, Bacterial, Parasitic and Especially Dangerous Pathogens of the State Institution "Center for Public Health of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine) and Kateryna RUDNEVA (PhD, bacteriologist at Feofaniya Clinical Hospital of the State Administration of Affairs) gave presentations on practical experience in ensuring the quality of bacteriological research.

In addition, Iryna TANASIYCHUK (PhD in Medicine, Associate Professor, Associate Professor of the Department of Modern Technologies of Medical Diagnostics and Treatment at Bogomolets National Medical University) and Oksana BERNIK (PhD, Head of the Medical Laboratory at BML LLC, Assistant Professor at the Department of Medical Diagnostics and Treatment Technologies at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, GLLP Instructor) gave presentations on modern strategies for planning and ensuring internal laboratory quality control.

Serhii KLYMENKO, President of the Ukrainian Association of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (MD, Professor, President of the Ukrainian Association of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, Professor of the Department of Clinical Laboratory Diagnostics at the P.L. Shupyk National Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education, Head of the Center for Hematology, Chemotherapy of Hematoblastoses, and Bone Marrow Transplantation at Feofaniya Clinical Hospital) highlighted new approaches to personalized cancer treatment.



The event was included in the List of CME events for 2025 under No. 1014043. Participants received 18 CME credits for participating in the master class.

A satellite symposium, "Innovations in Laboratory Medicine," was also held.

During the symposium, representatives of leading domestic companies—manufacturers and distributors in the field of laboratory medicine—focused on some important issues in the practice of medical laboratories.

Collaboration and Communication: Key Highlights of 2025 for Ukrainian Laboratory Medicine

Reported by **Nataliia Kozopas**, Department of Clinical Laboratory Diagnostics FPDO of Danylo Halytsky Lviv National Medical University, Lviv, Ukraine, Executive Committee Member of the EFLM D:C

In 2025, as Ukraine continued to face unprecedented challenges, collaboration with the European laboratory community became more than a professional exchange – it strengthened our resilience. Ukrainian and European colleagues have developed a meaningful, two-way exchange of knowledge and support, with European partners offering guidance, solidarity, and expertise. This mutual commitment enriches our profession and motivates us to keep working together, even in challenging times.

Advancing Education and Standards: Growing Integration with EFLM

In May 2025, at the scientific-practical conference “Laboratory Medicine: Innovative Technologies and Solutions” in Lviv with ACCLMU participation, Ukrainian specialists received a video address from **Daniel Rajdl**, Chair of the EFLM Division: Communication. In his message, he outlined the structure, activities, and opportunities within EFLM, emphasizing how young Ukrainian laboratory professionals can get involved in international projects. Highlighting these pathways is especially important, as it helps the next generation understand how participation in the European laboratory medicine community can broaden their professional horizons, strengthen international cooperation, and contribute to the shared development of the field.

Implementing European Standards: Urinalysis Guidelines

2025 marked a key milestone in standardization with the translation and publication of the EFLM European Urinalysis Guideline 2023, led by Prof. Viorika Akimova and Ukrainian specialists in close collaboration with European colleagues. Standardizing urinalysis improves accuracy and reliability, and adopting this guideline helps bring European practices into Ukraine. Training, adaptation, and integration will further align diagnostics with top European standards – progress achieved through cooperation and shared professional effort.

Kyiv Master Class: Reflections

In October, the master class ‘Current Issues in Clinical Laboratory Diagnostics in Ukraine – 2025’ took place in Kyiv, attracting specialists from across the country. A meaningful moment was the recorded lecture by **Prof. Mario Plebani**, whose insights into global trends in laboratory medicine provided invaluable perspective. Even in virtual form, his participation was appreciated by participants, reflecting the deep respect and gratitude of the Ukrainian laboratory community. We sincerely thank Prof. Plebani not only for his professional guidance but also for his personal support and the sincere attention he has always shown toward Ukraine – gestures that continue to inspire and strengthen our community.

European Laboratory Day in Ukraine

We are delighted to see the EFLM initiative, European Laboratory Day, gaining momentum in Ukraine. As part of EuLabDay-2025, the 2nd National Conference “Challenges Facing Medical Laboratories in Wartime Ukraine” brought together around 500 participants – laboratory specialists, clinicians, educators, and international experts. The conference created a platform for both academic leaders and frontline professionals to share experiences and practical solutions.

