

# EuroLabNews

THE EFLM BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

EFLM Connects National Societies of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine and Creates a Platform for all European "Specialists in Laboratory Medicine"



## In memory of Professor Victor Blaton

By Ana-Maria Simundic  
on behalf of the EFLM Executive Board

Vic Blaton is not with us anymore. This sad event is an enormous bereavement for our profession. For sure many of our colleagues throughout Europe, who had the privilege of knowing him, join us in expressing condolences to his family and our friends in the Belgian Society.

Vic was a pioneer of our profession in so many aspects, a wise leader with a vision, a warm and intellectual person, a lovely gentleman, a friend and a person with a big heart. Vic dedicated his life to the profession. He was a leader in the development of laboratory medicine in Europe and beyond. One of his biggest achievements was the merger of FESCC and EC4 into EFCC (currently known as EFLM). He was its first President (2008-2007). He was especially committed to help and support the non-developed and developing countries in Europe to reach professional and educational standards of the Western countries in the European Community at times of big political and economic changes. He was a true European, a kind Grandfather figure in our profession.

His wisdom, warm friendship and smile will be sadly missed.



*to be continued on page 2*

### Editorial information:

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

### EFLM Executive Board:

S. Sandberg, M. Panteghini, M. Neumaier, A-M. Simundic, H. Storm, G. Sypniewska, T. Zima

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## Foreword

by Harjit Pal Bhattoa, EFLM Newsletter Editor

In this current issue of the EFLM EuroLabNews prominent dignitaries pay their respects to Professor Vic Blaton who demised in February, 2017. The nominations for the EFLM Executive Board 2018-2019 have been finalized and the elections are to be held at the EFLM General Meeting in Athens this June. The EFLM Annual Report 2016, highlighting all activities, is presented by the EFLM Executive Board Secretary, Ana-Maria Simundic. Giuseppe Lippi, in the regular section of Laboratory Hot Topics, enumerates on the Cost and Value of Laboratory Medicine. The constitution and the aims of the newly set up EFLM working group (WG) "Register" are presented. Vacancies in this and other WG may be of interest to enthusiastic EFLM members eager to forward the mission of the EFLM. Applicants may mark their calendars to apply for the prestigious EFLM-Abbott and EFLM-HyTest awards, the deadline for both is the 20<sup>th</sup> of April, 2017. CCLM has been a reliable medium for dispersion of knowledge, and the renewal of the free subscription agreement between EFLM and the Publishers is good news for all EFLM members. Participants at the EuroMedLab Athens 2017 shall be able to attend quite a few state-of-the-art Symposia, the overview of the different sessions is presented. A summary of the well-placed 4<sup>th</sup> EFLM-BD European Conference on Preanalytical Phase held in March gives us a grasp on the importance of the topic. MariaStella Graziani, Chair of the EFLM Communications Committee presents the update of the EFLM publications list. It is always a pleasure to announce the recipients of the EFLM bursary program for the EuroMedLab 2017 Athens Conference, congratulations. As a regular column of the EuroLabNews, changing of the guard and other important news from National Societies have also made this second issue more colourful.

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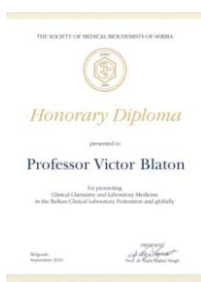
By Nada Majkic-Singh, Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia

Upon learning the sad news of the passing of professor Victor Blaton, the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia feels obliged to remember our many years of scientific and expert collaboration and personal friendship with him. Professor Victor Blaton first came to Belgrade as the president of FESCC in June 2005, to join the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society

of Medical Biochemists of Serbia and Montenegro. On this occasion, the First Symposium for Balkan Region was held, entitled "Education, Management and Standards in Laboratory Medicine", which, as the president of the FESCC, professor Blaton wholeheartedly supported and even asked for such symposia to be regularly organized. The tradition of holding this Symposium has lasted to this day. Professor Blaton was a coordinator, teacher and participant of practically every Symposium held. As the President of FESCC, he promoted the importance and goals of this European organization, bringing it closer to our medical biochemists. Professor Blaton was also a welcome guest and teacher at our national congresses, as well as the Congresses of the Balkan Federation, of which four were organized in Serbia with great success. For his contribution to the promotion of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine in our country, the Balkan region and globally, the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia presented professor Blaton with the highest reward of the Society, our Honorary Diploma.

Professor Blaton last stayed in Belgrade in May 2015, on the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia and the 12<sup>th</sup> EFLM Symposium for Balkan region. Professor Blaton truly wanted to get to know the way of life, the customs and the people of Serbia and the Balkans, and I will never forget his desire to learn about the wines that can be found in Serbia. I knew he was a wine connoisseur, but once he confused me with a question: how to obtain the wine called "Probus" from Fruska Gora? I had never heard about this brand of wine, however, upon my request, some colleagues soon brought two bottles of this rare wine that he took to Belgium. They are probably still in his collection. The last time we met was in October of last year in Tirana, at the Congress of the Balkan Federation of Laboratory Medicine. We were all very happy to see each other again and evoke memories of previous meetings and events.

