

# EuroLabNews

## THE EFLM BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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# Foreword


by Harjit Pal Bhattoa, Editor EFLM EuroLabNews

# PEACE FOR UKRAINE, PEACE FOR WORLD

# Peace for Ukraine

The European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) condemns the violence against Ukraine and expresses its deepest concerns about the resulting human suffering.

Our thoughts are with everyone caught up in this crisis and we do hope in a swift resolution for peace.



This current issue commences with the propagation of the much-awaited 3rd EFLM Strategic Conference by the President of the EFLM, Tomris Ozben. The EFLM President in her regular column "Coffee with the President" presents interviews with 4 prominent EFLM personalities. Klaus Kohse, Chair of the EFLM Academy Award's Evaluation Committee and EFLM Treasurer characterizes the recipients of the EFLM Academy Award for Education. Updates us on the activities of the EFLM Task Force "Green Labs" are presented by Tomris Ozben in her role as Chair of the Task Force. Changing of the guard is announced by the Bulgarian, Italian and German EFLM National Societies. Quite a few vacancies in various Working Groups are advertised. Mark your calendar for a variety of upcoming EFLM Academy webinars, and for those who missed out on the previous happenings - the past EFLM events are summarized. The Croatian, Spanish and German National Societies present their latest activities. Under its regular column, the IFCC corner presents global perspectives in Laboratory Medicine. The Calendar of Events lists all major happenings. I wish you enjoy your reading!





It will be held fully on-line using the state-of-the-art technical solutions including virtual exhibition stands allowing chat and video conferencing between the attendees and stand representatives.

The EFLM Strategic Conference will be a unique opportunity for all the stakeholders to know, to understand, to question and to participate to the orientation of Laboratory Medicine in Europe and globally.

Global leaders and participants from the field of Laboratory Medicine, IVD Industry, Digital Health, Medical Devices, and Representatives from MedTech Europe will join the conference to deliver the latest Innovations in Laboratory Medicine, Partnership Model for efficient integration and adoption of Emerging Technologies (AI, ML, Integrative Diagnostics), preparations for the new IVDR, Cost-effective and Clinically-effective Laboratory Services, Novel Technologies and Clinical Research in enabling Precise and Personalized Medicine, Direct to Consumer Testing, switching to Green Labs, trends, opportunities, and challenges, they are facing.

A panel of experts will discuss what is needed to succeed in this changing environment and the role of collaborations between industry, public, private, and academic drivers of innovation. Their feedback, participation, and engagement during the open discussion platform at the Strategic Conference will be important and taken into consideration to steer laboratory medicine forward and to shape the future of our profession.

The Conference program has been designed trying to be interactive under virtual conditions reserving sufficient time for discussions. More in the spirit of strategic thinking: what are the problems now, what should we be aiming at in the future, where our focus should be, and how we could achieve that. The talks will be short, thought and discussion provoking and not like classical lecture type formal talks. We need revolutionary ideas that need to be implemented to move us forward.

EFLM is pleased to invite you to attend the conference and enjoy the opportunity to get inspired by some extraordinary colleagues, experts, top scientists in our profession, virtual cutting-edge high technology exhibition.

We look forward to meeting you in May!  
Best regards

Prof. Dr Tomris OZBEN

EFLM President, EFLM Strategic Conference, Chair

## EFLM EXECUTIVE BOARD INFORMS

# Be part of the change! 3rd EFLM Strategic Conference "SMART and GREEN LABORATORIES - How to implement IVDR, emerging technologies and sustainable practices in medical laboratories?"

Reported by Tomris Ozben, EFLM President

## REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN!

We are happy to inform  
that no registration fee is foreseen  
for EFLM Academy Members  
(in order with the annual fee 2022)



Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the EFLM Executive Board, I would like to inform you that there will be no registration fee for the ~8 000 EFLM Academy Members to attend the 3rd EFLM Strategic Conference for their support, loyalty and collaboration with EFLM for several years.

