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EuroLab News

THE EFLM BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



**EFLM's role in European Health Policy:
a longstanding commitment to
promoting and protecting the
Laboratory Medicine Profession**

www.eflm.eu

Editorial Information

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

EFLM Executive Board:

T. Zima, M. Plebani, D. Gruson, S. Jovicic, M.F. Bauer,
A. Coskun, A. Stavelin

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Foreword

This issue of *EFLM EuroLabNews* presents a particularly forward-looking overview of European laboratory medicine, with strong emphasis on **policy engagement, digital innovation, professional recognition, scientific tools, sustainability, and the development of the next generation of laboratory professionals.**

A significant development is EFLM's continued engagement with **European health policy.** Its longstanding membership of the EU Transparency Register reflects EFLM's commitment to transparent and ethical interaction with European institutions and enables the Federation to contribute the perspective of laboratory medicine to discussions on diagnostics, IVD regulation, quality standards, professional education, and the future of healthcare.

The issue also announces the **EFLM Awards to be presented at EuroMedLab 2027 in London,** recognising outstanding scientific contributions and distinguished achievements in laboratory medicine. Applications for awards in outcomes research, performance specifications research, and cardiac markers are open until **31 October 2026,** while further individual achievement awards will follow. The international recognition of **Professor Mario Plebani,** including his Honorary Professorship at the National University of La Plata and appointment as Global Editor-in-Chief of the Project Santa Fe Foundation's new Value-Based Care and Population Health Diagnostic Journal, further illustrates the international standing and influence of European laboratory medicine.

A particularly valuable feature of the issue is the presentation of **new digital tools developed by EFLM.** The open-source **Biological Variation Calculator** provides laboratories and researchers with an accessible means of estimating within- and between-subject biological variation. Complementing this, the new **EFLM EKFC application** facilitates calculation and interpretation of eGFR using the European Kidney Function Consortium equations, including the combined creatinine–cystatin C approach. Such tools demonstrate how digital solutions can translate methodological advances into practical resources for laboratory professionals and clinicians while promoting harmonisation across Europe.

The issue places considerable emphasis on **professional development and participation.** New vacancies across EFLM committees offer members opportunities to contribute directly to the Federation's activities. The **EFLMLabX programme** continues to expand opportunities for international exchange, with discussion of potential industry support to increase the number of bursaries and participating laboratories. Importantly, the programme is presented not simply as a mobility initiative, but as a mechanism for sharing practical expertise, developing professional networks, and creating new opportunities for collaboration.

The **Young Scientist Corner** provides an especially engaging perspective on the future of the profession. Reflections from the EFLM Strategic Conference address artificial intelligence, professional visibility, international exchange, and education. The discussion reinforces the importance of giving young scientists a stronger voice within EFLM and encouraging their active participation in committees, the EFLM Academy, EuLabDay, and EFLMLabX.

Sustainability also remains firmly on the agenda, with practical recommendations from the **Committee on Green & Sustainable Laboratories** outlining four simple actions that laboratories can adopt to reduce their environmental impact. This practical approach reinforces the principle that sustainability should increasingly become part of everyday laboratory practice rather than remain solely a strategic aspiration.

Overall, this issue portrays a **European laboratory medicine community that is increasingly visible, connected, digitally enabled, and strategically engaged.** From influencing European health policy and recognising scientific excellence to developing practical digital tools, promoting sustainability, and empowering young professionals, EFLM continues to strengthen the position of laboratory medicine as an essential component of modern healthcare.

As laboratory medicine continues to evolve rapidly, the challenge—and opportunity—is to ensure that innovation, harmonisation, professional development, and patient-centred care advance together. This issue provides an encouraging illustration of EFLM's commitment to that shared vision.



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

Contents

The EFLM Executive Board informs

2

EFLM Awards

4

EFLM Office informs

5

News from the EFLM Functional Units

7

- EFLM Young Scientist Corner
- EFLMLabX Corner
- EFLM Committee "Green & Sustainable Labs"

11

13

15

Updates on EFLM publications

16

Past EFLM Events

17

Upcoming EFLM Events

17

News from EFLM National Societies

21

IFCC news

23

Calendar of EFLM events and events under EFLM auspices

24

Highlights



THE EFLM EXECUTIVE BOARD INFORMS

EFLM's role in European Health Policy supported by its longstanding transparency register membership

Reported by **Tomáš Zima**, EFLM President



EFLM has been listed in the European Union Transparency Register since 2018, reflecting its active engagement with the European institutions and its commitment to transparent and ethical participation in the EU policymaking process.

The EU Transparency Register is the official public database of organisations that seek to contribute to the development of European legislation and policies through interactions with the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of the European Union. It provides information on the organisations involved in EU decision-making, the interests they represent and the policy areas in which they are active, contributing to greater openness and accountability.

EFLM joined the Register three years before registration became de facto mandatory in 2021 for organisations engaging directly with the EU institutions. Registered organisations adhere to a common Code of Conduct and publicly disclose information about their advocacy activities, ensuring transparency in their interactions with European decision-makers.

As the leading scientific organisation representing the laboratory medicine community in Europe, EFLM contributes scientific and professional expertise to discussions on health policies relevant to laboratory medicine, including diagnostics, in vitro diagnostics regulation, quality standards, professional education and the future of healthcare.

EFLM's presence in the Transparency Register reflects its role as a recognised stakeholder in the European health policy landscape and supports its ongoing dialogue with EU institutions and other partners. Through this engagement, EFLM contributes the perspective of the laboratory medicine profession to policy discussions that aim to improve healthcare and patient outcomes across Europe.

Serum or plasma?

That is the question.



Serum vs Plasma in Clinical Chemistry. Myths, Facts & Practical considerations. Tradition or Future for blood sample testing? Join our webinar with Dr. Kathrin Schlueter exploring the myths, facts, and practical considerations behind specimen selection in clinical chemistry.

Webinar by

Dr. Kathrin Schlueter - Medical Affairs Manager EMEA, BD



Biologist by profession, PhD in cell biology. 20+ years exploring the pre-analytical field. Member of the German Working Group extraanalytical quality of the DGKL (German Association for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine). As an expert of the DIN institute (Deutsches Industrienormen Institut), involved in the development of the latest version of the ISO6710.



Scan for registration

November 5th, 2:00pm CET

Please note that the live webinar will be delivered in English. Live AI-powered translation will be available in French, Italian, Spanish, Turkish, Croatian, Polish, Hungarian, Romanian languages.

EFLM Awards on occasion of the EuroMedLab 2027

Reported by the EFLM Office

EFLM awards recognise excellency among scientists and clinicians who work in Laboratory Medicine or related disciplines. There are two types of EFLM Awards:

- **Awards recognising a distinguished individual who made an important contribution** (candidates are selected following a nomination process initiated by an EFLM Full Member National Society).
- **Awards recognising an outstanding paper on specific topics of Laboratory Medicine, as judged by an independent panel of EFLM experts** (candidates are selected following a spontaneous application submitted by the First Author in agreement with the other authors of the paper).

Entry criteria are detailed in the dedicated leaflet available for each award.

The EFLM Executive Board is delighted to start announcing the EFLM Awards which will be presented on occasion of the EuroMedLab 2027 in London.

Awards recognising an outstanding paper:

- EFLM Award for Excellence in Outcomes Research in Laboratory Medicine sponsored by Abbott Diagnostics
- EFLM Award for Excellence in Performance Specifications Research sponsored by Abbott Diagnostics
- EFLM Cardiac Marker Award sponsored by Hytest



EFLM Award for Excellence in Outcomes Research in Laboratory Medicine
Sponsored by Abbott Diagnostics

EFLM is pleased to announce the "EFLM Award for Excellence in Outcomes Research in Laboratory Medicine - sponsored by Abbott Diagnostics". The Award is given to the best published paper, as judged by an independent panel of experts, which demonstrates improved clinical and/or economic outcomes of an in vitro diagnostic test or better management of laboratory test data. The Award, consisting of a certificate and a sum of 5,000 Euro, will be presented to the winner at the 27th EuroMedLab Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine - Jointly organized by IFCC and EFLM in collaboration with LABMEDUK27 of the Association for Laboratory Medicine in London (16-20 May 2027). The Award will be presented to the first author, who is responsible for division of the award among his/her co-authors.

Applications must be submitted by the first author of the paper and must be accompanied by:

- Reprint of the publication or (in case of publications in press), a manuscript and a copy of the journal Editor's letter indicating the final acceptance for publication;
- A short bio sketch of the submitting author;
- Document proving the membership to an EFLM Full Member National Society/Association;
- Statement signed by all authors of the publication consenting the submission of the paper for the Award and to the conditions of entry.

Entry Criteria

- the submitting author must be the first author of the paper and from a National Society / Association Full Member of EFLM. The author is limited to one submission only;
- entries must be published studies demonstrating improved clinical and/or economic outcomes of in vitro diagnostic test or better management of laboratory test data. **Only original research articles are eligible.** Reviews, opinion papers, or papers out of the scope of the Award will not be accepted for evaluation;
- entries must have been published or accepted for publication between 1 July 2025 - 31 October 2026 and must be published in English in a peer-reviewed medical, scientific or health economics journal;
- all authors of the publication have to agree on the submission of the paper for the Award and to the conditions of entry;
- the applicant must not have applied or be nominated for any other on-going EFLM or IFCC Awards and neither must result as the winner of those Awards in the same year when the award is presented.

Applications to submit via e-mail to eflm@eflm.eu by 31 October 2026

In accordance with the EFLM Transparency Policy, all award applicants' names, evaluation ranking and reasons for that ranking will be made available to every award applicant.



EFLM Award for Excellence in Performance Specifications Research
Sponsored by Abbott Diagnostics

EFLM is pleased to announce the "EFLM Award for Excellence in Performance Specifications Research - sponsored by Abbott Diagnostics". The Award is given to the best published paper, as judged by an independent panel of experts, which demonstrates an important and novel contribution to the theory or practical application of performance specifications. The Award, consisting of a certificate and a sum of 5,000 Euro, will be presented to the winner at the 27th EuroMedLab Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine - Jointly organized by IFCC and EFLM in collaboration with LABMEDUK27 of the Association for Laboratory Medicine in London (16-20 May 2027). The Award will be presented to the first author, who is responsible for division of the award among his/her co-authors.

