

04

July • August
2026

EuroLab News

THE EFLM BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



LEADERS IN THE LAB

EUROPEAN
LABORATORY DAY

2026

5TH NOVEMBER



Celebrating the laboratory medicine professionals
who are leading clinical decisions, research and the
future of healthcare

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Foreword

This Summer 2026 issue of EFLM EuroLabNews highlights the increasingly strategic role of laboratory medicine in European healthcare, with a strong emphasis on multidisciplinary collaboration, harmonisation, professional development, and innovation.

Looking ahead, readers are invited to explore the President's message, **The Journey to EuroMedLab 2027 Begins**, which offers a glimpse into the preparations for the next EuroMedLab Congress and the exciting opportunities it will bring to the Laboratory Medicine community.

A major highlight is EFLM's participation in the **European Parliament event on cardiovascular health**, demonstrating the Federation's growing engagement in European health policy. The contribution of laboratory medicine to prevention, early diagnosis, evidence-based care, and integrated cardiovascular pathways is increasingly recognised as an essential component of addressing major public health challenges.

The issue also draws attention to opportunities for professional engagement within EFLM, including vacancies in the **Committee on Biological Variation** and preparations for the next **EFLM Academy block enrolment**. These initiatives underline the importance of active participation by National Societies and individual professionals in shaping the future of laboratory medicine across Europe.

Several important surveys launched by EFLM Functional Units seek to better understand current laboratory practice and inform future guidance. These include surveys on **albumin-adjusted calcium reporting**, **laboratory practices in chronic kidney disease**, and the **ethical and regulatory aspects of storing and reusing residual biological samples**. Together, these initiatives exemplify EFLM's commitment to evidence-based harmonisation and to ensuring that professional recommendations are grounded in real-world practice.

The **Young Scientists Corner** reinforces the Federation's investment in the next generation of laboratory professionals, while the **EFLMLabX Exchange Programme** provides a compelling example of the value of international mobility and knowledge exchange. The experience of training in advanced mass spectrometry applications for inherited metabolic diseases demonstrates how such programmes can strengthen technical expertise, foster collaboration, and ultimately improve diagnostic capabilities.

Sustainability remains an important priority, with practical recommendations from the **EFLM Committee on Green & Sustainable Laboratories** addressing chemical use, energy consumption, waste management, and water conservation. At the same time, the newly established **Committee on Endocrine Laboratory Medicine** opens an important platform for advancing harmonisation, quality improvement, education, and collaboration in endocrine diagnostics.

The issue also showcases recent EFLM scientific publications, covering quality management in chromatography, anti-ENA testing, and European regulatory developments concerning the IVDR. These contributions reinforce EFLM's role in translating scientific evidence and regulatory developments into practical guidance for laboratory professionals.

Finally, the historical feature revisiting the first **EFLM Strategic Conference in Milan** offers a valuable reflection on the enduring legacy of the **Milan Consensus** on analytical performance specifications. The interview with Prof. Mauro Panteghini reminds us that the true impact of strategic initiatives lies not only in reaching consensus but also in transforming consensus into sustained professional action that ultimately serves patients and society.

Overall, this issue presents a vibrant and forward-looking laboratory medicine community—one that is increasingly engaged in European health policy, committed to harmonisation and evidence-based practice, attentive to ethical and environmental responsibilities, and dedicated to nurturing the next generation of laboratory professionals.



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

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Highlights



A message from the EFLM President

The journey to EuroMedLab 2027 begins



**EUROMEDLAB
LONDON 2027**



Dear Readers,

It is my great pleasure, on behalf of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM), to invite you to **EuroMedLab 2027**, the 27th European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, jointly organised by IFCC and EFLM in collaboration with LABMEDUK27 of the Association for Laboratory Medicine. The congress will take place in London, United Kingdom, from **16–20 May 2027**.

EuroMedLab is **Europe's leading congress in Laboratory Medicine** and one of the world's most prestigious scientific events in the field. For decades, it has been and continues to be a reference point for innovation, scientific excellence and the advancement of our profession, bringing together the international Laboratory Medicine community to address the challenges and opportunities shaping the future of healthcare.

Under the leadership of the EFLM Past President, **Prof. Mario Plebani**, the Scientific Programme Committee has developed an outstanding programme that will bring together internationally recognised experts to present the latest scientific advances and future directions in Laboratory Medicine.

EuroMedLab 2027 will also host **the largest European exhibition dedicated to in vitro diagnostics**, providing delegates with the opportunity to discover cutting-edge technologies and engage with the companies driving innovation in laboratory diagnostics.

Hosted at London's renowned ExCeL Convention Centre, EuroMedLab 2027 is committed to delivering a sustainable and innovative congress experience.

As we begin the journey towards London, I am delighted to announce that each issue of the EFLM Newsletter will bring you previews of the congress programme, scientific highlights, keynote speakers and the latest news from EuroMedLab 2027. I invite you to discover in the following pages the first dedicated feature on the Opening Lecture, which will mark the beginning of this exciting scientific journey.

I look forward to welcoming you to London in May 2027.

Tomas Zima
EFLM President

THE EFLM EXECUTIVE BOARD INFORMS

EFLM represented at the European Parliament Event on Cardiovascular Health

Reported by **Tomáš Zima**, EFLM President



EFLM was honoured to be invited to participate in the high-level event “Imaging Saves Lives: The Role of Imaging in Improving Cardiovascular Health”, which took place at the European Parliament in Brussels on 2 July 2026.

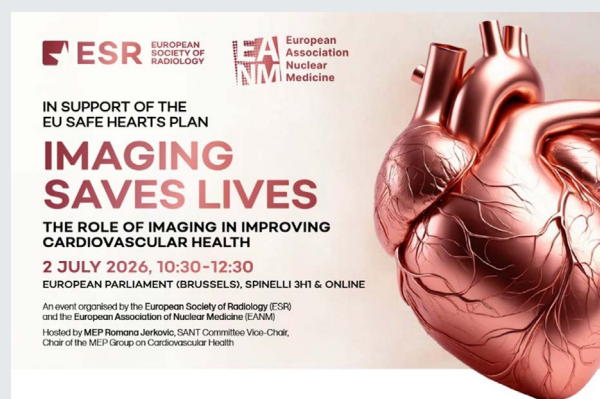
The event was organised by the European Society of Radiology (ESR) in collaboration with the European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM) and brought together policymakers, healthcare professionals, patient representatives, and other key stakeholders to discuss the contribution of medical imaging to cardiovascular prevention, diagnosis, and patient care across Europe.

EFLM was represented by its President-Elect, Prof. Damien Gruson, who attended the meeting on behalf of the Federation. Prof. Gruson has extensive expertise in cardiovascular health and diagnostics, particularly in the field of cardiac biomarkers, laboratory medicine, and emerging technologies. He is actively involved in several European cardiovascular initiatives and policy platforms, including the Heart Failure Policy Network, where he contributes to advancing strategies for the early detection and management of cardiovascular diseases. He is also a Fellow of the European Society of Cardiology and of the Heart Failure Association, reflecting his longstanding commitment to improving cardiovascular care across Europe.

His participation highlighted **EFLM's commitment to contributing to European health policy discussions** and to fostering multidisciplinary collaboration aimed at improving patient outcomes through innovation, prevention, and evidence-based healthcare.

The event focused on the implementation of the European Union's Safe Hearts Plan and explored how advanced diagnostic approaches, including medical imaging and laboratory medicine, can support earlier detection of cardiovascular diseases, optimise care pathways, and strengthen public health strategies throughout Europe.

The invitation extended to EFLM, as the leading European organisation in the field of laboratory medicine, reflects the growing recognition of the strategic contribution of laboratory medicine to addressing major public health challenges. Through its active engagement in European policy discussions and multidisciplinary initiatives, EFLM remains committed to promoting innovation, evidence-based diagnostics, and integrated care pathways that contribute to better cardiovascular health outcomes across Europe.



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assessment



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Sample input
& output

EFLM OFFICE INFORMS

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

Reported by **Alessia Carere**, EFLM Office

We wish to inform you of the vacancy in the EFLM Committee "Biological Variation", chaired by Prof Sverre Sandberg and located under the EFLM Division "Science: Value-based Laboratory Medicine".

We are now calling for nominations for:

- 1 Full 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 **October 1** 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.