All of us who loved and valued him had a hard time hearing about his sudden death, so in this way we would also like to pay our respects and express our condolences to his great family.



By Elizabeta Topic, former Chair of the EFLM Education and Training Committee

I first met Professor Blaton in the late eighties, at the Conference on Lipid and Atherosclerosis in Bruges, then in 1993 at the 10<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Clinical Chemists in Nice, where FESCC was formed. I worked with him in FESCC, EFCC and EFLM in the Committee of Education and Training (C-ET). Prof. Blaton was a leader with a vision and supported any activities contributing to the profession in the European Society; he was a person with whom it was very easy to find a common ground and collaborate in pleasant atmosphere.

In 2000, Prof. Blaton and I started to settle a project with basic plan for continuing professional education in clinical chemistry. This project was launched in 2001 in cooperation with the Croatian Society of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (CSMBLM) and Slovenian Association of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (SACCLM). Over these more than 15 years, the C-ET has provided attractive continuous education and training programs that were heterogeneous and diverse enough to meet the individual educational needs in the course of continuing professional development. The common title of EFLM, former FESCC, courses was New Classification, Diagnosis and Treatment, each of them dedicated to a particular medical discipline.

These Courses, known as Dubrovnik Courses, were affiliated with the programs of the Interuniversity Centre Dubrovnik. Professor Blaton always managed to allocate some of his precious time to take part in each of the Courses, and as a wise European leader he gave an opportunity to about 1000 participants attending these Courses and listening to some 100 invited speakers from all over Europe to have friendly discussions with him. In this way he learned about the situation or the possible problems in the profession in particular countries. It was an opportunity for him to meet professionals and get informal information from almost all European countries. He was always ready to listen and always ready to help.

Prof. Blaton was my very good friend and true friend of the Croatian Society and of all European Societies alike. He was a nice gentleman and a person with great heart. All of us having a privilege to know him and work with him will miss his wisdom, smile and kind-heartedness.

By Evgenija Homšak, Past President of the Slovenian Association for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine

In the name of Slovenian Association for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (SZKKLM) I would like to express our deep sympathy and sadness at lost of our good friend and honored member of SZKKLM.

During his fruitful professional life, especially under his FESCC presidency, together with his motivation and positive attitude, SZKKLM has started and worked on several important FESCC projects and established EFLM conferences like Alpe-Adria, EFLM postgraduate Courses, that were held for several years in Dubrovnik, conferences on quality and accreditation in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine.

We were always happy and honoured to host him at our several national congresses and professional meetings. His presence as the professional and great warm person was always precious, that gave to our meetings a great added value.

We would also like to express our sincere condolences to his close friends and family.

Prof. Victor Blaton will stay in our deep precious memories.

By Claudia Pronk-Admiraal, President of the Netherlands Society for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine on behalf of the Dutch Clinical Chemistry community

We are so sorry to hear the news that Vic Blaton has left us forever. What a remarkable man he was, patiently piecing the European Clinical Chemistry community together in what finally EFLM is nowadays. It was a privilege to have worked with him and to have known him.

We wish you all the courage to continue in his footsteps.





## THE EFLM EXECUTIVE BOARD INFORMS

# Nominations for the EFLM Executive Board 2018-2019

In reply to call for nominations for the election of the EFLM Executive Board 2018-2019, this is to inform you about the nominations that were received from EFLM National Societies.

Position as "President-Elect"	Ana-Maria Simundic (Croatia)
Position as "Executive Board Secretary"	Giuseppe Lippi (Italy)
Position as "Treasurer"	Huibert Storm (The Netherlands)
Positions as "Member-at-Large" (two positions available)	Tiago Guimarães (Portugal) Michel Langlois (Belgium) Grazyna Sypniewska (Poland) Tomas Zima (Czech Rep)

Elections will be held at the next EFLM General Meeting in Athens (GR) on Sunday 11 June 2017 (h. 14.00-18.15) on the occasion of the 22<sup>nd</sup> IFCC-EFLM EuroMedLab Congress.

Detailed information about each candidate will be sent to all EFLM National Representatives and National Society Presidents within the end of April.

For any further information, please contact Ms Silvia Cattaneo at the EFLM Office, at [silvia.cattaneo@eflm.eu](mailto:silvia.cattaneo@eflm.eu)

## EFLM Annual Report 2016

by Ana-Maria Simundic, EFLM Executive Board Secretary

### General Meeting

EFLM held its ninth General Meeting in conjunction with the IFCC General Conference on 21 March 2016 in Madrid, Spain, where 31 out of 40 EFLM Member Societies (NS), were represented. During the GM EFLM President, Mauro Panteghini (MP), gave a report of the recent EFLM activities since the last GM held in Paris. Also, in the absence of EFLM Treasurer (Huib Storm) MP gave a financial report (i.e. balance sheet report for 2015, internal budget report for 2015 and internal budget plan for 2016). EFLM GM approved the balance sheet for 2015 and the internal budget report for 2015 and plan for 2016.