The event was organized by the Civic organization “Clinical Laboratory Diagnostics Educational Institute” (CLADEI), together with ACCLMU, the Department of Clinical Laboratory Diagnostics of Lviv National Medical University, and the WHO Country Office in Ukraine. Ukrainian speakers shared impactful stories from Lviv, Kramatorsk, Odesa, and Kharkiv, showing courage, resilience, and dedication in keeping laboratory services running during wartime. A military laboratory specialist noted that “the lab saves lives at the frontline,” highlighting how Ukrainian laboratory professionals play a crucial role in healthcare, often operating far beyond the conventional laboratory setting. Presentations highlighted the importance of collaboration between laboratories and clinicians, telemedicine to support patients, and strategies to support psychological resilience for healthcare workers and patients alike.

The international session added valuable perspectives: WHO Ukraine representatives spoke about how their small but committed team continues to strengthen laboratory services under extraordinary conditions.

Aleš Kvasnička, Chair of the EFLM Committee Young Scientists (C-YS), highlighted the importance of networking, collaboration, and knowledge sharing, reminding us that the European laboratory community remains supportive of Ukraine. **Prof. Giuseppe Lippi** discussed cybersecurity in healthcare, emphasizing its importance for protecting patient data and keeping services running – a critical concern in challenging times.

For us, as Ukrainian laboratory specialists, this conference was more than a professional meeting. It was a reminder that we are not alone. The knowledge shared, the solidarity expressed, and the connections made give us strength to continue our work, uphold high standards, and stay connected with the international laboratory community, even in the most difficult circumstances.

Looking Ahead With Hope

We sincerely thank all our European colleagues – both within EFLM and beyond – for their professional expertise and unwavering solidarity during this challenging year. These connections have strengthened our community and inspired us to keep advancing, even in extraordinary circumstances. Together with our European partners, we will continue strengthening professional skills, improving quality standards, and developing a modern, resilient, and internationally connected laboratory medicine system in Ukraine. This collaboration fosters both professional growth and collective resilience, and affirms that Ukraine is a committed and active member of the European laboratory community.

Looking ahead to next year, we hope to gather again on Ukrainian soil, in conditions that allow laboratory professionals to pursue their work freely, with dignity, integrity, and confidence. Together, we look forward to exchanging knowledge, supporting one another, celebrating our community’s achievements, and advancing laboratory medicine in Ukraine as an integral part of the European community.

News from The Association for Laboratory Medicine (UK)

LabMedUK25 took place in Manchester from 9–11 June 2025

Reported by **Tracy Davis**, Digital content manager, The Association for Laboratory Medicine (UK)

LabMedUK25 took place in Manchester from 9–11 June 2025, bringing together laboratory professionals, researchers, and innovators for two days of discussion, debate, and learning. The event highlighted new developments in science, practice, and leadership across the laboratory medicine community.



The conference opened with a welcome from LabMed President Kath Hayden and an update from EFLM President Mario Plebani. Delegates explored the role of artificial intelligence in the LabMed Debate, alongside new insights in neurology, immunology, inherited metabolic diseases, and the expanding potential of point-of-care testing. Parallel sessions examined analytical performance, health inequalities, and the evolving impact of laboratory medicine, complemented by industry-sponsored workshops, exhibitor showcases, and trainee-focused presentations.

Mario Plebani delivered the International Award Lecture on harmonising the post-analytical phase and developing personalised reference ranges.

Wiebke Arlt presented the RCPATH Freddie Flynn Award Lecture on advances in steroid metabolomics.

Eric Kilpatrick's Laboratory Medicine Foundation Award Lecture explored "medical freakonomics" and the use of data to inform practice.

The **UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence** plenary celebrated global innovation, featuring case studies from:

- **Pilar González Romero & María Concepción Masip**, Complejo Hospitalario Universitario Nuestra Señora de Candelaria, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain
- **Nobuharu Tamaki & Maki Furuya**, Musashino Red Cross Hospital, Musashino, Japan
- **Vincent Sapin**, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire of Clermont-Ferrand, France

The **Impact Award** presentation by **Finlay MacKenzie** and **Rachel Marrington** highlighted the importance of patient-centric EQA.