EFLM ACADEMY BLOCK ENROLMENT

Prepare in advance and make the most of this opportunity to maximise the benefits for your members

Reported by **Silvia Terragni**, EFLM Office

Before wishing you a pleasant summer, we would like to share a quick reminder on the EFLM Academy and the block enrolment process for your Members. If your National Society has signed a Block Enrolment Agreement, you can already access your **National Society Dashboard** and complete a few preliminary steps to prepare for the next block enrolment period, which will be open from **7 November to 16 December 2026**. We recommend that you:

- **Review your National Society Profile** and update any missing information.
- **Check your EFLM Academy Members' list** to verify the status of members currently registered in the Academy database.

As a practical first step, we suggest downloading the Excel file available in the National Society Dashboard, which contains the list of all EFLM Academy members currently affiliated with your National Society. This list also includes members who joined the Academy on an individual basis. During the renewal period (available from **7 November**), you will have the opportunity to transfer these members to your National Society's block enrolment, allowing them to continue enjoying Academy benefits through your agreement.

We look forward to working with you in the upcoming enrolment period.



The **EFLM Academy** is a package of professional benefits for Specialists in Laboratory Medicine through which EFLM aims to support the education, training, and continuous professional development of laboratory medicine practitioners in Europe. If your National Society has not yet joined the EFLM Academy through a Block Enrolment Agreement and you would like to learn more about the advantages, please do not hesitate to contact us at eflm@eflm.eu. We will be pleased to provide further information!

**Want to monitor preanalytical quality across a multi-site collection network?
See how CATLAB AIE uses the PAQC customer access programme to oversee 43 primary care centres.**

BD Specimen Management Professional Services - Preanalytical Quality Check Customer Access Programme in Catlab AIE

With three hospitals, 43 primary care centres, and around 3,000 requests handled every day, **CATLAB AIE** needed to move beyond paper checklists and manual reporting. In this customer testimonial, **Lab Manager Raúl Santamaría** and his team explain how the PAQC customer access programme supports continuous improvement, feeds the annual feedback sessions held with collection staff at each centre, and contributes to their ongoing ISO 15189 accreditation for the preanalytical phase.



Watch the full customer story at your convenience.

Watch the customer testimonial



Scan to
watch on
mobile

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

Finnish Society of Clinical Chemistry

We are pleased to inform you that Kristina Hotakainen (Dept. of Clinical Chemistry and Haematology, University of Helsinki, Finland) is the new National Representative of the Finnish Society of Clinical Chemistry, replacing Kari Pulkki.

NEWS FROM THE EFLM FUNCTIONAL UNITS

EuLabDay2026 Is Calling All Leaders in the Lab

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



As part of EuLabDay2026, EFLM is launching Leaders in the Lab: a new initiative celebrating the laboratory professionals who are shaping the future of healthcare across Europe.

We invite Young Scientists from across the EFLM community to share their stories of innovation, leadership, and impact in laboratory medicine. Whether you are advancing research, improving diagnostics, promoting education, supporting patients, or driving positive change in healthcare, we want to hear your story. You are also welcome to nominate a colleague whose achievements deserve recognition.

A dedicated submission form and further details will be available soon. Keep an eye on the EFLM website, social media channels, and newsletters for the official launch.

Every submission will become part of the EuLabDay2026 Leaders in the Lab campaign,

showcasing the people driving the future of laboratory medicine. In addition, a selected group of young scientists will receive personalised communication support to help transform their stories into media-ready features in the lead-up to EuLabDay on 5 November 2026.

If you-or someone you know-is helping shape the future of laboratory medicine, we would love to hear from you!

Help us spread the word!

Follow EFLM on social media, subscribe to our mailing list, and keep up to date through the [EFLM website](#) to be among the first to hear about the official launch of the Leaders in the Lab campaign and other EuLabDay2026 activities.

Be ready for EuLabDay2026 on 5 November together, let's celebrate the leaders shaping the future of laboratory medicine!



NEWS FROM THE EFLM FUNCTIONAL UNITS

Should we still be reporting adjusted calcium? An EFLM–SFBC international survey wants to hear from you

On behalf of the EFLM Committee on the Post-analytical Phase and the SFBC Working Group “Sources of Error in Clinical Biochemistry”

Access the survey here:
<https://survey.eflm.eu/index.php/957867?lang=en>

Deadline: 30th September 2026



Background - Albumin-adjusted (“corrected”) calcium has been part of routine laboratory reporting for decades, yet the evidence supporting it has always been thin. The debate was brought to a head in April 2026, when a joint position statement from the IOF–IFCC Working Group and Committee on Bone Metabolism and the EFLM Committee on Chronic Kidney Diseases recommended that albumin-adjusted calcium should no longer be reported [1]. The authors argue that including albumin in the calculation increases analytical variation, resists harmonisation because performance depends on the local albumin method and case-mix, and can misclassify patients around clinical decision limits. Position statements shape guidance, but they do not, on their own, tell us what laboratories and clinicians actually do at the bench and at the bedside. Before the community can move forward, it needs an accurate picture of current practice across countries, analytical platforms, and specialties.

Why this survey - To capture that picture, the EFLM Committee on the Post-analytical Phase and the SFBC Working Group “Sources of Error in Clinical Biochemistry” have launched an international survey on the use of adjusted calcium. The aim is to map real-world practice on both sides of the report: how laboratories measure and adjust calcium, and how clinicians order, interpret, and act on the results. Crucially, the survey has two dedicated tracks so that both perspectives are captured directly rather than inferred:

- **Laboratory medicine professionals** are asked about their analytical methods for total calcium, albumin and total protein; the availability of (and barriers to) ionised calcium; whether and which adjustment formula they use; the populations and albumin thresholds to which they apply it; reasons for not reporting it; the use of total calcium to flag anticoagulant (EDTA/citrate) contamination; and reflex-testing strategies in dyscalcaemia.
- **Clinicians** are asked how often they order ionised calcium and in which populations; whether their laboratory reports adjusted calcium; whether they compute it themselves and how; and whether the adjusted value influences their diagnostic and therapeutic decisions. Both tracks close by asking whether respondents are aware of the recent position statement, providing a first read on how quickly new guidance is reaching practice.

Take part - The survey contains 46 questions and takes about 10 minutes to complete. Responses are collected and analysed only in aggregated form; no personally identifiable information is recorded, and individual responses cannot be traced back to participants. The results will be shared with the community through a scientific publication. Whether you work in a laboratory or on the ward, your input will make the findings more representative — please take a few minutes to contribute, and share the link with colleagues in both laboratory medicine and clinical specialties.

On behalf of all members of the working group, we warmly thank you for your support and contribution.

Reference

1. Cavalier E, Zima T, Plebani M, Langlois M, Harvey NC, McCloskey EV, Rizzoli R, Makris K, Vasikaran S, on behalf of the EFLM Committee: Chronic Kidney Diseases and the Joint IOF Working Group and IFCC Committee on Bone Metabolism. Albumin-adjusted (“corrected”) calcium should no longer be reported: a position statement. Clin Chem Lab Med. 2026 Apr 20 (Epub ahead of print). doi:10.1515/cclm-2026-0545. PMID: 42035248.

Residual biological samples: EFLM Committee on Ethics launches a survey on storage and secondary use

Reported by **Olga Martyna Koper-Lenkiewicz**, on behalf of the EFLM Committee on Ethics in Laboratory Medicine

Access the survey here:
<https://survey.eflm.eu/index.php/375621?newtest=Y&lang=en>

Deadline: 30th September 2026



Residual biological samples – material left over once routine testing is complete – support research, quality assurance and method validation. Laboratories hold them in large numbers and can use them without drawing a fresh specimen from the patient. Their storage and secondary use nevertheless raise ethical, legal and privacy questions, because the material was collected for diagnostic purposes and remains connected to the person who provided it.

Where the gap lies. Several frameworks touch on this practice: the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the European Union In Vitro Diagnostic Regulation (IVDR), the Declaration of Helsinki and the Oviedo Convention. None offers unified guidance for laboratory medicine. What follows is variability. Institutions and countries differ in how patient consent is sought, whether and how samples are anonymised, how long material is kept, and at what organisational level it is reused.

The survey. The European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) Committee “C: Ethics in Laboratory Medicine” is circulating a survey to establish what medical and laboratory personnel know about this area, what they do in practice, and what they think should change. Its thematic blocks cover:

- A. Respondent and institution profile: country, professional group, experience, education and type of institution.
- B. Knowledge of the applicable principles and regulatory frameworks, and the sources of regulation met in daily work.
- C. Workplace practice: storage duration, purposes of secondary use, consent models, level of anonymisation, organisational level of use and collaborative structures, and the regulations or policies actually applied.
- D. Opinions on the ethical acceptability of using fully anonymised samples, on whether consent should always be required irrespective of anonymisation, and on respondents’ confidence in and comfort with practice at their own institution.
- E. Legal opinions and the need for regulation: adequacy of current national law, perceived risks, sample types considered most sensitive, information and financial benefit-sharing where samples are used commercially, the need for clear guidelines, readiness to implement them, and barriers to implementation.
- F. Open questions on respondents’ concerns and on what future guidelines should contain.