During the GM elections were held for EFLM President and Vice President. GM has unanimously confirmed the position of Mr. Sverre

Sandberg, as the next EFLM President and his term of office 2016-2017. There were two candidates for Vice President: Mr. Damien GRUSON (Belgium) and Mr. Michael NEUMAIER (Germany). Michael NEUMAIER was confirmed by the majority (16/31) of the GM members as the EFLM Vice-President for the 2016-2018.

EFLM EB had already discussed rules for the election of the Regional Federation Representatives to the IFCC Executive Board on several occasions. EFLM EB strongly supports that an individual representing a Region is selected by a Region according to the Region agreed electoral process and that this person participates in the policies and actions of a Region. If a separate election is organized by IFCC to elect a "regional representative" in their EB, EFLM EB thinks that there will not be any structural connection between the Regional Federation (e.g., EFLM) and IFCC. To overcome this situation, MP presented a proposal for the Election Procedure for European Region in which 1) the EFLM EB recommends the EFLM President or his/her representative (i.e., a person seated in the EFLM EB) to its Members for being elected at the IFCC EB; 2) the constituent NS officially nominates this person to IFCC for organizing a ballot to have the NRs approval. The GM has fully supported this proposal and gave the mandate to the EFLM EB to propose an official procedure, which manages all necessary steps in accordance with this decision (including a change in the EFLM statutes if needed). The proposal was voted and approved by more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the NSs.

### Executive board

Through the EFLM program entitled EFLM Presence at NS meetings, during 2016 EB members participated in four EFLM NS meetings hosted by Slovenia, Romania, Portugal and Sweden.

The recently proposed amendments to the EFLM Articles of Association have been positively voted by EFLM Member Societies. These amendments allow aligning of EB roles to the new bylaws. Aligning of EB roles and elections for new EB members shall be held during the next GM, on Sunday 11 June 2017 (from h. 14.00 to h. 18.15) on the occasion of the 22<sup>nd</sup> IFCC-EFLM EuroMedLab Congress.

In order to start the whole new EB on 1 January 2018, the GM in Athens will be asked to extend the positions of the present Secretary, Treasurer and Members until 31 December 2017 and to accept the Vice-President position to act as President from 1 January 2018. Originally these positions would stop their 2<sup>nd</sup> term of office at the date of the GM in 2017, i.e. in Athens in June. At the same time the position of President, Vice-President and Past President would end the month before on 31 December 2017. Considering the appointment in March 2016, the mandate would be 21 months instead of 24. This was approved by the NSs with of more than  $\frac{3}{4}$ .

The next election of the Executive Board Members will follow the new EFLM Articles of Association and the transitional provision will be applied. EB has recently launched a call for nominations from National Societies for the following positions to serve for the term of office 2018-2019: President-Elect (to serve as President for 2020-2021), Secretary, Treasurer and 2 Members-at-Large.

The deadline to submit nominations was 31 March 2017. Voting for officers of the EFLM Executive Board 2018-2019 shall take place in Athens in June, at the tenth GM.



## Committees

### COMMITTEE – COMMUNICATION (C-C)

During 2016, special effort was dedicated to support and promote the work of the EFLM Working Groups that are the backbone of the scientific and professional activities of the Federation. A specific space was created inside the EFLM website where all the WGs could post freely available documents and educational materials to substantiate their activities and projects. A similar effort was dedicated to consolidate the collaboration with the National Societies: the Guidelines issued by the EFLM NSs can now be posted in a dedicated subpage of the website with the aim to build, in the near future, joint European Guidelines on specific topics. Furthermore, to increase the quality of the EFLM surveys that are prepared and distributed to the NSs rather frequently, a workshop on survey methodology was organized during the EFLM-UEMS Congress in Warsaw. The presence of EFLM in the social media has been greatly improved during this year: the Federation now has Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn accounts and a LinkedIn Company page. EFLM has started sharing news using the social media of the EFLM National Societies, IFCC and AACC. In 2016, EFLM started a project (to be completed in 2017) of restyling the EFLM image including a new website, a new logo and above all, the production and publication of its own Newsletter: the bimonthly EuroLabNews.

### COMMITTEE – EDUCATION AND TRAINING (C-ET)

C-ET has been involved in the organization of the 12<sup>th</sup> Symposium of the Balkan region and is involved in the Congress Organizing Committee for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Euromedlab in Barcelona and the 13<sup>th</sup> Symposium of the Balkan region. A new preliminary version of the former EC4 European Syllabus has been assigned to C-ET for finalization of an updated document of an EFLM European Syllabus in 2017. A Task and Finish Group has been established with 18 members working on a continuing professional development (CPD) crediting system; co-operation with UEMS is under initiation.

The development of a program for exchanging practice and practical training within EFLM countries is in progress in WG-CPE (Congress & Postgraduate Education). WG-DE produced six webinars in 2016, recordings were subsequently posted on YouTube. Selected presentations were recorded from the EFLM-UEMS Congress to be presented later on an EFLM e-learning platform, which is also under development.

