EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

EuroLab News

THE EFLM BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Foreword

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

This May–June 2026 edition of EFLM EuroLabNews presents a dynamic overview of a laboratory medicine community increasingly shaped by strategic coordination, digital innovation, sustainability, and international collaboration.

A central highlight of the issue is the **EFLM Strategic Conference 2026**, which brought together more than 400 participants to discuss the future of a coordinated, data-driven, and globally integrated laboratory medicine ecosystem. The conference emphasized the growing role of artificial intelligence, digital transformation, harmonisation of laboratory practices, and interdisciplinary cooperation in strengthening patient-centered healthcare. Complementing this global perspective is a report on the successful **EFLM Symposium at the National Congress of the Azerbaijan Society of Clinical Laboratory Specialists**, underscoring EFLM's commitment to expanding scientific engagement across diverse regions.

Organizational growth within EFLM is reflected through the welcoming of new affiliate and corporate members and initiatives aimed at strengthening communication and visibility, including digital outreach tools such as RSS integration. Leadership transitions within EFLM national societies further illustrate institutional continuity and active professional renewal.

The Functional Units section provides particularly valuable insight into professional development and sustainability. The **Young Scientist Corner and EFLMLabX initiatives** continue to demonstrate the importance of mobility, mentorship, and cross-border scientific exchange for early-career laboratorians. Equally noteworthy are contributions from the **Committee on Green and Sustainable Laboratories**, which move sustainability from concept to practice by offering actionable guidance for reducing laboratory environmental impact. A compelling case study from **La Paz University Hospital in Madrid** illustrates how sustainability principles can be effectively integrated into routine laboratory operations.

Educational activity remains a defining strength of EFLM. The newsletter summarizes recently completed webinars and previews an ambitious schedule of forthcoming educational events, including **EuLabDay 2026**, the **EQALM Symposium in Leuven**, and preparations for **EuroMedLab London 2027**, reinforcing EFLM's role as a leading platform for continuing professional education and scientific exchange.

National society contributions and historical reflections add further richness to the issue. Reports from member societies—such as **SEMEDLAB**—highlight regional achievements and professional initiatives, while the historical feature *"It Happened in Prague..."* provides thoughtful perspective on milestones that have shaped laboratory medicine over time. Updates from the **IFCC** and the extensive calendar of upcoming scientific activities complete an issue that is both informative and forward-looking.

Overall, this edition reflects a profession actively preparing for the future—embracing digital transformation, sustainability, harmonisation, and international cooperation while remaining firmly committed to scientific rigor and improved patient care.

As we continue through a productive scientific year, may our shared commitment to excellence in laboratory medicine inspire further collaboration, innovation, and professional growth across our community.

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Strategic Conference EFLM 2026: toward a coordinated, data-driven and globally integrated laboratory medicine ecosystem

Reported by **Bernard Gouget**, Labac EFLM representative, IFCC ETD-EC, chair IFCC TF History; **Tomris Ozben**, IFCC President, EFLM Past President; **Damien Gruson**, EFLM President Elect, Chair IFCC ETD

The 2026 Strategic Conference of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM), held under the presidency of Tomas Zima and attended by its full Executive Board, brought together more than 400 participants from 47 countries. This broad East–West representation reflects not only the diversity of laboratory medicine practices across Europe, but also a shared commitment to harmonization, innovation, and clinical integration.

As a key regional entity within the global framework of laboratory medicine, EFLM plays a pivotal role within the IFCC ecosystem. The presence of Tomris Özben, IFCC President and representatives of all six IFCC regional federations, each structurally represented within the IFCC Executive Board, highlighted a decisive evolution toward interregional coordination and strategic alignment, enabling the development of joint initiatives at a global scale. Contributions from the Federation of European Biochemical Societies further reinforced the translational continuum between biomedical research and clinical laboratory practice.

The inaugural lecture delivered by Mario Plebani set a compelling conceptual framework, positioning laboratory medicine within a value-based healthcare paradigm. Beyond analytical excellence, the discipline must now demonstrate measurable clinical impact, contributing directly to patient outcomes and healthcare sustainability. This evolution reflects a broader transformation: laboratory medicine is no longer confined to diagnostic support, but emerges as a central, integrative discipline within clinical decision-making pathways.

Harmonization and interoperability are the foundations for digital transformation. This session, featuring Sverre Sandberg, Martina Zaninotto, Christa Cobbaert, and Amy Saenger, highlighted the complexity of achieving consistency across the total testing process. The discussions underscored the critical role of metrological traceability, standardization frameworks, and coordinated governance. Round table contributions from Khosrow Adeli and Mauro Panteghini extended this perspective to the integration of big data and harmonized reference systems, emphasizing that interoperability is a prerequisite for the safe and effective deployment of artificial intelligence.

The second symposium underscored the rapid transformation of laboratory medicine into a truly data-driven discipline, propelled by advances in multi-omics, artificial intelligence, and cutting-edge analytical technologies. Contributions from Pieter Vermeersch and David Friedecky demonstrated how the integration of high-dimensional biological data is redefining precision medicine and enabling more refined patient stratification. Joanne Cadamuro positioned this shift within the broader Industry 5.0 paradigm, while Andrea Padoan highlighted the critical need for robust governance and regulatory alignment. Ema Popova and Umar Ansari further emphasized the transformative power of AI in enhancing clinical decision-making and fostering patient empowerment. Collectively, these developments signal a decisive shift toward predictive, personalized medicine driven by data and intelligent technologies.

The contribution of Bernard Gouget highlighted the strategic role of data infrastructures in the evolution of laboratory medicine from data aggregation to predictive intelligence. Health data platforms and data centers are emerging as foundational pillars of this transformation. As he aptly stated, *"Without data centers, there is no predictive medicine, no digital twin, and no large-scale clinical AI."* Data centers, combining physical infrastructure, high-performance computing, storage systems, and advanced software environments, enable the continuous integration and processing of heterogeneous data streams, including genomics, biomarkers, imaging, physiological signals, and behavioral data generated by wearables and connected devices. These infrastructures support three critical functions: the secure storage of health data, the training and validation of AI models, and the protection and governance of sensitive information. By enabling the integration of multimodal data, large-scale population analytics, and early detection of disease patterns, data centers are driving a paradigm shift from reactive diagnosis to predictive and preventive medicine. In this context, they are becoming as essential to healthcare systems as laboratories and hospitals themselves.

Collaboration with clinicians was highlighted as a key driver in reshaping healthcare pathways through integrative diagnostic medicine. Contributions from Michael Neumaier and Stephan Schönberg demonstrated how closer alignment between laboratory medicine, imaging, and clinical disciplines enables more comprehensive, patient-centered diagnostic strategies. This integrative approach supports earlier detection, improved risk stratification, and more efficient clinical decision-making across care pathways. In this context, Peter Seferović emphasized the importance of a holistic approach to the diagnosis of heart failure, where laboratory methods play a central role alongside clinical evaluation and imaging. Biomarkers and advanced laboratory testing are essential not only for diagnosis, but also for disease monitoring, prognosis, and therapeutic guidance, reinforcing the pivotal role of laboratory medicine within multidisciplinary care. The concept of integrated diagnostics, articulated by Cyran Clemens, reflects a transition from fragmented diagnostic processes to coordinated, patient-centered pathways that combine laboratory, imaging, and clinical data. This vision aligns closely with that of the BioMed Alliance, represented by Elizabeth Macintyre, which promotes interdisciplinary collaboration across medical specialties and

scientific societies. Together, these approaches support a model of orchestrated care, where diagnostic information is integrated, contextualized, and transformed into actionable insights.

Discussions on collaboration with the IVD industry and European stakeholders highlighted a central message: innovation in laboratory medicine can only advance through **strong, structured, and ethically grounded partnerships**. Exchanges with IVD companies and MedTech Europe underscored both the opportunities and the challenges of integrating innovation into clinical practice, ranging from regulatory constraints under the IVDR to the need for interoperability, data quality, equitable access, and alignment with clinical needs. These insights reaffirm that building **functional and transparent relationships with the IVD sector** is not optional, but essential to accelerate meaningful innovation while safeguarding public health interests. At the European level, EFLM continues to play a key role by engaging with institutions and stakeholders, contributing to strategic discussions on digital health, AI governance, and quality standards. This positioning strengthens its role as a trusted scientific partner in shaping the future of healthcare. **Moving forward, the challenge is clear: to transform dialogue into sustained collaboration, and innovation into tangible impact for patients.**

The active participation of IFCC regional federations, represented by Praveen Sharma (APFCB), Shannon Haymond (NAFCC), Gizachew Tadesse Akalu (AFCC), and Vélez de la Vega (COLABIOCLI) enabled the identification of key priority areas for collaboration. These include **education and training**, through the development of harmonized curricula and digital learning platforms; **quality assurance**, with the implementation of standardized quality systems and accreditation frameworks; **harmonization**, by aligning analytical practices and reference systems; and **capacity building**, through mentoring and knowledge transfer to support emerging regions. Tomris Ozben recalled that the integration of these federations within IFCC governance provides a strong foundation for coordinated global initiatives, promoting consistency while respecting regional diversity. In this context, Tricia Ravalico highlighted that more than 100 integrated clinical care teams across over 32 countries have been recognized to date through the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Awards, illustrating the tangible impact of collaborative, multidisciplinary approaches on patient care.