Practical information

- Target respondents: specialists of laboratory medicine, with approximately 100 replies expected; distribution via the EFLM mailing list and member societies.
- Completion time: 10-15 minutes.
- Participation is voluntary and anonymous; informed consent is required, answers are analysed in aggregate only, and participants may withdraw at any time. Data

The results will be reported in a publication and will inform comprehensive EFLM guidance on the secondary use of residual biological samples in laboratory medicine. That guidance will only be as good as the evidence behind it. Please complete the survey and pass it to colleagues in your institution.

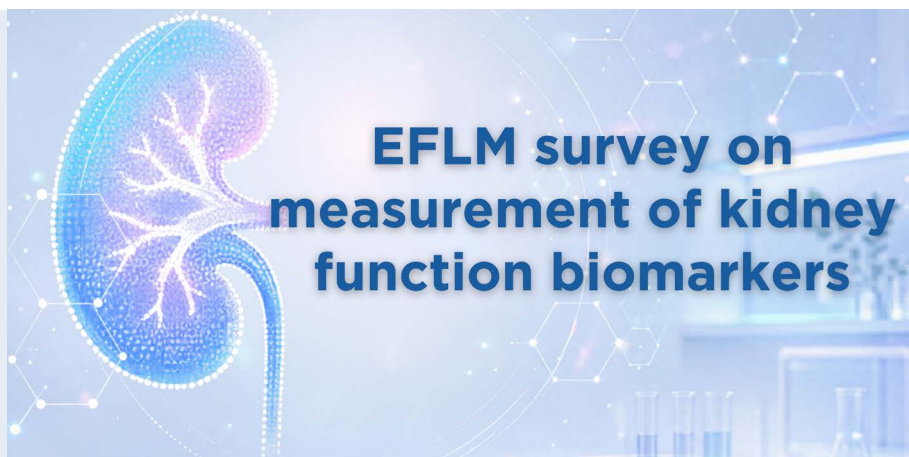
NEWS FROM THE EFLM FUNCTIONAL UNITS

The EFLM Committee on Chronic Kidney Disease (C-CKD) has launched the 2026 European Survey on laboratory practices in the diagnosis and monitoring of chronic kidney disease (CKD)

Reported by **Soren Egstrand** and **Etienne Cavalier**, on behalf of the EFLM Committee on Chronic Kidney Disease

Access the survey here:
<https://survey.eflm.eu/index.php/275753>

Deadline: 15th September 2026



Building on the success of the 2022 survey, this new edition aims to evaluate current practices across Europe and assess the implementation of recent recommendations regarding creatinine, cystatin C, eGFR reporting, urine albumin measurements, measured GFR, and CKD-related biomarkers. We invite all European clinical laboratories to participate. The survey only takes a few minutes to complete, and your contribution is essential to provide an accurate picture of current laboratory practice and to support future harmonization initiatives across Europe.

We kindly ask National Societies and all laboratory professionals to disseminate the survey as widely as possible among their members. Thank you in advance for your valuable contribution to this important EFLM initiative.

YOUNG SCIENTISTS CORNER

Young Scientists Highlight EFLM Initiatives in "Laboratory Medicine for Society"

Reported by **Monica Dugaescu**, Committee Young Scientists Chair

Following the 2026 EFLM Strategic Conference, an opinion paper was published in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (CCLM) highlighting the conference theme, "Laboratory Medicine for Society." The publication emphasizes the expanding role of laboratory medicine in preventive, predictive, personalized, and value-based healthcare while showcasing advances in harmonization, quality assessment, multi-omics, artificial intelligence (AI), automation, integrated diagnostics, leadership, and global collaboration. One of the conference highlights was a dedicated session featuring young scientists, whose presentations were included in the publication. Together, these presentations demonstrated how EFLM initiatives are advancing education, collaboration, innovation, and public engagement, reinforcing the essential role of laboratory medicine in improving healthcare across Europe.

Source: Zima T, Plebani M, Sandberg S, et al. Laboratory Medicine for Society. Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (CCLM). 2026. <https://doi.org/10.1515/cclm-2026-0977>

LABORATORY MEDICINE FOR SOCIETY

EFLM STRATEGIC CONFERENCE 2026

EFLM

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF
CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND
LABORATORY MEDICINE



STRATEGIC CONFERENCE

2026

Prague, 23–25 April 2026

THEME

Laboratory Medicine for Society

Preventive. Predictive.
Personalized. Value-based.



PREVENTIVE



PREDICTIVE



PERSONALIZED



VALUE-BASED

BROAD RANGE OF TOPICS COVERED



Value-based
laboratory
medicine



Harmonization



External quality
assessment



Mass
spectrometry



Multi-omics



Artificial
intelligence



Automation



Lipidomics



Integrated
diagnostics



Chronic
diseases



Global
collaboration



Leadership



A dedicated session featuring young scientists was one of the highlights of the conference, and their presentations were included in the published article.

EuLabDay – 5 November



Raise visibility of
laboratory medicine



Engage the public,
professionals &
stakeholders



Showcase people,
technologies &
processes



Celebrate & strengthen
recognition within
healthcare



SPEAKER
Tara Rolić

Digital Competences (AI)



IFCC Working Group on
Digital Competences and
Artificial Intelligence



Leverage AI for better
diagnostics, efficiency
& quality



Address challenges:
transparency, bias,
validation & responsibility



Need for guidelines,
regulatory frameworks &
standardized validation



Explore LLMs & SLMs
for secure, efficient
integration



SPEAKER
Jakob Adler

EFLM LabX



Professional exchange
across Europe



Share knowledge,
expertise & best practices



Personal & professional
development



Build lasting
international
collaborations



SPEAKER
Nataliia Kozopas

EFLM Academy



Comprehensive CPD
platform



Reduced fees for
events & webinars



Eligibility for travel grants



Pathway to EuSpLM
Register (EoS)



EFLM Syllabus Course –
harmonized specialist
education across Europe



SPEAKER
Lejla Alić



Laboratory medicine is essential
for better healthcare for patients and society.



Source: Zima T, Piebani M, Sandberg S, et al.
Laboratory Medicine for Society.
Clin Chem Lab Med (CCLM). 2026.
<https://doi.org/10.1515/cclm-2026-0977>

EFLM

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF
CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND
LABORATORY MEDICINE



EFLM COURSE

MEET THE EXPERT



INTERPRETATION OF LABORATORY RESULTS

Have a challenging case? Submit it and discuss it with the experts!

This course is designed to address selected topics that require expert interpretation of laboratory test results. Each meeting will focus on a specific subject, combining practical experience with scientific discussion. Experts and participants will review real-world data, including challenging or difficult-to-interpret findings and explore their clinical implications. **To ensure the discussion reflects everyday practice, participants are encouraged to submit cases from their own experience before the webinar.** These cases, together with clinical scenarios presented by the faculty, will form the basis for an interactive analysis of relevant diagnostic and management issues.