**We are confident to organize a great EFLM Strategic Conference with the largest participation in Europe and Global.**

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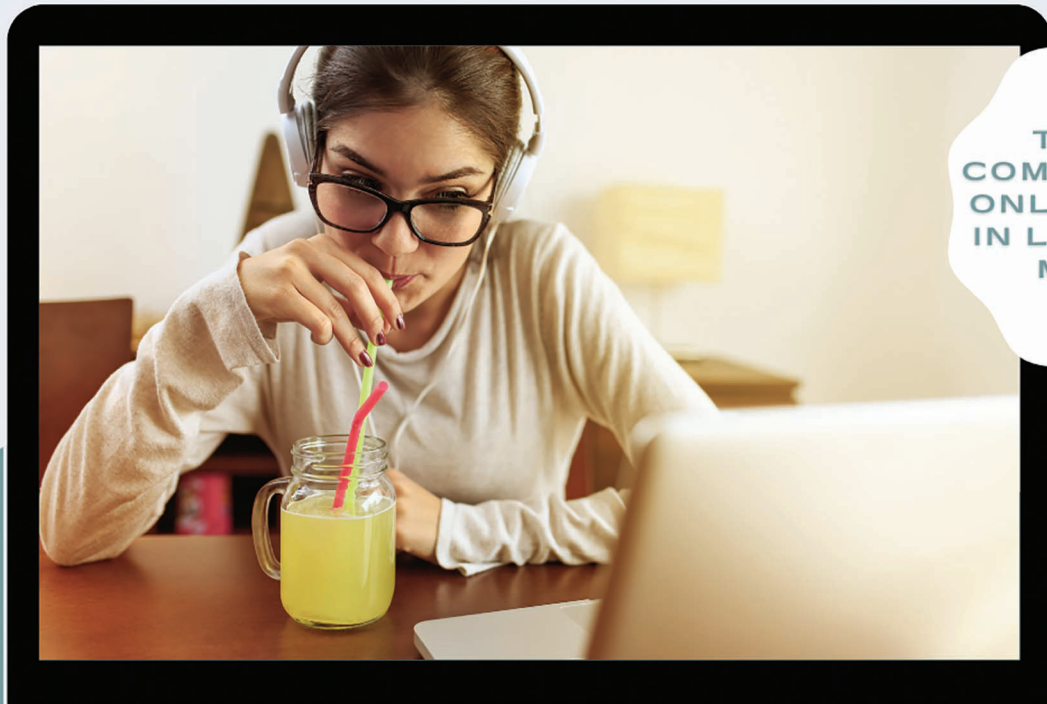
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EFLM AWARDS

EFLM

## Academy Award for Education - criteria, nominated projects, and the winner 2021

Reported by Klaus Kohse,  
Chair of the EFM Academy Award's Evaluation Committee and EFLM Treasurer



In order to demonstrate the importance of post-gradual education in laboratory medicine and to foster activities in this field in Europe, the EFLM Executive Board has implemented the EFLM Academy Award for Education which was announced for the first time in 2021. According to its definition, the award is given, applying the respective criteria, to EFLM Academy Members who have made a substantial contribution to the education in laboratory medicine in Europe. Although consideration is given both to national and European projects, the preference is the most outstanding European projects. The nominated individual must be the author of the most distinguished educational activity or a project in the past 5 years.

The nominations received until the deadline and fulfilling the formal requirements are summarized below with their respective educational activities and projects, in alphabetical order:

**1) Manana Akhvlediani, PhD (Georgia):** Local postgraduate study programme in Laboratory Medicine, Tbilisi State Medical University, Tbilisi (Georgia).

**2) Ferruccio Ceriotti, MD (Italy):** Course "Clinical Laboratory Medicine" in the International MD program, Vita-Salute University (Italy); authorship, book chapters in "Laboratory Medicine", 2 of them in Italian language (2010), and a chapter on Reference Intervals in Tietz' Textbook on Clinical Chemistry (6th ed); co-authorship for the EFLM syllabus for postgraduate education and training for specialists in Laboratory Medicine, version 5 (2018).

**3) Alvaro Gonzales Hernandez, MD (Spain):** Teaching and

training work for residents in Madrid and Pamplona (Spain); supervision and evaluation of the resident training, especially in the laboratory specialties. Courses of continuous formation in Laboratory Medicine, Madrid (Spain); authorship of the textbook entitled "Principles of clinical biochemistry and molecular pathology" (Spanish language).