Applications must be submitted by the first author of the paper and must be accompanied by:

- Reprint of the publication or (in case of publications in press), a manuscript and a copy of the journal Editor's letter indicating the final acceptance for publication;
- A short bio sketch of the submitting author;
- Document proving the membership to an EFLM Full Member National Society/Association;
- Statement signed by all authors of the publication consenting the submission of the paper for the Award and to the conditions of entry.

Entry Criteria

- the submitting author must be the first author of the paper and from a National Society / Association Full Member of EFLM. The author is limited to one submission only;
- entries must be published studies demonstrating an important and novel contribution to the theory or practical application of analytical performance specifications or novel approaches to implement measurement uncertainty. **Only original research articles are eligible.** Reviews, opinion papers, or papers out of the scope of the Award will not be accepted for evaluation;
- entries must have been published or accepted for publication between 1 July 2025 - 31 October 2026 and must be published in English in a peer-reviewed medical, scientific or health economics journal;
- all authors of the publication have to agree on the submission of the paper for the Award and to the conditions of entry;
- the applicant must not have applied or be nominated for any other on-going EFLM or IFCC Awards and neither must result as the winner of those Awards in the same year when the award is presented.

Applications to submit via e-mail to eflm@eflm.eu by 31 October 2026

In accordance with the EFLM Transparency Policy, all award applicants' names, evaluation ranking and reasons for that ranking will be made available to every award applicant.



EFLM CARDIAC MARKER AWARD
for remarkable scientific work in the field of cardiovascular diseases
sponsored by Hytest

EFLM is pleased to announce the "EFLM Cardiac Marker Award for remarkable scientific work in the field of cardiovascular diseases - sponsored by Hytest". The Award is given to the best published paper, as judged by an independent panel of experts, which demonstrates a remarkable scientific work in the field of cardiovascular diseases. The Award, consisting of a certificate and a sum of 5,000 Euro, will be presented to the winner at the 27th EuroMedLab Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine - Jointly organized by IFCC and EFLM in collaboration with LABMEDUK27 of the Association for Laboratory Medicine in London (16-20 May 2027). The Award will be presented to the first author, who is responsible for division of the award among his/her co-authors.

Applications must be submitted by the first author of the paper and must be accompanied by:

- Reprint of the publication or (in case of publications in press), a manuscript copy and a copy of the journal Editor's letter indicating the final acceptance for publication;
- A short bio sketch of the submitting author;
- Document proving the membership to an EFLM Full Member National Society/Association;
- Copy of the ID proving the age of the applicant;
- Statement signed by all authors of the publication consenting to submission of the paper for the Award and to the conditions of entry.

Entry Criteria

- the submitting author must be a young scientist less than 40 years of age as of 1st January 2027. First Author of the paper and from a National Society/Association Full Member of EFLM. The applicant is limited to one submission only;
- entries must be published studies demonstrating remarkable scientific work in the field of cardiac marker measurements and risk assessments of cardiovascular diseases. **Only original research articles are eligible.** Reviews, opinion papers, or papers out of the scope of the Award will not be accepted for evaluation;
- entries must have been published or accepted for publication between 1 July 2025 - 31 October 2026 and must be published in English in a peer-reviewed medical, scientific or health economics journal;
- all authors of the publication have to agree on the submission of the paper for the Award and to the conditions of entry;
- the applicant must not have applied or be nominated for any other on-going EFLM or IFCC Awards and neither must result as the winner of those Awards in the same year when the award is presented.

Applications should be submitted via e-mail to eflm@eflm.eu by 31 October 2026

In accordance with the EFLM Transparency Policy, all award applicants' names, evaluation ranking and reasons for that ranking will be made available to every award applicant.

SAVE THE 31 OCTOBER 2026 APPLICATION DEADLINE

We recommend the opportunity to apply to EFLM Awards to the authors of the many relevant original research articles published recently in our fields.

Further information on Awards recognising a distinguished individual will follow in due time:

- EFLM Award for Scientific Achievements in Laboratory Medicine sponsored by Roche
- EFLM Award for Achievements in Advancing Laboratory Medicine in Europe sponsored by Roche
- EFLM Academy Award
- EFLM Young Laboratory Medicine Professional Award sponsored by Beckman Coulter

We warmly invite EFLM National Societies to think about a deserving individual and to submit a nomination within the deadline.

EFLM extends its gratitude to the sponsors of the EFLM Awards for their unconditional support in permitting the renewal of these important initiatives, which recognize the work of eminent European scientists and their achievements.

EFLM OFFICE INFORMS

International recognitions for Professor Mario Plebani

Reported by **Alessia Carere**, EFLM Office

It is a great honor to share news of the prestigious recognitions received by EFLM Executive Board Members around the world with the entire EFLM community. We are delighted to celebrate a remarkable achievement by EFLM Past President, Professor Mario Plebani.

Honorary Professorship in Argentina

In August this year, Professor Plebani has been appointed Honorary Professor of the National University of La Plata (Buenos Aires, Argentina). As part of the appointment, he has been invited to deliver the Plenary Lecture at the CALILAB Congress next November, one of the most important events in Latin America dedicated to Laboratory Medicine.

Professor Plebani stands among the foremost global authorities in Laboratory Medicine, with more than 1,550 publications, an h-index of 135, and honours including the AACC Award for Outstanding Clinical Laboratory Contributions to Patient Safety, the IFCC Distinguished Award for Laboratory Medicine and Patient Care, and, more recently, the 2025 Roman Lecture Award from the Australasian Association for Laboratory Medicine.

Commenting on the honour, Professor Plebani noted that the recognition of scientific quality behind the Honorary Professorship should not be read as an acknowledgement of one person's work alone, but of an entire group bringing together colleagues and friends across the Italian laboratory medicine community, that reflects the continuity of collective effort that scientific societies such as SIBioC strive to secure for the discipline and its professionals.



Global Editor-in-Chief for Project Santa Fe

Previously in July, Professor Plebani was also named Global Editor-in-Chief of the new editorial division of the Project Santa Fe Foundation (PSFF), which will launch the journal Value-Based Care and Population Health Diagnostic Journal.

According to the Foundation, the appointment marks a milestone in PSFF's mission to shift laboratory medicine from a reactive, results-reporting model toward the proactive, predictive management of population health. The Foundation highlighted Professor Plebani's unmatched global standing: Honorary Professor of Clinical Biochemistry and Clinical Molecular Biology at the University of Padua, with honorary and adjunct chairs at the University of Buenos Aires and the University of Texas Medical Branch.

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

Reported by **Alessia Carere**, EFLM Office

As summer holidays end and we kick off a new season of fresh projects and activities, we are pleased to announce new vacancies within the EFLM functional units.

Some of the available positions are:

Division "Science, Quality and Value of Laboratory Medicine"

Committee "Postanalytical Phase" (C-POST)

- 2 Full Members and 1 Young Scientist Member

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

- 1 Full Member

Division "Education & Profession"

- 1 Executive Committee Member

We warmly invite you to visit the dedicated page to obtain detailed information:

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

Mark in your agenda the deadline of **November 15** and do not miss the opportunity to actively participate in the EFLM community.

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

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 Society FULL Member in good standing with the membership fee can submit one nomination per each indicated position through the attached nomination form. A brief plan of the applicant's contribution to the aims and objectives of the functional unit must be indicated in the form. Together with the form, a short CV should also be submitted underlining the qualifications and prior experience in the relevant area. Candidates must be officially nominated by their National Society through a formal letter of support. As per the EFLM Transparency Policy, all received nominations and reasons for the successful one will be made available to all those National Societies who submitted a nomination specifying also the criteria used during the evaluation process. EFLM Affiliate Members may only nominate Corresponding Members, while Corporate Members are entitled to nominate Experts/Consultants. Interested parties are invited to contact the EFLM Office for further information.

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NEWS FROM THE EFLM FUNCTIONAL UNITS

From rare diseases to AI: 50 Young Scientists from 26 countries share their stories of laboratory leadership

Reported by **Tara Rolic**, Division Communication Chair

Their stories will be featured as part of European Laboratory Day 2026, EFLM's annual initiative highlighting the people, expertise and impact behind laboratory medicine.

From advancing the diagnosis of rare diseases and exploring new gene therapies to investigating the potential of artificial intelligence in diagnostics, the next generation of laboratory medicine professionals is already shaping the future of healthcare across Europe. Following the launch of the Young Scientist call, EFLM received **50 applications and nominations from 26 countries**. Young Scientists shared their own work and nominated colleagues whose contributions, ideas and leadership deserve greater visibility. The submissions span research, patient safety, digital innovation, education, service development, leadership and quality improvement. Among them are stories of improving access to blood cancer testing, developing less invasive approaches to diagnosing neurodegenerative diseases and bringing the laboratory perspective into national healthcare planning. Together, all the entries offer a powerful picture of a profession evolving in many different directions but with one common goal: **using laboratory expertise to make a difference for patients and healthcare**.

Leadership takes many forms

This year's European Laboratory Day theme, **"Leaders in the Lab"**, is brought to life through these stories.

Leadership in laboratory medicine is not defined only by a title or seniority. It is shown by the researcher asking a new question, the colleague improving patient safety, the mentor supporting the next generation, the collaborator bringing people together, the communicator raising awareness, the innovator introducing a better way of working, or the professional speaking up for the value of laboratory medicine.

Young Scientist stories coming soon

In the coming weeks, EFLM will begin sharing Young Scientists' stories, introducing the people behind the work and the ideas, challenges and ambitions driving them. Follow EFLM communication channels as we count down to **European Laboratory Day on 5 November 2026**.

The 50 entries are only the beginning

European Laboratory Day belongs to the **whole laboratory medicine community**. Laboratories, teams and individual professionals across Europe are invited to join EuLabDay 2026 by sharing their own examples of leadership and celebrating the people making a difference in their workplaces.

The **European Laboratory Day 2026 toolkit** contains ready-to-use social media graphics, posters, digital banners, WhatsApp stickers and ideas for workplace, educational and in-person activities. Materials can be used as provided or adapted to suit national societies and local celebrations.

On **5 November**, we invite the laboratory medicine professionals across Europe to recognize the people who inspire them, celebrate leadership in all its forms and help make the contribution of laboratory medicine more visible.

