

# 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"



## EFLM EXECUTIVE BOARD INFORMS

### EFLM Scholarship Programme in memory of Prof. Vic Blaton

Reported by Giuseppe Lippi, EFLM Executive Board Secretary



The EFLM Executive Board is delighted to announce the launch of a new EFLM initiative: the EFLM Scholarship Programme addressed to a defined group of EFLM National Societies selected according to UN and World bank classification criteria.

This new EFLM initiative is dedicated to the memory of Prof. Vic Blaton, who has been a former pioneer of our profession, 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 EFLM, where he was the first President. 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. With this initiative the EFLM Executive Board aims to move forward his vision for the years to come. The 'EFLM Scholarship Programme in memory of Prof. Vic Blaton' is addressed to the following EFLM National Societies:

- |                           |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Albania                | 6. Montenegro         |
| 2. Bosnia and Herzegovina | 7. North Macedonia    |
| 3. Georgia                | 8. Russian Federation |
| 4. Kazakhstan             | 9. Serbia             |
| 5. Kosovo                 | 10. Ukraine           |

*To be continued on page 2*

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## Foreword

Reported by Harjit Pal Bhattoa, Editor EuroLabNews



Reflecting its persuals and dedication to forward laboratory medicine, the EFLM presents its scheduled bimonthly issue of the EuroLabNews in the midst of the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemia. In the present issue, Giuseppe Lippi, EFLM Executive

Board Secretary proudly reports on a new EFLM Scholarship Program dedicated to Professor Vic Blaton. Christa Cobbaert, EFLM EC observer in the WG-IVD under the Medical Device Coordination Group, presents a note on the establishment of the EFLM Task Force on European Regulatory Affairs that is dedicated to implementation of the In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Devices Regulation. Perhaps as a trademark of the EuroLabNews, dedicated members of the EFLM WG Promotions and Publications present recent state of the art EFLM publications spiced by artistic infographics. The Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine report their latest activities. The IFCC corner presents developments in Laboratory Medicine with a global perspective. The Calendar of Events lists all major happenings in our field but please mind the change in dates. And above all, the EFLM Newsletter team wishes all our readers good health, keep safe!





## NEWS FROM EFLM FUNCTIONAL UNITS

# Paving the way for the IVDR implementation: establishment of the EFLM Task Force on European Regulatory Affairs

Reported by Christa Cobbaert, EFLM EC observer in the WG-IVD under the Medical Device Coordination Group

The 'EFLM Scholarship Programme in memory of Prof. Vic Blaton' consists the following professional and educational opportunities:

### **Bursaries\* for EFLMLabX, the EFLM professional exchange initiative**

➤ 10 Bursaries per annum, up to Eur 750 each

### **Bursaries\* to attend the EuroMedLab Congress**

5 Bursaries up to Eur 1000 each to cover travel and accommodation; free registration offered by the Congress Organizing Committee)

### **Bursaries\* to attend the EFLM Strategic Conference**

➤ 5 Bursaries up to Eur 500 each to cover travel and accommodation; free registration offered by EFLM)

### **Bursaries\* to attend the EFLM Conference on Preanalytical Phase**

➤ 5 Bursaries up to Eur 500 each to cover travel and accommodation; free registration offered by EFLM)

### **Bursaries\* to attend a conference proposed by the applicant**

➤ 2 Bursaries up to Eur 1000 each to cover registration, travel and accommodation

### **EFLM PostGraduate Course**

➤ 1 course/year where the travel & accommodation for the Speakers' Team (2 officers) is paid by EFLM

### **EFLM Academy membership**

➤ 5 free annual registrations per country addressed to Young Scientists ( $\leq 35y$ )

*\*restricted to EFLM Academy Members; the application's criteria are those already existing for the related activity.*

With this new initiative, the EFLM Executive Board intends to actively support colleagues from the selected countries, by offering the opportunity to improve knowledge, skills and personal CV, to enjoy educational events and to enlarge the network of professional links among Specialists in Laboratory Medicine in Europe.