A critical dimension for the future of laboratory medicine lies in the active engagement of **young scientists and emerging leaders**, whose contributions were strongly represented during the conference. Tara Rolic, Jacob Adler, Nataliia Kozopas, Leija Alic, and A. Kvasnička exemplified the dynamism, expertise, and forward-thinking mindset of the next generation. Their involvement reflects the growing importance of empowering early-career professionals as key actors in innovation, digital transformation, and interdisciplinary collaboration. This commitment is further supported by structured initiatives such as the **EFLM Academy**, which provides a platform for education, networking, and professional development, fostering a strong and connected European community of laboratory specialists. Complementing this, the **EFLM Syllabus** defines a harmonized framework of knowledge and competencies, contributing to the standardization of training and supporting excellence across countries. Investing in young professionals through these initiatives is essential to ensure the sustainability, adaptability, and continued advancement of laboratory medicine in an increasingly complex and data-driven healthcare environment.

A central message of the EFLM Strategic Conference was the emergence of a new paradigm for laboratory medicine: a **distributed, interconnected, and intelligent network** that seamlessly integrates central laboratories, satellite units, point-of-care testing, and wearable technologies. Damien Gruson articulated this forward-looking vision by positioning the laboratory of the future as a true **hub of clinical intelligence**, where continuous data streams, artificial intelligence, and human expertise converge to generate real-time, actionable insights. In this model, laboratory medicine evolves beyond its traditional boundaries to become a core driver of clinical pathways and health system transformation. This vision paves the way for a healthcare model that is **predictive, preventive, decentralized, and deeply patient-centered** enhancing accessibility, reducing inequalities, and enabling more proactive and personalized care. Looking ahead, the challenge will not only be to deploy these technologies, but to orchestrate them within a coherent, ethical, and sustainable framework that fully unlocks their potential for patients and healthcare systems alike.

In his concluding remarks, Tomas Zima outlined a **forward-looking strategic vision** for the future of laboratory medicine, grounded in adaptability, integration, and global collaboration. He emphasized that the next phase of development will require strengthening the clinical integration of laboratory medicine within care pathways, accelerating digital transformation, and expanding strategic partnerships—particularly within the IFCC framework. A key priority of this strategic direction is to reinforce EFLM's engagement with European institutions and stakeholders, ensuring that laboratory medicine actively contributes to shaping health policies, regulatory frameworks, and innovation agendas at the European level. Looking ahead, the EFLM strategic plan is structured around several core ambitions: advancing **integrated diagnostics and data-driven medicine**, promoting **global harmonization and quality standards**, strengthening **education and professional development**, and ensuring **equitable access to innovation** across regions.

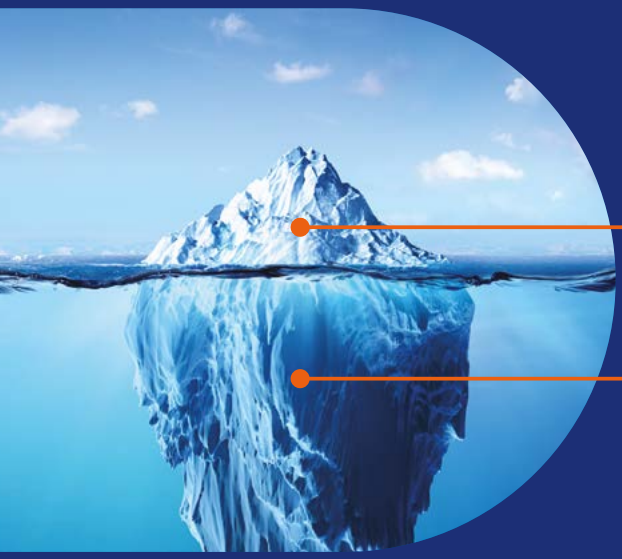
The EFLM Strategic Conference 2026 therefore represents not just a milestone, but a **launchpad for coordinated action**, marking a transition toward a more connected, intelligent, and patient-centered model of laboratory medicine. By aligning scientific excellence, technological innovation, and strategic collaboration, EFLM, acting as a key IFCC region, is positioned to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of healthcare systems. This future will be defined by integration, prediction, and coordination, with a clear objective: to enhance patient outcomes while ensuring the sustainability and resilience of healthcare worldwide.


Tomáš
ZIMA


EFLM


Miguel
DE LA ROSA

Accurate blood collection results? Better patient care? Join our webinar to explore how preanalytical variables impact lab accuracy.



Exploring the Iceberg of Errors in Laboratory Medicine.

1/3 Analytical and Postanalytical Errors

2/3 Preanalytical Errors

Plebani M. Exploring the iceberg of errors in laboratory medicine. Clin Chim Acta. 2009;404(1):16-23.

PREANALYTICAL VARIABLES in venous blood collection.

Webinar by

Dr. Kathrin Schlueter - BD Medical Affairs Manager

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

Thursday, 21st May 2026 at 3 p.m. CET

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

BD

Great success for the EFLM Symposium at the National Congress of the Azerbaijan Society of Clinical Laboratory Specialists

Reported by **Tomas Zima**, EFLM President

Prof. Tomas Zima, EFLM President

The EFLM Symposium "New Trends in Laboratory Medicine," held in Baku on the occasion of the National Congress of the Azerbaijan Society of Clinical Laboratory Specialists, concluded with outstanding success. The event highlighted EFLM's continued commitment to advancing scientific collaboration and innovation in laboratory medicine at an international level.
Structured into two sessions, the symposium delivered an in-depth exploration of key diagnostic innovations across multiple disciplines.

In Session 1, co-chaired by me and Dildar Konukoglu, the focus was placed on transformative approaches in oncology, cardiology, and neurodegenerative diseases. Opening the session, I highlighted how classical tumour markers, while still essential for disease monitoring, are increasingly complemented by advanced molecular techniques. I emphasized that next-generation sequencing and multigene profiling have revolutionized cancer diagnostics, enabling precise therapeutic strategies. In particular, liquid biopsy, through circulating tumour cells (CTCs) and circulating tumour DNA (ctDNA), was presented as a powerful, minimally invasive tool for real-time disease monitoring and prognostic assessment. The integration of genomics, transcriptomics, and proteomics is now paving the way toward fully personalized oncology.

Prof. Karl Lackner

Prof. Sylvain Lehmann

Kark Lackner addressed the complexities surrounding cardiac troponins, underlining both their clinical relevance and the analytical challenges in ensuring comparability and accuracy across methods.

A key highlight of the session was the presentation by Sylvain Lehmann, who illustrated the growing importance of integrative diagnostics in neurodegenerative diseases. He focused on neurofilament light chain (NfL), a biomarker reflecting neuroaxonal damage across multiple disorders, including Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and multiple sclerosis. Notably, NfL can be measured in blood thanks to recent technological advances, allowing minimally invasive assessment. Its levels correlate with disease severity, progression, and prognosis, and may increase years before clinical onset, positioning it as a powerful predictive and monitoring tool across neurological conditions.

Session 2, chaired by Mario Plebani (remotely) and Damien Gruson, addressed both conceptual and technological challenges in laboratory medicine. In his distance lecture, Mario Plebani stressed that laboratory results should not be viewed merely as numerical outputs, but as actionable clinical information. He highlighted that the interpretation of results requires harmonized comparators, such as reference intervals, decision limits, and standardized terminology, across all phases of the total testing process. This harmonization is essential to ensure that laboratory data effectively support clinical decision-making and improve patient outcomes, reinforcing the paradigm of value-based laboratory medicine.

Prof. Damien Gruson

Concluding the symposium, Damien Gruson presented emerging diagnostic trends in laboratory endocrinology. He emphasized the impact of high-specificity technologies such as liquid chromatography–tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS), which enables highly accurate multiplex hormone profiling. Advanced biomarker strategies, including steroid metabolomics, are already demonstrating strong diagnostic performance in complex endocrine disorders. Furthermore, the integration of artificial intelligence and clinical decision support systems is enabling predictive analytics and personalized reference intervals, moving beyond population-based thresholds toward individualized diagnostics. Innovations in microsampling, point-of-care testing, and connected devices are also decentralizing diagnostics and enabling continuous patient monitoring.