Because behind every laboratory result, every innovation and every improvement in patient care, there are people making it happen. This European Laboratory Day, let's put those people in the spotlight.

**DOWNLOAD
THE EUROPEAN
LABORATORY DAY
2026 TOOLKIT**



Follow @eflm_official and join the conversation using #EuLabDay2026, #EFLM and #LeadersInTheLab.

NEWS FROM THE EFLM FUNCTIONAL UNITS

The BV Calculator: a free, open-source web application for estimating within-subject and between-subject biological variation

Reported by **Hikmet Can Çubukçu**, Chair of the EFLM Committee: Laboratory Error Database

Why biological variation data matter

Biological variation (BV) refers to the natural fluctuation in the concentration or activity of a measurand involved in human metabolism over time. In laboratory medicine, BV data provide one model for setting analytical performance specifications (APS) for imprecision, bias and measurement uncertainty. They are also used to calculate the reference change value (RCV), which indicates whether the difference between two consecutive patient results exceeds what would be expected from analytical and biological variation alone, and they support delta-checking and auto-verification. Through the index of individuality, BV data further inform the choice between population-based and personalised reference intervals.

To safeguard the quality of published BV data, the EFLM Committee on Biological Variation and the Technical Committee on the Biological Variation Database developed the Biological Variation Data Critical Appraisal Checklist (BIVAC). Its 14 quality items (QIs) cover study design, measurement procedure, pre-analytical conditions, estimation of analytical variation and — from QI 7 to QI 14 — statistical handling and reporting. Each item is scored A,

B, C or D, depending on the type of QI. A study's overall grade equals its lowest single item score; data sets receiving a grade D are considered unfit for use. Grade A studies remain scarce, and some of the statistical QIs are typically the cause of the low overall grade, because the analysis required is time-consuming and demands expert knowledge.

What the BV Calculator does

The BV Calculator was developed to ease the statistical analysis of BV data. It is a free, open-source web application built in Python 3.12 with a Streamlit interface, available at <https://bvcalculator.streamlit.app/> and <https://www.eflm.eu/bv-calculator.html>. Users upload a CSV or Excel file — or enter data through an editable spreadsheet — containing four columns: Subject, Sample, Replicate and Result. A template is provided to reduce mapping errors, and the design must include replicate (usually duplicate) measurements, as the BIVAC recommends. After mapping the columns, users complete a structured form for QI 1–6 (QI 6 being captured via the “same-run duplicates” selection); optional sex/gender stratification can be enabled.

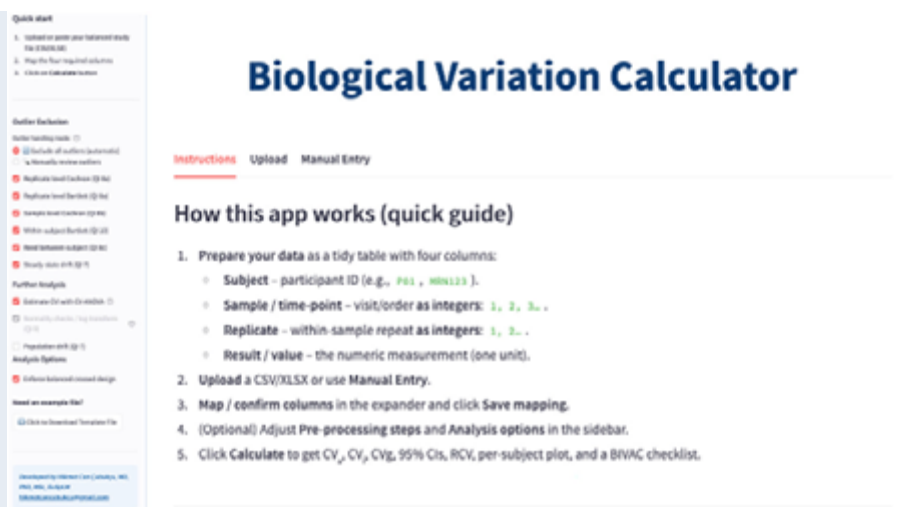


Figure 1. User interface of the BV Calculator, showing the quick-start instructions, the sidebar of BIVAC-aligned pre-processing options, and the analysis options. Reproduced from Çubukçu et al., Clin Chem Lab Med 2026 (Figure 4).

The application then runs an automated, BIVAC-aligned pre-processing pipeline: Cochran's C and Bartlett tests for replicate-level outliers, Cochran's C for outlying samples within subjects, Bartlett's test for homogeneity of within-subject variances, Reed's criterion for between-subject outliers, subject-level regression to verify steady state, a descriptive population-level drift check, and Shapiro–Wilk normality testing with reversible log transformation where indicated. Every step can be switched off, and outliers may be removed automatically or reviewed manually.

Estimation uses nested two-level ANOVA and supports balanced (default) and unbalanced designs, with CVI optionally derived by CV-ANOVA. Outputs include CVA, CVI and CVG with 95 % confidence intervals, the mean concentration, an asymmetric log-normal RCV, APS at minimum, desirable and optimal levels, per-subject distribution plots, and an exportable BIVAC summary. Every pre-processing decision is captured in a chronological audit log.

BV Calculator Analysis Workflow



Note: All preprocessing decisions are captured in the audit log for full traceability.

Legend:

Start/End Data Input Design Input Pre-processing Decision Analysis Output

Figure 2. The BV Calculator analysis workflow, from data upload and column mapping through BIVAC-aligned pre-processing and model choice to the exportable output package. Reproduced from Çubukçu et al., Clin Chem Lab Med 2026 (Figure 1).

Validation and appropriate use

The tool was evaluated against European Biological Variation Study (EuBIVAS) data for enzymatic and Jaffe creatinine, total cholesterol, S100B and creatine kinase. Mean concentrations together with CVI and CVG estimates reproduced the published values with overlapping 95 % confidence intervals for all measurands, while CVA estimates overlapped for most measurands and population strata, with only minor numerical differences following application of trend analysis. The number of subjects retained after automated outlier and trend analysis nevertheless differed substantially. Importantly, the results show, as emphasized by the authors, that automated tools such as the BV calculator may be used to complement rather than replace informed methodological judgement. When using the BV calculators for the delivery of BV data, all flagged results in the audit log must be inspected. The handling of the flagged results should be guided not only by the algorithm output but also by an understanding of the study design and study population and the potential impact of excluding observations on the representativeness and robustness of the final BV estimates. This is particularly important for studies involving heterogeneous populations, small datasets or measurands influenced by physiological variation.

Source: Çubukçu HC, Carobene A, Aarsand AK, Sandberg S, Coşkun A, on behalf of the EFLM Committee on Biological Variation and Technical Committee on Biological Variation Database. The BV calculator: a free, open-source web app for estimation of within-subject and between-subject biological variation.

Clin Chem Lab Med 2026 (ahead of print).

doi: 10.1515/cclm-2026-0863.

Application: <https://bvcalculator.streamlit.app/>

Code: https://github.com/hikmetc/bv_calculator

NEWS FROM THE EFLM FUNCTIONAL UNITS

A new EFLM app for calculating and interpreting eGFR using the EKFC equations

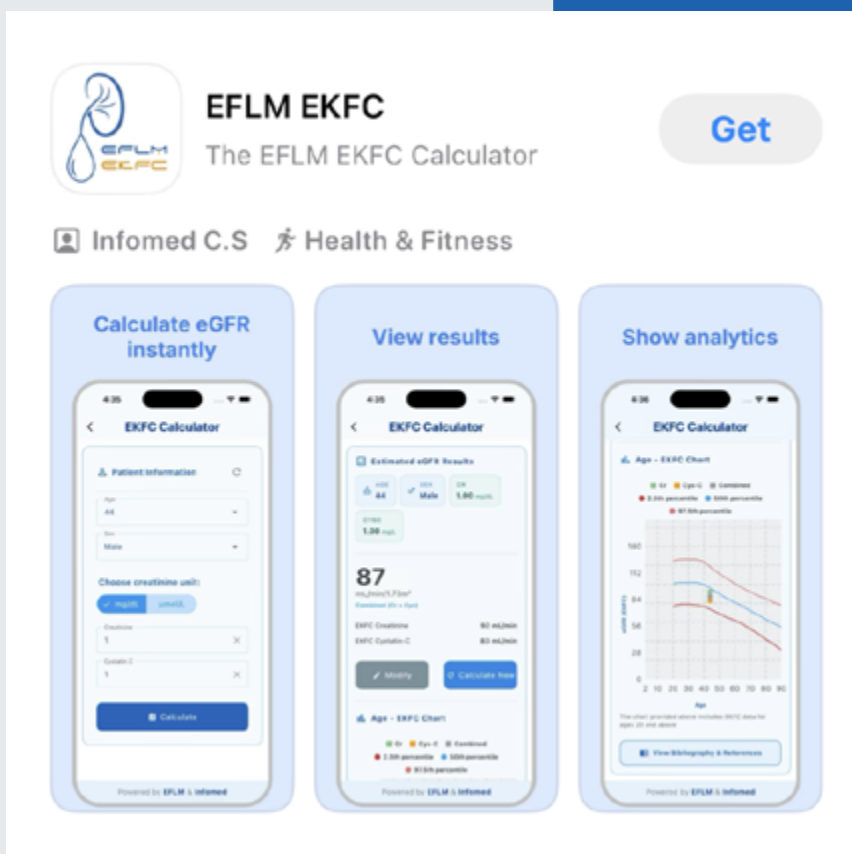
Reported by **Etienne Cavalier**, Chair EFLM Committee “Chronic Kidney Disease”

The EFLM Committee on Chronic Kidney Disease (C-CKD) has developed a mobile application to facilitate the calculation and interpretation of estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) using the European Kidney Function Consortium (EKFC) equations. This app is now available for both iOS and Android and can be downloaded from the Apple App Store and Google Play by searching for “EFLM EKFC”. It provides laboratory professionals and clinicians with immediate access to the EKFC equations on their smartphone, wherever and whenever they are needed.

The application allows users to calculate eGFR using the creatinine-based EKFC equation and, when cystatin C is available, the combined creatinine–cystatin C EKFC equation. The latter is particularly relevant in the context of the 2024 KDIGO recommendations, which give increased importance to cystatin C and recommend the combined equation when both filtration markers are available.