New and far-reaching EU legislation has to be implemented in all EU Member States by May 2022: the In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Devices Regulation (IVDR). Succinctly, the IVDR will strengthen the requirements for clinical evidence to ensure the clinical benefit and safety of IVDs, including the post-market vigilance. The IVDR will also increase the involvement of Notified Bodies, which are independent conformity assessment institutions nominated by the national competent authorities. Assessments and audits by Notified Bodies will be required under the IVDR for the vast majority of diagnostic tests. On top, this will be complemented by validation via EC-nominated EU Reference Laboratories (EURLs) in case of specific high risk tests (class D tests, i.e. infectious agents and blood group testing). Laboratory Developed Tests (LDTs) are exempted from the full impact of IVDR, but are only justified in healthcare institutions, if no other equivalent tests with similar performance are on the market. The impact of the IVDR on commercial labs with high numbers of LDTs will be substantial, as these will be required to CE-mark their LDTs. The implementation of the IVDR is managed by the European Commission (DG SANTE) and the National Competent Authorities, who steer several working groups under the umbrella of the Medical Device Coordination Group (MDCG). The IVDR represents both **opportunities and threats** for laboratory professionals and the diagnostic industry, with variable implications for private, public and commercial labs or healthcare institutions. Because of the huge IVDR implications for all IVD-stakeholders, including patients, the EFLM EB has decided to establish a Task Force on European Regulatory Affairs: the EFLM TF ERA. The EFLM TF ERA will take a proactive role in the transitioning to IVDR implementation per May 2022 by means of a functional governance and communication structure which guarantees to be influential and "at the table" during meetings and consultations of the European Commission (EC) regarding interpretation and operationalization of the IVDR. To that end, two observers and backups have been appointed in MDCG working groups of the European Commission, who are naturally members of the EFLM TF ERA. Nomination of specific members who cover relevant interests and have specific expertise for preparing the IVDR implementation, is underway. Importantly, EFLM recently became a member of BioMed Alliance, a non-profit organization representing over 30 leading European research and medical societies involved in both diagnostic and therapeutic care of all EU citizens. From now on, a liaison will attend the BioMed Alliance meetings with the EC and inform both EFLM EB and the (co)chair(s) of the TF ERA. EFLM will benefit from BioMed Alliance's long-lasting experience on regulatory affairs and its strong position as spokes party for the EC. Conversely, EFLM will provide the BioMed Alliance group with specific expertise on questions around biomedical analytics, medical laboratory diagnostics, quality management etc..

The EFLM TF ERA will provide professional advice and/or guidance on the IVDR interpretation in main areas of work of the MDCG working groups, such as for the establishment of new scientific bodies, i.e. especially reference labs; implementing acts; guidance on work items from the MDCG IVD respectively WG-Emerging Technologies; common specifications. The TF ERA members will also take part in public consultations of guidance documents prepared by Task Forces of the Competent Authorities/European Commission particularly, but not exclusively, on the following topics:

1. Performance Evaluation & Performance Studies #
2. Scope & Classification
3. Notified Bodies & Conformity Assessment ##
4. Post-Market Surveillance & Vigilance
5. Eudamed database & UDI
6. Market Surveillance
7. EU reference laboratories ##
8. International matters

# Assuring that Clinical Evidence requirements are rational and feasible.

## Getting insight into the criteria and competences required for IVD-assessors in notified bodies & in expert panels.

The EFLM TF ERA will for sure involve existing EFLM working groups and committees working on related content, among them the EFLM Working group on Test Evaluation (WG-TE) and the EFLM Quality and Regulations committee (C-QR). Finally, the EFLM TF ERA will share relevant IVDR-updates, guidelines, activities ... with all EFLM National Societies. Hitherto, the EFLM EB asked the National Societies to nominate a national representative as corresponding member to the EFLM TF ERA. Also, an EU-wide communication /propagation plan and a designated web forum on the EFLM website will be established to enable rapid, two-way communication with the EFLM National Societies. The EFLM TF ERA will become operational in the next months. The ultimate goal of the EFLM TF ERA is to guarantee EU-wide access to high-quality, affordable and safe medical tests.