Delegates enjoyed poster spotlights, networking opportunities, and industry workshops throughout the event. The ever-popular clinical case presentations chaired by Danielle Freedman.

Poster sessions drew strong engagement, with delegate-voted prizes awarded to **Grainne Daly** (Tuesday) and **Laura Cook** (Wednesday) for their outstanding work.

LabMedUK25 concluded with celebrations recognising excellence across the profession:

- **Medal Award:** **Emma Ashley** (winner), **Sally Hanton** (runner-up)
- **Clinical Case Presentations:** **Sophie Rothwell-Mason** (winner), **Laura Bernstone** (runner-up)
- **President's Shield:** **Hazel Borthwick**, for contributions to education and the Learning Academy

The closing ceremony also marked a warm welcome to new LabMed President **Ian Godber**, as delegates reflected on a successful, forward-looking meeting celebrating innovation, collaboration, and excellence in laboratory medicine.



News from the Slovak Society of Clinical Biochemistry (SSCB)

LABKVALITA 2025

Reported by: **Hedviga Pivovarníková**, President of the Slovak Society of Clinical Biochemistry (SSCB)

The scientific conference Labkvalita 2025, organized under the auspices of EFLM, took place in Demänovská Valley, Low Tatras, on October 5-7, 2025.

The Labkvalita conference is held every odd year under the banner of the SSCB. In even years, the event alternates with the National Congress of the SSCB. Labkvalita has become a regular meeting point for laboratory professionals, particularly from Slovakia, while colleagues from other countries also join to exchange experiences and share best practices.

The program was designed to address current issues in clinical biochemistry and laboratory medicine, with a focus on improving the overall laboratory process to enhance patient outcomes.

This year's main topics included:

- Vulnerability of the pre-analytical phase, presented through case studies and educational activities
- Internal and external quality control of the analytical phase in biochemical laboratories, with emphasis on process setup and evaluation of routine practice results
- Application of advanced analytical techniques in biochemical laboratories, highlighting routine and special uses, advantages, and disadvantages compared to conventional methods
- POCT (Point-of-Care Testing) and home testing - quality assurance across pre-analytical, analytical, and post-analytical phases
- Standardization and harmonization of analytical methods within and beyond biochemical laboratories
- The history of clinical biochemistry in the Slovak Republic

Labkvalita has become a platform for motivation, passion for work and service, alignment of people and resources, building relationships, and understanding the driving forces behind clinical laboratories. It is about new ideas, creativity, enthusiasm, exploration, and the dedication of organizers to the concept of quality in clinical laboratories.

Thanks to sponsorship contributions and the support of diagnostic companies, the conference was self-financing and required no subsidies. It funded the publication of the national journal *Laboratórna Diagnostika* (Laboratory Diagnostics) and contributed to the SSCB budget to support other professional activities.

The main venue of this year's event was the Low Tatras.

Ceremonial Opening of Labkvalita 2025

The ceremonial opening of the Labkvalita 2025 conference began with a welcome speech delivered by Hedviga Pivovarníková, M.D., EuSpLM, President of the SSCB. She warmly greeted the Congress guests, beginning with Prof. Tomáš Zima, President-Elect 2024-2025, Institute of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Diagnostics, First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic. She also welcomed other distinguished Czech guests: Prof. Jaroslav Racek, Vice-President of the Czech Society of Clinical Biochemistry (CSCB), and Prof. Antonín Jabor, former President of the CSCB.

The celebratory program then continued under the moderation of Daniel Magula, M.D., SSCB Secretary, who presented honors and awards to long-standing meritorious members of the Slovak Society of Clinical Biochemistry.

Prof. Jozef Čársky, on the occasion of his 90th anniversary, received a Commemorative Letter from the Slovak Medical Association (SkMA).

Assoc. Prof. Katarína Šebeková was awarded the Honorary Plaquette named after Academician T. R. Niederland. She received this distinction in recognition of her lifelong work in clinical biochemistry, her exceptional contribution to its development particularly in scientific research in Slovakia and her outstanding representation of Slovak science abroad. She currently serves as a researcher at the Institute of Molecular Biomedicine, Faculty of Medicine, Comenius University in Bratislava.