An additional feature of the app is the graphical representation of the patient's eGFR in relation to the expected evolution of GFR with age. This provides useful context to the numerical result and illustrates one of the important characteristics of the EKFC approach. In contrast to US-derived approaches based on separate paediatric and adult equations, the European EKFC approach can be used continuously across the age range, from childhood to older adulthood.

We hope that this new tool will facilitate the use of the EKFC equations by laboratory professionals and clinicians and contribute to greater harmonization of eGFR assessment across Europe.



Question from the EFLM Strategic Conference 2026: Session 4: Young Scientists, Visibility, Communication and Education

Reported by **Aleš Kvasnička**, EFLM Committee Promotion and Publication, Division Communication

Session 4 of the EFLM Strategic Conference 2026 in Prague, held under the conference theme "Laboratory Medicine for Society," turned the spotlight on the next generation of laboratory medicine professionals. Chaired by Aleš Kvasnička and Tara Rolič, the session featured four talks: "From Shadows to Spotlight: How EuLabDay Reframes Our Profession" by Tara Rolič; "AI in the Clinical Lab: Opportunity or Risk?" by Jakob Adler; "One Open Door Can Change Everything: A Journey Through LabX and Beyond" by Natalia Kozopas; and "Building Future Leaders Through Education: Leveraging the EFLM Academy and EFLM Syllabus Course" by Lejla Alić. The session closed with a round table, moderated by Daniel Rajdl, Snežana Jovičić, and Evgenija Homšak, in which the young-scientist speakers reflected on what the EFLM Academy has achieved so far and how it, together with the EFLM Syllabus, could be developed further — before opening the floor to the audience.

1. Are there more applications than the number of funded exchanges in the EFLMLabX programme? If yes, can we increase it by support from industry?

Answered by: **Evgenija Homšak** – Department of Laboratory Diagnostics, University Medical Centre Maribor, Slovenia

When we launched this project several years ago, we also informed and invited IVD companies to cooperate with us as partners, highlighting the potential benefits and added value of their involvement.

IVD companies' support for this project would be both relevant and mutually beneficial and could be provided in several different ways:

- IVD companies could **encourage their partner institutions and laboratories with outstanding experience to become reference centres and offer their best practices** through the EFLMLabX platform. This would give EFLMLabX applicants the opportunity to learn about and gain hands-on experience with the products, methods, and analytical platforms used in routine laboratory practice. This opportunity is particularly important not only for young scientists, who can gain their first practical experience with new technologies and approaches, but also for experienced specialists who are preparing for a tender and would like to learn more about newly developed tests, methods, and analytical platforms before making a final decision about which equipment or methodology could best meet the needs and address the gaps in their laboratory.

- **Financial support for bursaries:** IVD companies could also support the project financially by contributing to a common bursary fund for potential applicants, thereby fostering the exchange of practices among EFLM members. At present, the EFLM budget is the only source of funding, providing 10 bursaries per year, with a maximum of EUR 1,500 per bursary, to cover expenses related to practice placements and visits to participating institutions and laboratories. With additional support from IVD companies, we could significantly increase the number of bursaries and provide many more opportunities for professionals to exchange practices, gain new experience, and develop international professional connections.

- **Award for the Best EFLMLabX Offerer:** IVD companies could also support and stimulate EFLMLabX offerers through financial support for the EFLM "Award for the Best EFLMLabX Offerer of the Year." Such an award could recognise and reward institutions that demonstrate outstanding commitment to sharing their expertise and experience. At the same time, it could motivate existing offerers to further improve the opportunities they provide and encourage more institutions and laboratories to join EFLMLabX and become new partners in the project.

Together with IVD companies, as important partners of EFLMLabX, we can further improve the quality and impact of this essential project. It provides an open platform for exchanging practices and searching for new opportunities without requiring any prior connections, which is particularly important for young scientists who are seeking new knowledge, experiences, and professional opportunities. This project enables cross-linking among experts, creating new opportunities for professional collaboration, and encouraging young researchers to participate in important research projects while gaining valuable knowledge and experience that can contribute to both their professional and personal development.

In this way, we are contributing not only to the development of young professionals but also to the advancement of our profession as a whole.

By supporting EFLMLabX, IVD companies can become active partners in this process and contribute to strengthening Laboratory Medicine as a profession, fostering innovation, supporting young researchers, and building a stronger and more connected European laboratory medicine community.

2. Should young scientist members of EFLM committees meet the young scientist committee regularly? Or just join the group standard?

Answered by: **Aleš Kvasnička** - EFLM Committee Promotion and Publication, Division Communication

Yes it is highly encouraged for the young scientists from EFLM committees to join the young scientist committee. It can strengthen the relationship between the young scientists across the whole EFLM and make our voice stronger.

3. How does the EuLabDay differ from the global MedLabWeek?

Answered by: **Tara Rolič** - Division Communication Chair

EuLabDay, celebrated every year on November 5th is specifically designed to celebrate the diversity, identity and unique role of laboratory medicine professionals across Europe. It encourages laboratory professionals to actively engage with their communities by organizing activities within their laboratories or by stepping outside the laboratory to share their knowledge and expertise with patients, students, healthcare professionals and the wider public.

At the same time, EFLM fully supports Global MedLab Week and regularly encourages its members to participate in this global initiative by creating, sharing and promoting relevant content. The two initiatives are therefore complementary rather than competing: EuLabDay provides a dedicated European platform

to highlight our profession and its diversity, while Global MedLab Week brings the laboratory medicine community together on a worldwide scale.

4. Should universities make AI and data science training optional OR obligatory for national training curricula in laboratory medicine?

Answered by: **Jakob Adler** - Institute for Medical Diagnostics (IMD) Berlin & Institute for Hemostaseology and Pharmacology (IHP), Berlin, Germany

I think we should make a distinction here. After all, AI and data science can be covered at different levels of depth. I believe that a basic understanding of data and AI should be taught as a required course at universities. We've outlined what this entails in our paper: EU AI Act: what could AI literacy mean for medical labora... - More in-depth courses, which might even cover programming or the validation of AI solutions, can be offered as optional courses for those who are interested.

5. To get back an access to CLSI documents would highly improve the Academy. Is this possible?

Answered by: **Snežana Jovičić** - Department of Medical Biochemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia

For now, no, it is not possible.

6. Will you keep the #attheheartofhealthcare for consecutive labdays?

Answered by: **Aleš Kvasnička** - EFLM Committee Promotion and Publication, Division Communication

Yes, we definitely encourage EFLM members to continue using #AtTheHeartOfHealthcare, as we believe it strongly reflects the essential role of laboratory medicine in healthcare. At the same time, each year we aim to introduce a new, engaging EuLabDay theme that is attractive not only to laboratory medicine professionals, but also to the general public. In this way, we hope to highlight different aspects of our profession, reach wider audiences and continuously increase the visibility of laboratory medicine.

7. What is the role of the young scientists in shaping the strategy of EFLM?

Answered by: **Aleš Kvasnička** - EFLM Committee Promotion and Publication, Division Communication

Through their commitment and continuous activities since the establishment of the EFLM Young Scientists group, Young Scientists have gained the trust and recognition of the EFLM Executive Board and EFLM members. Today, their views are actively considered in many discussions and decisions that shape both the present and future directions of EFLM. One of the best examples is that Young Scientists and their activities represent one of the pillars of EFLM's strategic planning. Young Scientists contribute actively to EFLM initiatives, have dedicated sessions at congresses and conferences, carry out activities endorsed by EFLM members, and participate alongside senior EFLM officers as equal partners in discussions about the future of the profession. This reflects EFLM's strong commitment to ensuring that the next generation is not only represented, but also has a meaningful voice in shaping the future of laboratory medicine in Europe.

8. Does the panel have any strategies on how to implement the EFLM Syllabus course in resident training? E.g., does the EFLM have plans to provide certificates or a register of the lessons followed?

Answered by: **Snežana Jovičić** - Department of Medical Biochemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia

Since resident training programmes and their requirements differ considerably between countries, the EFLM Syllabus cannot be implemented as a standardized component of national residency training programmes. Rather, it is intended as a comprehensive set of educational materials that can be used voluntarily by residents and trainers to complement, support, or provide additional resources alongside existing national training programmes.

At present, there are no plans for the EFLM to introduce formal certification or a register documenting individual lessons completed. Such certification or registration would, in any case, not automatically constitute recognition of a compulsory component of national residency training, as the requirements and accreditation of specialist training remain the responsibility of the respective national authorities and professional bodies.

9. When AI is based on data and historical thinking, how should we view the limitations of AI's creation?

Answered by: **Jakob Adler** - Institute for Medical Diagnostics (IMD) Berlin & Institute for Hemostaseology and Pharmacology (IHP), Berlin, Germany

AI is based on historical data, but not necessarily on "historical thinking." If you consider what "creation" can mean, then you'd have to admit, in all honesty, that most people merely combine what they already know, and only a very few are truly capable of producing a "new creation." Ultimately, it depends on the field in question: in medicine, we don't want to be creative; rather, we want to make the best possible decisions for our patients' care based on evidence and knowledge. For that, we need only limited creative input. In science, however, the situation is different: creativity helps us develop theories or examine questions from entirely new perspectives.

One thing that must be said in general: every piece of AI-generated output must be reviewed, because the real shift is that we are now dealing with probabilistic systems rather than deterministic ones—figuring out what is truly usable is the new "epistemic responsibility" of our profession.

10. Adding a subtitle option for different languages in EFLM syllabus.

Answered by: **Snežana Jovičić** - Department of Medical Biochemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia

The C-CPE will consider this as a discussion point for future projects.

11. Can I participate in EFLM LabX?

Answered by: **Evgenija Homšak** - Department of Laboratory Diagnostics, University Medical Centre Maribor, Slovenia

Yes, you absolutely can, both as a provider or as an applicant. You will find more information on how to participate on the EFLM LabX website (<https://efmlabx.eflm.eu/en>).

EFLM LabX Continues to Grow: New Exchange Opportunities Across Europe



THE EFLM LABORATORY
EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

Reported on behalf of the Technical Committee EFLMLabX

Since its launch in 2022, the EFLM LabX Bursaries Programme has become one of EFLM's flagship initiatives for promoting professional development and international collaboration in laboratory medicine.