### Committee – Profession (C-P) and EC4 Foundation

Towards the end of 2016, EC4's Board of Governors (the presidents of the EU-based national societies affiliated to EC4) voted for the dissolution of the EC4 Foundation Board and transfer assets such as the EC4 Register of 'Specialists in Laboratory Medicine' to EFLM. More than 3/4 of the EU-based NSs voted and of these more than 3/4 were in favor. All members of the EC4 Board then voted to dissolve the EC4 Foundation. The

change reflected the diminishing infrastructure in EC4 being mirrored by the rising profile and infrastructure in EFLM. This report takes the opportunity to acknowledge the notable building blocks achieved by key individuals in EC4 in pursuit of recognition of specialists under EU Directives such as 2013/55/EU (The Recognition of Professional Qualifications); a Common Training Framework has been proposed to the EU Commission, syllabi for education/training in laboratory medicine and codes of conduct have been published, and the unifying term of 'Specialist in Laboratory Medicine' has been adopted.

The importance of continuing to pursue recognition was reflected in EFLM's Executive Board decision in early December to preserve the function of EC4's Register Commission by establishing a new 'Register Working Group' for whom a key remit will be to grow the Register. The Profession Committee continues to press the EU Commission for acceptance of a Common Training Framework, this in turn being the passport to free professional migration across EU borders as well as acting as a catalyst for raising awareness of laboratory medicine's contribution.

### COMMITTEE – QUALITY AND REGULATIONS (C-QR)

WG A/ISO (Accreditation & ISO) was able to achieve the inclusion of the requirement for IVD manufacturers to provide information to the customers on lot-to lot differences in the new IVD Regulation which will become mandatory in the European Union. C and its WG are working on developing publications in relation with ISO15189 on reference values, retention time, POCT and measurement uncertainty. Representatives of the WG and Committee were active in ISOTC212, CENTC140 and the Health care Committee of the EA (European cooperation on Accreditation).

### COMMITTEE – SCIENCE (C-S)

The nine WGs under this Committee (Biological Variation, Cardiac Markers, Guidelines, Harmonisation of the Total Testing Process, Patient Focused Laboratory Medicine, Personalised Laboratory Medicine, Postanalytical Phase, Preanalytical Phase and Test Evaluation) and the two Task and Finish Groups (Laboratory Testing for Dyslipidaemia and Standardisation of the Colour Coding for Blood Collection Closures) remain highly active in focusing on topics which are of direct relevance in improving the effectiveness of laboratory medicine to patients. Particular highlights include: developing a means of grading the quality of biological variation studies; the lipid guidelines developed collaboratively with the European Atherosclerosis Society; initiatives to establish test unit and blood container colour standardisation; involving scientists in advising patients directly on their laboratory results; and ensuring emerging technologies such as proteomics develop within existing laboratory medicine disciplines.

## Meetings

EFLM has organized three meetings during 2016:

1. 12th EFLM Symposium for Balkan Region, May 25–27, 2016; Belgrade (Serbia)
2. 4th EFLM -UEMS European Joint Congress "Laboratory

- Medicine at the Clinical Interface", 21-24 September 2016; Warsaw (Poland)
3. EFLM Test evaluation course, 9-11 November 2016; Leiden (The Netherlands)

## Publications

1. Boursier G, Vukasovic I, Mesko Brguljan P, Lohmander M, Ghita I, Bernabeu Andreu FA, et al. on behalf of the Working Group Accreditation and ISO/CEN standards (WG-A/ISO) of the EFLM. Accreditation process in European countries - an EFLM survey. CCLM 2016;54:545-51
2. Carobene A, Strollo M, Jonker N, Barla G, Bartlett WA, Sandberg S, Sverresdotter Sylte M, Roraas T, Orvim Solvik U, Fernandez-Calle P, Diaz-Garzon J, Tosato F, Plebani M, Coskun A, Serteser

- M, Unsal I, Ceriotti F. Sample collections from healthy volunteers for biological variation estimates' update: a new project undertaken by the Working Group on Biological Variation established by the EFLM. CCLM 2016;54(10):1599-608
3. Collinson P, Hammerer-Lercher A, Suvisaari J, Apple FS, Christenson RH, Pulkki K, van Dieijen-Visser MP, Duff CJ, Baum H, Stavljenic-Rukavina A, Aakre KM, Langlois MR, Stankovic S, Laitinen P on behalf of the EFLM Working Group for Cardiac



foreseeable future, toughly built around personalized (precision) medicine.

So, what does the future hold for laboratory medicine? In a world with limited resources, just now recovering from an unprecedented economic crisis, which has profoundly impacted the budgets of many healthcare services worldwide, there are two leading paradigms for reaffirming the real value, along with the sustainability, of laboratory diagnostics. The former and rather predictable solution entails focusing more on appropriateness. Several lines of evidence attest that inappropriate testing (both under- and over-use) is still high in routine practice, often exceeding 60-70% of all requests. The large amount of money wasted for avoidable tests may hence be seen as a precious treasure to recover for implementing innovative tests, so moving forward or fostering personalized care (2). The second solution encompasses enhancing the visibility of IVD as a medical discipline and as a profession, emphasizing the crucial role of laboratory testing in several care pathways. It should be firmly



FIGURE 1.  
Laboratory medicine, between costs and value.

avowed that laboratory Medicine is an essential part of a multi-disciplinary team at the centre of healthcare. Spending more for performing new diagnostic or prognostic tests significantly contributes to reduce performing additional (often more costly and invasive) investigations, to improve clinical outcomes and save money downstream the managed care. This is clearly mirrored by the concept that a more efficient and timely diagnosis usually allows treatment of diseases at an earlier stage, so improving the overall efficiency of care and preventing potential complications. Nonetheless, improving appropriateness is not an easy enterprise, and no single approach was proven really effective alone. A multifaceted intervention should hence be defined, combining different strategies such as physicians' education about the clinical significance of laboratory tests, implementation of evidence-based guidelines, adoption of prescription help-guides, implementation of informatics aids to flag or stop potentially avoidable testing or even providing reference prices for tests.