Gold Medal "Propter Merita"

The Gold Medal "Propter Merita" of the Slovak Medical Association was awarded to Daniel Magula, M.D., SSCB Secretary, in recognition of his lifelong work in clinical biochemistry, his significant contribution to its development in Slovakia, and his representation of Slovak medicine at international professional forums. He has focused on applying clinical biochemistry knowledge in clinical medicine and has shared his expertise through lectures and posters at both national and international events, not only in the field of clinical biochemistry but also in pulmonology and internal medicine. Dr. Magula is a member of the editorial board of the journal *Laboratórna diagnostika* (Laboratory Diagnostics) and serves as a regional expert for the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic in the Nitra Region.

Silver Medals "Propter Merita"

The Silver Medals "Propter Merita" of the Slovak Medical Association were awarded to:

- RNDr. Mária Kačániová, in recognition of her lifelong work in clinical biochemistry, particularly in its analytical aspects. She is a member of the editorial board of the national journal *Laboratórna Diagnostika* (Laboratory Diagnostics).
- Juraj Vavřík, M.D., for lifetime achievement in clinical biochemistry. He played an active role in the Slovak Society of Clinical Biochemistry for many years and served as the national representative to the IFCC (International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine) from 1996 to 2007.
- Ján Vindiš, M.D., for lifetime achievement in clinical biochemistry. He has served as a regional expert in clinical biochemistry for the Trenčín Region of the Slovak Republic, both in the past and at present.
- Eva Ďurovcová, M.D., in recognition of her lifelong work in clinical biochemistry and her significant contribution to its development in Slovakia. She has been a member of the SSCB committee on several occasions and has contributed to the publication of numerous professional recommendations. She is currently the regional clinical biochemistry expert for the Košice Region of the Slovak Republic and works as an assistant professor at the Institute of Medical and Clinical Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice.
- Július Špaňár, M.D., in recognition of her lifelong work in clinical biochemistry and his significant contribution to its development in Slovakia. He led the Commission for Uniform Statistical Reporting of Laboratory Tests, which later became the basis for the work of health insurance companies.
- RNDr. Alena Vasilenková, for her lifelong work in clinical biochemistry and her significant contribution to its development, particularly in pediatrics. She developed special methods for pediatric laboratories for the diagnosis of hereditary metabolic diseases. Most recently, she contributed to the SSCB professional recommendation on the examination of glomerular filtration and proteinuria, specifically addressing the needs of the pediatric population.

Bronze Medals "Propter Merita"

The Bronze Medals "Propter Merita" of the Slovak Medical Association were awarded to:

- Ing. Zita Belicová, for her lifelong work in clinical biochemistry and her significant contribution to its development. She has focused on laboratory diagnostics quality and laboratory accreditation, and serves as an external expert for the Slovak National Accreditation Service.
 - Dušan Drozda, M.D., for his lifelong work in clinical biochemistry and his significant contribution to its development. He works at a specialized clinic for lipid metabolism disorders and is a member of the Atherosclerosis Section of the Slovak Society of Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (SSCB).
- In addition, other members of the SSCB were awarded Letters of Appreciation by the Slovak Medical Association.

Scientific Program of Labkvalita 2025

Labkvalita 2025 offered a varied scientific program, which also included non-traditional topics such as etiquette and communication in medicine. We were accompanied by Ladislav Špaček, an expert in etiquette and communication. The scientific program aimed to provide laboratory professionals with fresh ideas in laboratory medicine.

Prof. Tomáš Zima, EFLM President-Elect, enriched the gathering with his keynote lecture Information about EFLM. The European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) was established in June 2007 through the merger of the Forum of European Societies of Clinical Chemistry (FESCC) and the European Communities Confederation of Clinical Chemistry (EC4). The EFLM General Meeting convenes at least once every two years. EFLM is legally registered in Belgium, with its office located in Milan.

EFLM provides European leadership in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine to national professional societies, the diagnostic industry, and governmental and non-governmental organizations, serving the public interest in healthcare.