Over the past four years, around 30 laboratory medicine professionals have received LabX bursaries, enabling them to undertake hands-on training in leading European laboratories through the EFLM professional exchange programme. Each year, EFLM awards **10 bursaries** of up to **EUR 1,500** to support travel, accommodation and living expenses, enabling laboratory medicine professionals to undertake short-term training placements in leading European laboratories. Participants from numerous European countries have already completed exchanges at renowned host institutions in Belgium, Croatia, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland, Portugal and Slovenia. As featured in previous EuroLabNews articles and testimonials published on the EFLM LabX website, participants consistently describe the programme as a unique opportunity to gain practical expertise, establish international collaborations and build lasting professional networks.

New LabX Host Laboratories

The LabX network continues to expand, and we are delighted to highlight laboratories current offering laboratory practice placements including some new host institutions that joined the programme during 2025–2026:

- Department of Laboratory Medicine, Medical University of Warsaw, Poland – Prof. Olga Ciepiela,
- Hormone Laboratory, Department of Medical Biochemistry, Oslo University Hospital, Norway – Dr Sandra Rinne Dahl
- Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece – Prof. Georgios Theodoridis
- Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center, Israel – Dr Hanoch Goldshmidt
- Department of Clinical Laboratory Diagnostics, Medical University of Białystok, Poland – Assoc. Prof. Olga M. Koper-Lenkiewicz
- Laboratory of Clinical Chemistry, School of Medicine, University of Crete & Clinical Chemistry–Biochemistry Laboratory, University Hospital of Heraklion, Greece – Prof. Christos Tsatsanis

Become a LabX Offerer!

The continued success of LabX relies on the enthusiasm and expertise of laboratories across Europe. We warmly invite laboratories and laboratory medicine professionals across the EFLM community to join the growing LabX network by becoming a LabX Offerer. Whether your expertise lies in routine diagnostics, specialised testing, research or laboratory management, your experience can help inspire colleagues from across Europe.

Host laboratories can offer short-term training in a wide range of fields, including:

- Clinical chemistry
- Haematology and haemostasis
- Endocrinology
- Toxicology
- Metabolomics
- Laboratory quality management and quality assessment
- Chromatography
- Advanced analytical techniques
- Research methodologies
- Laboratory organisation and workflow
- Healthcare system organisation
- Laboratory management

By opening your laboratory to colleagues from across Europe, you contribute to strengthening professional excellence, encouraging knowledge exchange and fostering lasting international collaborations within the EFLM community.

The main contact for the laboratory does not need to be a senior member of staff and this could represent an excellent opportunity for a more junior member of the team to act as a main contact for applicants and co-ordinate the practice in your institution.

A guide for how to register can be found here: <https://efmlabx.eflm.eu/en/page/Guides/Guide-for-offerers-providers>. Please join the LabX network and help shape the next generation of laboratory medicine professionals!

My EFLMLabX Exchange

Reported by **Selin Yıldız, Türkiye**, EFLM bursary recipient

HOST INSTITUTION: University Hospital of Heraklion Clinical Chemistry-Biochemistry Laboratory in Heraklion, Crete (Greece)

SUPERVISOR: Professor Christos Tsatsanis

TRAINING PERIOD: 17 August – 3 September 2026

As part of the EFLMLabX programme, I completed a laboratory visit at the University Hospital of Heraklion Clinical Chemistry-Biochemistry Laboratory in Heraklion, Crete, between 17 August and 3 September 2026.

I would like to sincerely thank Professor Christos Tsatsanis for welcoming me and ensuring the smooth and successful completion of my laboratory visit.

During my time in the hospital laboratory, I had the opportunity to spend time with laboratory medicine specialists, biologists, and other laboratory staff. We had many valuable conversations about the healthcare systems, laboratory organisation, and routine laboratory practices in our respective countries. These conversations allowed me to recognise the similarities and differences between our systems, to evaluate my own laboratory practices from a different perspective, and to broaden my professional outlook.

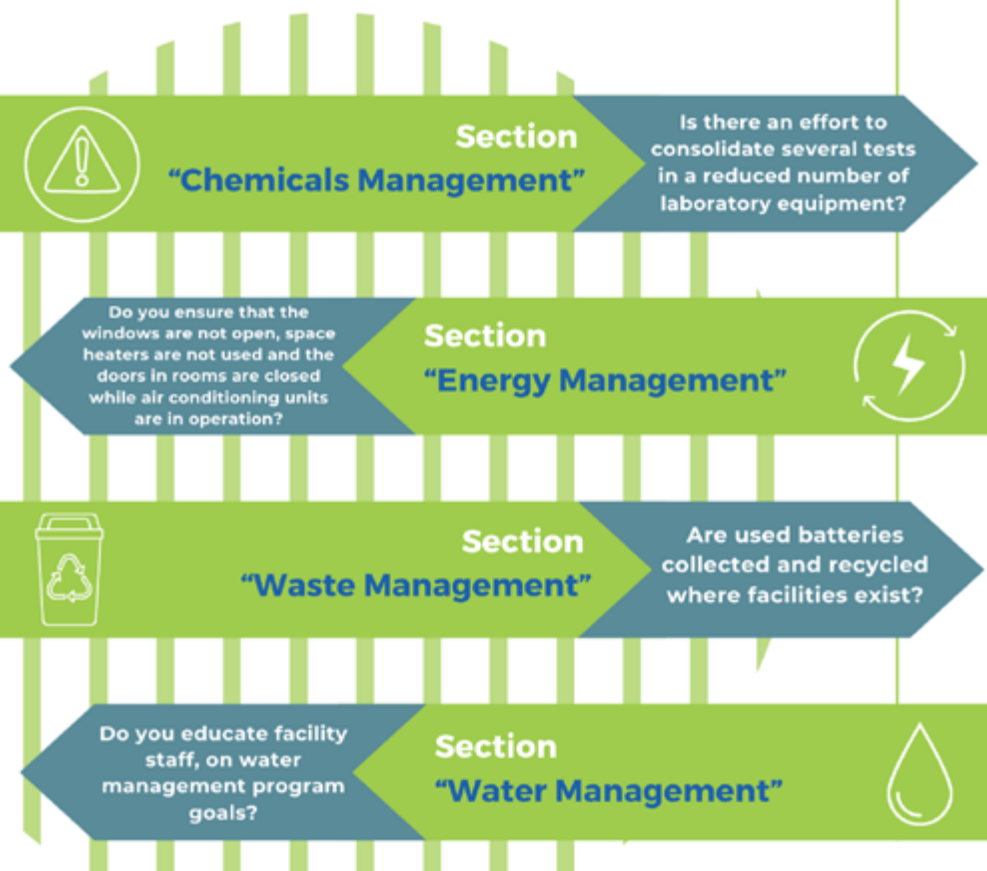
During my visit, I observed the routine workflow of the clinical laboratory. I participated in both theoretical and practical activities related to urine analysis. In the flow cytometry laboratory, I observed sample preparation and processing, case evaluation, and the reporting of results, and I had the opportunity to discuss different cases with my colleagues. I also participated in the evaluation of HbA1c test results and their graphical outputs.

One of the most valuable aspects of this experience for me was the opportunity to observe laboratory practices that are also part of my daily work in Türkiye within a different healthcare system and laboratory environment. Seeing different approaches and sharing experiences with my colleagues helped me re-evaluate familiar practices from a broader perspective.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the EFLMLabX programme for making this valuable international experience possible and for providing bursary support. I would also like to sincerely thank Professor Tsatsanis and all members of the laboratory team for their support, hospitality, and willingness to share their knowledge and experience throughout my visit.



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



NEWS FROM COMMITTEE: GREEN & SUSTAINABLE LABORATORIES

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 TF-GSL members (Chemicals, Energy, Waste and Water) to start implementing the daily routine in your laboratories and getting familiar with the checklist.

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

[Click here to download the PDF](#)

The selected actions of this issue are:

✓ **Section "Hazardous Chemicals Management"**

ACTION: Is there an effort to consolidate several tests in a reduced number of laboratory equipment?

✓ **Section "Energy Management"**

ACTION: Do you ensure that the windows are not open, space heaters are not used and the doors in rooms are closed while air conditioning units are in operation?

✓ **Section "Waste Management"**

ACTION: Are used batteries collected and recycled where facilities exist?

✓ **Section "Water Management"**

ACTION: Do you educate facility staff, on water management program goals?

this EFLM activity is supported by an unrestricted educational grant by



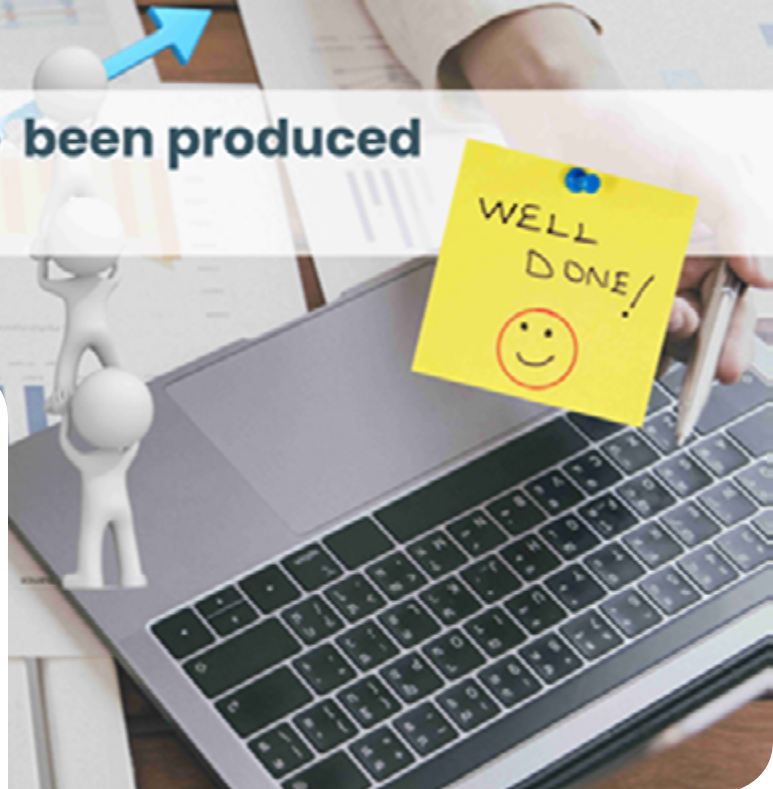
"Silver Sponsor"

New EFLM publications have been produced by EFLM functional units!