**4) Evgenija Homsak, PhD (Slovenia):** Establishment of working groups (preanalytics, hematology, POCT) in the Slovenian Society for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine; chair position in the EFLM Working Group for Congresses and Postgraduate Education (WG-CPE) from 2018-2020; proposal, preparation and launch of the EFLM project EFLM LabX, a platform for the exchange of practice, skills and knowledge in the field of Laboratory Medicine amongst EFLM countries; proposal, development (together with the other WG members) and start (in 2019) of the postgraduate courses "Biostatistics" and "How to write a good article"; chair position of the EFLM Profession Committee (C-P) since 2020, with involvement in activities for the recognition and harmonisation of our profession, such as the EFLM Academy and the EuSpLM Register, also supporting the EFLM members with tools for the education and training for the EuSpLM according to the Syllabus; involvement in the preparation of version 5 of the Syllabus (2018); involvement in the preparation of the EFLM Guides to the Academy and the Register, version 4 (2020); membership in the TG-Syllabus Courses, with active involvement as a coordinator of the modules "Immu-



ne system", "Reproductive endocrinology and pregnancy", and as a lecturer in preparing Syllabus Courses; active involvement in the preparation of the Common Training Framework for Specialists in Laboratory Medicine under EU Directive 2013/55/EC (The Recognition of Professional Qualifications).

**5) Daria Pasalic, PhD (Croatia):** Coordination of National Postgraduate Doctorate and Specialist Studies and Education Projects on Laboratory Medicine in the Faculties of Medicine as well as Pharmacy and Biochemistry, University of Zagreb (Croatia); organization of EFLM online postgraduate courses ("Leadership skills", September 2021; "Lessons in Biostatistics", September-November 2021); chair position of the EFLM Committee on Education and Training Education (C-ET) since 2018; membership in the EFLM Working Group Congresses and Postgraduate Education from 2016 to 2018.

**6) Flor Vanstapel, MD, PhD (Belgium):** Training of aspirant laboratory specialists in clinical chemistry and in the implementation of laboratory standards, Belgium; EU initiative "TrainMiC" (Training in Metrology in Chemistry, with projects in 2011 and 2012), role as Belgian Trainer; active role in teaching trainees in laboratory medicine the concepts of quality in Laboratory Medicine. Ongoing teaching projects regarding Validation and Quality Systems; Membership, IFCC Task Force / Working Groups on "Impact of Lab Medicine on Clinical Management and Outcomes" (2012-14), "Point of Care Testing" (2012-17), and "How should glucose meters be evaluated for critical care" (2013-19). Participation in the preparation of documents summarizing and disseminating current state of the art practices; Chair position, EFLM-WG "Accreditation and ISO/CEN Standards".

cuments summarizing and disseminating current state of the art practices; Chair position, EFLM-WG "Accreditation and ISO/CEN Standards".

**7) Gilbert Wieringa, MSc (United Kingdom):** Health Education England assessorship for accreditation of Advanced Clinical Practice MSc programmes (UK; 2020 onwards); service as External Examiner for the Academy for Health Care Science in the UK for the Scientists Training Programme's Certificates of Attainment and Equivalence (2017 onwards); service as Examiner in chemical pathology for the Royal College of Pathologists of the UK (2010 onwards); chair position, EFLM Profession Committee, 2012 – 2019; responsibility for the extension of the eligibility to join the Specialists' Register in 2018 from the 28 EU member societies to all 40 EFLM-affiliated societies across Europe; involvement in finishing a revision of the Specialists' code of conduct; production of two revisions of the EC4/EFLM syllabus (with co-workers); supporting the establishment of video-based training courses based on the syllabus; active involvement (with other colleagues in the EU) in the publication of a proposal in 2020 for a Common Training Framework under the EU directive 2013/55/EC which refers to the Recognition of Professional Qualifications; active involvement in establishing the EFLM Academy; publication of many articles on subjects of training in Laboratory Medicine.

After a thorough evaluation, the Award Committee, consisting of Janne Cadamuro (Austria), Snezana Jovicic (Serbia; EFLM EB Secretary), and Klaus Kohse (Germany; EFLM EB Treasurer) decided unanimously that the 2021 EFLM Academy Award will be bestowed on Evgenija Homsak, PhD (Slovenia). The committee stated that she, among the applicants, showed the most distinguished educational activity in the past 5 years. Details of her outstanding accomplishments are described in detail above.