Currently, EFLM has four divisions:

- Science Value-based Laboratory Medicine (D-S)
- Quality, Standards and Regulations (D-QSR)
- Education and Profession (D-EP)
- Communication (D-C)

The EFLM Academy has more than 10,000 members (annual fee: 15 EUR) and offers a package of professional benefits to support education, including an e-learning platform with webinars, training, and continuous professional development for laboratory medicine practitioners across Europe.

Looking ahead, EFLM will organize the EFLM Strategic Conference 2026 in Prague (April 24-25, 2026) and EuroMedLab 2027 in London (May 16-20, 2027).

Keynote by Prof. Sten Westgard

Another distinguished foreign guest who joined us online was Prof. Sten Westgard, MS, Director of Client Services and Technology at Westgard QC, Madison, USA. Prof. Westgard highlighted findings from a recent survey of more than 1,100 laboratories across over 100 countries: more than one third of labs reported being "out-of-control" every day, or even multiple times per day. Chronic flags and alerts generate alarm fatigue, which is just one of the many corruptions and corruptions of the QC process.

In his lecture, Prof. Westgard discussed the key revelations of the 2025 Westgard Global QC Survey and their implications for laboratories. While other areas of the laboratory have evolved, QC appears to have degraded, with some practices returning to traditions from the previous century, to as far back as half a century ago. These outdated practices, however, present an opportunity for significant improvement. By using tools such as analytical Sigma metrics and Westgard Sigma Rules, laboratories can benchmark their performance against a global standard and optimize rules, levels, and runs. This approach can reduce costs for controls, calibrations, and reagents, reclaim time otherwise lost to troubleshooting, and deliver substantial savings provided laboratories are willing to critically examine and improve their QC habits. These backward practices offer an easy opportunity to dramatically improve laboratory operations. Through tools such as analytical Sigma metrics and Westgard Sigma Rules, labs can benchmark their performance against a standard global scale, and leverage that ranking into optimizations for rules, levels, and runs. Control, calibration and reagent costs can be reduced. Time wasted on troubleshooting can be reclaimed. Significant savings are within.

Preoperative Guidelines and Anesthesia Record

Anesthesiologist Jozef Firment, M.D., informed us that the Professional Guidelines of the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic on outpatient examinations in adults prior to planned medical procedures requiring anesthesia care (issued in 2014) are currently in force. Anaesthesiologists and intensivists, in cooperation with leading experts of the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic in general medicine, internal medicine, and surgery, have prepared new materials for preoperative procedures. These aim to simplify and accelerate patient preparation while maintaining a high level of patient safety. Laboratory tests are ordered by the general practitioner as part of the preoperative examination, if indicated (not routinely). The consultant physician orders examinations according to individual indications. A uniform Anesthesia Record form has been prepared for use throughout Slovakia.

The Arnold Beckman Award

The Arnold Beckman Award was presented for the first time at Labkvalita 2025. This prestigious award, established by the Slovak Society of Clinical Biochemistry (SSCB), honors exceptional contributions in the field of laboratory medicine. Its aim is to recognize experts and support young professionals who

have significantly advanced scientific, educational, or innovative activities in this discipline. The award is conferred by the SSCB Committee every two years during the Labkvalita conference.

This year's recipients were:

- Daniel Čierny, M.D., physician at the Jessenius Faculty of Medicine in Martin, for his publication Kappa free light chains in multiple sclerosis - diagnostic accuracy and comparison with other markers (Čierny Daniel, Česká a Slovenská Neurológia a Neurochirurgia 2021; 84/117(4): 353-360).
- Anna Šalingová, RNDr., lead analyst at the Center for Inherited Metabolic Disorders, NÚDCH in Bratislava, for her publication Diagnosis of hereditary metabolic disorders of glycoconjugates-from screening to genetic analysis.

Best Poster Award

The poster by Rudolf Gaško, M.D., Department of Clinical Biochemistry and Hematology, Psychiatric Hospital in Michalovce, received the highest number of votes in the competition for the best poster at Labkvalita 2025. His work, *Fatigued with Friedewald: Why Isn't Everyone Onboard Yet with the New LDL-C Equations?*, was recognized as the winning contribution. The author received a book as a reward.