UPDATES ON EFLM PUBLICATIONS

New EFLM scientific papers have been published!

Reported by **Alessia Carere**, EFLM Office



The EFLM Office is happy to announce the latest published EFLM papers, developed by EFLM functional units to share knowledge and promote best practices across Europe and beyond. Discover all EFLM publications at the dedicated page of the EFLM website <https://www.eflm.eu/site/eflm-publications>, where with the retrieval function you can search publications for title, author, keywords or EFLM functional units producing the paper.

Unified definition of integrated diagnostics: a position statement of the EFLM

Lennerz JK, Del Ben F, Stenzinger A, Frauenknecht KBM, Carobene A, Berishvili N, Guimarães JT, Martí-Bonmatí L, Buettner R, Haselmann V, Regge D, Salgado R, Plebani M, Vermeersch P, Bernardini S, Cadamuro J, Tung-Chen Y, Zerbe N, Cree IA, Neumaier M, Beets-Tan R, Fernandez-Calle P, Bredella MA, Ozben T, on behalf of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) Committee: Integrative Diagnostics [Clin Chem Lab Med](#)

Diagnostic accuracy of blood biomarkers for excluding head CT abnormalities after mild traumatic brain injury in adults: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Kopčinović LM, Di Resta C, Stanković S, Ladang A, Chiollaz AC, Ferreira da Silva H, Sapin V, Ozben T, on behalf of the Committee: Biomarkers of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury, European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) [Critical Reviews in Clinical Laboratory Sciences 2026](#)

The severity of harm score database: an evidence-based foundation for laboratory test risk analysis

Çubukçu HC, Sonntag O, Lorde L, Lefèvre CR, Cosma C, Van Dalem A, Kanellopoulos PN, Kocijancic M, Boursier G, Meško Brguljan P, Milinkovic N, van Schrojenstein Lantman M, Thelen M, Dasgupta A, Lippi G, Plebani M, On behalf of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) Committee Laboratory Error Database and Committee Accreditation and ISO/CEN Standards (C: A/ISO) [Clin Chem Lab Med](#)

Delivering the EU Safe Hearts Plan: the essential role of laboratory medicine in cardiovascular health

Gruson D, Langlois M, Coskun A, Jovicic S, Stavelin A, Bauer M, Plebani M, Zima T [Clin Chem Lab Med](#)



PAST EFLM EVENTS

Reported by **Aleš Kvasnička**,
EFLM Committee for Promotion
and Publication

EFLM recently organized a series of engaging webinars covering key advancements in the field, and we are pleased to provide an overview of these past events below. For those who missed the live sessions, all webinars are available on demand at the EFLM e-learning platform.

Important Note: A certificate of attendance can be downloaded directly at the end of each webinar after the self-learning test is successfully completed.

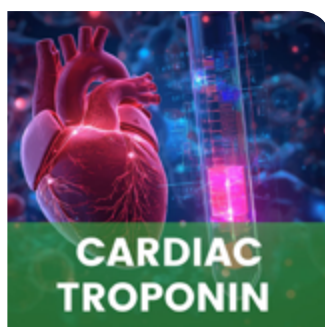
UPCOMING EFLM EVENTS

Forthcoming EFLM webinars

Reported by **Aleš Kvasnička**,
EFLM Committee for Promotion
and Publication

We are pleased to present an engaging programme of upcoming webinars designed to help you stay up to date with the latest developments in laboratory medicine. All sessions will be available through the EFLM e-learning platform and are free of charge for EFLM Academy members.

Please note: Participants who attend the full webinar will be able to download their certificate of attendance from the "Personal area" section of the platform starting from the first working day after the webinar.



Cardiac troponin assays of the future

On September 8, 2026, Saara Tuuli Wittfooth of Finland hosted a webinar titled "Cardiac troponin assays of the future". The session covered the limitations of current cardiac troponin assays, circulating troponin forms, and novel designs aimed at improving myocardial infarction specificity.



Quality Control Procedures in Laboratory Medicine – Part 1: Basics for Beginners

On September 15, 2026, Oswald Sonntag (Germany) presented an EFLM webinar, "Quality Control Procedures in Laboratory Medicine – Part 1: Basics for Beginners," moderated by Marc Thelen. The webinar covered the fundamentals of quality control and practical approaches to interpreting QC results, with a focus on identifying and resolving analytical problems to ensure reliable and safe patient results.



Decoding Oxidative Stress: Laboratory Tools and Biomarkers for Modern Diagnostics

On September 22, 2026, Maria Trapali of Greece presented "Decoding Oxidative Stress: Laboratory Tools and Biomarkers for Modern Diagnostics". The session covered oxidative stress mechanisms, key biomarkers, and the analytical methods utilized in clinical practice.



Preanalytical Phase: Risks and Realities

Date: 6th October 2026 at 18:00 (Brussels local time)

Speakers: Ekaterine Kupatadze (Georgia), Manana Akhvlediani (Georgia), Exploring the critical role of unannounced internal audits, emphasizing the importance of navigating preanalytical obstacles, and breaking down the specific processes required for accurate blood gas determination.



The Value of Unannounced Internal Audits in Sustaining Laboratory

Date: 20th October 2026 at 18:00 (Brussels local time)

Speaker: Nael M. Soudi (Amman-Jordan)
Breaking down the practical mechanics of unannounced internal audits, demonstrating how they directly enhance compliance with quality and safety standards, and offering actionable strategies for implementing them in laboratory settings.



AI in medical education: personalized learning, translation, and content creation

Date: 3rd November 2026 at 18:00 (Brussels local time)

Speaker: Rifai Nader (USA)
Delving into personalized learning models and the growing utility of artificial intelligence in both advancing continuing medical education and streamlining medical content creation.



UPCOMING EFLM EVENTS

Forthcoming EFLM webinars

Reported by **Aleš Kvasnička**,
EFLM Committee for Promotion
and Publication



Consensus statement on vitamin D assessment: whys, whens, and hows

Date: 17th November 2026 at 18:00 (Brussels local time)

Speaker: Giuseppe Banfi (Italy)

Assessing the clinical appropriateness of vitamin D testing, analyzing the relationship between laboratory results and patient findings, and defining the laboratory's role in guiding effective supplementation strategies.



MEET THE EXPERT: Inborn error of metabolism

Date: 19th November 2026 at 16:00 (Brussels local time)

Speaker: Stanley Korman (Israel)

Detailing the diagnostic platforms used for inborn errors of metabolism, highlighting the vital need for clear communication between clinicians and laboratory scientists, and illustrating these principles through real-world patient cases.



MEET THE EXPERT: Diagnostics of von Willebrand's disease

Date: 26th November 2026 at 16:00 (Brussels local time)

Speaker: Timea Szántó (Finland)

Navigating the diagnosis of von Willebrand's disease by understanding assay limitations, interpreting complex results across major subtypes, and identifying common preanalytical pitfalls that affect testing accuracy.



Re-evaluating our approach in selecting reference intervals

Date: 1st December 2026 at 18:00 (Brussels local time)

Speaker: Joe El-Khoury (USA)

Re-evaluating the traditional CLSI EP28-A3C approach for deriving reference intervals, identifying its practical limitations, and critically assessing modern alternative methodologies.

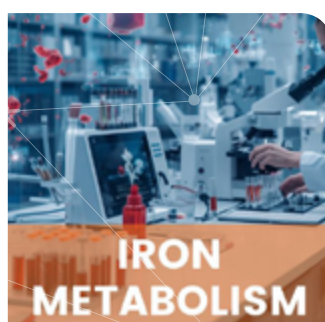


EFLM-EFIS JOINT WEBINAR - Indirect Immunofluorescence Assays in Antibody Testing: Challenges and Clinical Relevance

Date: 3rd December 2026 at 16:00 (Brussels local time)

Speakers: Xavier Bossuyt (Belgium), Murat İnanç (Turkey)

Evaluating the clinical relevance and challenges of Indirect Immunofluorescence Assays (IIF) in antibody testing, comparing their diagnostic performance with alternative methods like ELISA, and integrating results to better manage autoimmune and infectious diseases



Iron Metabolism Uncovered: From Bench to bedside

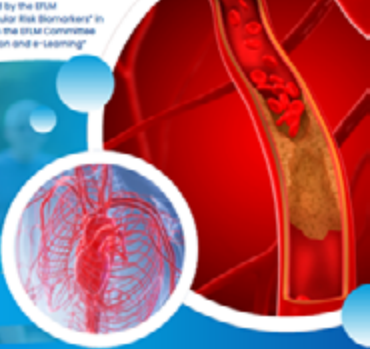
Date: 15th December 2026 at 18:00 (Brussels local time)

Speaker: Katell Peoc'h (France)

Uncovering the complexities of iron metabolism through a systematic approach to investigating iron deficiency, techniques for excluding acquired hyperferritinemia, and defining the optimal minimal diagnostic panel required for patient evaluation.

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Webinar designed by the EFLM Committee "Vascular Risk Biomarkers" in collaboration with the IFCC Committee "Distance Education and e-Learning"



EFLM Live Webinar

Understanding Lp(a)

Experts in Laboratory Medicine and Cardiology discuss the evolving role of Lp(a) testing in cardiovascular risk assessment and clinical practice

13 October 2026 at 18:00 CET

Moderator: Karl Lackner
Inst. of Clinical Chemistry and Lab. Medicine,
Mainz, Germany

Clinical Impact of Lp(a)
Speaker: Erik Stroes
Dept. of Vascular Medicine, Amsterdam UMC
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Roadmap to Reliable Diagnostics of Lp(a)
Speaker: Christa Cobbaert
Dept. of Clinical Chemistry, University Medical
Center, Leiden, The Netherlands

Learning Objectives:

- Introduce and explain the relevance of Lp(a) as cardiovascular risk factor.
- Explain the structural characteristics of Lp(a) and their significance for the whole process of laboratory analysis.
- Update on status of global apo(a)/Lp(a) standardization, necessity of reporting Lp(a) concentration in molar units, and future action required.

REGISTRATION: <https://www.eflm-elearning.eu>

This is an EFLM educational activity reserved for free to EFLM Academy Members.