Format

- Theoretical introduction: 15 minutes
- Case presentations and discussion (including participant-submitted cases): approximately 15 minutes per case, for a total of 4–6 cases (about 90 minutes)
- Interactive Q&A session and key take-home messages: 15 minutes

*Always at
h. 16:00 CET*

WHEN:

**24 September 2026
19 November 2026
26 November 2026**

This is a free opportunity for EFLM Academy Members in order with the annual fee 2026

Registration at:
<https://www.eflm-elearning.eu>

HOST INSTITUTION: Laboratory of Inherited Metabolic Diseases, Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù, Rome (Italy)**SUPERVISOR:** Dr Cristiano Rizzo**TRAINING PERIOD:** January - February 2026

Participating in the EFLMLabX Exchange Programme gave me the opportunity to spend two months, from January to February 2026, at the Laboratory of Inherited Metabolic Diseases of Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù in Rome. The main objective of my stay was to expand my knowledge of peroxisomal disorders, an area of inherited metabolic diseases in which I was particularly interested in gaining practical experience. The exchange provided an excellent opportunity to deepen my knowledge of mass spectrometry applied to the diagnosis of inherited metabolic diseases. During my stay, I gained experience with both liquid chromatography–tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) and gas chromatography–mass spectrometry (GC-MS), becoming familiar not only with the analytical techniques themselves but also with the principles behind method development, optimisation, validation and interpretation of biochemical results. A particular highlight was learning the multimethod LC-MS/MS approach used for the diagnosis of peroxisomal disorders. This method allows the simultaneous analysis of very long-chain fatty acids, bile acid intermediates, phytanic acid and pristanic acid, providing a comprehensive biochemical evaluation of these disorders. I also had the opportunity to learn the GC-MS method for plasmalogen analysis, another key investigation in the biochemical diagnosis of peroxisomal diseases. Although my initial focus was on peroxisomal disorders, the experience naturally extended to many other areas of inherited metabolic diseases. I gained insight into the biochemical diagnosis of amino acid disorders, organic acidurias, fatty acid oxidation defects, lysosomal diseases, oligosaccharidoses and many other inborn errors of metabolism, while also observing the optimisation and implementation of new mass spectrometry-based methods for clinical diagnostics. This broader exposure gave me a better understanding of the organisation and workflow of a specialised metabolic laboratory and of the continuous innovation required to improve diagnostic capabilities in rare diseases. Beyond the technical aspects, one of the most valuable parts of the exchange was working in a laboratory where advanced analytical technologies are fully integrated into routine clinical diagnostics. Seeing how different mass spectrometry platforms complement each other and how biochemical investigations are carefully selected and interpreted reinforced my appreciation of the essential role of laboratory medicine in the diagnosis of inherited metabolic diseases. Equally important was the human aspect of the experience. From my first day, I was warmly welcomed and made to feel part of the team. Everyone was always willing to explain procedures, discuss analytical strategies and share their experience, creating an excellent environment for learning.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my tutor, Dr Cristiano Rizzo, for his guidance, patience and continuous support throughout my stay. I am also grateful to Prof. Carlo Dionisi Vici, Head of the Metabolic Unit, for giving me the opportunity to train in such an outstanding reference centre. My sincere thanks also go to Dr Sara Boenzi, Dr Michela Semeraro, and to Giulio Catenesi and Elisa Sacchetti, whose willingness to explain laboratory procedures, discuss analytical approaches and generously share their experience created an exceptional

learning environment throughout my stay.

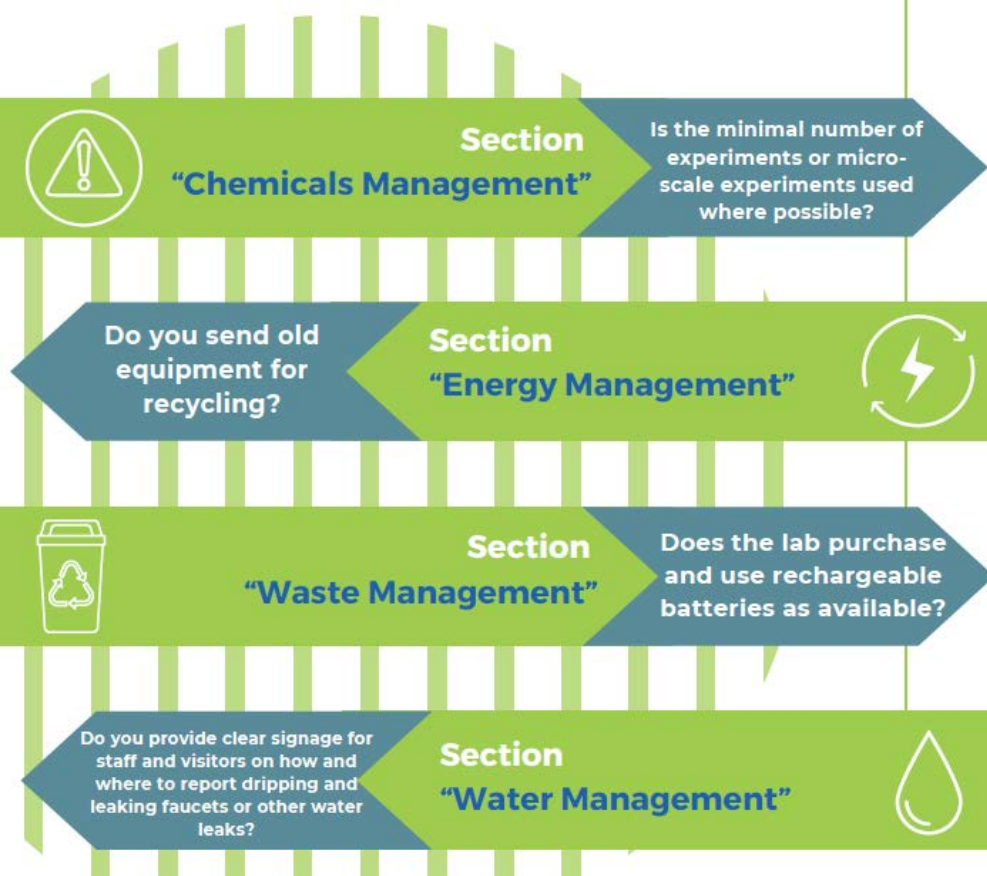
Living in Rome for two months was also an important part of the experience. Beyond the laboratory, it gave me the opportunity to discover a new city, experience a different healthcare and research environment, and appreciate the value of international collaboration in laboratory medicine.

Finally, I would like to thank the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) for supporting this initiative through the EFLMLabX Exchange Programme. Programmes like this create valuable opportunities for young laboratory medicine professionals to learn from leading European centres, exchange knowledge and establish collaborations that continue well beyond the duration of the exchange.

I returned to my home institution with new technical skills, a deeper understanding of mass spectrometry in inherited metabolic diseases, and many ideas that I hope to apply in my own laboratory. I would strongly encourage other young laboratory medicine professionals to participate in the EFLMLabX Exchange Programme and take advantage of this unique opportunity for professional development.



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 the minimal number of experiments or micro-scale experiments used where possible?

✓ **Section "Energy Management"**

ACTION: Do you send old equipment for recycling?

✓ **Section "Waste Management"**

ACTION: Does the lab purchase and use rechargeable batteries as available?

✓ **Section "Water Management"**

ACTION: Do you provide clear signage for staff and visitors on how and where to report dripping and leaking faucets or other water leaks

this EFLM activity is supported by an unrestricted educational grant by



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NEWS FROM THE EFLM FUNCTIONAL UNITS

Follow the New LinkedIn Page of the EFLM Committee on Endocrine Laboratory Medicine

Reported by **Annemieke Heijboer**, C-ENDO Chair

The Committee on Endocrine Laboratory Medicine (C-ENDO) of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) has officially started its activities. Endocrine laboratory medicine is pivotal for the diagnosis, monitoring, and management of endocrine disorders, and C-ENDO has been established to provide a structured platform for laboratory specialists and clinicians to address key challenges, foster innovation, and support the advancement and standardization of endocrine laboratory practice across Europe.

The committee's remit includes dissemination of knowledge in endocrine laboratory medicine, promotion of quality improvement and harmonization of endocrine testing, development of a strong professional network of clinical chemists working in endocrinology, and strengthening collaboration with clinicians involved in endocrine care. C-ENDO will also serve as a contact point for the European Society of Endocrinology (ESE) and the European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology (ESPE), and will contribute to educational activities, reviews, guidelines, and European projects in this field. In addition, the committee will focus on initiating concrete collaborative projects, potentially in partnership with other EFLM committees.

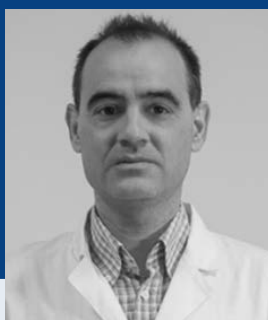
**Colleagues interested in joining the network or following C-ENDO activities
are invited to follow the committee on LinkedIn:**

<https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/committee-on-endocrine-laboratory-medicine-c-endo/>



The committee is composed as follows:

Chair: Annemieke Heijboer;
Full members: Tejas Kalaria, Véronique Raverot, Domagoj Marijančević, and Nick Narinx;
Corresponding members: Gregori Casas and Caroline Le Goff;
Consultants: Susana Prazeres and Martin Bidlingmaier.