With less than two years left until the application date of the IVDR, the clock is ticking for its implementation and there are still numerous important issues to be addressed. So far, members of the Biomedical Alliance in Europe (BioMed Alliance) involved in the diagnostic field, including EFLM, are concerned about various delays related to the implementation of the IVDR (EU 2017/746). They recently called on the European Commission to address these issues rapidly and to assess if the transition timeline needs to be adapted. If the European Commission has insufficient capacity to meet the concerns of the diagnostic health sector, then the date of application of the IVDR should be postponed. Other calls for specific actions by the European Commission relate to the necessity of having EU-wide derogations for medical testing in case of crisis management - such as the COVID-19 outbreak - and to have assurance about appropriate implementation of the IVDR for LDTs

See [https://www.biomedeuropa.org/images/news/2020/BioMed\\_Alliance\\_statement-progress\\_IVDR\\_implementation.pdf](https://www.biomedeuropa.org/images/news/2020/BioMed_Alliance_statement-progress_IVDR_implementation.pdf).

## UPDATES ON EFLM PUBLICATIONS

# The CRESS checklist for reporting stability studies: on behalf of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) Working Group for the Preanalytical Phase (WG-PRE)

Cornes M, Simundic AM, Cadamuro J, Costelloe SJ, Baird G, Kristensen GBB, von Mayer A, Nybo M, Gomez Rioja R

Clin Chem Lab Med 2020; Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1515/cclm-2020-0061>

Reported by Tara Rolić, member of the EFLM WG-Promotion & Publications

On the behalf of the Working Group for the Preanalytical Phase (WG-PRE), of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM). The Checklist for Reporting Stability Studies (CRESS) was published. The Checklist is composed of 20 points which researchers, authors, reviewers, and journal editors should use as a guide for performing and reporting stability studies. Reports should be accurate and of clinical utility. CRESS checklist provides standard of reporting and easy assessment of transferability of studies to other healthcare settings. The EFLM WG-PRE encourage researches to use the CRESS checklist as a guide to planning stability studies and to produce standardized reporting of future stability studies.



Infographic by Tara Rolić/EFLM CC

Cornes M, Simundic AM, Cadamuro J, et al., The CRESS checklist for reporting stability studies: on behalf of the EFLM, WG-PRE, CCLM, 2020 <https://doi.org/10.15157/cclm-2020-0061>



## Biological variation of morning serum cortisol: Updated estimates from the European biological variation study (EuBIVAS) and meta-analysis

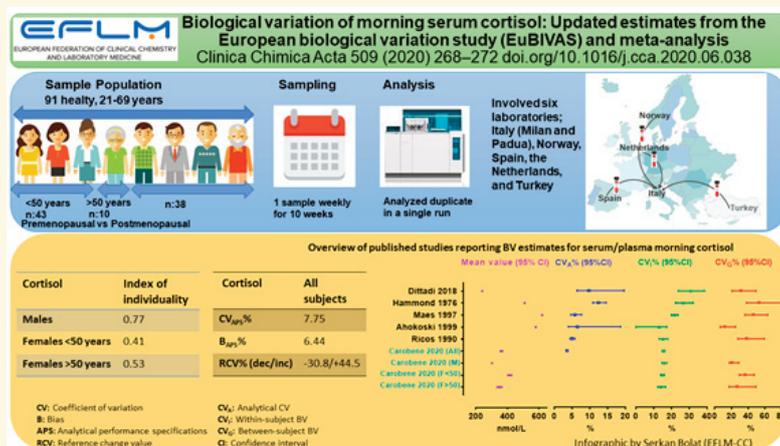
Carobene A, Guerra E, Marqués-García F, Boned B, Locatelli M, Coşkun A, Díaz-Garzón J, Fernandez-Calle P, Sandberg S, Aarsand AK, on behalf of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry, Laboratory Medicine Working Group on Biological Variation

Clinica Chimica Acta 509 (2020) 268–272; Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cca.2020.06.038>

Reported by Serkan Bolat, corresponding member of the EFLM WG-Promotion & Publications

Biological variation (BV) data and its application have been used widely in laboratory and clinical practice. Some of them are variation within individual (CVI) and between individuals (CVG), index of individuality (II), analytical performance specification for CV and bias, and reference change value (RCV). To make accessible the appropriate BV data to all people EFLM Biological variation Working Group (WG-BV) has started to intensive works and finally, EFLM Biological Variation Database was introduced in 2019.