In addition to the EFLM symposium, a meeting was held between the EFLM Presidents and Representatives and the Executive Board of the Azerbaijan National Society to discuss future cooperation, including collaboration opportunities for young scientists and participation in other regional conferences.

Overall, the symposium offered a rich and forward-looking overview of laboratory medicine, showing how new developments in molecular biology, digital tools, and clinical practice are coming together. It was attended by nearly 600 professionals from Azerbaijan, as well as participants from neighboring countries such as Turkey.

The congress was excellently organized. We would like to express our sincere thanks to the President of the Azerbaijan Society of Clinical Laboratory Specialists, Prof. Ramin Bayramli; to the Organizing Committee, represented by the Executive Secretary, Dr. Fatima Nasirli; and to the local organizers, represented by Mr. Ali Kopucu from MICE Baku.

This collaboration once again confirmed the EFLM's leading role in advancing laboratory medicine at international level.

Prof. Ramin Bayramli, ACLTK President, and Prof. Tomas Zima


The meeting between the EFLM Presidents and Representatives and the Executive Board of the Azerbaijan National Society

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Welcome to the new AFFILIATE and CORPORATE Members

Reported by **Silvia Terragni**, EFLM Office

Since its establishment in 2007, the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) has grown into a vibrant network gathering more than 60 Members, including Full Members, Affiliate Members and Corporate Members.

EFLM's mission is to enhance patient care and improve outcomes by promoting and advancing the scientific, professional and clinical aspects of clinical chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, while ensuring effective representation of Laboratory Medicine both at European Union level and within other pan-European and sub-regional organizations.

During the latest EFLM General Meeting held in Prague, the voting body of EFLM, composed of its Full Members, unanimously approved four new members.

Welcome to our new Affiliate Members

A warm welcome to our new Affiliate Members from Armenia and Georgia:

- Association of Quality Laboratories – One Health
- Georgian Association for Management and Development of Laboratory Medicine

Affiliate Membership is open to National Societies/Associations active in the field of Laboratory Medicine from European countries, according to the WHO country classification. Affiliate Members participate in the EFLM General Meeting with observer status. Once a National Society/Association becomes an Affiliate Member of EFLM, it may participate in the EFLM General Meeting, the governing body of the Federation, as an observer. In addition, Affiliate Members may nominate Corresponding Members to EFLM Functional Units (maximum one representative per Functional Unit). Affiliate Members also receive regular communications from the EFLM Office regarding EFLM initiatives, opportunities and surveys.

Several exclusive opportunities are available to members of an EFLM Affiliate Member National Society/Association, including:

- Nomination as Corresponding Member in an EFLM Functional Unit
- Access to the EFLM Academy through the block enrolment modality, offering a wide range of educational opportunities
- Eligibility to apply for EFLM travel bursaries

Welcome two new Corporate Members

We are also delighted to welcome two new Corporate Members to the EFLM family:

- Quality Consulting
- Werfen

Corporate Membership is open to companies, corporate entities and research establishments active in the field of clinical laboratory practice. Corporate Members also participate in EFLM General Meetings with observer status. EFLM offers a wide range of opportunities for Corporate Members to demonstrate their commitment to the advancement of Laboratory Medicine by engaging directly with Europe's leading organization in the field.

Corporate Membership benefits include:

- Possibility to delegate Experts/Consultants to EFLM Functional Units (excluding the Executive Board)
- Strengthened communication and collaboration with the Laboratory Medicine community
- Receipt of EFLM publications and announcements
- Priority opportunities for sponsoring awards, conferences and webinars, ensuring high visibility to a highly targeted audience
- Permission to use the EFLM logo to identify as an EFLM Corporate Member
- Access to numerous promotional opportunities
- A 20% discount on exhibition fees and premium exhibition placement at EuroMedLab Congresses for Corporate Members of both IFCC and EFLM (10% discount during the first year of membership)
- A 25% discount on advertising fees in the EFLM eNewsletter

All National Societies of the European Area (according to the WHO classification) as well as Corporates may become Members of EFLM.

Look at the current list of EFLM Members at: **EFLM Membership Page**

Stay connected: Add the EFLM RSS Feed to your Website!

Reported by **Alessia Carere**, EFLM Office

We are pleased to announce that the EFLM website (www.eflm.eu) now features an RSS feed, making it easier than ever to stay up to date with the latest news, announcements, and publications from the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine.

We warmly invite all EFLM National Societies to integrate the EFLM RSS feed directly into their own websites. By doing so, your members will automatically receive the most current EFLM content — from scientific updates and congress news to advocacy initiatives and educational resources — without any additional effort on your part.

Why add the EFLM RSS feed?

- Keep your audience informed with real-time EFLM updates
- Enrich your website content automatically
- Strengthen the connection between your National Society and the wider EFLM community

How to get started:

Click here to access the EFLM RSS feed page, pass it to your web administrator to create a dedicated "EFLM News" section on your homepage. If you need technical assistance or more information, please contact the EFLM Office at eflm@eflm.eu

Together, let's build a more connected European laboratory medicine community!

WHAT IS AN RSS FEED?

Even in today's fast-paced digital environment filled with constant notifications and endless scrolling, there is still a strong need for a clean and organized way to stay informed. RSS feeds (Really Simple Syndication) offer exactly that.

An RSS feed is an XML-based file that automatically distributes a website's latest content, such as articles, blog posts, or podcast episodes. By subscribing through an RSS reader, users can gather updates from multiple websites in one convenient location without having to visit each site individually. The web manager of your National Society's website can help you enable and set up this automatic service.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD IN EFLM NATIONAL SOCIETIES

A warm welcome to the incoming National Society officers and sincere thanks to the outgoing EFLM National Representatives and National Society Presidents for their support of EFLM activities during their terms of office.

Reported by the EFLM Office

Azerbaijan Society of Clinical Laboratory Specialists

We are glad to inform that Ramin Bayramli (Azerbaijan Medical University, Baku, Azerbaijan) is the new President of the Azerbaijan Society of Clinical Laboratory Specialists, replacing Arif Afandiyev.

Czech Society of Clinical Biochemistry

We are glad to inform that David Friedecky (Laboratory for Inherited Metabolic Disorders, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, Palacký University Olomouc, Olomouc, Czech Republic) is the new National Representative of the Czech Society of Clinical Biochemistry, replacing Richard Pickner.

Turkish Biochemical Society

We are glad to inform that Muhittin A. Serdar (Dept. of Medical Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine, Acıbadem Mehmet Ali Aydinlar University, İstanbul, Türkiye) is the new President of the Turkish Biochemical Society, replacing Dogan Yucel.

NEWS FROM THE EFLM FUNCTIONAL UNITS

EFLM Young Scientists Corner

Reported by **Monica Dugaesescu**, Chair of the EFLM YS Committee

The 2026 Strategic Conference of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine took place on 24–25 April in Prague, bringing together professionals to discuss the future of laboratory medicine. This year's conference placed young scientists at the center of attention, recognizing their vital role in shaping the future of the continuously evolving field of laboratory medicine.

The conference was preceded by the EFLM Committee Young Scientists Networking Event, supported by Beckman Coulter, which offered an excellent platform for young professionals to connect, exchange ideas, and engage with both experienced leaders in laboratory medicine and their peers.

During the main conference, a dedicated session entitled Young Scientists: Visibility, Communication and Education addressed topics essential for the professional growth and development of young scientists. The session emphasized the importance of education, active engagement, and increased visibility within the laboratory medicine community.

In addition, the EFLM Young Laboratory Medicine Professional Award was presented during the conference. This year's recipient was Hikmet Can Çubukçu, in recognition of his outstanding contributions and activity in the field of laboratory medicine.

The EFLM Committee Young Scientist Networking Event

The EFLM Committee Young Scientists Networking Event, supported by Beckman Coulter, brought together young scientists and experienced professionals in laboratory medicine for an afternoon and evening dedicated to meaningful discussions, networking, and professional exchange.

Participants took part in four expert-led roundtable sessions addressing topics highly relevant to early-career professionals in laboratory medicine: Career & Employability, Research & Academia, Leadership Essentials: Delegation, Mentorship & Impact, and Communication & Collaboration.

Throughout the discussions, participants openly shared the challenges they face as young scientists in laboratory medicine and expressed their professional and personal development needs. These conversations highlighted important opportunities for the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, as well as for other organisations and IVD companies, to further support young scientists through targeted initiatives, mentorship, education, and career development opportunities.

Following the roundtable sessions, participants continued networking and exchanging experiences throughout the evening, demonstrating that the young laboratory medicine community is both welcoming and highly engaged. Their enthusiasm for laboratory medicine, eagerness to build collaborations, and commitment to continuous learning and professional growth were evident throughout the event.