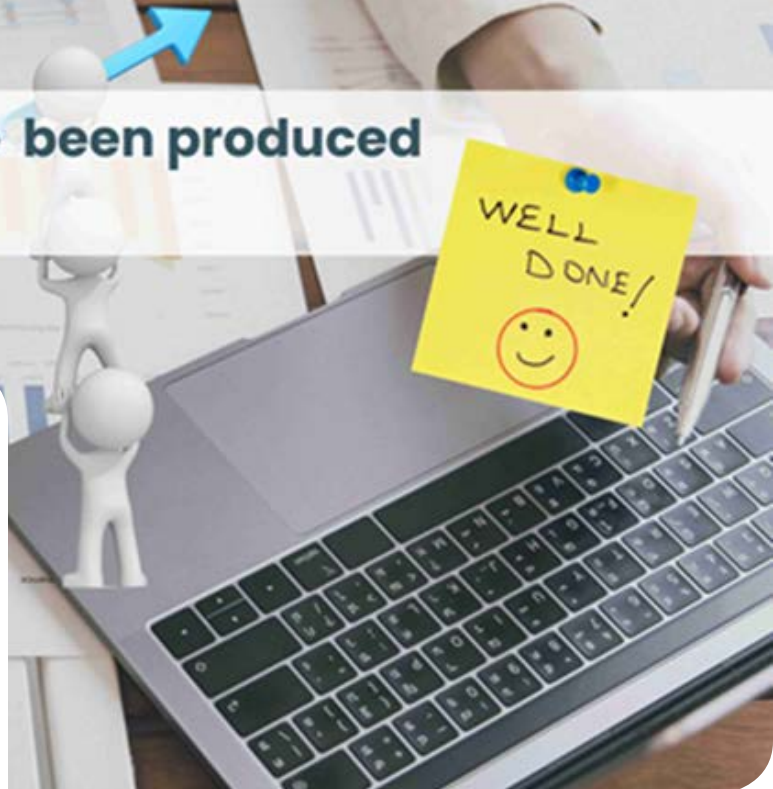


New EFLM publications have been produced by EFLM functional units!

UPDATES ON EFLM PUBLICATIONS

New EFLM scientific papers have been published!

Reported by **Silvia Terragni**, 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, where with the retrieval function you can search publications for title, author, keywords or EFLM functional units producing the paper.

The BV calculator: a free, open-source web app for estimation of within-subject and between-subject biological variation

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
[Clin Chem Lab Med](#)

Evaluating a custom GPT assistant for critical appraisal of biological variation studies by the BIVAC

Díaz-Garzón Marco J, İlhan Topcu D, Galior K, Jonker N, Coskun A, Sufrate-Vergara B, Moreno-Parro I, González-Lao E, Carobene A, Bartlett W A, Fernández-Calle P, Sandberg S, Aarsand A K, On behalf of the EFLM Technical Committee Biological Variation Database
[Clin Chem Lab Med](#)

Laboratory Medicine for Society

Zima T, Plebani M, Sandberg S, Cobbaert C, Gidske G, Adeli K, Panteghini M, Vermeersch P, Friedecký D, Cadamuro J, Padoan A, Popova E, Fuhrer M, Last J, Gouget B, Kašparová K, Pecina J, Seferović P.M, Gansevoort R, Thornalley J.P, Steen Frederiksen K, Neumaier M, Schönberg O.S, Cyran C, Özben T, de la Rosa M, Akalu Gizachew T, Sharma P, Haymond S, Ravalico H.T, Rolić T, Adler J, Kozopas N, Alić L, Zaninotto M, Kasapić D, Gruson D
[Clin Chem Lab Med](#)

Guidance in the application of quality management in the field of chromatography in routine medical laboratories – EFLM Committee: Accreditation and ISO/CEN Standards point of view
Milinković N, Çubukçu HC, Kanellopoulos P, Sciacovelli L, Linko S, Vanstapel F, Boursier G, Meško Brguljan P, Tosheska-Trajkovska K, Catry E, van Schrojenstein Lantman M, Thelen M, on behalf of the EFLM Committee: Accreditation and ISO/CEN Standards
[Clin Chem Lab Med](#)

Methodology and quality assurance practices in performing anti-extractable nuclear antigen (ENA) analysis: an EFLM report on an international survey

Gijbels E, De Koninck S, Broeders S, Chan E K L, Bizzaro N, Bogdanos D P, Andrade L, Coucke W, de Melo Cruvinel W, Kozmar A, Kuhi L, Lutteri L, Rego de Sousa M J, Damoiseaux J, Schouwers S, Van Hoovels L, Bossuyt X, Vercammen M, Bonroy C, On behalf of the EFLM Committee on Autoimmunity Testing
[Clin Chem Lab Med](#)

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](#)

PILLS FROM EFLM HISTORY

EFLM Strategic Conferences in past

Reported by **Graziella Bonetti**,
EFLM Division Communication Executive Member

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



EFLM Strategic Conferences

Timeline of editions



The first EFLM Strategic Conference and the legacy of the "Milan Consensus": interview to professor Mauro Panteghini

Reported by **Graziella Bonetti**, EFLM D-C Executive Committee Member



Professor Panteghini, why did EFLM decide to organise a Strategic Conference dedicated to analytical performance specifications?

In the 2014-2015 period of my EFLM presidency, the EFLM Executive Board decided to start to organize this new type of "strategic" meetings. In order to identify the first topic in terms of importance for laboratory medicine, we considered timely to update the topic of analytical performance specifications (APS) by organizing a conference in which some strategic actions and measures should be taken. Fifteen years had passed since the 1999 Stockholm Conference organized by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC)-IFCC, in which participants tried to achieve a consensus on how APS should be set, with a hierarchy of models being established. There was a clear need to critically reassess the criteria used to define the quality required for laboratory measurements in order to ensure clinically suitable results.

Why was this particular topic chosen for the first EFLM Strategic Conference?

APS represent the criteria that specify the quality required for laboratory test information to satisfy clinical needs. Without clearly defined performance targets, it is not possible to objectively evaluate methods, design internal quality control procedures, interpret external quality assessment programmes, and determine whether results obtained with different measuring systems are sufficiently harmonized. It was therefore a cross-cutting topic with direct implications for the clinical value of laboratory medicine.

What was the main outcome of the Milan Conference?

The most important outcome was the definition of a Consensus Statement describing models for establishing APS. This has been cited 670 times to date (according to Google scholar) and wide acceptance of the agreed principles has occurred. Three models to set APS were proposed, with the preference for model selection primarily directed toward the measurand and its biological and clinical characteristics: model 1, based on the effect of analytical performance on clinical outcomes; model 2, based on components of biological variation of the measurand; and model 3, based on state of the art of the measurement, to be used for two categories of measurands: (a) measurands that cannot be included in the first two models, because they have not the appropriate biological and clinical characteristics; and (b) measurands that theoretically should be allocated to other models but do not have available data (in this case the model is used as temporary allocation). This framework became known as the 'Milan Consensus'.

How did the Milan Consensus change the previous approach?

The proposed model classification made the APS derivation more scientifically sound and more closely linked to the clinical use of each laboratory test. I cannot say that APS derivation became simpler as another crucial concept promoted by the Milan Conference was that all related decisions supporting a certain APS selection must make explicit the quality of the evidence behind the recommendation and this certainly requires a large amount of work and sometimes also an acceptance of practical compromises.

Did the Conference produce only a consensus document?

No. After the Conference, EFLM established a Task Force on Performance Specifications in Laboratory Medicine. Under this Task Force, five groups were established dealing with the main topics of the conference. I would like to mention the group that worked on the criteria for assigning different measurands to each of the three Milan models and the group established with the final aim to generate an EFLM Biological Variation Database by including only high quality studies and updated data after a careful appraisal by a detailed checklist. Today, this database is certainly one of the jewels in the EFLM crown given its tremendous practical value.

What concerns emerged regarding biological variation?

During the Conference, participants raised important concerns about the quality and heterogeneity of the biological variation data available at that time. For some measurands, the information was limited; for others, it came from studies conducted using insufficiently standardized methodologies. This awareness led to initiatives aimed at generating more reliable data and developing the already mentioned EFLM Biological Variation Database based on more rigorous methodological criteria.

More than ten years later, do you believe the conclusions of the Conference are still valid?