The BV studies done by The European Biological Variation Study (EuBIVAS) are increasing steadily, and this one informs us about morning serum cortisol. If we look at the results of the study, we will see while the CVI values of the groups are similar to each other, women have significantly higher CVG and mean values than men, especially premenopausal women have the highest values. Furthermore, higher CVG values in women result in the lower index of individuality (<0.6). In this situation, we could say that general cortisol reference ranges are less valuable for females. In conclusion, the reported meta-analysis highlights the disagreements between previously published studies, and further emphasizes the importance of EuBIVAS initiative.



### PAST EFLM EVENTS

## The present and future of POCT

EFLM Academy Webinar

On 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 18.00 CET, Dr. Kleantih Dima (GR) held a webinar on point-of-care testing (POCT): applications, technologies, quality issues and novel POCT applications for continuous metabolite monitoring and for identification of infectious agents, with a special focus on SARS-CoV2. This excellent webinar was rated as very successful and has attracted the attention of many professionals in laboratory medicine. More information can be found in [EFLM eLearning platform](#) (accessible for EFLM Academy members only).



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## News from the Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQC<sup>ML</sup>)

Reported by Josefina Mora, Executive Secretary of SEQC<sup>ML</sup> Board

**This accreditation guarantees the quality of the work of clinical laboratories**



**The Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQC<sup>ML</sup>) obtains ENAC accreditation as a provider of external quality assessment programs**

- External quality assessment programs (EQAS) are used to measure the reliability of clinical laboratory results.
- The objective is for the results of the clinical tests to be comparable to each other, regardless of the laboratory that performs them
- Accreditation is distinguished from certification in that the former, in addition to ensuring compliance with the ISO standard, assesses the quality with which the work is carried out

**Madrid, June 1, 2020** - The Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQC<sup>ML</sup>) has obtained accreditation from the National Accreditation Entity (ENAC) as a provider of the external quality assessment program (EQAS) for serum. The SEQC<sup>ML</sup> has among the objectives set by its strategic plan that its EQAS programs are leaders at the national level, and this accreditation guarantees the reliability of the laboratory results, giving a very important added value with respect to other non-accredited external quality evaluation programs. In Spain, there are only two other entities accredited by ENAC in this area, in addition to the SEQC<sup>ML</sup>.

The SEQC<sup>ML</sup> has extensive experience, since 1981, as a provider of external quality assessment programs in all areas of clinical biochemistry. It currently offers 11 programs in which the majority of the measurands analyzed in the clinical laboratory are compared. Continuing with the main objective of continuously improving the quality of its programs, the SEQC<sup>ML</sup> plans to gradually achieve ENAC accreditation of all its programs. This would guarantee the reliability of control materials used, of calculations performed, and the reports of results sent to participants.

The objective of external quality assessment programs is to evaluate the reliability of clinical laboratory results, comparing them between laboratories or using pre-established reference values. For this reason, they are also known as intercomparison programs. The program organizer distributes samples of control material of unknown concentration to all participating laboratories, which analyze them and send their results to the organizer. This entity then evaluates these results and informs each laboratory of the degree of deviation with respect to the assigned value of the control material. There are external quality programs for most of the tests analyzed by the laboratories, whether at a national or international level.

ENAC is designated by the Spanish Government as the sole accreditation body. It is a non-profit, independent, impartial, and transparent public entity, whose decisions are based on exclusively technical criteria, with no commercial interest. As explained by Dr. Carmen Perich, president of the Committee for External Quality Programs of the SEQC<sup>ML</sup>, "being accredited by ENAC means recognition of the technical competence of an entity and its reliability, both nationally and internationally." In the case of EQAS programs, this means that their organizers meet the requirements established in the ISO 17043: 2010 standard, so that the control materials used, the calculations performed, and the result reports sent to the participants are reliable.

"It is important that the results provided by laboratories are comparable to each other, regardless of the laboratory that

performed the analyses," explains Dr. Perich, who adds that this fact redounds to the assurance that the patient will obtain the same diagnosis, or the same monitoring of a disease, regardless of the laboratory. At present, the SEQC<sup>ML</sup> accreditations covers 36 of the tests that are most frequently performed in blood analysis, and the objective of the Society is the gradual accreditation of all its external quality programs.

### **Difference between accreditation and certification**

To highlight the importance of this recognition, Dr. Perich pointed out a series of differences between being an entity accredited by ENAC and one that simply accepts its certification.