EFLM-CPECS* credits provided

This activity is supported by an unrestricted educational grant from



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New insights in...
CARDIOVASCULAR INFLAMMATION

EFLM Course designed by the EFLM Committee "Congresses and Postgraduate Education"

Where Laboratory Evidence Meets Clinical Decisions



A brand-new series of EFLM webinars you can't miss

Learning Objectives

- Explain the role of inflammation in cardiovascular disease development and progression.
- Interpret key inflammatory biomarkers (hs-CRP, cytokines, Lp-PLA2) in clinical practice.
- Evaluate laboratory methods and limitations affecting biomarker measurement.
- Apply biomarker evidence to cardiovascular risk assessment and clinical decision-making.
- Integrate laboratory and clinical perspectives to improve patient management.

This series provides an updated overview of the links between inflammation and cardiovascular disease, highlighting the clinical role of key inflammatory biomarkers. It covers current evidence and guidelines on markers such as high-sensitivity C-reactive protein (hs-CRP), cytokines (TNF, IL-6), and lipoprotein-associated phospholipase A2 (Lp-PLA2), with a focus on assay methods, analytical limitations, and interpretation of results. The programme also promotes collaboration between Laboratory Medicine specialists and clinicians to support evidence-based cardiovascular care.

12 November 2026 at 16:00 CET

The role of inflammation in CVS; relationship between biomarkers and pathophysiology of cardiovascular disease

Speakers:
M. Kaplan, Biochemistry in Rambam Health Care Campus, Haifa, Israel
N. Arnold, Dept. Cardiology, University Heart and Vascular Center Hamburg, Germany

Moderator:
D. Pasalic, Dept Med Chem, Biochem and Clin Chem, Zagreb University School of Medicine, Croatia

The webinar series will continue in 2027

REGISTRATION:
This is an EFLM educational activity reserved for free to EFLM Academy Members.
<https://www.eflm-elearning.eu>

Biomarkers in CVS: Cytokines (TNF, IL-6)
Biomarkers in CVS: High sensitivity, C-Reactive Protein
Biomarkers in CVS: Lipoprotein associated phospholipase A2

This activity is supported by an unrestricted educational grant from



IFCC WorldLab
OCTOBER 25-29, 2026 | NEW DELHI, INDIA





IFCC WORLDLAB NEW DELHI 2026

27th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE
52nd CONGRESS OF ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTS OF INDIA

25-29 OCTOBER 2026 | INDIA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION & EXPO CENTRE

www.ifccnewdelhi2026.org

SAVE THE DATE

THURSDAY 29th OCTOBER 2026

09:00-11:00
EFLM SYMPOSIUM
Integrative Diagnostics in Modern Laboratory Medicine: From Data to Coordinated Clinical Decisions
Chairs: Jochen Lennerz (USA), Tomas Zima (Czech Republic)

Integrative Diagnostics in Real Clinical Pathways: Aligning Laboratory, Pathology and Care Teams for Better Decisions - Jochen Lennerz, USA
From Laboratory Data to High-Value Diagnostic Information: Foundations of Integrative Diagnostics - Mario Piebani, Italy
Breaking Silos: Multimodal Diagnostics as a Driver of Coordinated Patient Pathway - Michael Neumaier, Germany
Competencies for Laboratory Professionals in the Era of Integrative Diagnostics and Digital Care - Tomas Zima, Czech Republic

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AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

REGISTER NOW

UPCOMING EVENTS

Road to EuroMedLab 2027

Four plenary lectures, four perspectives shaping the future of Laboratory Medicine

Reported by the EFLM Office



The countdown to EuroMedLab 2027 has officially begun and the scientific journey is already underway. In this second “Road to EuroMedLab 2027” spotlight, we turn our attention to four outstanding plenary lectures, selected by the Scientific Programme Committee chaired by Prof. Mario Plebani. From next-generation obesity treatments to pharmacogenomics, AI-driven cancer research and lipoprotein(a), the programme will explore some of the most rapidly evolving challenges and opportunities in Laboratory Medicine.



 17 May | PLENARY 1

Obesity medicines now prime time: implications for laboratory medicine?

Naveed Sattar (UK)

A leading voice in diabetes, cardiovascular disease and obesity research, Naveed Sattar will examine the growing impact of new weight-loss therapies, particularly incretin-based treatments, and what their increasing use means for Laboratory Medicine. [Know more.](#)



 18 May | PLENARY 2

Embedding Pharmacogenomics in the NHS: Implications for Clinical Pathways and Laboratory Medicine

Munir Pirmohamed (UK)

With extensive expertise in pharmacogenomics and personalised medicine, Munir Pirmohamed will explore how pharmacogenomic testing can be embedded into clinical pathways, helping to optimise drug efficacy, minimise toxicity and bring personalised treatment closer to routine practice. [Know more.](#)



 19 May | PLENARY 3

Redefining cancer biology in the era of artificial intelligence

Stefano Piccolo (Italy)

What can the shape and architecture of a tumour tell us about cancer? Stefano Piccolo, a pioneer in an innovative approach combining cancer biology, digital pathology, spatial transcriptomics and AI-driven analysis, will talk how technology can reveal previously hidden biological information, with potential implications for diagnosis, prognosis and treatment stratification. [Know more.](#)



 20 May | PLENARY 4

Lipoprotein(a) – From Guidelines to Implementation

Florian Kronenberg (Austria)

From scientific evidence to clinical practice: Florian Kronenberg, a leading expert in genetic and clinical epidemiology, will focus on lipoprotein(a) and the challenges of translating current knowledge and guidelines into implementation bringing a broad perspective to one of today’s key areas in lipid medicine. [Know more.](#)

Four days, four leading experts, one shared focus: reflecting on the central role of Laboratory Medicine in transforming scientific advances into better clinical care.

The road to EuroMedLab 2027 has begun. Stay tuned for the next spotlight.

Laboratory Medicine Driving Healthcare Transformation: Digital Innovation, Clinical Value and Future Competencies

Key outcomes from the 2nd SIBioC Strategic Conference
Milan, Italy | 25–26 March 2026

Digital transformation, artificial intelligence (AI), quality management, and the sustainability of healthcare systems were the focus of the **2nd Strategic Conference of the Italian Society of Clinical Biochemistry and Clinical Molecular Biology (SIBioC)**, held in Milan on 25–26 March 2026.

The Conference brought together Laboratory Medicine specialists, healthcare leaders, policymakers and representatives of the Italian National Health Service (NHS) to discuss the future evolution of Laboratory Medicine and its increasingly strategic contribution to integrated patient care.

Throughout the meeting, a clear message emerged: **Laboratory Medicine is no longer simply a diagnostic service but a strategic clinical and digital infrastructure that generates value across the entire healthcare pathway.** By integrating laboratory data with clinical, pathological, imaging and genomic information, Laboratory Medicine supports clinical decision-making, improves patient outcomes and represents a fundamental pillar of precision and personalised medicine.

"Laboratory Medicine creates value by transforming diagnostic data into clinically actionable knowledge", said Sabrina Buoro, President of SIBioC. "The rapid evolution of technologies—including multi-omics, digital pathology and artificial intelligence—offers extraordinary opportunities to improve patient care. However, innovation must always be supported by rigorous clinical validation, robust quality systems, responsible data governance and sustainable organisational models."

Quality and patient safety represented one of the principal themes of the Conference. Scientific sessions addressed the implementation of **ISO 15189**, quality assurance throughout the total testing process, the clinical governance of artificial intelligence, and the integration of **Point-of-Care Testing (POCT)** into decentralised Laboratory Medicine services. These developments were discussed within the broader framework of strengthening community healthcare, in accordance with the recommendations of the Italian National Agency for Regional Healthcare Services (AGENAS).

Participants also examined the reorganisation of laboratory networks, highlighting the transition from traditional service-based structures towards **integrated, interoperable diagnostic ecosystems** capable of supporting modern healthcare through digital connectivity, shared governance and data-driven clinical pathways.

Particular attention was devoted to the contribution of Laboratory Medicine to **value-based healthcare**. Business intelligence, real-world data and performance indicators were recognised as essential tools for measuring quality, improving diagnostic appropriateness, optimising resource allocation and supporting evidence-based healthcare planning.

The Conference further explored the implementation of the updated **Italian Essential Levels of Healthcare (LEA 2025)** and the profound evolution of professional competencies required in modern Laboratory Medicine. Future professionals will increasingly need expertise not only in analytical science but also in genomics, bioinformatics, artificial

intelligence, digital technologies, data interpretation and multidisciplinary clinical collaboration.

The second day focused on multidisciplinary communication, organisational sustainability, medico-legal responsibility and clinical risk management, with particular emphasis on the ethical and regulatory implications of artificial intelligence following the adoption of the **European Artificial Intelligence Act (Regulation (EU) 2024/1689)**.

Precision oncology represented another major strategic theme. Discussions highlighted the growing contribution of **Molecular Tumour Boards**, comprehensive genomic profiling and **Next Generation Sequencing (NGS)** to precision cancer care, reinforcing the pivotal role of Laboratory Medicine within multidisciplinary diagnostic and therapeutic pathways.

One of the most significant outcomes of the Conference concerned the future workforce. Results from a nationwide survey of SIBioC members revealed that approximately **70% of respondents do not currently feel adequately prepared to manage the ongoing transformation of Laboratory Medicine**, while almost half expressed concerns regarding technological innovation and rapidly evolving clinical requirements.

These findings underscore the urgent need to strengthen education, leadership development and continuous professional training.

"Healthcare professionals are the true drivers of innovation," SIBioC President Buoro stated. "Their role is evolving from technical operators to leaders of integrated diagnostics. This transformation requires advanced competencies that combine scientific excellence with digital literacy, multidisciplinary collaboration, clinical leadership and the ability to translate increasingly complex diagnostic information into improved patient care."

To address these challenges, SIBioC is investing significantly in the next generation of Laboratory Medicine professionals through initiatives that include **complimentary Society membership for newly qualified professionals and residents**, structured mentoring programmes, leadership development and opportunities for national and international scientific exchange through collaborations with leading global organisations.

The Conference concluded that the future of Laboratory Medicine will depend not only on technological innovation but also on the capacity to develop highly qualified professionals capable of integrating science, digital technologies and clinical expertise within sustainable, patient-centred healthcare systems.