Newly Approved SSCB Guidelines

The Slovak Society of Clinical Biochemistry (SSCB) has recently approved and published two new clinical practice guidelines:

- SSCB Clinical Practice Guideline - Evaluation of Lipid Parameters Used for Risk Estimation of Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Diseases Authors: Eva Ďurovcová, Rudolf Gaško, Daniel Magula, Hedviga Pivovarníková, Peter Sečník Jr. (dg_2025_1.pdf)
- SSCB Clinical Practice Guideline - Examination of Glomerular Filtration Rate and Proteinuria Authors: Peter Sečník Jr., Claudia Šebová, Alena Vasilenková, Hedviga Pivovarníková, Daniel Magula, Eva Ďurovcová (Odporúčanie-SSKB_GFR_PU-.12032025-FINAL_LabDiag.pdf)

Exhibition and Future Events

An integral part of the conference was the exhibition of innovations and advances by diagnostic companies and manufacturers, whose sponsorship contributions form the financial foundation of the event. Our collective mission and substantive aim remain to promote education and disseminate expertise and knowledge through specialized professional events.

Looking ahead, the Slovak Society of Clinical Biochemistry (SSCB) will organize the 16th SSCB Congress 2026, to be held in Demänovská Valley, Low Tatras, from 4-6 October 2026.

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Arnold Beckman Award

Left to right: D. Magula (SSCB Secretary), D. Čierny (awardee, Jessenius Faculty of Medicine in Martin), H. Pivovarníková (SSCB President), J. Bernátová (Beckman Coulter Slovakia), C. Šebová (on behalf of awardee A. Šalingová – Center for Inherited Metabolic Disorders, NÚDCH Bratislava, Lead Analyst), and C. Šebová (Head of the Department of Laboratory Medicine, NÚDCH Bratislava).



Our colleagues from laboratories and clinical practice.

Left to right: J. Racek (University Hospital in Pilsen, Czech Republic), H. Pivovarníková (SSCB President), J. Firment (Department of Anaesthesiology & Intensive Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice), B. Vohnout (President of the Slovak Association of Atherosclerosis, Bratislava), J. Franeková and A. Jabor (both IKEM Prague, Czech Republic).



Left to right: Hedviga Pivovarníková, SSCB President, at the welcome speech, and Daniel Magula, SSCB Secretary



Prof. Tomáš Zima, President-Elect 2024-2025, with Information about EFLM



Prof. Sten Westgard, MS, Director of Client Services and Technology for Westgard QC, Madison, USA, and his online lecture - QC Practices: Evolving, Devolving, or Revolving and Revolving?



Participants of Labkvalita 2025

News from the Association of Medical Biochemists in Bosnia and Herzegovina (ASSMBB&H)

The 3rd Congress of Medical Biochemists in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Reported by: Ermin Begović, Secretary of the ASSMBB&H and Radivoj Jadrić, President of the ASSMBB&H

Continuous professional development and international cooperation remain the cornerstone of the profession of laboratory medicine. Following this vision, the 3rd Congress of Medical Biochemists in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with international participation, was held from October 23rd to 26th, 2025, in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Congress was organized jointly by the Association of Medical Biochemists in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Association of Medical Biochemists of Republika Srpska, and the Chamber of Medical Biochemists of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, under the auspices of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM).

Banja Luka, a city known for its greenery, youthful energy, and dynamic academic and economic environment, provided an inspiring setting for scientific dialogue, networking, and the exchange of ideas among professionals from Bosnia and Herzegovina, the region, and beyond.

Opening Ceremony

The Congress was formally opened on October 23rd, 2025, with welcoming addresses delivered by Dr. Darija Petreš, Association Vice-President, and in the name of the hosts; Prof. Snežana Jovičić, representative of EFLM; Prof. Jozo Ćorić as Congress President, and Prof. Radivoj Jadrić as the President of the Association. The Honorary guests, Clinical Center of the Republic of Srpska General Director, Dr. Vlado Đaić, and Minister of Health and Social Welfare in the Republic of Srpska, Dr. Alen Šeranić, gave welcoming words and opened the ceremony, followed by a welcome cocktail, providing a relaxed atmosphere for informal networking and exchange among participants.

Scientific Program

The scientific program spanned three days, featuring plenary lectures, invited talks, and satellite symposia by leading regional and international experts.