"A certified entity implies that the fact that it performs its activities in accordance with established guidelines has been evaluated, following the requirements of the corresponding ISO standard, but it does not mean that it performs these activities in a technically competent manner, that they are reliable. On the other hand, an entity accredited by ENAC shows that the entity carries out its activities in compliance with the requirements of the corresponding ISO standard, but also that these activities are carried out in a technically competent manner, that is, that they are reliable", the specialist pointed out. "Put simply: the certification assesses that the entity does what it says it does and the accreditation assesses that it does what it says it does and also does it well," she adds.



*Dr Carmen Perich, President of the Committee for External Quality Programs of the SEQC<sup>ML</sup> and the SEQC<sup>ML</sup> Office Team.*

### **Chosen for presenting an innovative "four helix" management approach, which involves public institutions, industry, research, and citizens**

#### **The European Union selects the Galiat Study, which assesses the health effects of the Atlantic diet, as a model of innovative management**

The study is considered of interest by the Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQC<sup>ML</sup>), as it was led by clinical laboratory professionals

- The initiative is considered by the Interreg Atlantic Area program of the European Union as an open and user-centered innovation ecosystem, based on co-creation and co-learning and capable of transferring progress to the everyday life
- Participants in the 'Galiat' clinical trial on the impact of a diet based on the traditional Galician diet experienced an improvement in their metabolic health

**Madrid, July 1, 2020** - The Interreg Atlantic Area Program of the European Union, which covers various transnational cooperation projects between European countries and regions in the Atlantic area, has selected the Galiat Study as a model of innovative 4H management. The inclusion of this study within the framework of the 4H, or "four-helix", model implies that the European program considers the Galiat Study as an open and user-centered innovation ecosystem, based on co-creation and



co-learning and integrating research, health improvement, and innovation processes in real-life communities and settings.

The Galiat Study is part of the Galiat 6 + 7 Project, a public-private alliance between six Galician food companies and seven public research organizations to address the study of agri-food and marine resources in northwestern Spain and their effects on health. The original idea came from the Viticulture group of Misión Biológica de Galicia-CSIC, which successfully managed scientific coordination between research groups and companies for more than 50 months. The project had the financial support of the Feder-Interconecta program of the European Union. The Galiat Study, a randomized, controlled, nutritional intervention clinical trial designed to evaluate the effects of the Atlantic diet in 250 families, has already received several awards. The research team was coordinated by Dr. Mar Calvo, from the Clinical Analysis Department of the Hospital Clínico Universitario de Santiago, and a member of the Communication Committee of the SEQC<sup>ML</sup>, for whom this is a very important recognition, "since only eight European projects carried out during the 2014-2020 period were selected".

Throughout its development, the Galiat Study was considered of interest and closely followed by the Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQC<sup>ML</sup>), as it was led by professionals from the Clinical Laboratory. According to Mar Calvo, "already in 2013 the general project was designed with the involvement of public institutions, researchers and health professionals, companies, and citizens. In our group we de facto anticipated the current model of the Galician public health system, uniting in a single team the health professionals of primary and specialized care, involving the public, promoting the scientific/technical training of all participants, and converting the town of A Estrada, where the clinical trial was carried out, into an authentic Living Lab".

"There are very few studies with a clinical trial design that evaluate preventive community interventions aimed at the general population", explained Dr. Calvo to highlight the importance of this trial so that Laboratory Medicine would be provided with scientific evidence when assessing the balance of a diet in people's health.

The clinical trial involved 250 families from the Pontevedra town of A Estrada (720 people, between children and adults), who were randomly divided into two groups, one of intervention (127 families) and the other a control (123 families). For six months, the families of the intervention group participated in a nutritional and gastronomic education program and were given typical foods of the Atlantic diet. "In other words, our Galician diet, is healthy, economical, tasty, respectful with the environment, and congruent with our gastronomic cultural heritage", according

to the doctor. In the A Estrada Health Center where the field work was carried out, more than 50 professionals acted as collaborating researchers. In addition, the City Council, a Hospitality School, local restaurants, local companies, the local press were involved.