In October 2023, EFLM organized in Prague a Symposium of the Cutting Edge of Laboratory Medicine in Europe (CELME) series with the main intention to discuss each of the three models from the Milan conference and to see how the related concepts were developed since 2014. The conference sought to see if it was possible to offer approaches on how to make the applications of the models more concrete and practical. Participants agreed that the three Milan models were good and covered the different alternatives to set APS: it was therefore deemed unnecessary to change/improve the Milan consensus and write a new "consensus document". The fundamental principles therefore remain valid. However, their application must continue to evolve. More outcome-based studies are still needed, as well as a better allocation of individual tests to the different models and a more consistent translation of APS into quality control programs, method evaluation, standardization approaches, and accreditation procedures. We should put more efforts in educating laboratory professionals about APS and when to use them. In general, professionals ought to set "targets" for laboratory performance that correspond to clinical needs, and then be prepared to monitor the laboratories' attempts towards attaining those goals. Important for the APS we are setting and for how we use them is that they ultimately benefit lay people/patients and the society.

What, in your opinion, is the most important legacy of the first EFLM Strategic Conference?

Specifically, EFLM made a landmark contribution by organizing its first Strategic Conference in which a consensus was reached in defining models for establishing APS. We can consider the Conference as one of the twenty-first century milestones in Laboratory Medicine as it originated several important outcomes contributing to the improvement of medical laboratory added value. More in general, the Conference demonstrated for the first time that EFLM could bring together international experts not only to discuss a scientific issue, but also to reach consensus, define priorities, and establish operational structures capable of continuing the work in the years following the Conference. The first Conference therefore set the model for subsequent EFLM Strategic Conferences: meetings focused on vision, consensus, and, above all, professional actions to benefit patient healthcare.

Professor Panteghini, thank you very much for sharing your insights and for helping us revisit the origins, achievements, and lasting legacy of the first EFLM Strategic Conference.



1st EFLM Strategic Conference "Defining analytical quality specification" 15 years after the Stockholm Conference, Milano 24-25 November 2014



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.



Accelerated diagnostic chest pain protocols; evidence and pitfalls in implementation

On June 9, 2026, Professor Kristin Moberg Aakre delivered a webinar on accelerated diagnostic protocols for patients presenting with chest pain. The session explained the role of cardiac troponins in these pathways, examined how assay quality can influence their performance, and reviewed current clinical and modelling evidence on the impact of troponin analytical performance on emergency department care.

[Watch this on-demand webinar here.](#)



The role of angiogenetic factors in placental disorders

On June 23, 2026, Professor Angeliki Papapanagiotou delivered a webinar on angiogenic factors in preeclampsia. The session focused on the imbalance between increased sFlt-1 and reduced PlGF, highlighting the sFlt-1/PlGF ratio as a useful tool for prediction, diagnosis, risk stratification, and improved clinical management.

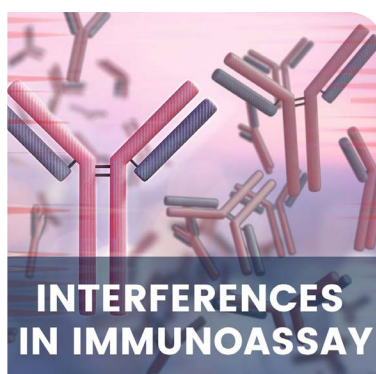
[Watch this on-demand webinar here.](#)



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

On July 7, 2026, Dr Nino Bakuradze delivered a webinar on laboratory approaches to spinal cord disorders and Alzheimer's disease. The session reviewed key diagnostic biomarkers, examined common analytical and interpretative challenges in neurological testing, and discussed modern evidence-based strategies to improve diagnostic accuracy and support clinical decision-making.

[Watch this on-demand webinar here.](#)



Practical Solutions to Interferences in Immunoassay

On July 21, 2026, Dr Lam Choong Weng Leslie delivered a webinar on the causes and clinical implications of non-harmonised laboratory test results. The session explored the biochemical, analytical, and biological factors that can lead to discrepancies across laboratory platforms and discussed the most appropriate clinical and laboratory actions when discordant results are encountered.

[Watch this on-demand webinar here.](#)



UPCOMING EFLM EVENTS

Forthcoming EFLM webinars

Reported by **Graziella Bonetti**,
EFLM 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.



Cardiac troponin assay limitations, circulating troponin forms, and novel designs to improve myocardial infarction specificity.

Cardiac troponin assays of the future

Date: 8th September 2026 at 18:00 (Brussels local time)

Speaker: Saara Tuuli Wittfooth (Finland)
[Register here.](#)



Oxidative stress mechanisms, key biomarkers, and analytical methods used in clinical practice.

Decoding Oxidative Stress: Laboratory Tools and Biomarkers for Modern Diagnostics

Date: 22nd September 2026 at 18:00 (Brussels local time)

Speaker: Maria Trapali (Greece)
[Register here.](#)



MEET THE EXPERT: Laboratory evaluation of pheochromocytoma and paraganglioma

Date: 24th September 2026 at 16:00 (Brussels local time)

Speaker: Graeme Eisenhofer (Germany)
[Register here.](#)



Webinar designed by the
EFLM Committee "Distance Education and e-Learning"
CPECS® credits provided for those attending this webinar!



EFLM Webinar

Quality control procedures in Laboratory Medicine

15 September 2026 h. 14:00-15:00 (CET TIME)

Moderator: Marc Thelen (The Netherlands)

Part 1: Basics for beginners
Speaker: Oswald Sonntag (Germany)

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the basics of quality control
- Analyze the outcome of QC results
- Solve analytical issues before reporting patient results

The webinar series will continue with Part 2 in 2027

This is an EFLM educational activity reserved for free to EFLM Academy Members
VISIT THE EFLM E-LEARNING PLATFORM AND REGISTER

This activity is supported by
an unrestricted educational grant from

**LGC** **Diagnostics & Genomics**

UPCOMING EVENTS

On the Road to EuroMedLab 2027

Reported by the EFLM Office



The journey to **EuroMedLab 2027** has begun. In each issue of our newsletter, we will bring you highlights of the scientific programme, keynote speakers and the latest news as we count down to Europe's leading congress in Laboratory Medicine.

Our first spotlight is on the **Opening Lecture**, which will take place on **16 May, 18:00–19:00**.

Opening Lecture: 16 May | 18:00–19:00

The paradigm shift from reactive to Predictive, Preventive and Personalised Medicine: Beneficiaries and the road-map for a successful implementation

Prof. Dr. Olga Golubnitschaja (Germany) will deliver the Opening Lecture, offering a forward-looking perspective on one of the most significant transformations in modern healthcare.

A globally recognised expert in Predictive, Preventive and Personalised Medicine (3PM), Prof. Golubnitschaja leads the world's first dedicated 3PM Unit at the University Hospital Bonn and serves as President of the European Association for Predictive, Preventive and Personalised Medicine (EPMA). Her pioneering work has helped shape the international development of personalised medicine, influencing both scientific research and European health policy.

In her lecture, she will examine the shift from reactive medicine to a predictive, preventive and personalised approach, discussing the opportunities, challenges and roadmap for its successful implementation. **As Laboratory Medicine becomes increasingly central to precision healthcare, this session will provide an inspiring vision of how the profession can contribute to better patient outcomes and more sustainable healthcare systems.**

Don't miss the first scientific highlight of EuroMedLab 2027. In the coming issues, we will continue our journey to London with previews of the congress programme, distinguished speakers and the latest event news.



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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 Plebani, 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**

EFLM
EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY
AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

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The 17th NATIONAL CONFERENCE of THE ROMANIAN ASSOCIATION OF LABORATORY MEDICINE, Târgu Mureș, Romania, 27-29 May 2026

Report by **Dr. Daniela Jitaru**, RALM president



The 17th National Conference with international participation of the Romanian Association of Laboratory Medicine (RALM), organized under the auspices of IFCC and EFLM and in collaboration with the Romanian Society of Microbiology, the Romanian Society of Hematology and the Universities of Medicine and Pharmacy of Bucharest, Târgu Mureș, Cluj Napoca, Iași, and Timișoara, took place on 27-29 May 2026 in Târgu Mureș, Romania.

The event took place over 3 days in the Business Hotel from Târgu Mureș, which hosted the conference attended by 750 participants including doctors, biologists, chemists and scientists working in medical laboratories.

The scientific program comprised 10 sessions of plenary reports (31) and brief oral communications (57), and 2 poster sessions at which a total number of 46 electronic posters were presented. Thus, this program provided an excellent opportunity for participants to learn, be trained and find concrete answers for different situations encountered in everyday practice.