The first day's sessions addressed modern challenges and measures of the total laboratory process and outcome, as well as key advances in biomarker discovery and diagnostic harmonization across the Balkans. Lectures included:

"The role of medical biochemists in personalized healthcare – Quo vadis, biochemicus medicus?" by Prof. Anyla Buló Kasneci (Albania), President of BCLF

"The harmonization of laboratory medicine in Albania" by Prof. Lidija Bilić Zule (Croatia),

"Anti-Müllerian hormone as a marker of ovarian reserve" by Magdalene Vukoje (Bosnia and Herzegovina), and

"Newborn screening in Slovenia: saving lives through early detection" by Doc. Dr. Barbka Repič Lampret (Slovenia).

The day concluded with satellite symposia organized by Medhem and Elta 90 MB / Thermo Fisher Scientific, highlighting innovative diagnostic platforms such as the B-R-A-H-M-S KRYPTOR analyzer and applications in prenatal screening.

Sessions and Highlights

The second day of the Congress (October 25th) opened with a plenary lecture by Prof. Katerina Tosheska-Trajkovska (North Macedonia) on "Obesity and Cardiovascular Disease: Friend or Foe?", followed by a diverse set of presentations addressing metabolic, endocrine, and biochemical perspectives on health and disease:

"The importance of iodine determination: new approaches" – Dr. Adrijana Oblak (Slovenia),

"Deficiency of the enzyme 21-alpha hydroxylase" – Doc. dr Dragana Pavlović (Bosnia and Herzegovina),

"The significance of biochemical diagnostics in assessing the risk of developing preeclampsia" – Prof. Aleksandra Stefanović (Serbia),

"Laboratory analysis of Graves' disease: from TSH to TRAb and their clinical significance" – Dr. Jelena Boljević (Montenegro),

"Expounding Myths with Medical Biochemistry" – Prof. dr Radivoj Jadrić (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

The afternoon featured a NovoNordisk satellite symposium, addressing "Screening in patients with type 2 diabetes through biochemical analyses", led by Prof. Bojana Carić, Prof. Damir Rebić, and Doc. Nevena Todorović.

Later sessions focused on oxidative stress, metabolic dysfunction, and laboratory innovations:

"Oxidative stress in metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease" – Doc. Dr. Aleksandra Klisić (Montenegro),

"Quality control based on patient results – an old idea, new possibilities" – Dr. Vera Lukić (Serbia),

"Metabolic syndrome and inflammation: a new role for laboratory diagnostics in assessing cardiometabolic risk" – Prof. Dragana Puhalo-Sladoje (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

The program concluded with a Roche Diagnostics symposium titled "Yesterday – today – tomorrow of laboratory diagnostics", delivered by Jure Kocman (Roche Diagnostics Adriatic), followed by closing remarks and discussion.

Poster Presentations and Exhibition

Within the framework of the poster sessions, a total of 26 research papers were presented through electronic panels. Based on evaluations and scoring performed by 15 reviewers, the 10 best papers were selected. These selected works will be invited for in extenso publication in one of the upcoming issues of the newly established Journal of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine.

Furthermore, the authors of the five highest-ranked papers will be awarded complimentary registrations for the upcoming 33rd Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation (BCLF) Meeting, scheduled to be held in October 2026 in Sarajevo.

In addition to the scientific program, the Congress exhibition area hosted several distinguished exhibitors and partners from the field of laboratory technologies, whose sponsorship and support significantly contributed to the successful organization of this important professional event.

Social and Professional Events

A gala dinner was held at the Integra restaurant, providing a panoramic view of Banja Luka and an opportunity for informal exchange among colleagues and partners.

The final day, October 26th, included official meetings of the Association of Medical Biochemists of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Chamber of Medical Biochemists of the Federation of BiH, focusing on strategic plans for future collaboration, education, and professional development.

Conclusion

The 3rd Congress of Medical Biochemists in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with over 200 participants, successfully reinforced the importance of collaboration, innovation, and continuous learning in laboratory medicine. The rich scientific program, active participation of distinguished regional experts, and the support of leading diagnostic companies confirmed that this Congress is a key platform for the advancement of the profession in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the wider region.