2026 EFLM Strategic Conference: Young Scientists Session

The session dedicated to young scientists in laboratory medicine, Young Scientists: Visibility, Communication and Education, featured four passionate and highly engaged young professionals who delivered insightful and inspiring presentations on topics highly relevant to the future of the profession.

Tara Rolić, Chair of the EFLM Division: Communication and Full Member of the EFLM Committee: Young Scientists, opened the session with her presentation From Shadows to Spotlight: How EuLabDay Reframes Our Profession. She emphasized the importance of increasing the visibility of laboratory medicine and raising awareness of the professionals working behind the scenes to support patient care.

The session continued with a thought-provoking presentation by Jakob Adler entitled AI in the Clinical Lab: Opportunity or Risk?, addressing one of the most widely discussed topics in healthcare today.

Passionate about medical data science, artificial intelligence, and applied statistics in laboratory medicine, Jakob Adler actively shares his expertise and enthusiasm with peers through various educational and scientific initiatives.

An especially personal and inspiring presentation was delivered by Nataliia Kozopas, Executive Committee Member under the EFLM Division: Communication. In her presentation, One Open Door Can Change Everything: A Journey Through LabX and Beyond, she reflected on her experience with EFLM LabX and the significant professional and personal opportunities it created for her.

The session concluded with an excellent presentation by Lejla Alić entitled Building Future Leaders Through Education: Leveraging the EFLM Academy and EFLM Syllabus Course. She introduced the EFLM Academy and the EFLM Syllabus Course, highlighting their important role in supporting education, professional development, and lifelong learning in laboratory medicine. Lejla Alić also serves as an Executive Committee Member under the EFLM Division: Communication and is recognized as a highly active young scientist within the international laboratory medicine community.
Following the presentations, an interactive roundtable discussion encouraged lively audience participation and engaging exchanges on the topics presented. To provide additional perspectives, experienced laboratory medicine professionals Daniel Rajdl, Snežana Jovičić, and Evgenija Homšak joined the young speakers for the discussion, contributing their expertise and experience to the conversation.

The EFLM Young Scientist Award

The EFLM Young Laboratory Medicine Professional Award was established to promote excellence and recognize an outstanding young scientist who has made a significant contribution to education or achieved notable scientific accomplishments in the field of laboratory medicine in Europe. The award is presented annually, alternating between the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine Strategic Conference and the EuroMedLab Congress.
This year's recipient, Hikmet Can Çubukçu, is a Medical Biochemistry Specialist and Associate Professor in Medical Biochemistry working under the Turkish Ministry of Health. He has established himself as a highly active researcher and contributor within both EFLM and the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC).
Within EFLM, he serves as Chair of the EFLM Committee Laboratory Error Database and as Young Scientist Member of the EFLM Committee: Accreditation and ISO/CEN Standards. Under IFCC, he is a Member of the Committee on Artificial Intelligence in Laboratory Medicine, Consultant and Member of the Taskforce on Global eLearning/eAcademy, as well as a Member of the Committee on Distance Learning.
Through the EFLM Young Laboratory Medicine Professional Award, Hikmet Can Çubukçu's outstanding professional activity and contributions to laboratory medicine were recognized at the European level, highlighting his important achievements as an early-career professional in the field. **Congratulations!**

LAB

THE EFLM LABORATORY EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

EFLM LABX CORNER

EFLMLabX Exchange Program Report

Reported by **Tuğçin Mutlu**, Turkiye,
EFLM bursary recipient

HOST INSTITUTION: Biological Markers of Nutrition Laboratory of the Lille University Hospital in Lille, France
SUPERVISOR: Dr. Guillaume Grzych
TRAINING PERIOD: December 2025 – March 2026

As part of the EFLM LabX exchange program, I completed a three-month placement (December 2025 – March 2026) at the Biological Markers of Nutrition Laboratory of the Lille University Hospital in Lille, France. I am particularly grateful to Dr. Guillaume Grzych for offering me this incredible opportunity. I would also like to thank Prof. Dr. Tomris Özben, President of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, for her academic guidance and institutional support. This experience greatly enhanced my professional development and also my perspective regarding the social responsibility of laboratory medicine. I am currently working as a resident doctor in the Department of Medical Biochemistry at Balıkesir University Health Application and Research Hospital, Turkiye. **My primary objective was to observe how a laboratory functions within a different healthcare system; however, over time, this experience turned into a learning process that showed me how scientific work directly contributes to public health.**

From the first day, Dr. Guillaume Grzych and his team welcomed me into a warm and supportive environment. They made every effort to make me feel part of their team. Dr. Grzych prepared an academic program tailored to my scientific interests and educational needs and also involved me in an ongoing research project. This was an opportunity that exceeded my expectations, significantly increased my motivation both academically and personally. The atmosphere in the laboratory was friendly and dynamic, and everyone was highly supportive and open to sharing knowledge, which made the learning process effective and enjoyable.

The primary scientific focus of my internship was nitrous oxide and its recreational abuse, and the investigation of the toxicity mechanisms and potential biochemical markers. Due to its increasing recreational use, nitrous oxide has emerged as a significant public health issue, causing severe neurological and metabolic consequences.

Dr. Guillaume Grzych and his team approach this subject not only as a research area, but also as a scientific responsibility. They actively organize public awareness events, engage with the media when necessary, and work to inform all parts of society about nitrous oxide addiction and toxicity. This approach inspired me both scientifically and personally. It showed me that laboratory medicine is not limited to diagnostic procedures; it also encompasses a broader area of responsibility concerning public health.

They have also contributed meaningfully to raising awareness in the scientific community. During my internship, I had the chance to observe the behind the scenes of the NOxForum 2026 Protoside Conference, which was an especially educational experience. Witnessing the preparatory stages of such a platform was profoundly impressive. The conference provides researchers working on nitrous oxide at both biochemical and clinical levels with an opportunity to discuss current developments. It also offers a broadening perspective for young scientists who are just beginning their careers. I was also fortunate to attend the conference and present a poster, both of which were remarkable experiences at this early stage of my career. The conversations I had with clinicians from different backgrounds opened new perspectives that I will carry forward in my practice.

During the internship, I observed laboratory practices that differ from those routinely applied in Turkiye. I also had the chance to work with various technical methods. I observed HPLC and mass spectrometry (MS) techniques. In particular, they utilized an in-house developed method on the LC-MS/MS instrument for measuring methylmalonic acid and homocysteine. Listening to the validation and verification process of this method and learning about the analytical challenges they faced was a valuable experience, deepening my understanding of method development. Furthermore, observing the analysis of vitamins and the clinical validation of the results was highly beneficial for me. The knowledge I gained through cell culture studies and cell culture-based experimental design also strengthened my foundational research skills.

Lille University Hospital is a large institution with an extensive laboratory infrastructure. During this period, I had the opportunity to become familiar with several different laboratory units within the hospital and observe their operations in addition to the nutritional biochemistry laboratory. This experience made me observe how a centralized laboratory structure within a large hospital maximizes operational efficiency and effectiveness.

The life outside the laboratory was also a crucial component of this journey. With its rich culture, daily life and the kindness of its people, Lille enhanced the experience well beyond my expectations.

I know that this internship will significantly contribute to my future professional practice. The technical knowledge, the analytical perspective, the researchers I have met, and the awareness I have gained about the role of laboratory medicine in society will definitely contribute to a more holistic approach in my future practice of clinical biochemistry.

I would like to sincerely thank the EFLMLabX program for making this valuable experience possible, Balıkesir University for its support, and especially Dr. Guillaume Grzych and his entire team for everything they provided throughout this experience. Words cannot express enough gratitude to Dr. Guillaume Grzych for providing the foundation for this unforgettable experience.

EFLM LABX CORNER

EFLMLabX Exchange Program Report

Reported by **Pawel Kozlowski**, Poland,
EFLM bursary recipient

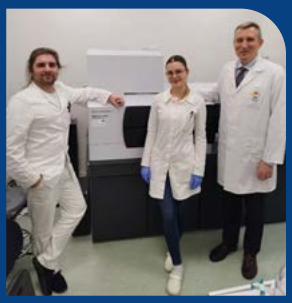
HOST INSTITUTION: Institute of Clinical Laboratory Diagnostics at the University Hospital Center in Osijek (Croatia)
SUPERVISOR: Professor Željko Debeljak
TRAINING PERIOD: February, 2026

With Dr. Tara Rolić in front of the Emergency department of the University Hospital Center in Osijek. Thank you Dr. Tara for being such a kind and supportive colleague.