These themes will continue to be explored during the **58th SIBioC National Congress**, to be held in **Rimini, Italy, October 2026**, where the Laboratory Medicine community will gather to discuss innovation, diagnostic quality and the future evolution of healthcare.



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

Celebrating 30 years of the journal *Ateroskleróza* and introducing a groundbreaking Slovak guide to statistical methods in laboratory medicine

The year 2026 marks the 30th anniversary of the peer-reviewed medical journal **Ateroskleróza** (Atherosclerosis), published jointly by the Faculty of Medicine at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice and the Atherosclerosis Section of the Slovak Society of Clinical Biochemistry (SSCB).

The journal is published semi-annually as two double issues per year. It features fully peer-reviewed scientific papers covering both basic and applied research into the etiology, pathogenesis, clinical features, and treatment of atherosclerosis, as well as the comprehensive spectrum of cardiovascular risk factors. Prioritizing atherosclerosis, its metabolism, clinical management, and therapeutics from broad clinical, theoretical, and experimental perspectives, the journal publi-

shes original research, comprehensive review articles, and noteworthy scientific updates from the field.

In his anniversary editorial, former Editor-in-Chief **Jozef Turay, MD**, reflects on three decades of scientific and diagnostic progress. He emphasizes the journal's crucial role as an interdisciplinary bridge linking clinical biochemistry and laboratory medicine with clinical cardiology, internal medicine, diabetology, and preventive medicine. Dr. Turay expresses sincere gratitude to the editorial board, peer reviewers, and contributing authors who have sustained the journal's high academic and diagnostic quality across three decades, while encouraging the rising generation of researchers to continue sharing their scientific work on its pages.

Cover of the Journal *Atherosclerosis*



New Book Release: *Statistical Methods in Laboratory Medicine*

- **Authors:** Rudolf Gaško, Hedviga Pivovarníková, Ján Balla
- **Publisher:** EQUILIBRIA, s.r.o. (2026)

In an era of personalized medicine and increasingly stringent quality requirements, statistics is no longer merely a theoretical discipline—it is a cornerstone of every accurate and reliable laboratory result. This work represents the **first comprehensive Slovak publication** dedicated specifically to the statistical methodology required when comparing two measurement methods for the same analyte in clinical laboratories (including Deming regression, Passing–Bablok regression, Bland–Altman difference plots, Cohen's kappa, and Lin's Concordance Correlation Coefficient).

Practical Focus and Target Audience

The primary objective of the book is to enhance the quality, truthness, and precision of laboratory measurements delivered to treating clinicians. The textbook clearly outlines which statistical procedures are suitable for method comparison, which are not, and why. Written in language tailored to health laboratory professionals, it keeps mathematical formulas to an essential minimum while maintaining sound methodological rigor. The publication is designed for clinical biochemists, laboratory medicine specialists, biomedical scientists, laboratory physicians, medical students, and postgraduate/MSc students of laboratory examination methods in healthcare.

Statement from the Authors:

"We believe this publication will serve not only as a practical handbook for meeting the strict requirements of the ISO 15189 standard, but also as an important pillar for educating the next generation of specialists. Our aim was to translate demanding statistical procedures into the clear language of daily laboratory practice. We trust that the book will provide young colleagues with the necessary confidence in method verification and validation, while offering experienced experts a reliable methodological framework to support objective quality assessment and enhance patient safety. Properly applied statistics is not merely a numerical expression of quality; it is primarily a vital tool for minimizing diagnostic errors in everyday laboratory practice."

Cover of the book
*Statistical Methods
in Laboratory Medicine 2026*



IFCC News

Dear colleagues,

As autumn proceeds, we find ourselves transitioning into a time of preparation for the months ahead and the important upcoming scientific activities of our field, which is progressing at an extraordinary pace.

In [her President's message](#) published in the IFCC eNews, September issue, Prof. Tomris Ozben, gives us valuable information about her agenda, the important events in which she participated, and the opportunity she had to meet laboratory medicine professionals, strengthen collaborations and share best practices to the benefit of our global laboratory medicine community. Moreover, she invites us to participate in the Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI) Congress, which will be held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, from October 7–10, 2026 and to the 27th International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (WorldLab 2026), which will be held in New Delhi, India, from October 25–29, 2026. These two cutting-edge scientific events along with their outstanding scientific programmes, constitute valuable opportunities to share groundbreaking insights and advance our field.

In this issue you can also read interesting news from the IFCC Visiting Lecturer Programmes in [Brazil](#), in [Ecuador](#), in [Kenya](#), the [IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Programme](#), the [IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists](#), the [IFCC Committee on Mobile Health and Bioengineering in Laboratory Medicine](#), the [IFCC Emerging Technologies Division](#) and the [IFCC Education and Management Division](#). The outstanding work of all of these bodies highlights their commitment to advancing laboratory medicine worldwide through scientific excellence and technological innovation.

News from the [Arab Federation of Clinical Biology](#), the [European Federation of Clinical Chemistry](#), as well as from our member societies of [Mexico](#), [Serbia](#), [Japan](#), [Nepal](#), [Brazil](#), [Uruguay](#) and [Pakistan](#), are also included in this issue, showcasing the valuable work of these federations and societies for continuous education, international cooperation, leadership and improvement of patient care. Moreover, we are delighted to welcome the [Korean Society for Laboratory Medicine](#) to our global community and we look forward to working together to advance laboratory medicine worldwide.

In this issue, in the section "[Voices of our Corporate Members](#)", you can meet Prof. Ana-Maria Šimundić, PhD EuSpLM (Croatia), representing Greiner Bio-One within the Task Force for Corporate Members and member of the IFCC Task Force on Ethics, who shares with us her valuable experience of working with IFCC with active participation and engagement.

You can also meet multidisciplinary awarded teams, recognized with the [2026 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence awards](#), for achieving better outcomes for patients and improved care delivery by means of team collaboration.

I hope that many of you will participate in the [27th International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine \(WorldLab 2026\)](#), held together with the [52nd Congress of the Association of Clinical Biochemists of India](#), in [New Delhi from October 25–29, 2026](#). The outstanding scientific programme and the opportunity to meet colleagues and friends from around the world make this a **fundamental moment for our community and an excellent opportunity to share knowledge, experiences and ideas**.

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Professor Mathias M. Müller, MD, IFCC Past President, on August 12, 2026, in Innsbruck, one of the most influential and distinctive personalities in the history of IFCC. Our thoughts are with his family and colleagues, and we will honor his memory by carrying forward the values in which he strongly believed.

Marilena Stamouli

In Memoriam: Professor Mathias M. Müller, A Visionary Who Shaped the Modern IFCC

[Click here](#) to read the whole article by the IFCC President, Prof Ozben and [here](#) to read the article by dr Gouget.





Calendar of EFLM events and events under EFLM auspices

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-  **58° Congresso Nazionale SIBIOC – MEDICINA DI LABORATORIO "Consapevolezza, innovazione e sostenibilità: costruire il futuro della Medicina di Laboratorio"**
Rimini (IT), 30 September - 2 October 2026
-  **XVI. SSCB Congress 2026**
Demänovská Dolina (SK), 4-6 October 2026
-  **7th Slovenian Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine with international participation**
Portorož (SI), 5-6 October 2026
-  **EFLM Webinar**
Preanalytical Phase: Risks and Realities
Online, 6 October 2026
-  **VI Meeting on External Quality Assurance Programs**
Online, 8 October 2026
-  **33rd Meeting of the Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation**
Sarajevo and Jahorina (BA), 7-11 October 2026
-  **EFLM Webinar**
Understanding Lp(a): Clinical Impact and Diagnostic Challenges
online, 13 October 2026
-  **EQALM Symposium 2026**
Leuven (BE), 13-15 October 2026
-  **9èmes JFBM – Journées Francophones de Biologie Médicale**
Le Havre (FR), 14-16 October 2026
-  **12th Congress of the Croatian Society of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine with international participation**
Srebreno (HR), 15-18 October 2026
-  **EFLM Webinar**
The Value of Unannounced Internal Audits in Sustaining Laboratory
on-line, 20 October 2026
-  **EFLM Webinar**
AI in medical education: personalized learning, translation, and content creation
Online, 3 November 2026
-  **The Second Congress of the Kosovo Association of Clinical Chemistry (KACC)**
Prishtina (XK), 5-6 November 2026

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- **48th Annual Conference of the Association of Clinical Biochemists in Ireland**
Dublin (IE), 6-7 November 2026
- **Laboratory Medicine Unit: Open day**
Padova (IT), 7 November 2026
- **24th Greek Congress of Clinical Chemistry- Clinical Biochemistry**
Athens (GR), 5-8 November 2026
- **TBS International Biochemistry Congress 2026 / 36th National Biochemistry Congress (50th Anniversary of the Turkish Biochemical Society)**
Antalya (TR), 4-8 November 2026
- **EFLM Webinar**
The role of inflammation in CVS; relationship between biomarkers and pathophysiology of cardiovascular disease
online, 12 November 2026
- **EFLM Webinar**
Consensus statement on vitamin D assessment: whys, whens, and hows
online, 17 November 2026
- **Annual Meeting of RBSLM**
Brussels (BE), 18-19 November 2026
- **EFLM Meet the Expert**
Inborn error of metabolism
online, 19 November 2026
- **EFLM Meet the Expert**
Diagnostics of von Willebrand's disease
online, 26 November 2026
- **XX LABCLIN 2026 Congreso Nacional Del Laboratorio Clínico**
Barcelona (ES), 25-27 November 2026
- **EFLM Webinar**
Re-evaluating our approach in selecting reference intervals
Online, 1 December 2026
- **EFLM-EFIS Joint Webinar**
Indirect Immunofluorescence Assays in Antibody Testing: Challenges and Clinical Relevance
Online, 3 December 2026
- **SFBC Symposium**
Bordeaux (FR), 4 December 2026

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-  | **1st INCAMS meeting – International Network for Clinical Applications of Mass Spectrometry**
Rimini (IT), 11-13 December 2026
-  | **EFLM Webinar**
Iron Metabolism Uncovered: From Bench to bedside
Online, 15 December 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
-  | **Labquality Days – International Congress on Quality in Laboratory Medicine 2027**
Helsinki (FI), 11-12 February 2027

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