The future of laboratory medicine mostly lies in our hands. It may also be brighter, provided that we will be able to increase awareness of the "value chain" of IVD beyond the laboratory and into the broader system of care (i.e., impact on patient care, health outcomes and health care costs).

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1. Rohr UP, Binder C, Dieterle T, et al. The value of in vitro diagnostic testing in medical practice: a status report. *PLoS One* 2016;11:e0149856.
2. Lippi G, Bassi A, Bovo C. The future of laboratory medicine in the era of precision medicine. *J Lab Prec Med* 2016;1:7.

#### NEWS FROM EFLM COMMITTEES

## EFLM Working Group "Register" up and running!

by Gilbert Wieringa, Chair of the EFLM Profession Committee, and Inez-Anne Haagen, Chair of the Working Group "Register"

Following the transfer of the EC4 Register to EFLM in December 2016 the Profession Committee is delighted to welcome **3 full members** to this **new Working Group** chaired by Inez-Anne Haagen:

- Josep Queralto, Spain
- Jaroslav Racek, Czech Republic
- Ivana Rako, Croatia

In addition the following have accepted nominations from their national societies to become **corresponding members** to the group:

- Hannsjörg Baum, Germany
- Jennifer Brady, Ireland
- Snezana Jovicic, Serbia
- Evgenia Konsta, Greece
- Mario Pazzagli, Italy
- Antonio Reche Martinez, UK
- Ferhan Girgin Sagin, Turkey
- Dalius Vitkus, Lithuania

The overarching aim of the group is to increase the number of registrants able to hold the title **European Specialist in Laboratory Medicine (EUSpLM)**. The EUSpLM title is widely recognised as a badge of high quality practice and the Register plays a key role in supporting the case for recognition of

specialists at EU Commission level. Recognition under EU Directive 2013/55/EU in turn allows specialists' free professional movement across EU borders and helps promote laboratory medicine's profile.

Individual or, preferably, auto-registration applications via national societies to hold the EUSpLM title will be strongly welcomed from individuals able to meet Equivalence of Standards with their counterpart across the EU:

- Minimum 9 years (ideally 10) years academic (4/5 years) and specialist (5 years) training
- Education and training to standards set in the EC4/EFLM syllabus
- A Master's degree in Medicine, Pharmacy or Science
- A Profession Committee recognised 'Equivalence of Standards' exit qualification
- Evidence of participation in continuous professional development (CPD)

To date, 20 of the 28 EU member states' national societies have had their Equivalence of Standards approved by EC4.

The Profession Committee will welcome any further Equivalence of Standards submissions via the EFLM Office ([eflm@eflm.eu](mailto:eflm@eflm.eu)) as well as any updates on education and training standards in individual countries.



## Vacancies in EFLM functional units

### **New EFLM Working Group "Register" – deadline to send nominations: 15 April 2017**

Following on from the integration in 2016 of EC4 into EFLM, a new Working Group "Register" of the Profession Committee has been formed under the chairmanship of Dr. Inez-Ann Haagen to take on many of the functions of EC4's Register Commission. Nominations are invited from EFLM National Society Members for **1 Young Scientist Specialists in Laboratory Medicine (EUSpLM) ≤35 years**, to act as Young Scientist Member, willing to support the chair of the group in the following:

- to adjudicate applications to hold the title European Specialist in Laboratory Medicine (EUSpLM)
- to grow the Register
- to support the Profession Committee in its strategy to achieve recognition of Specialists in Laboratory Medicine.

### **EFLM Working Group "Postanalytical Phase" – deadline to send nominations: 15 April 2017**

Clinical knowledge and skills combined with laboratory expertise are needed for optimal interpretation of laboratory results in the setting of the individual patient. Increasing number of studies emphasise the need for improving the clinical utilisation of laboratory tests and that laboratory professionals should play a more prominent in this optimization process. A spectrum of activities have been identified that assist clinicians in translating a certain laboratory result to diagnostic information but all too

little is known about how these activities are practiced in laboratories. The WG-POST, chaired by Prof. Eva Ajzner (Hungary), intends to support laboratories in taking a more active role in supporting a better clinical utilisation of laboratory tests. The WG-POST is a joint working group of EFLM and the European Organisation for External Quality Assurance Providers in Laboratory Medicine (EQALM).

A vacancy arose from January 2017 and we are calling nominations for 1 Full Member position.