The proposal by the Award Committee was approved by the EFLM Executive Board and it was decided that, as stated in the announcement, the 2021 EFLM Academy Award will be presented at the EuroMedLab 2023, Rome (Italy), May 21-25, 2023.

## COFFEE WITH THE EFLM PRESIDENT



Dear Readers,

In this edition of the EFLM eNewsletter, in the section "Coffee with the President", I present to you with great pleasure interviews with four distinguished EFLM officers: Nuthar Jassam, Marielle Kaplan, Pieter Vermeersch and Tara Rolić.

I would like to thank my guest EFLM officers for being available to share their experiences, thoughts and opinions about EFLM, our profession and give the opportunity to the large EFLM audience to get to know them better. We are all very grateful for their substantial contributions to the EFLM and its mission that make EFLM what it is today.

I hope you will enjoy reading these interviews with our esteemed colleagues.

Tomris Ozben  
EFLM President



**When did you join EFLM? What is your current role in EFLM? What are the activities of the functional unit in which you work?**

I am currently the chair of the EFLM Register. I cannot remember the exact date that I joined the EFLM, but it was sometime in 2013, when I had my first triple act role. I was the representative of the Association of Clinical Biochemistry (UK-ACB) at the European Communities Confederation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EC4), when the EC4 was a subsection of the EFLM and was operating the Register. I was also EC4 board member and the chair of the EFLM Syllabus working group. My role as a Syllabus WG chair ended after the submission of EFLM Syllabus version 5. When the EC4 dissolved in 2017, the operation of the Register transferred to the EFLM professional Committee. My first term as EFLM Register chair started in 2019.

The Register WG is made up of 14 members. The two major components of my role are the promotion and maintenance of the Academy and the Register. The Register is the database of Specialists in Laboratory Medicine across Europe (EuSpLM). It acts as a charter mark for professional status for the European countries that lack registration systems and regulatory frameworks. It identifies individuals able to meet Equivalence of Standards (EoS) in education and training across Europe. The Academy provides a platform for trainees and those with interests in laboratory medicine to support their training and education until they become specialists and ready to join the Register.

There are two different routes in applying for the EuSpLM sub nominal. By block enrolments (via contracts with national societies) or via an individual application. For the individual applications, I also act as the registrar, which is the final step in a vetting process for applications for EuSpLM attainment.

One of our biggest projects is to submit a case for recognition of our specialty via the EU Parliament to achieve free movement for specialists with Science background. To achieve recognition, we need to establish 3 pillars, EoS, Common Training Framework and a Register. Therefore, as a chair of the Register, I work to support the chair of the Professional Committee to widen our platform and increase our visibility. This project has many arms and spans a very long period. In my archive, I have correspondences for setting up EoS back to 1998. Today, we have EoS for more than 31 European states. Our achievements today have been built on a strong foundation established by my predecessors Rob Jansen, Gilbert Wieringa, Simone Zara. I added a few photos I had taken during one of our meetings. There was an important decision to make, and the passion can be seen in the degree of involvement in the discussion. However, the last photo doesn't necessarily reflect this; rather, this was when they noticed that I was filming them all...

**What do you like most about EFLM?**

As an organization, I like the fact that the EFLM created a common platform for all European lab medicine national societies and members. The fact is, its name is rising quickly as a strong representative of the lab medicine profession. And the fact is that the EFLM is leading taking on very big and challenging projects, such as the recognition of our profession across Europe. Very proud of the EFLM syllabus courses and I congratulate my colleagues for such a landmark project. I like the opportunities the EFLM creates for its members. The lab-exchange project is only one example of many that shows an initiative to provide across Europe training