The EFLM bursary program gave me the opportunity to complete a month-long internship at the Institute of Clinical Laboratory Diagnostics at the University Hospital Center in Osijek, Croatia. I applied to go there because it is a highly specialized laboratory that conducts both routine and a wide range of specialized tests. My application was accepted by Prof. Željko Debeljak, the head of the hosting laboratory. The main goal of my internship was to learn the basics of the MALDI-TOF technique in proteomic analysis and trace element analysis with emission spectroscopy from experienced colleagues, so that I can introduce these two techniques at my workplace in the future. I had a chance to learn about MALDI-TOF from Dr. Robert Grgac, who was not only a very committed and patient teacher, but also became a dear friend. Dr. Ivana Marković introduced me to emission spectroscopy and mass spectrometry. She shared her experience, knowledge, and problem-solving solutions from her own practice. I also had the opportunity to meet wonderful specialists in other fields of laboratory medicine: Ms. Blaženka Dobrošević in flow cytometry, Dr. Marta Žižek in molecular diagnostics, Professor Maria Milić and Ms. Ksenija Paradinović in hematology and hemostasis, and Ms. Jasna Pavela in the immunology department. Last but not least, I would like to mention Ms. Ivana Sarić and Ms. Inja Pavlić, who took care of me and made me feel at home. I also want to express special gratitude to Ms. Tara Rolić, EFLM representative, who made this internship possible—from applying, through paperwork and organizing my training, to the final goodbyes. Tara, please accept my deepest THANK YOU. You are not only a very supportive colleague, but also an excellent laboratory medicine specialist and a role-model mentor for younger professionals.

I would greatly encourage everyone who is considering taking part in the exchange program offered by EFLM not to hesitate and to participate. From my own experience, it is a chance to learn, develop, and build long-lasting friendships with wonderful people.

With Dr. Ivana Marković during training in mass spectrometry.



With Dr. Robert Grgac and Ms. Victorija Ciurila at the one of MALDI-TOF spectrometer.

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: Does the laboratory scale down experiments for education and research/home-made tests when possible?

Section "Energy Management"
ACTION: Have you raised the freezers' temperature setpoint from -80 °C to -70 °C?

Section "Waste Management"
ACTION: Does the lab use central multifunction printers that scan, fax, print and copy, eliminating the need for costly personal printer equipments?

Section "Water Management"
ACTION: Do you have signage with reminders to turn off the water?

this EFLM activity is supported by an unrestricted educational grant by

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"Silver Sponsor"

The EFLM Committee on Green and Sustainable Laboratories (C-GSL) is dedicated not only to advancing sustainability in laboratory medicine, but also to actively sharing the outcomes of its work with the broader professional community. In line with this commitment to transparency and knowledge dissemination — reflected across its activities and communications — the Committee regularly engages in international forums to bring the voice of laboratory medicine into wider sustainability conversations.

The C-GSL Chair, Prof Tomris Ozben has recently attended two international events:

• **The MedTech Europe Forum in Stockholm** was the largest health and medical technology industry congress in Europe and the key event joining industry leaders, leading innovators and investors to discuss the future opportunities in the medical technology and in vitro diagnostic sector. Prof. Ozben served as a panellist in the session titled "Healing the Planet: Global Sustainability Trends Transforming Healthcare" on May 13, 2026. This session explored how healthcare is undergoing a global sustainability shift, examining key trends shaping systems worldwide from climate action to resource management, circular innovation and digital efficiency and what they mean for medical technology leaders. The session took a decidedly international perspective, drawing on voices from global health federations and professional bodies to situate the medtech industry's sustainability agenda within broader worldwide developments, rather than focusing solely on the European regulatory context. Prof. Ozben concluded her words saying that sustainability in healthcare and in laboratory medicine is no longer optional. It is a core dimension of quality, efficiency, and responsibility. If we want to continue delivering high-quality diagnostics, we must do so in a way that is environmentally sustainable and resilient for the future. This requires collaboration across all stakeholders—clinicians, laboratory professionals, industry, policymakers, and patients. But most importantly, it requires a shift in mindset: we must move from seeing sustainability as a constraint to recognizing it as an opportunity to redesign healthcare for the better. Sustainable laboratories are not just better for the planet, but they are essential for the future of high-quality patient care.

• **The XVIII Baltic Association of Laboratory Medicine (BALM) Congress** was held at the Latvian National Library in Riga, Latvia on 14–16 May 2026. BALM established by the societies of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania has become an important platform for scientific collaboration and professional exchange in laboratory medicine. Over the years, BALM congresses have earned an excellent reputation for their high scientific quality and international character. During the congress, Prof. Ozben presented a lecture titled "Navigating Sustainable Advances, Innovations, and Challenges in Laboratory Medicine: A Green Perspective on Current Trends and Obstacles", on May 16. Drawing on emerging trends in the field, the lecture offered a forward-looking perspective on how the laboratory medicine community can align its operations with broader environmental goals, fostering a culture of sustainability that spans resource management, sustainable procurement strategies, sustainable supply chains, efficiency and workflow optimization, technological innovations supporting sustainability, laboratory automation, digital transformation as an enabler of sustainability, rational number of tests, quality improvement and leadership. In the last part of her presentation, she delivered a detailed description of the EFLM initiative aimed to implement sustainable practices in medical laboratories and the EFLM Certification Program for Green and Sustainable laboratories.

Our transition to a Green and Sustainable Laboratory at La Paz University Hospital (Madrid, Spain)

Reported by **Laura González Iglesias**, Mariano Vera Hidalgo and Andrea Rangel de la Mata, on behalf of the Working Group for the "Green and Sustainable Laboratories"* of La Paz University Hospital (Madrid, Spain).

**The Working Group is composed of the following members: Maria Gemma Serrano Olmedo, Isabel Moreno Parro, Carolina González Varea, Helena Méndez de Sol, Alicia López González, Sandra Montagudo Monreal, Raquel Martín García, Margarita Esteban Galeote, Pilar Fernández Calle, Antonio Buño Soto, Blanca Fabre Estremera.*

La Paz University Hospital is a large public tertiary-care academic hospital located in Madrid (Spain). It is one of the main referral centers in Spain, accredited with 36 referral centers for various specialties, providing highly specialized care to a population of more than 500,000 inhabitants. The hospital complex includes general, pediatric, maternity and trauma facilities and integrates healthcare, teaching and research activities.

Sustainability is a strategic priority for the hospital, which has aligned its institutional policies with the Sustainable Development Goals and promotes initiatives focused on environmental protection, efficient resource use and social responsibility. The hospital has been certified under ISO 14001 since 2008, reflecting its long-standing commitment to environmental management. This strategic approach was reinforced with the creation of the Office for the "Sustainable Development and Agenda 2030" in 2021. This commitment was further strengthened in 2024 with the establishment of a multidisciplinary Commission for the "Sustainable Development and Health Determinants", including physicians, nurses, laboratory professionals, waste management unit staff and other healthcare and support personnel, aimed at promoting and coordinating sustainability initiatives across the institution.

Figure 1. *Working Group for the "Green and sustainable laboratories" from La Paz University Hospital (Madrid, Spain).*

In 2024, 312 tons of hazardous waste were generated, of which 14% came from the Department of Laboratory Medicine. Considering these results, and in alignment with the hospital, our Department, accredited under ISO 15189 for more than 25 years, decided to establish sustainability as a strategic priority and create the Working Group for the "Green and Sustainable Laboratories". It is composed of technicians, residents and specialists in laboratory medicine, with the aim of promoting a more sustainable laboratory (Figure 1).
Since its creation, monthly meetings were held to review in detail the 150 verification points of the checklist of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) "Green and sustainable laboratory" certificate. Areas for improvement were identified according to the four areas of the checklist (energy, water, waste and hazardous chemicals).

The sustainable actions that we implemented were the following:

Hazardous chemicals management

(including general actions):

+68%

improvement in the "always/ completed" responses

- The Department of Laboratory Medicine decided to establish sustainability as a strategic priority, with the support of the Medical Director Unit.
- The Working Group for the "Green and sustainable laboratory" was created for leading the implementation of green actions.
- Staff awareness was promoted regarding the carbon footprint generated by clinical laboratories. An online survey distributed among our laboratory staff revealed that the 90% were aware that the laboratory generates a significant carbon footprint and approximately half considered that there had been a significant improvement in sustainability since the creation of the Working Group.
- Regular training sessions were provided to technicians, residents and specialists in laboratory medicine as part of our Continuous Education Program, addressing the growing need to strengthen sustainability competencies in the laboratory.
- Commission members participated in various sustainability-related events, including "II Quality Day at the Clinical Laboratory" organized by Siemens Healthineers and BioRad Laboratories, "Ecolabs meeting" planned by Siemens Healthineers, and the "Contribution of Health Technology to Environmental Sustainability meeting" meeting coordinated by the Spanish Federation of Healthcare Technology Companies (FENIN).
- Our Department has a demand management lead responsible for coordinating rules and algorithms aimed at optimizing laboratory testing. As an example, approximately 20% of procalcitonin orders were cancelled last year by clinicians following a retesting alert, which prevented measurements when less than 20 hours had elapsed since the previous test.
- An inventory of hazardous and non-hazardous reagents and chemicals according to worker, process and environmental safety was created. Each section is responsible for keeping it updated at least once a year.