#### **A model of Innovative management**

One of the highly valued factors in this initiative is its multidisciplinary nature, a public-private collaboration and an innovative management model designed so that all players would work in the same direction. "With so many professionals, many of them outside our organization, an efficient management model was essential. We drew up a work plan with all the activities, work procedures, responsibilities, necessary materials, and a schedule for the healthcare personnel involved and local collaborators. Once the study was finished, the interaction between healthcare and community services crystallized in the approval of a Local Health Plan that incorporates family nutritional education with a traditional diet", explains Dr. Calvo.

"From the science-business collaboration, research and innovation were promoted as part of the strategic management of food companies, something that in addition to improving the nutritional and organoleptic characteristics of the products, is also a key factor in promoting a healthy, sustainable and culturally appropriate diet in the population, and is in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The coordination between the companies and the research groups was the responsibility of Dr. Carmen Martínez Rodríguez, from the Misión Biológica de Galicia-CSIC, and was one of the key aspects in the selection of our study", says Dr. Calvo.

All these factors were taken into account by the European entity, as they are aligned with the four-helix model (4H). Interreg Atlantic Area also highlighted the very deliberate and intense transparency throughout the project, something that undoubtedly helped to build trust and overcome the barriers that might arise between healthcare professionals and companies. This recognition, therefore, highlights a management model based on innovation, competitiveness, transparency, knowledge, and teamwork.

*Dr Mar Calvo from the Clinical Analysis Department of Hospital Clínico Universitario de Santiago de Compostela, coordinator of the Galiat Study and member of the Communication Committee of the SEQC<sup>ML</sup>*



**About the Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQC<sup>ML</sup>)**  
[www.seqc.es](http://www.seqc.es)



Dear colleagues,

It is one of the most difficult times of the year. We are back from the holidays, summer is leaving us, the cities seem full of COVID related problems, and it is not all that funny these days. I hope you are managing to find pleasure in our really contributing to better health job even in these strange times.

Once again, our president Prof Khosrow Adeli is discussing with all of you the IFCC strategic plans, new taskforces are announced, the first series of LIVE IFCC webinars started in September.

Most of you have met late Prof. Donald S. Young who passed away recently. The entire IFCC community mourns his passing. His life is a perfect example of somebody dedicated to our job but at the same time to LIFE itself. He will be missed as Prof Peter Wilding writes in his excellent article. UNIVANTS' call to action invites all teams to share their best practice. Don't miss the deadline for submissions!

Keep up-to-date about IFCC and read the [eNews](#).



#### The IFCC President's message

Khosrow Adeli PhD, FCACB, DABCC, FAACC

My sincere greetings to you all during these challenging times around the world. I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer and has had a great time with family and friends. I am pleased to inform you that the new IFCC strategic plans (discussed in June and July issues of the eNews) have now been formally approved by the IFCC Executive Board. I have also received a lot of excellent feedback from the membership which have helped improve some of our initial proposals. We are now in a position to initiate the first steps in executing these plans over the coming months and years. New Calls for Nominations were issued in September to invite scientific and industry leaders and experts from around the world to serve on these new taskforces:

- a) IFCC Taskforce on Global Newborn Screening
- b) IFCC Taskforce on Global Lab Quality
- c) IFCC Taskforce on Global eLearning/eAcademy

For more information click on following [link](#).

The Journal of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine



**Call for manuscript submissions for a thematic eJIFCC issue on "Measurably Better Healthcare" - Guest Editors for the special issue: Ellie Dow and Tim James**

The clinical laboratory is essential for high quality healthcare. Best practices exist across the globe of integrated and cross-disciplinary collaborations for the implementation of new clinical care pathways that advance care. If you have a best practice with outcome-data that

highlights the value of laboratory medicine, please send your manuscript by November 15<sup>th</sup> to [ejifccspecialissue@gmail.com](mailto:ejifccspecialissue@gmail.com). Read all information at [this link](#).

#### Prof. Donald S. Young - by Prof Peter Wilding

The entire community of IFCC mourns the passing of Prof. Donald Young who served as the 7th President of IFCC from 1985 – 1990. IFCC has been blessed with the service of sixteen presidents and I have been fortunate to know nearly all of them including Prof. Earl J. King, the first president who served from 1952-1960. However, of all the presidents Donald was the only one that I worked with closely for 17 years and knew for over 50 years. Read all the tribute to prof Young [here](#).