The posters and the slides for the oral presentations were written in English and conference abstracts were published in a supplement of Romanian Journal of Laboratory Medicine, a journal indexed in the ISI Web of Knowledge - Web of Science - Science Citation Index Expanded (Clarivate analytics) since 2008. Topics of interest in clinical chemistry, hematology, immunology, microbiology, molecular biology, laboratory management and quality control, respectively professional guidelines were addressed during the various sessions. Among them, we mention: Laboratory quality management/ proficiency testing, tumor markers, advanced methods in hemato-oncology, advances in transplant immunology, clinical biochemistry, microbiology, transfusion medicine

The participants had the opportunity to ask questions and make comments after presentations, and also to share their experience in a particular field.

Eleven speakers from abroad were invited to give their lecture at the congress:

1. Panagiotis Tsiamirtzis - Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, Politecnico di Milano & Dept. of Statistics, Athens University of Economics and Business
2. Ágota Drégelyi-Kiss - Óbuda University, Budapest, Hungary
3. Peter Mori - MSc, Product Specialist Clinical Diagnostics
4. Carla Escudero Martin - Senior Business Development manager, Beckman Coulter Diagnostics
5. Ana Veselovskaia - Nicolae Testemițanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Chișinău, Moldova (the Republic of)
6. Diana Andrușca - Laboratory of Immunology and Molecular Genetics, PMSI Oncology Institute, Chișinău, Moldova (the Republic of)
7. Sarah Fiers - Specialist diagnostic staining solutions ELITech Biomedical Systems (Bruker)
8. Lambert Zhong - SNIBE Symposiums - Beyond automation, towards excellence
9. Yannis Yang - SNIBE Symposiums - Operational excellence - SNIBE new-gen laboratory automation system hit the market
10. Patricia Hoffmann - Sante Symposium
11. Olga Bernaz - USMF "Nicolae Testemițanu", Chișinău, Moldova (the Republic of)

Also, 71 invited speakers from Romanian academic institutions significantly contributed to the scientific program of the congress (some pictures are presented in Appendix 1 to this report).

As RALM manifests a strong interest in encouraging and motivating young laboratory professionals, many communications and posters were presented by young colleagues, most of them PhD fellows. During the conference a large exhibition of equipment, reagents, supplies, software was held, being involved 31 IVD companies. In addition, diagnostic industry organized 16 workshops that introduced new technologies and clinical assays.

After the closing ceremony, the general assembly of RAML took place where the president awarded the Marcela Zamfirescu Gheorghiu Prize for the best poster.

The scientific quality and variety of topics included in the program, as well as the level of organization of the conference, led to a successful scientific and professional event.



Dr. Daniela Jitaru president of RALM (left part), **Prof. Dr. Minodora Dobreanu** president of National Conference of the Romanian Association of Laboratory Medicine (RALM), **vicepresident of RALM, Ec. Crăciun Ioan-Florin** manager of the Târgu Mureş County Emergency Clinical Hospital (right part)



Picture from the first day of The 17th National Conference of the Romanian Association of Laboratory Medicine (AMLR) to the Bussines Hotel, Târgu Mureş, Romania, 27-29 May 2026.



From left to right part: 1. **Associate Professor Dr. Ioana Brudaşcă** - National representative for EFLM, 2. **Prof. dr Cristina Dimitriu**, 3. **Prof. dr. Ileana Constantinescu** vicepresident of RALM, 4. **Associat Professor Dr. Cristina Mambet** past president of RALM, 5. **Dr. Daniela Jitaru** president of RALM, 6. **Dr Brînduşa Copăcianu**, 7. **Prof. Dr. Minodora Dobreanu** president of National Conference of the Romanian Association of Laboratory Medicine (RALM), vicepresident of RALM.



Picture from the exhibition made during the conference



Prof. Dr. Minodora Dobreanu president of National Conference of the Romanian Association of Laboratory Medicine (RALM), vicepresident of RALM

EFLM Postgraduate Course 2026: Fundamentals of Quality Assurance in the Medical Laboratory

Reported by the Royal Belgian Society of Laboratory Medicine, Belgium



The EFLM Postgraduate Course "**Fundamentals of Quality Assurance in the Medical Laboratory**" was successfully held on **29–30 June 2026** at the **Rega Institute, KU Leuven**, Leuven, Belgium.

Organized by the Royal Belgian Society of Laboratory Medicine (RBSLM) under the auspices of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM), the course provided an excellent opportunity for continuing professional education in laboratory medicine.

A total of **68 participants** attended the two-day course, which offered a comprehensive overview of the principles and practical implementation of quality assurance in the medical laboratory. The scientific programme covered key aspects of quality management, emphasizing best practices that contribute to reliable laboratory results and high standards of patient care.

The course featured lectures by **Professor Fabio Del Ben** and **Professor Gian Luca Salvagno**, who shared their extensive expertise through engaging presentations and interactive discussions. Their lectures provided participants with valuable insights into quality assurance systems and their practical application in routine laboratory practice.

In addition to the scientific programme, the course fostered valuable discussions and professional networking among participants, creating an engaging environment for the exchange of knowledge and experience.

The organizers thank the speakers, participants, and the staff of the Rega Institute for their valuable contributions to the success of the course.

They also gratefully acknowledge the EFLM for providing the opportunity to organize this postgraduate course, which once again highlighted the importance of continuing education and the exchange of expertise in supporting quality and excellence in laboratory medicine.

NEWS FROM EFLM NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Professional Meeting of Category 1st, 20th Conference of the Scientific and Technical Committee - Accredited Laboratories

Reported by **Prof. Neda Milinković** - Department of Medical Biochemistry,
University of Belgrade - Faculty of Pharmacy, Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia

Quality control is a continuous, irreplaceable process in any accredited laboratory environment. It ensures reliability of results, stability of methods and patient safety, while enabling laboratories to meet the requirements of standards, regulatory bodies and professional associations. Without consistent implementation of quality control, laboratory practice cannot ensure the level of accuracy, precision and competence expected in the modern healthcare system. In this context, from June 4 to 6, a conference organized by the Unified Association for Quality of Serbia (JUSK) was held in Belgrade, dedicated to the improvement of quality in accredited laboratories and the exchange of experiences. The conference of the Scientific and Technical Committee (STC)-Accredited Laboratory was traditionally held within JUSK for the 20th time, on June 5. Within the framework of STC-Accredited laboratories, four key topics that directly affect the quality of work of laboratories of different levels of health care are presented.

Within the STC section, four expert presentations were presented. The first lecturer was Biljana Ocokoljić, the leader of the Randox sales team from Belgrade, who spoke about the requirements of the ISO 15189 standard for establishing a quality control system in routine medical-biochemical laboratories and presented in detail the mandatory elements of quality control, risk management, documentation and staff competence in accordance with the latest version of the standard. The second lecturer was dr. sci. Danica Čujić, medical biochemist and senior research associate of Institute for the Application of Nuclear Energy (INEP), University of Belgrade, Serbia, who presented the advantages and challenges of participating in PT schemes and discussed the advantages and challenges of external evaluation program analyses, their contribution to the reliability of results, as well as typical obstacles in implementation and interpretation. The third lecturer was Ana Misić, specialist in medical biochemistry, employed at Medical Biochemical Laboratory in Clinical Hospital Center Zemun, Belgrade, Serbia. She explained the importance of interlaboratory comparison and third independent control in ensuring analytical quality, as well as the role of independent evaluators, the contribution of objectivity in quality assessment, and practical limitations in application. The fourth lecturer was Dragana Zakanyi, employed at University Clinical Center of Vojvodina, Novi Sad, Serbia, who spoke about quality control according to Agency for Accreditation of Health Institutions of Serbia (AZUS), focus on requirements, assessment process, specifics for laboratory activities and challenges in maintaining compliance. The meeting confirmed that quality control is the foundation of professional laboratory practice and that in the coming period it should be aimed at strengthening the integration of ISO 15189 and AZUS requirements, improving the third-party control model, modernizing external quality assessment and developing practical guidelines that connect theoretical principles with the daily work of laboratories, with continuous education and exchange of experiences.



From left to right: Specialist for quality and management in the logistics of sensitive shipments in to the pharmaceutical industry, Ana Stamatović, Anpharma Premium Logistics, Belgrade, Serbia; Dragana Zakanyi, University Clinical Center of Vojvodina, Center for laboratory diagnostics and nuclear medicine, Department of automated laboratory diagnostics, Novi Sad, Serbia; Ana Misić, Department of Laboratory Diagnostics, Clinical Hospital Center, Zemun, Belgrade, Serbia; Danica Čujić, medical biochemist, senior research associate of the Institute for application of nuclear energy - INEP, University of Belgrade, Serbia; Biljana Ocokoljić, Randox Sales Team Leader, Belgrade, Serbia; Prof. Neda Milinković, Department of Medical Biochemistry, University of Belgrade-Faculty of Pharmacy, Vice President of the Scientific and Technical Committee - Accredited Laboratory; Prof. Nada Majkić Singh, Department of Medical Biochemistry, University of Belgrade-Faculty of Pharmacy, President of the Scientific and Technical Committee - Accredited Laboratory; Zoran Vojvodić, Creative Innovations, Belgrade, Serbia.