### **EFLM Working Group "Harmonization of Total Testing Process" – deadline to send nominations: 30 April 2017**

The EFLM Working Group on Harmonisation of Total Testing Process, chaired by Prof. Ferruccio Ceriotti (Italy), was created with the aim to act as a collector of harmonisation initiatives arising from other Working Groups or Task and Finish Groups within the EFLM and from EFLM National Member Societies in order to promote the dissemination of good practice. The WG also surveys and promotes the use of harmonised nomenclature for measurands, the standardisation of units and, where feasible, the implementation of common reference intervals in European countries.

Last January, some vacancies arose within the WG and so we are calling for nominations to 2 Full Member positions.

**The terms of reference for each WG are available at [www.eflm.eu](http://www.eflm.eu).** For all the above mentioned positions, the term of office will be for 2 years ending on 31 December 2018. The position could be renewable for other two more terms if the work for the Group is deemed essential at that time. The work is mainly conducted by e-mail and teleconferencing, the WG usually meets once per year. Procedure for applications: each EFLM National Society Member in good standing with the membership fee can submit one nomination using the form circulated to the National Society's representatives to be sent back to [silvia.cattaneo@eflm.eu](mailto:silvia.cattaneo@eflm.eu). A brief plan of the applicant's contribution to the aims and objectives of the relevant Working Group has to be included in the form. Together with the application, a short CV should also be submitted underlining the qualifications and prior experience and publications in the relevant area. Candidates have to be officially recommended by their National Society through a formal letter of support. Applicants who are not selected as full members may be eligible for corresponding membership.

### INVITATION

## EFLM-Abbott Diagnostics Award for Excellence in Outcomes Research in Laboratory Medicine

**EFLM**  
EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY  
AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

**Abbott**



### Announcement

EFLM and Abbott Diagnostics are pleased to announce the EFLM-Abbott Diagnostics Award for Excellence in Outcomes Research in Laboratory Medicine. The Award will be given to the best published paper, as judged by an independent panel of experts, which demonstrates improved outcomes (clinical and/or economic) arising out of the application or improved utilisation of an *in vitro* diagnostic test.

The award was presented for the first time at the 19<sup>th</sup> IFCC/EFLM EuroMedLab Congress 2011 in Berlin. Thereafter it will be awarded every two years at an EFLM conference. The Award will consist of a certificate and the sum of 10,000 Euro.



## Criteria

All entries must be validated studies demonstrating improved outcomes (clinical and/or economic) arising out of the application or improved utilisation of an *in vitro* diagnostic test.

Entries must have been published or finally accepted for publication between 1 February 2015 and 20 April 2017.

Entries must be published in English in a peer-reviewed medical, scientific or health economics journal.

Entries must have been produced by an individual or group working wholly or mainly within Europe (as defined by WHO – [www.euro.who.int/countryinformation](http://www.euro.who.int/countryinformation)). The submitting author must be from an EFLM National Society Member.

It is a condition of entry that applicants agree to the use of the data and conclusions presented in the paper for purposes of promotion of laboratory medicine by EFLM. Only conclusions specifically presented in the paper will be used in such materials, and authors will be acknowledged in and have the right of review of any materials produced.

## Submission Procedure

Applications for the Award must be submitted by one of the authors of the paper and must be accompanied by:

- Reprint of the publication or (in the case of publications in

press), a manuscript copy and a copy of the journal Editor's letter indicating the final acceptance for publication;

- Short CV of the submitting author;
- Statement signed by all authors of the publication consenting to submission of the paper for the Award and to the conditions of entry.

Applications, clearly marked "EFLM-Abbott Diagnostics Award", should be submitted to the EFLM via e-mail to the address [eflm@eflm.eu](mailto:eflm@eflm.eu), by 20 April 2017.

Applications will be judged by an independent panel appointed by the EFLM Science Committee including expertise in clinical medicine, evidence-based medicine, health economics and clinical laboratory science.

The Award (10,000 Euro and a framed certificate) will be presented at the 22<sup>nd</sup> IFCC-EFLM EuroMedLab Congress in Athens (June 11-15, 2017). The Award will be presented to the submitting author, who is responsible for division of the award among his/her co-authors.

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# EFLM-HyTest Cardiac Marker Award for remarkable scientific work in the field of cardiovascular diseases



The EFLM-HyTest Cardiac Marker Award is granted to a young scientist for remarkable scientific work in the field of cardiovascular diseases. EFLM is very pleased to have partnered with HyTest on this award, through which we intend to achieve wider recognition of the importance of high quality research in the field of cardiac markers among laboratory professionals in Europe.

## Eligibility criteria:

The applicant must fulfill the following criteria:

- Age under 40 years;
- Member of an EFLM member country;
- Study accepted for peer-reviewed publication by the submission deadline in which the nominee must be first author.

## Award timing:

The EFLM-HyTest Cardiac Marker Award is awarded biannually. This year, the award will be presented at the 22<sup>nd</sup> IFCC-EFLM European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EuroMedLab 2017) to be held in Athens (GR) from 11 to 15 June 2017.

## Award details:

The selected scientist will receive an award of € 5000 and the costs for attending the EuroMedLab Congress (economy class travel, reasonable accommodation and the congress registration fee).