#### The first series of LIVE IFCC webinars started in September

The IFCC is pleased to present the IFCC Live Webinar Series starting in the fall 2020: a series of scientific webinars offered freely by the IFCC on a number of important topics delivered by subject matter experts from around the world. The first live webinar was held on September 23, 2020. It was focused on New IFCC Guidelines on Molecular and Serological Testing of SARS-Cov-2 as well as Biochemical and Hematological Monitoring of COVID-19 patients.

Next ones will be:

- October 14: Advancing Global Lab Quality: Initiatives on Internal & External QA and Reference Intervals
- November 4: IFCC Newborn Screening (NBS) Initiative: Reducing Infant Mortality Through Early Diagnosis
- November 25: Value and Impact of Laboratory Medicine in Patient Care: Developing the Evidence

Don't miss them! Mark on your agenda the dates.

# Calendar of EFLM events and events under EFLM auspices

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

Apply for EFLM auspices! For more information [visit here](#) or email [eflm@eflm.eu](mailto:eflm@eflm.eu)

**Due to COVID-19 alert throughout the world, some upcoming events could have been cancelled or postponed, please direct check with the organizers if the date is confirmed.**

<p>6-8 October 2020  <b>52<sup>nd</sup> National Congress of SIBioC – Laboratory Medicine "Laboratory Medicine: old and new interlocutors for a winning alliance"</b>                      on-line  <a href="#">Click here for information</a></p>	<p>15-16 March 2021  <b>POCT: making the point</b>                      Rome (IT)  <a href="#">Click here for information</a></p>
<p>14-16 October 2020  <b>4<sup>èmes</sup> Journées Francophones de Biologie Médicale</b>                      Rennes (FR)  <a href="#">Click here for information</a></p>	<p>14-16 April 2021  <b>XXII Serbian Congress of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine and 16<sup>th</sup> Belgrade Symposium for Balkan Region</b>                      Belgrade (SRB)  <a href="#">Click here for information</a></p>
<p>15-17 October 2020  <b>19<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress of the Greek Society of Clinical Chemistry and Clinical Biochemistry</b>                      Athens (GR)  <a href="#">Click here for information</a></p>	<p>16-20 May 2021  <b>EuroMedLab 2021 - 24<sup>th</sup> IFCC-EFLM European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine</b>                      Munich (DE)  <a href="#">Click here for information</a></p> 
<p>23 October 2020  <b>International Conference on Laboratory Medicine "Pathology and Laboratory Medicine: the promise, the hope, the peril"</b>                      Padova (IT)  <a href="#">Click here for information</a></p>	<p>24-27 May 2021  <b>The 10<sup>th</sup> Santorini Conference "Systems medicine and personalised health &amp; therapy" - The odyssey from hope to practice: Patient first - Keeps Ithaca always in your mind</b>                      Santorini (GR)  <a href="#">Click here for information</a></p>
<p>4-5 November 2020  <b>Journées de l'innovation en biologie (JIB 2020)</b>                      Paris (FR)  <a href="#">Click here for information</a></p>	<p>10-11 June 2021  <b>8<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Critical Care Testing and Blood Gases</b>                      Biarritz (FR)  <a href="#">Click here for information</a></p>
<p>16-18 November 2020  <b>Vårsmöte, Klinisk Kemi 2020</b>                      Umea (SW)  <a href="#">Click here for information</a></p>	<p>7-10 October 2021  <b>46<sup>th</sup> ISOBM Congress</b>                      Bled (SL)  <a href="#">Click here for information</a></p>
<p>11-12 February 2021  <b>International Congress on Quality in Laboratory Medicine 2021</b>                      Helsinki (FI)  <a href="#">Click here for information</a></p>	<p>10-12 October 2021  <b>XIV Congress of Slovak Society of Clinical Biochemistry</b>                      High Tatras (SK)  <a href="#">Click here for information</a></p>
<p>4-5 March 2021  <b>XVIII Meeting of the SEQC-ML Scientific Committee</b>                      Madrid (SP)  <a href="#">Click here for information</a></p>	<p>November 2021  <b>14<sup>th</sup> CIRME International Scientific Meeting "Implementation of metrological traceability in laboratory medicine: where we are and what is missing"</b>                      Milan (IT)  <a href="#">Click here for information</a></p>

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