Waste management

+4%

improvement in the "always/ completed" responses

- Waste management was reviewed in collaboration with the Waste Management Unit, and infographics were created for waste classification adapted to each workplace.
- To learn more about the waste collection, storage, distribution and disposal, visits to the hospitals recycling center and waste treatment plant were organized.
- Inclusion of sustainability management in safety inspections to review how waste is segregated and identify potential areas for improvement.
- Efforts were made to promote a circular economy model, and to reduce, reuse and recycle as much as possible. As an example, other Departments are reusing remaining freezer packs from our laboratory.
- Efforts were made to reduce paper by digitalizing records; one example is the digitalization of the sperm bank records at the Andrology and Assisted Reproduction Unit.
- Sustainability criteria were incorporated into tenders, inviting suppliers to join laboratory's efforts to introduce good environmental practices.
- Collaboration with suppliers was encouraged, particularly focusing on packaging redesign, minimizing plastic and paper content.

Energy management

+50%

improvement in the "always/ completed" responses

• To improve the daily shutdown of computers and devices after working hours, green and red stickers were placed depending on whether they have to be turned off or not.
• It has been ensured that computers, printers and scanners have energy-saving or sleep mode enabled.
• Freezer temperatures were increased from -80oC to -70oC.
• Energy efficiency was included as a criterion for the selection of a new analyzer.
• The use of sensor-activated lighting has been proposed for corridors and low-traffic areas, such as storage rooms.

Water management

+64%

improvement in the "always/ completed" responses

• Awareness posters were created and displayed throughout the laboratory.
• Maintenance at the hospital is immediately informed of any leak
• In public procurement tenders for the acquisition of new laboratory analyzer, water consumption is included as a criterion.

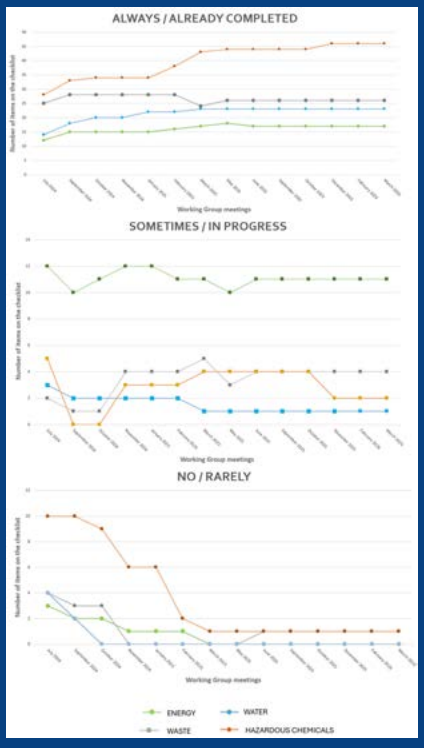


Figure 2. *Evolution of the EFLM "Green and sustainable laboratory" checklist across the different domains.*

To follow the progress of the checklist items since the beginning, indicators were designed, which are reviewed at each meeting (Figure 2). Finally, in June 2025, we became the first public clinical laboratory with the EFLM "Green and sustainable laboratory" certificate in Spain (Figure 3).
From the Working Group for the "Green and Sustainable Laboratories" of our hospital, we would like to highlight some of the benefits of obtaining EFLM certification: reduced environmental impact, resource optimization, promotion of more efficient and responsible laboratory practices, continuous improvement in sustainability international recognition and fostering a cultural shift among staff toward sustainability awareness.

What will our next steps be in the following months?
The Working Group defined each year sustainability objectives, which are presented to the Medical Director Unit. In 2026, our objectives are:
• Training in Green Laboratories: develop an accredited online course in sustainability for technicians, residents and specialists in laboratory medicine from our Department, and give an additional talk for technicians. Also, generation of QR codes to answer questions about waste disposal in our laboratory.
• Sharing our Green Laboratories experience inside and outside our hospital: give educational talks in other clinical laboratories from our hospital, such as the Department of Genetics, Microbiology or Immunology, and also outside our hospital.
• Review of waste containers: review them and create a container map to improve disposal efficiency.

Additionally, in June, a member of the Working Group will participate in a roundtable discussion about sustainability at the "III Quality Day at the Clinical Laboratory" organized by Siemens Healthineers and BioRad Laboratories.
To sum up, sustainability in the clinical laboratory should be understood as a shared responsibility between patients, healthcare professionals and providers. In this way, the laboratory can become not only a space for diagnosis, prevention and monitoring of diseases, but also an active agent in promoting more sustainable environments.

Figure 3. *Members of Working Group for the "Green laboratories" after obtaining the EFLM "Green and sustainable laboratory" certificate.*

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.

EFLM position statement on the proposed 2025/0404(COD) IVDR Amendment of Article 5.5

Cobbaert C, Neumaier M, Capoluongo E, Mullier F, Orth M, Streichert T , Bhattoa HP, Bossuyt P, Biaggini Barbosa L, Plebani M, Zima T, On behalf of the European Federation of Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) Committee "European Regulatory Affairs" (C-ERA)
Clin Chem Lab Med 2026

Essential laboratory tests in emergencies; on behalf of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) Committee on Preparation of Laboratories for Emergencies (C-PLE)

Lippi G, Alkhazashvili M, Banuls Laetitia M Y , Cadamuro J, Danese E, García de Guadiana Romualdo L , Delacour H, Favaloro E J , Favresse J, Henry B M , Jovičić S, Kütt M, Ozben T , Peoc'h K, Peretz A , Perović A , Quaresima V, Thachil J, Yucel D , Plebani M, on behalf of the EFLM Committee on Preparation of Laboratories for Emergencies (C-PLE)
Clin Chem Lab Med 2026

Albumin-adjusted ("corrected") calcium should no longer be reported: a position statement from the Joint IOF Working Group and IFCC Committee on Bone Metabolism and EFLM Committee on CKD

Cavalier E, Zima T, Plebani M, Langlois M, Harvey NC, McCloskey EV, Rizzoli R, Makris K, Vasikaran S, On behalf of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine Committee: Chronic Kidney Diseases and the Joint International Osteoporosis Foundation Working Group and International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine Committee on Bone metabolism On behalf of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine Committee: Chronic Kidney Diseases and the Joint International Osteoporosis Foundation Working Group and International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine Committee on Bone metabolism
Clin Chem Lab Med 2026

Establishing the laboratory error database: rationale, methodology, and a practical example

Çubukçu HC, Sonntag O, Lefèvre C, Lorde N, Cosma C, Lippi G, Plebani M, On behalf of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) Committee on Laboratory Error Database (C-LED)
Clin Chem Lab Med 2026

Current practices and harmonization challenges in Alzheimer's disease biomarkers: an EFLM Committee: Harmonization Survey

Agnello L, Dukic L, Akvlediani L, Zaninotto M, on behalf of European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) Committee: Harmonisation (C:H)
Clin Chem Lab Med 2026

Towards the future of Endocrine Laboratory Medicine: defining the role of laboratory medicine specialists to strengthen the clinical–biological partnership – a joint opinion paper of EFLM-C:YS, IFCC TF-YS, and ESE-EYES

Lefèvre C, Vaduva P, Kvasnička A, Lenski M, Senarathne UD, Fares Taie S, Zibar Tomšić K, Rolić T
Clin Chem Lab Med 2026

Science, Quality and Value of Laboratory Medicine

Plebani M, Langlois M, von Meyer A, Vermeersch P, Zaninotto M, Smeets RL, Padoan A, Can Cubukcu H, Monaghan P, Coşkun A, Orth M, Thelen M
Clin Chem Lab Med 2026

PILLS FROM EFLM HISTORY

It happened in Prague...

Reported by **Tara Rolić**, Chair of the EFLM Division of Communication

Pills of EFLM HISTORY

The Communication Division is pleased to announce the introduction of a new regular column in the EuroLabNews newsletter: "Pills of EFLM History". In each issue, we will share brief insights into the history of the EFLM, accompanied by historical photographs that help illustrate its development over time.

If you have any historical photos that you would like to contribute for publication, please contact us at news@eflm.eu.

In April 2026, the EFLM Strategic Conference was held in Prague, Czech Republic, bringing together laboratory medicine professionals from across Europe to discuss the present and future of our profession, patient care, and the evolving role of laboratory medicine in society.