Prof. dr Snezana Jovičić,
EFLM representative



Prof. dr Anyla Buló – Kasneci, BCLF President



Congress Organizing and Scientific Board



IFCC News



Dear colleagues

First, I would like to express my warmest congratulations to the newly elected IFCC President Elect and the IFCC Executive Board members. I wish them a fruitful and successful time in office.

In her message our President, Prof. Tomris Ozben shares recent highlights from our professional community and our functional units, which confirm our engagement for scientific excellence, cooperation and innovation.

In this issue you can read interesting news from the IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Program, the IFCC Visiting Lecture Program and the IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists, which contribute to IFCC's vision of promoting global scientific collaboration and knowledge exchange among the global laboratory medicine community. The IFCC Emerging Technologies Division share with us interesting highlights from the 23rd GSCC-CB Congress, held in Thessaloniki, Greece.

The news published from the national societies of Romania, Malawi and Zimbabwe showcase the significant events organized by these societies and highlight their commitment to the professional development, embracing innovative technologies and their continuous effort to improve healthcare.

You can also read about professional teams that received recognition of distinction in the 2025 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence awards, who achieved better outcomes for patients, clinicians and the health systems, by means of interdisciplinary collaborations.

Professionals from a clinical laboratory from Finland share with us their vision to reduce the environmental burden of their work and the efforts they made towards a sustainable working environment. Global MedLab Week 2026 is fast approaching. You are all invited to participate and prepare local and international activities that will enrich this celebration and will showcase the vital impact of our work in healthcare.

Finally, we are delighted to welcome three new Full Members and one new Affiliate Member, and we wish that we will work fruitfully together, in order to build a better future for patients and healthcare.

Marilena Stamouli



IFCC Calls for Nominations

Deadline 15 December 2025

- Task Force Young Scientists (TF-YS): two members. [🔗](#)
- Education and Management Division Executive Committee (EMD EC): one member. [🔗](#)

The Scientific Division (SD) announces following calls for nominations:

Deadline 19 December 2025

- Committee on Nomenclature for Properties and Units (C-NPU): one member. [🔗](#)
- Committee on Reference Intervals and Decision Limits (C-RIDL): one member. [🔗](#)
- Committee on Standardization of Thyroid Function Tests (C-STFT): one member. [🔗](#)

For any further information on nominations, please refer to your IFCC National or Corporate Representative - contacts are available [here](#).

Recognizing World AIDS Day and Those Working Towards Elimination

Dec 1st marks World AIDS day, a day for awareness, combating stigma, and celebrating victories towards HIV elimination. Croydon University Hospital, a pioneer in opt-out HIV screening, have catalyzed a movement for opt-out activation (HIV Action Plan) with across high prevalent regions in the UK. With milestones recently announced, including that identification of 719 new HIV diagnoses. To learn more about HIV Action Plan outcomes, visit [here](#), and to learn about Croydon's best practice, visit: www.univantshce.com.

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



-  **EFLM Webinar**
Analysis of Circulating DNA and Clinical Utility in Cancer: A Perspective from the Clinical Laboratory
on-line, 2 December 2025
-  **7th EFLM Conference on Preanalytical Phase**
Improving preanalytical phase through innovation and sustainable solutions
Padova, 12-13 December 2025
-  **EFLM Webinar**
Clinical use of E2 and TESTO and the significance of their low values, measured by LC-MS
on-line, 16 December 2025
-  **Labquality Days – International Congress on Quality in Laboratory Medicine and Health Technology 2026**
Helsinki (FI), 5-6 February 2026
-  **The 10+2 Santorini Conference**
Systems Medicine and Personalised Health and Therapy - The Odyssey from hope to practice: Patient first-Keep Ithaka always in your mind
Santorini (GR), 26-29 March 2026
-  **NOxForum**
Lille (FR), 30-31 March 2026
-  **EFLM Strategic Conference 2026**
Laboratory Medicine for Society
Prague (CZ), 24-25 April 2026
-  **4th Azerbaijan Laboratory Medicine Congress & Lab Expo**
AZLTK & LAB EXPO 2026
Baku (AZ), 30 April - 2 May 2026
-  **International XXIV Congress of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine**
Belgrade (RS) 23-25 September 2026
-  **EuroMedLab 2027**
27th European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine
LABMEDUK27 of the Association for Laboratory Medicine
London (UK) 16-20 May 2027