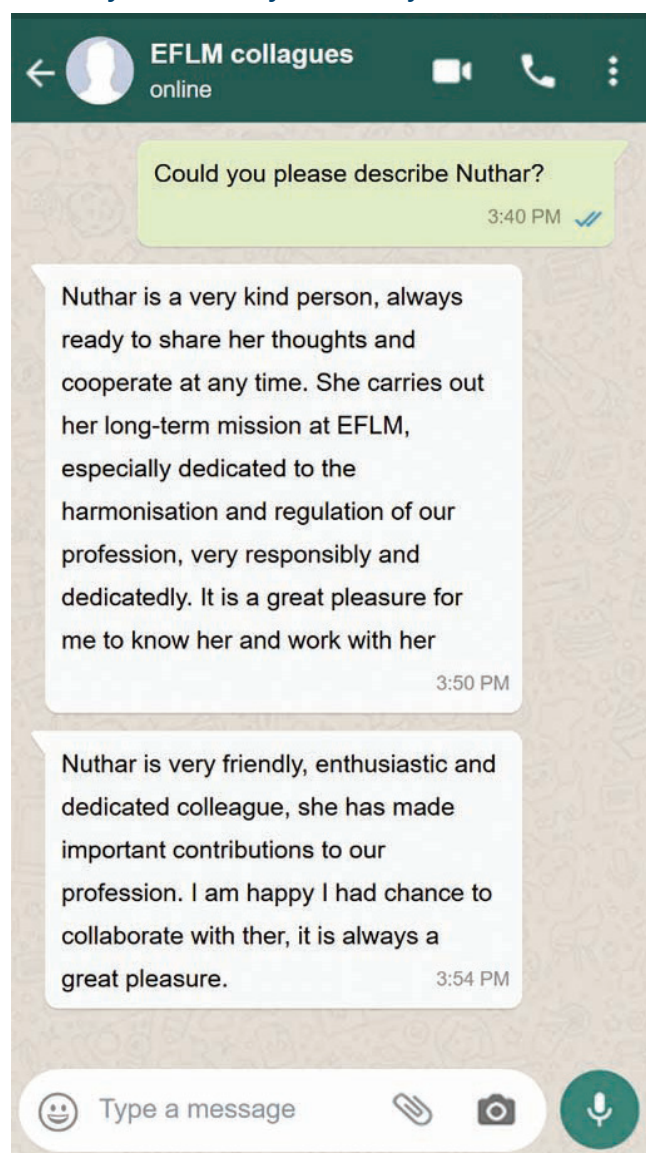
opportunities and to close gaps and build bridges. The EFLM has a collection of unique people. I like the drive, positivity and the enthusiasm of my EFLM colleagues. Often, I am left really impressed by the human qualities of the people I met and worked with. I regularly get a huge burst of energy after our meetings.



### How do you see EFLM in 10 years from today?

A leading organization on standardization of clinical practice, harmonisation of our profession across Europe and leading on education and research opportunities. I see the EFLM as a resilient and progressive organization that builds steady reputes that at some time it will be influencing public and political views about our profession.

### What do you like about your current job?



The mental stimulation and the mix between science and medicine, never a dull day. The ability to improve and make a tangible difference on individual patient's health or on a larger scale, through setting policies, improving quality of service or through research. Currently I am in a clinical director role; the challenge ahead of me is to harmonise lab services for three public laboratories, located over 3 cities, each lab on its own provides high quality services. Merging 3 independent entities into a one functional network of laboratories is a task sparks the life and energy into my blood.

I always ask myself whether I love my job or I love what I do, who knows, at least the outcome is the same. I approach many things in life with passion. I see an opportunity in the midst of difficult time and change does not scare me. Ultimately, my job gives me a great sense of satisfaction and meaning.

Do you have a role model? What are the qualities you appreciate most about people? If you do, what makes this person so special?

No, I have never had a single person in this seat, because people have the right to make mistakes. In fact, failure is the best teacher throughout humanity history. Putting any one person in the role model seat means, in my view, that we deny them the right to be human and to error and it opens the door for judgement. In that respect, I learn from anyone and everyone, and I believe we all imitate divine's ideals when we are attempting to do good. This is a deep and intrinsic desire in human psychology. Having said that, I have met some impressive people throughout my life journey, their names are engraved in my heart and my mind, from whom I have learnt valuable lessons or received a wise advice.

What attracts me are human qualities such as integrity, honesty, positivity and high sense of responsibility. I hold people with these qualities in high regard.

### Do you have some hobbies? What are the things outside of your work that you are passionate about? How do you like to spend you free time?