Interestingly, Prague also hosted an EFLM conference in 2001, during the pre-digital photography era. As reflected in these historical photographs, the conference environment and technology of the time — including the large computers then in use — serve as a reminder of how profoundly laboratory medicine and scientific meetings have evolved over the past twenty-five years. Nevertheless, the enthusiasm, collaboration, and dedication of laboratory medicine professionals to improving patient care have remained steadfast and unchanged.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Dr. Petr Kocna from the Czech Society of Clinical Biochemistry and to Mrs. Zina Pecková and the Event Management team from CBT Travel for kindly providing and preserving these valuable historical photographs.

PAST EFLM EVENTS

Past EFLM webinars on demand

Reported by **Lejla Alić**, D:C
Executive Committee Member

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.

Bone forming agents in osteoporosis: to split them or to lump them

On April 7, 2026, Professor Jean-Yves Reginster held a webinar evaluating the interest of using bone-forming agents and discussing the respective advantages of parathyroid hormone receptor agonists and anti-sclerostin antibodies in the management of patients at very high risk of fracture. The session provided the necessary insights to help clinicians select the best treatment strategy to mitigate the impact of osteoporosis on the risk of fracture.
Watch this webinar here.

Reference Intervals versus Decision Limits and their specific qualities

On April 21, 2026, Professor Thomas Streichert hosted a webinar that explained the concept of decision limits and discussed strategies to estimate reference intervals. The session further provided participants with the insights needed to clearly distinguish between a decision limit, a reference limit, and a therapeutic limit.
Watch this webinar here.

Bone Turnover Markers in CKD-associated Osteoporosis

On May 5, 2026, Samuel Vasikaran held a webinar describing how bone turnover markers reflect bone turnover and explaining how to use them in clinical practice in the management of metabolic bone disease, including recent advances in the field. The session concluded by showing participants how to integrate bone turnover markers into clinical decision-making for patients with CKD-associated osteoporosis.
Watch this webinar here.

Neurofilament Light Chain (NfL): The innovative biomarker in Multiple Sclerosis

On May 19, 2026, Samuel Vasikaran held a webinar describing how bone turnover markers reflect bone turnover and explaining how to use them in clinical practice in the management of metabolic bone disease, including recent advances in the field. The session concluded by showing participants how to integrate bone turnover markers into clinical decision-making for patients with CKD-associated osteoporosis.
Watch this webinar here.

EUROMEDLAB
LONDON2027

IFCC International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine
EFLM European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine
Association for Laboratory Medicine

27th IFCC-EFLM EUROMEDLAB CONGRESS OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

LABMEDUK27 of the ASSOCIATION FOR LABORATORY MEDICINE

16-20 MAY 2027
Excel London

UPCOMING EFLM EVENTS

Forthcoming EFLM webinars

Reported by **Lejla Alić**, D:C
Executive Committee Member

We are pleased to announce an exciting lineup of upcoming webinars designed to keep you at the forefront of laboratory medicine. These sessions can be accessed through the EFLM e-learning platform and are completely free of charge for all EFLM Academy members.

Important Note:
A certificate of attendance can be downloaded from the section "Personal area" of the platform starting from the working day following the date of each webinar by all those participants attending the entire webinar.

Accelerated diagnostic chest pain protocols; evidence and pitfalls in implementation

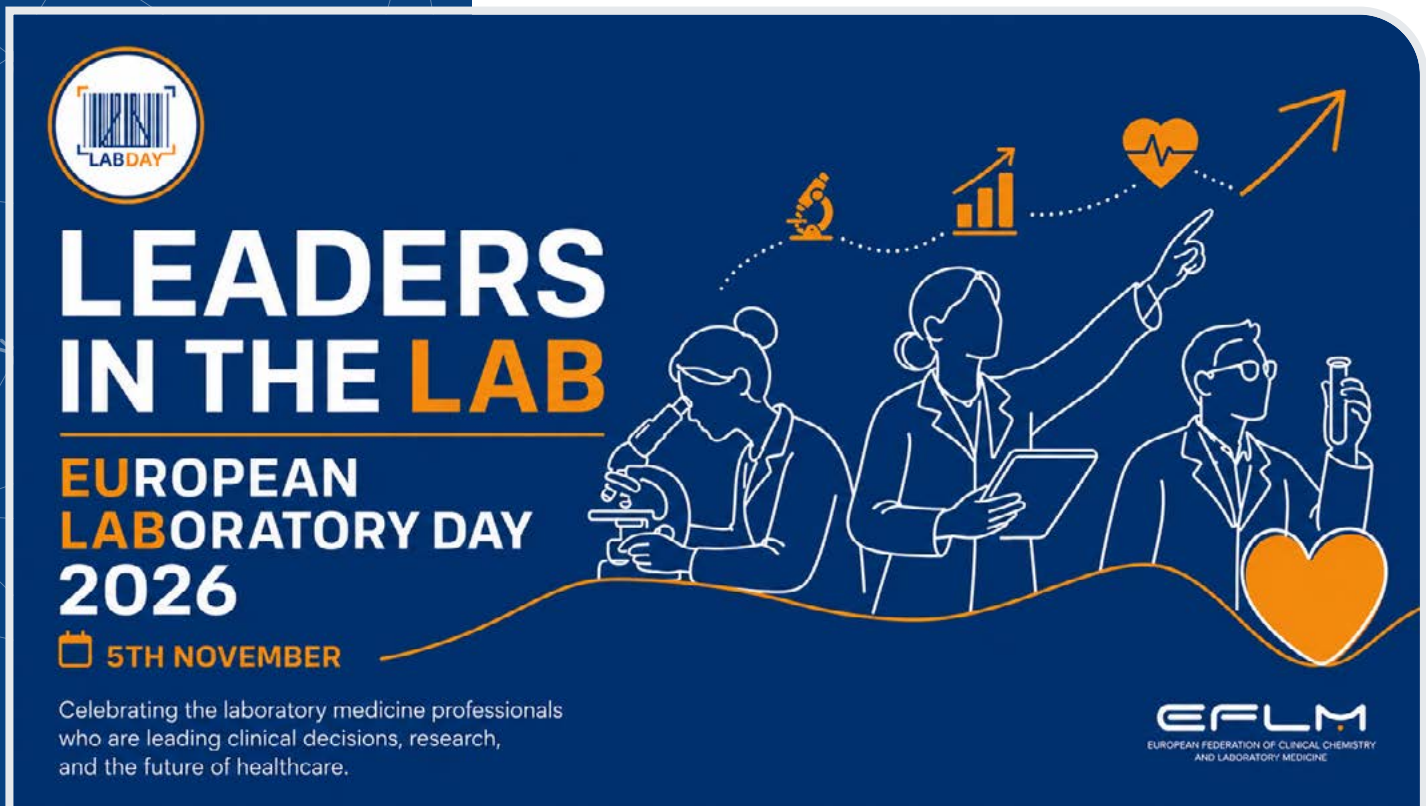
Date: 9th June 2026 at 18:00 (Brussels local time)
Speaker: Kristin Moberg Aakre (Norway)
Register here.

The role of angiogenetic factors in placental disorders

Date: 23rd June 2026 at 18:00 (Brussels local time)
Speaker: Aggeliki Papapanagiotou (Greece)
Register here.

Laboratory Insights into Neurological Disorders: Spinal Cord and Alzheimer's Disease – Challenges and Modern Perspectives

Date: 7th July 2026 at 18:00 (Brussels local time)
Speaker: Nino Bakuradze (Georgia)
Register here.



EQALM Symposium 2026 in Leuven, Belgium

Reported by **Gro Gidske**, EQALM President

The European Organisation for External Quality Assurance in Laboratory Medicine (EQALM) is pleased to announce its 2026 Symposium, which will take place in Leuven, Belgium, from 13–15 October 2026.

EQALM is an umbrella organisation for European External Quality Assurance (EQA) providers in laboratory medicine, offering a platform for collaboration and exchange of knowledge.

The symposium is open to anyone with an interest in EQA. EQA is increasingly central to laboratory medicine across Europe and globally, and EQA data play a key role in monitoring harmonisation of laboratory results and practices across laboratories.

The theme of the symposium, "Where we were, where we are and where we are going to", marks the 30th anniversary of EQALM. The scientific programme will cover key topics including EQA and IT, future risks and opportunities in EQA, the COMET project, and updates from EQALM Working Groups.

Participants are encouraged to submit abstracts for poster presentations, with selected contributions invited for oral presentation. The deadline for abstract submission and early bird registration is 15 July 2026.

Further details, including the programme, registration, and abstract submission, are available at www.eqalm.org.

The symposium is under the Auspices of EFLM and IFCC.

Pictures from the 2025 EQALM Symposium in Leiden, The Netherlands.

From the 2nd Conference of the Scientific Committee of the Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine, held on Feb 19-20 in Alicante

Artificial intelligence strengthens the diagnostic efficiency and analytical capacity of clinical laboratory professionals.