## Submission details:

The applicants should send the reprint of their article or a copy of the editor's letter indicating final acceptance for publication to the EFLM office at [eflm@eflm.eu](mailto:eflm@eflm.eu). Articles must have been published or accepted for publication between 1 January 2016 and 20 April 2017. Entries must be published in English in a peer-reviewed scientific journal. Applicants should also send a statement signed by all authors of the publication consenting to submission of the paper for the Award and to the conditions of entry. Submissions will be judged by an independent panel of experts. The nominee must be the first author and a member of an EFLM member society. The Award will be presented to the first author, who is responsible for division of the award among his/her co-authors.

- *Applications deadline: April 20, 2017*
- *Winner will be notified: April 30, 2017*

For further information on the submission process please contact the Chair of the EFLM Science Committee, Prof. Eric Kilpatrick at [eflm@eflm.com](mailto:eflm@eflm.com).

## About HyTest

Established in 1994, HyTest Ltd is a recognized producer of high-quality monoclonal antibodies and antigens for the diagnostic industry all around the world. Building on a strong scientific basis, HyTest has become the global market leader in supplying certain reagents. With several products appointed as the best in the world. HyTest is a company with an excellent track record and is known for its uncompromising quality. This quality extends to the whole wide product range. Continuous investments in R&D ensure a constant flow of new, even better reagents for the customers. That's why most of the major diagnostic companies rely on HyTest's ability to supply the best reagents in the world. For more information visit: [www.hytest.fi](http://www.hytest.fi)















<b>1</b>	<p>Do not perform serum electrophoresis or Bence Jones protein determination to identify low risk patients before imaging tests involving contrast media.</p> <p>The risk factor for these procedures is renal failure that is conventionally assessed by serum creatinine and glomerular filtration rate measurements. Plasma cell dyscrasias (PCD) are often accompanied by an impairment of renal function. However, not all the patients have compromised renal function, so PCD are not risk factors for contrast media nephropathy "per se".</p>
<b>2</b>	<p>Do not perform AST, LDH, CK, CK-MB, myoglobin for diagnosing myocardial infarction.</p> <p>The only recommended laboratory test for diagnosing acute myocardial infarction is troponin (I or T) measurement. This test, especially the new generation of assays displaying increased diagnostic sensitivity, outperform other available tests.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p>Do not perform urine glucose measurement for monitoring diabetes</p> <p>This test does not have the necessary diagnostic characteristics. The laboratory test to be used is glycated haemoglobin (HbA1c).</p>
<b>4</b>	<p>Do not perform tumor markers such as CEA, CA-125, HE4, CA-15.3, alpha-fetoprotein or CA-19.9 for the diagnosis of cancer.</p> <p>Sensitivity and specificity of these tests are not adequate for this purpose, especially when used in a population with low prevalence of the diseases. Their use is better indicated for monitoring purposes.</p>
<b>5</b>	<p>Do not perform amylase AND lipase in patients during in the diagnosis of acute pancreatitis.</p> <p>The measurement of lipase shows better diagnostic characteristics for diagnosing acute pancreatitis</p>

**NOTE:** The suggestions listed above do not replace clinical evaluation and judgement, and have been selected among other proposals by the Executive Board of SIBioC.

## References

<b>1</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mussap M, et al. A nome del gruppo di studio SIBioC Proteine. Documento di consenso SIBioC e Società Italiana di Radiologia Medica (SIRM) sulla richiesta di esami di laboratorio per la valutazione del danno renale da mezzi di contrasto. <i>Biochimica Clinica</i> 2014;38:140-2.</li> <li>Mussap M, Merlini G. Pathogenesis of renal failure in multiple myeloma: any role of contrast media? <i>Biomed Res Int.</i> 2014;2014:167125. doi: 10.1155/2014/167125. Epub 2014 Apr 30.</li> <li>European Society of Urogenital Radiology (ESUR). Guidelines on Contrast Media. <a href="http://www.esur.org/guidelines/it">www.esur.org/guidelines/it</a></li> </ol>
<b>2</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hamm CW, et al. ESC guidelines for the management of acute coronary syndromes in patients presenting without persistent ST-segment elevation. <i>European Heart Journal</i> 2011;32:2999-3054.</li> </ol>
<b>3</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Associazione Medici Diabetologi (AMD) - Società Italiana di Diabetologia (SID) - Standard italiani per la cura del diabete mellito 2014;</li> <li>Sacks DB, Arnold M, Bakris GL et al. Guidelines and recommendations for laboratory analysis in the diagnosis and management of diabetes mellitus. <i>Clin Chem</i> 2011;57:e1-e47</li> </ol>
<b>4</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gion M, Trevisiol C, Pregno S, Fabricio ASC. Guida all'uso clinico dei biomarcatori in oncologia: metodi di misura e interpretazione. <i>Biochim Clin</i> 2011;35:199-206; 394-403; 465-73.</li> </ol>
<b>5</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Panteghini M &amp; al, Tietz Textbook of Clinical Chemistry &amp; Molecular Diagnostics, 5<sup>th</sup> ed.</li> </ol>

## EFLM bursary programme for Young Scientists

### Recipients of the EFLM bursary programme for the EuroMedLab 2017 Congress in Athens

In response to the invitation to apply for the EFLM bursary programme addressed to Young Scientists attending the 22<sup>nd</sup> IFCC-EFLM in Athens next June, 50 applications were received from a total of 12 different countries. All applications were eligible for selection and were carefully evaluated by a dedicated panel of EFLM Officers.