Until my children grew up, as a full-time mother in a full-time job, my hobby and dream consisted of having an uninterrupted nap on the sofa on a Sunday afternoon. The situation changed when my children left home. I live at the gateway to the Yorkshire Dales, which is a tourist destination especially for those who enjoy walking. I currently enjoy going out for walks in beautiful Yorkshire. I go for a walk on almost every weekend, (unless the weather is very wet and, trust me, we have many of these days in England). I enjoy reading philosophy and quantum physics. I prefer to read/listen to audiobooks because that making otherwise monotonous house chores more pleasurable mixed in with a little bit of escapism.

### How would your spouse (wife, husband) describe you?

I asked my spouse this question. I have glimpsed the wicked smile on his face; he said "Nuthar is map challenged, otherwise perfect " he would love to let you know that I can be easily lost and I do not dare to go to any new place alone because my sense of direction doesn't exist. I guess this fact known to my close EFLM friends and colleagues. They know that I

would not leave the hotel alone because the risk of not finding my way back is very high.

### What are your greatest challenges?

Bringing up my children on my own. My husband died when my children were young. The last conversation between us was him asking me to do my best to them. I have been a full-time parent and a full-time worker all my life. They are grown up now. They both turned to be good people; an amazing young man and an amazing young woman.

### Are you good in time management?

Yes, I am always excellent in time management and since my early childhood. My mother used to call me "the soldier", because I was the only one among my siblings who was very organized and timely. I heard this say long time ago, I don't know when but it stayed with me all my life "If you know how to budget your time correctly, you will have time for all you need".

### What do you value most about your country and its culture?

I was born in one country and I lived my childhood in a second country and my adolescent life and early youth in a third country. Finally, I only settled when I got married and had my children in the UK. It is certainly the longest period (30 years) of my life in one place. I lived in a total of four countries. I learned to love and accept many types of cultures. This taught me not to hinge on nationality or territory and to be borderless and have loyalty to people, not places.

### Do you have a pet?

I always loved cats since my childhood. I have a cat called Tigger and he is 17 years old. He is a Roman Tabby. Like humans, cats have character and personality. I often understand his need before he asks. My children call him "Tigger Jassam" because he is a solid member of the family, not just a pet.



Coffee with Marielle Kaplan

### When did you join EFLM? What is your current role in EFLM? What are the activities of the functional unit in which you work?

I began activities with EFLM after participating to the Meeting organized by IFCC within Mediterranean countries, in Roma in 2018. During this meeting, I had there some very fruitful meetings with several EFLM representatives that led to my personal involvement in activities within EFLM.

I am currently a full member of the working group on Congresses and post-graduate Education (WG-CPE). This working group role include implementation of new courses for postgraduate education, update of the speaker bureau list, responsibility for EFLM auspices and development and maintenance of the EFLMLabX project.

Recently, I also served as a member of the task group for the syllabus course (TG-ESC) in which I am serving as a coordinator for two modules of the EFLM Syllabus course.

### What do you like most about EFLM?

I like very much the fact that the leading representatives of the EFLM are accessible with a very positive and open attitude toward new members to the international scene. This is a very active organization moving fast and efficiently. The activities offered by EFLM to our members are diverse and focused on very relevant areas of our profession.

### How do you see EFLM in 10 years from today?

EFLM is, and will grow stronger as a very meaningful body in laboratory medicine, both by allowing the improvement of the professional level of the clinical labs and staff but also allowing networking between the different countries involved, while learning from each other.

### What do you like about your current job?

The ability to have a real positive impact on the patient care in my hospital. Moreover, to be involved in research and implementation of new tools for diagnostic.