25 Years of Laboratory Medicine: Past Achievements and Future Perspectives

Reported by **Tommaso Trenti**, National EFLM Representative SIBioC
Italian Society of Clinical Biochemistry and Clinical Molecular Biology



On 9 June 2026, SIBioC – Medicina di Laboratorio held the event “25 Years of Laboratory Medicine: history, present and future perspectives” in Verona, under the scientific coordination of Prof. Giuseppe Lippi.

The meeting opened with a welcome speech from Prof. Chiara Leardini, full professor of Economics, specialized in Healthcare management and the current Rector of Verona University, on the current and future challenges of Laboratory Medicine in Italy. The meeting continued with a tribute to Professor Ugo Lippi, a leading figure and mentor in Italian Laboratory Medicine, 25 years after his passing. The tribute was delivered by Dr Maristella Graziani, editor of the Society's journal *Biochimica Clinica* and his colleague at the Verona Laboratory.

The meeting offered an opportunity to reflect on the major achievements of laboratory medicine over the last quarter century and to discuss the challenges that will shape its future.

The program opened with two Lectures by Professor Mario Plebani, EFLM Past President, on the evolution of laboratory medicine over the past 25 years, and Professor Giuseppe Lippi, SIBioC President-elect, on its perspectives for the next 25 years.

central message emerging from the event was that laboratory medicine has progressively moved from a mainly analytical discipline to a clinical science capable of transforming measurements into actionable information for patient care. As highlighted in Professor Giuseppe Lippi's lecture, the clinical laboratory should not be regarded as a simple provider of test results, but as an active partner in clinical decision-making.

The first scientific session, moderated by Dr. Laura Sciacovelli and Dr. Agostino Ognibene, focused on key areas that have shaped daily laboratory practice. Professor Gian Luca Salvagno reviewed the evolution of venous blood sampling, emphasizing the importance of pre-analytical standardization, sample quality, professional training and the future role of automation, capillary sampling, non-invasive sensors and artificial intelligence in detecting pre-analytical errors.



The session continued with presentations on haematological, coagulation and autoimmune diagnostics. Dr. Giorgio Da Rin described the transition of haematology from a traditional morphological and cytochemical approach to an integrated, multiparametric and molecular model. Dr. Benedetto Morelli discussed the complexity of modern coagulation testing, including the strengths and limitations of routine assays for assessing direct oral anticoagulants. Dr. Antonio Antico reviewed the evolution of antinuclear antibody testing, highlighting the increasing need to integrate indirect immunofluorescence and solid-phase assays within appropriate diagnostic strategies.

The second session, moderated by Professor Franco Salvatore and Dr. Tommaso Trenti, addressed several rapidly evolving fields, including molecular diagnostics, high-performance separative diagnostics, biological fluid diagnostics, immunochemistry, protein diagnostics and point-of-care testing. Professor Martina Montagnana illustrated the major technological milestones in molecular diagnostics, from PCR and sequencing technologies to digital PCR and next-generation sequencing, while also underlining the challenges of equitable access, sustainability and digital traceability.

Professor Elisa Danese presented the role of high-performance separative diagnostics, while **Dr. Sabrina Buoro, SIBioC President**, Dr. Antonio Fortunato and Professor Alberto Dolci addressed the evolution of body fluids, immunochemical and protein diagnostics, respectively. These contributions showed how technological innovation, automation, methodological standardization, and clinical interpretation have transformed laboratory medicine into a more integrated and patient-centered discipline. Dr. Paolo Carraro concluded the scientific program with a lecture on decentralized diagnostics, a topic that is increasingly relevant in view of the expansion of point-of-care testing and the need for governance, quality assurance and integration with central laboratories.

Overall, the meeting provided a valuable opportunity to celebrate the achievements of laboratory medicine over the past quarter-century while looking ahead to the next one. The future of the discipline will be shaped by automation, artificial intelligence, molecular technologies, sustainability, point-of-care testing and the continuous need for harmonization. At the same time, the event strongly reaffirmed the essential role of laboratory professionals as clinical consultants, quality leaders, and key contributors to patient-centered healthcare.



IFCC News

Dear colleagues,

I hope you have started enjoying the summer season, taking some time to recharge your batteries, and spend some quality time with your family and friends. I wish to all of you a lovely and restful summer time.

In her message published in the eNews issue, our President, Prof. Tomris Ozben, gives us valuable information about important meetings and scientific events and invites us to forthcoming scientific events, such as the 2026 ADLM Annual Meeting (July 26 to 30, Anaheim, California, US), and the XXVII IFCC WorldLab Congress, in New Delhi, India, from October 25 to 29, 2026.

In this issue you can read interesting news from the IFCC Visiting Lecturer Programme, the IFCC Professional Scientific Exchange Programme, the IFCC Emerging Technologies Division, the Committee on Mobile Health and Bioengineering in Laboratory Medicine, the IFCC Committee on Emerging Technologies in Pediatric Laboratory Medicine and the IFCC Task Force on Ethics, which highlight their exceptional commitment to collaboration, expertise, innovation and the advance of laboratory medicine worldwide. News from the National Societies of Nepal, Romania and Palestine reflect their commitment to team work, quality, collaboration and to promoting the role of laboratory medicine in healthcare. News from the IFCC Global Medlab Week 2026, which demonstrated remarkable global engagement, reflect the growing strength, visibility, and impact of our profession worldwide.

News from our Corporate Members are also included in this issue. To this end, you can meet Colleen Strain PhD, Corporate Representative for Communications and Publications Division.

You can also read about integrated clinical care teams awarded with the UNIVANTS Healthcare Excellence Award, who achieved better outcomes for patients and their work highlights the broader value of laboratory medicine, in guiding clinical care and supporting sustainable healthcare delivery.

We extend our warm welcome to our new Corporate Members: Getein Biotech Co., Ltd. and Shanghai Medconn Biotechnology Co., Ltd.. We look forward to working together with them to further advance clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine worldwide.

The IFCC WorldLab New Delhi 2026 is the largest event dedicated to laboratory medicine, bringing together health professionals and industry partners to share knowledge, highlight achievements and innovations, and build meaningful collaborations. Over five days, participants will engage with a comprehensive scientific programme that spans the full spectrum of laboratory medicine, featuring a variety of sessions designed to suit different interests and professional needs, in one of the world's most dynamic centers for innovation, biomedical research, digital health and healthcare entrepreneurship.

We eagerly anticipate our gathering in New Delhi at IFCC WorldLab 2026, and hope to meet you there!

Marilena Stamouli

The Global Conversation Shaping the Future of Laboratory Medicine and Healthcare
IFCC WorldLab New Delhi 2026

27th International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine
52nd Congress of Association of Clinical Biochemists of India

IFCC
WorldLab

OCTOBER 25-29, 2026 | NEW DELHI, INDIA



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-  **EFLM Webinar**
Cardiac troponin assays of the future
online, 8 September 2026
-  **D4 - Data Driven Digital Diagnostics**
Salzburg (AT), 11-12 September 2026
-  **EFLM Webinar**
Quality control procedures in laboratory medicine
online, 15 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
-  **EFLM Webinar**
Decoding Oxidative Stress: Laboratory Tools and Biomarkers for Modern Diagnostics
online, 22 September 2026
-  **International XXIV Congress of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine**
Belgrade (RS) 23-25 September 2026
-  **EFLM Meet the Expert**
Laboratory evaluation of pheochromocytoma and paraganglioma
online, 24 September 2026
-  **Cardiac Marker Dialogues**
Glasgow (UK), 24-25 September 2026
-  **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

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-  | **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**
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
-  | **48th Annual Conference of the Association of Clinical Biochemists in Ireland**
Dublin (IE), 6-7 November 2026
-  | **24th Greek Congress of Clinical Chemistry- Clinical Biochemistry**
Athens, 5-8 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 assesement: 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

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-  **EFLM Meet the Expert**
Diagnostics of von Willebrand's disease
online, 26 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
-  **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



THE EFLM OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM 3 TO 18 AUGUST

Wishing you a pleasant and relaxing summer 