AI acts as a support tool by identifying patterns and relationships between multiple variables that can help prioritize results, stratify risks, and guide diagnostic or follow-up decisions.

No-code and low-code data analysis tools are especially accessible because they eliminate the need for programming, allowing work with visual and intuitive environments.

The routine clinical implementation of artificial intelligence in the laboratory is still limited and heterogeneous. In Spain, its adoption rate is uneven, while training gaps persist in this area.

The clinical laboratory produces large amounts of data that require new forms of analysis to be transformed into useful clinical knowledge. Artificial intelligence (AI) and new data analysis tools offer an opportunity to optimize processes, improve decision-making, and integrate data from multiple sources.

In this context, the Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEMEDLAB), as part of its Scientific Committee Conference held on February 19 and 20 in Alicante, presented the course "Data Modeling in the Clinical Laboratory: Beyond Artificial Intelligence". The course featured the following experts: Dr Daniel Prieto Arribas, Dr Salomón Martín Pérez, Dr Elena de Rafael González and Dr Javier Hernando Redondo. The course aims to familiarize laboratory professionals with data management and analysis and improve its practical application in their daily work.

As explained by Dr. Daniel Prieto Arribas, course coordinator and member of SEMEDLAB's Data Science Committee, the course also incorporated a clear perspective on governance and regulation, helping participants understand the risks and requirements associated with the use of AI systems. As he explains, the training focused on moving from one-off demonstrations to real-world value, "understanding that the biggest challenge is not training a model, but evaluating, interpreting, monitoring, and safely and sustainably integrating it into clinical practice."

Artificial intelligence can strengthen the Clinical Laboratory's activity as a support tool for clinical professionals, allowing them to extract greater value from the data used in daily practice and contributing to improved process efficiency. In clinical practice, as Dr. Prieto Arribas states, "AI can contribute to improving the efficiency and safety of the diagnostic process by optimizing workflows, supporting self-verification, and detecting potential errors."
The use of this technology also facilitates the management of large volumes of data from diverse sources, automating their integration and analysis to transform them into relevant information. In this regard, the doctor emphasizes its ability to "identify patterns and relationships between multiple variables that can help prioritize results, stratify risks and guide diagnostic or follow-up decisions, always as a complement to clinical judgment and under professional supervision.

Limited and Heterogeneous Implementation

The routine clinical implementation of artificial intelligence in the laboratory is still limited and heterogeneous. According to Dr. Prieto Arribas, the greatest advances in its implementation focus on the use of advanced analytics and rules for quality control and operational management, such as monitoring response times, demand management, and incident detection. "There are also specific applications in areas such as hematology, with systems supporting automated morphology; microbiology, with tools for identifying resistance patterns; and biochemistry, with models oriented toward predicting processes such as sepsis or kidney disease," explains the clinical laboratory professional.

In Spain, the degree of adoption is also uneven among centers. Its use is more frequent in data analysis projects, dashboards, and pilot programs. As the expert asserts, "there is a national strategic framework for digital health, along with funding and transformation initiatives, which is progressively favoring the development of projects based on the use of data and artificial intelligence." The heterogeneity of its integration should be viewed within a context characterized by the lack of formal training in data analysis or AI for clinical laboratory professionals during their initial training. "This creates a gap between the potential of these tools and their actual use in clinical practice," the specialist emphasizes.

To overcome these shortcomings, Dr. Prieto Arribas stresses the need to incorporate basic data and AI literacy, "focused on understanding what type of data the laboratory generates, how it is analyzed, what the limitations of the models are, and what risks may arise." This training, he indicates, should be practical, applied to real laboratory cases, and geared towards the interpretation and supervision of the tools, rather than technical development.

Within this framework, and with the aim of bringing data closer to Laboratory Medicine, the course introduced no-code and low-code AI tools, characterized by their accessibility due to eliminating the need for programming. "This allows clinicians to focus on understanding the data, its context, and how it relates, without relying on advanced technical knowledge," explains the expert.

Dr. Prieto Arribas emphasizes that the true value of artificial intelligence in the Clinical Laboratory lies not in the technology itself, but in how it is integrated into real-world processes and daily practice. "For these tools to be beneficial, they must be understandable, auditable, and aligned with existing care pathways, with continuous evaluation of their impact and potential risks, always aimed at generating real value in clinical practice," he summarizes.

Dr Salomon Martin Pérez during his presentation entitled: An Introduction to Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare.

IFCC News

Dear colleagues,
Laboratory medicine is central to healthcare and directly influences medical decisions regarding diagnosis, treatment, and disease monitoring. Our global community continues to promote knowledge-sharing, innovation, and collaboration.
In this issue, you can read the message of our President, Prof. Tomris Ozben, highlighting key outcomes of the 5th EFLM Strategic Conference held in Prague on April 24–25, 2026. Prof. Ozben also emphasizes the importance of strong collaboration among laboratory medicine professionals and invites us to participate in the forthcoming IFCC WorldLab in New Delhi in October 2026, and in EuroMedLab 2027 in London in May 2027.
You can also read exciting news from the IFCC Visiting Lecturer Programme and the IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Programme, as well as from the IFCC Emerging Technologies Division, and some of its Committees and Working Groups. Their contributions continue to shape the future of laboratory medicine in the digital era. Furthermore, meet the members of the IFCC Task Force for Young Scientists, committed to fostering the next generation of professionals and strengthening the global Young Scientists network.
The Japan Society of Clinical Chemistry and the Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine share important news, along with the news from the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence program.
It is with great pleasure that we welcome one Corporate Member, bioMérieux, and two Affiliate Members: Association for Medical Updates (AMU - India) and the Mexican Federation of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (FEMPAC/ML) to our global community. We look forward to working together to advance healthcare and promote the development of laboratory medicine worldwide.

Marilena Stamouli

AI Implementation Contest ETD Recognition for Innovation

The Committee on Artificial Intelligence in Laboratory Medicine (C-AILM) of the IFCC Emerging Technologies Division (ETD) are pleased to announce an AI Implementation Contest showcasing real-world applications of AI in clinical laboratories. The initiative aims to enhance understanding of AI implementation and foster peer learning, particularly regarding key technical aspects across the AI/ML implementation pipeline.
Submissions may describe discriminative AI systems, such as prediction models, or generative AI systems, including large language models, implemented or currently being implemented in clinical laboratory settings. Applications may involve in-house or externally developed systems, including commercial products, whether regulatory-approved or not.
Participants should provide information on intended use, validation or verification studies, performance metrics, workflow integration, and post-deployment quality control and monitoring strategies. Both published and unpublished applications are welcome. The contest is open globally.
The contest is open for global submission. Click here for accessing the survey.

Deadline for submissions is July 1, 2026.

Entries will be evaluated by the C-AILM based on the quality of the use-case scenario, validation approach, and QC and monitoring strategy. First-, second-, and third-place winners, together with honorable mentions, will receive the IFCC ETD Recognition for Innovation. Awardees will also be invited to present their experiences at an IFCC Webinar, and their work will be featured through IFCC communication channels, including eNews, the C-AILM website, and social media platforms. All submitted data will remain confidential and used solely for evaluation purposes.

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EFLM Webinar
Accelerated diagnostic chest pain protocols; evidence and pitfalls in implementation
on-line, 9 June 2026

LabMedUK26
Birmingham (UK), 8-10 June 2026

1st CARDIOIMPACT Summit
Belgrade (RS) 11-12 June 2026

EFLM Webinar
The role of angiogenetic factors in placental disorders
on-line, 23 June 2026

EFLM Webinar
Laboratory Insights into Neurological Disorders: Spinal Cord and Alzheimer's Disease – Challenges and Modern Perspectives
on-line, 7 July 2026

D4 - Data Driven Digital Diagnostics
Salzburg (AT), 11-12 September 2026

40th Nordic Congress in Clinical Biochemistry
Aarhus (DK), 15-18 September 2026

21th Congress of the Polish Society for laboratory Diagnostics
Białystok (PL), 16-19 September 2026

International XXIV Congress of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine
Belgrade (RS) 23-25 September 2026

Cardiac Marker Dialogues
Glasgow (UK), 24-25 September 2026

7th Slovenian Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine with international participation
Portorož (SI), 5-6 October 2026

EQALM Symposium 2026
Leuven (BE), 13-15 October 2026

12th Congress of the Croatian Society of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine with international participation
Srebreno (HR), 15-18 October 2026

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The Second Congress of the Kosovo Association of Clinical Chemistry (KACC)
Prishtina (XK), 5-6 November 2026

48th Annual Conference of the Association of Clinical Biochemists in Ireland
Dublin (IE), 6-7 November 2026

Annual Meeting of RBSLM
Brussels (BE), 18-19 November 2026

SFBC Symposium
Bordeaux (FR), 4 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