The following 10 applicants were selected to receive the EFLM support consisting of a bursary of Eur 900 covering travel and 4-night accommodation. In addition, EFLM bursary recipients will receive free congress registration and a free on-line subscription to the EFLM official journal *Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (CCLM)*, kindly offered by Walter deGruyter.

- Gizem CALIBASI, Turkey
- Jelena CULEJ, Croatia
- Wendy Petronella DEN ELZEN, Netherlands
- Isabel FORT, Spain
- Zoltan HORVATH-SZALAI, Hungary
- Miroslava RABAJDOVA, Slovak Rep
- Benoit RUCHETON, France
- Marie-Louise SCHLECK, Belgium
- Elisabetta SOTGIU, Italy
- Sandra VLADIMIROV, Serbia

To keep updated with EFLM initiatives addressed to Young Scientists, join the EFLM mailing list at the website [www.eflm.eu](http://www.eflm.eu)

# Calendar of EFLM events and events under EFLM auspices

Do not miss the opportunity to have your event listed here.

**Apply for EFLM auspices!** For more information visit: <https://www.eflm.eu/site/page/a/1048/> or email [eflm@eflm.eu](mailto:eflm@eflm.eu)

20-23 April 2017

**10<sup>th</sup> International & 15th National Congress on Quality Improvement in Clinical Laboratories**

Tehran, Iran

<http://iqctehran.ir/>

11-15 June 2017

**EuroMedLab 2017 - 22<sup>nd</sup> IFCC-EFLM European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine**

Athens, Greece

<http://www.athens2017.org/>



20-21 April 2017

**1<sup>st</sup> Conference on Medical Laboratory Accreditation and Quality Systems: European Answers**

Belgrade, Serbia

15-16 June 2017

**Under Poseidon's Eye - Symposium on Diabetes**

EuroMedLab2017 - Satellite Meeting

Sounio, Greece

<http://www.athens2017.org/>

10-13 May 2017

**2<sup>nd</sup> Conference of Romanian Association of Laboratory Medicine (RALM)**

Timisoara, Romania

<http://www.raml-conference.ro>

21-22 September 2017

**13th EFLM Symposium for Balkan Region**

Laboratory Medicine Management: Leadership skills for effective Laboratory

Belgrade, Serbia

<http://www.dmbj.org.rs>



11-13 May 2017

**VIII Baltic Transfusion Medicine Congress & I Latvian Congress in Laboratory Medicine**

Riga, Latvia

<http://www.labtrans.org/>

5-6 October 2017-01-24

**EFLM Symposium: Cutting Edge at Laboratory Medicine (CELME)**

Prague, Czech Republic

[www.celme2017.cz](http://www.celme2017.cz)



30-31 May 2017

**VI International Symposium "Clinical Laboratory and Quality"**

Barcelona, Spain

[www.seqc.es](http://www.seqc.es)

4-7 October 2017

**3<sup>rd</sup> International Symposium on Advances in Circulating Tumor Cells: Liquid Biopsy in Clinical Practice - ACTC 2017**

Rhodes, Greece

<http://www.actc2017.org/>

10 June 2017

**Metabolic Bone Disease: The Role of the Clinical Laboratory**

EuroMedLab2017 - Satellite Meeting

Athens, Greece

<http://www.athens2017.org/>

16-17 October 2017

**Journées Nationales 2017 de la Société Française de Biologie Clinique**

Paris, France

<http://www.sfbc.asso.fr/>

10-11 June 2017

**Management of Inborn Errors of Metabolism: From Diagnosis to Treatment**

EuroMedLab2017 - Satellite Meeting

Athens, Greece

<http://www.athens2017.org/>

20-22 October 2017

**XIV International Congress of Pediatric Laboratory Medicine**

Durban, South Africa

<http://www.icplm2017.org/>

26 October 2017

**International Conference on Laboratory Medicine "Uncertainty, Quality, Safety And Accreditation in Laboratory Medicine"**

Padova, Italy

[http://www.lccongressi.it/home\\_eng.htm](http://www.lccongressi.it/home_eng.htm)

## Boost your brand and increase your company's visibility through the EFLM Newsletter!

**EuroLabNews** is the digital bi-monthly newsletter of EFLM targeting more than 4,500 laboratory medicine professionals and is also published on the EFLM website. The Newsletter features information on EFLM initiatives and activities of its functional units, news from EFLM National Society members and includes a calendar of the major events in the Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine field.

The EFLM IVD partners are offered the possibility to advertise on EuroLabNews as follows:

	1 issue per year	6 issues per year
1 quarter of page	500 €	1000 €
Half a page	1000 €	2000 €
Full page	1500 €	3000 €

Those companies interested in this opportunity can contact the EFLM Office at [silvia.cattaneo@eflm.eu](mailto:silvia.cattaneo@eflm.eu)