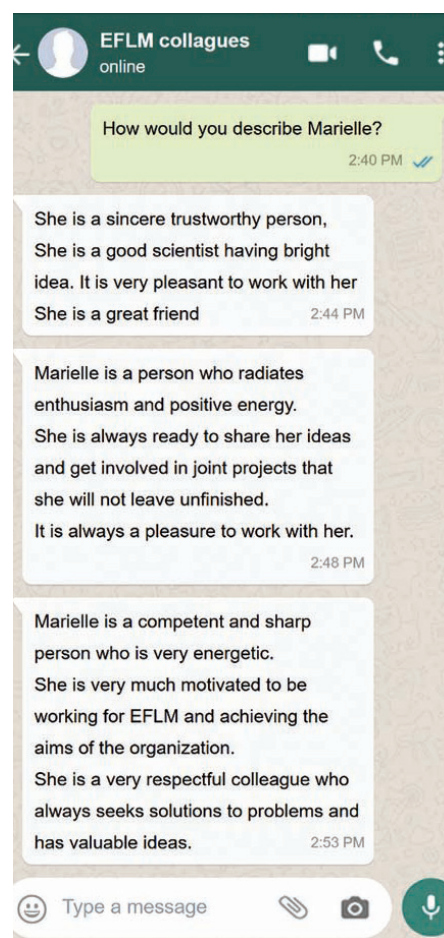
### Do you have a role model? If you do, what makes this person so special?

I have, in general, a lot of respect and admiration for people that exhibit leadership while pushing up their ideas

and convictions whether they are in the mainstream thinking or not.

### What are the qualities you appreciate most about people?

The ability to be open-minded both honest and straight forward without trying to please people around. The ability to be "the man (or woman) in the arena" as mentioned by Theodore Roosevelt in the "man in the arena" speech at the Sorbonne in 1917, meaning people that are ready to really involve themselves in what they believe even if the result is not always assured.



### Do you have some hobbies? What are the things outside of your work that you are passionate about? How do you like to spend your free time?

I love hiking in nature, try to do so on weekends or at least to have meaningful quality time with my husband and my children.

### How would your spouse (wife, husband) describe you?

Opinionated and caring.



### What are your greatest challenges?

To manage all the routine tasks in the Lab I am directing as well as in the Lab Division I am leading while combining Teaching, Research and involvement in national health relevant forums.

To raise awareness on the importance of understanding and promoting the role and added value of clinical laboratory services in the patient's care.

### Are you good in time management?

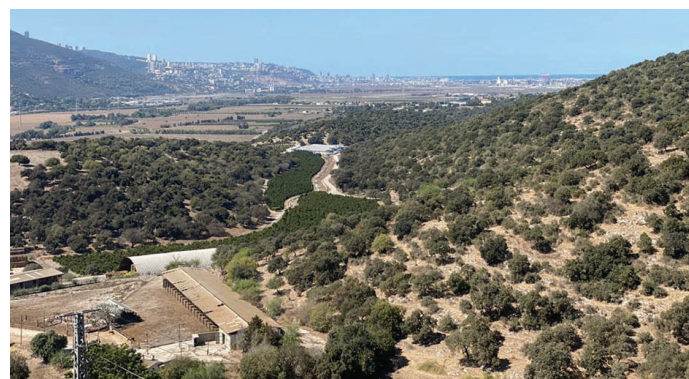
I am getting better but still need to improve

### What do you value most about your country and its culture?

The history in every corner and the wonderful nature and landscapes. The ability of people to connect with each other in a very informal way, and the amazing food both traditional as well as contemporary.

### Do you have a pet?

My pet Fox, a golden retriever dog, passed away less than a year ago and this is still a big hole in our heart



View from my house



View of my workspace



Travelling with my husband



IFCC annual meeting



Fox



Hiking with my son



**When did you join EFLM? What is your current role in EFLM? What are the activities of the functional unit in which you work?**

I joined EFLM in 2013 as member of the joint EFLM-ESPT Working group on Personalized Medicine. This working group (2013-2018) was a joint working group with the European Society of Pharmacogenomics and Personalized Therapy (ESPT) and

focused on the emerging role of “omics” (genomics, proteomics, metabolomics). Since 2017 I’m a corresponding member of the EFLM Working Group on Preanalytical Phase (WG-PRE) and have been involved in several projects including a consensus document on how to meet ISO15189:2012 preanalytical requirements. In 2021 I joined the task group EFLM Syllabus Course (TG-ESC) where I coordinated the modules “Therapeutic drug monitoring and pharmacogenomics”, “Preanalytical phase”, and “Renal function and urinalysis”. I recently became chairman of the Working Group on Postanalytical Phase (WG-POST) and I’m still settling into my new role. We are currently working on projects about laboratory report formats and reflex testing.

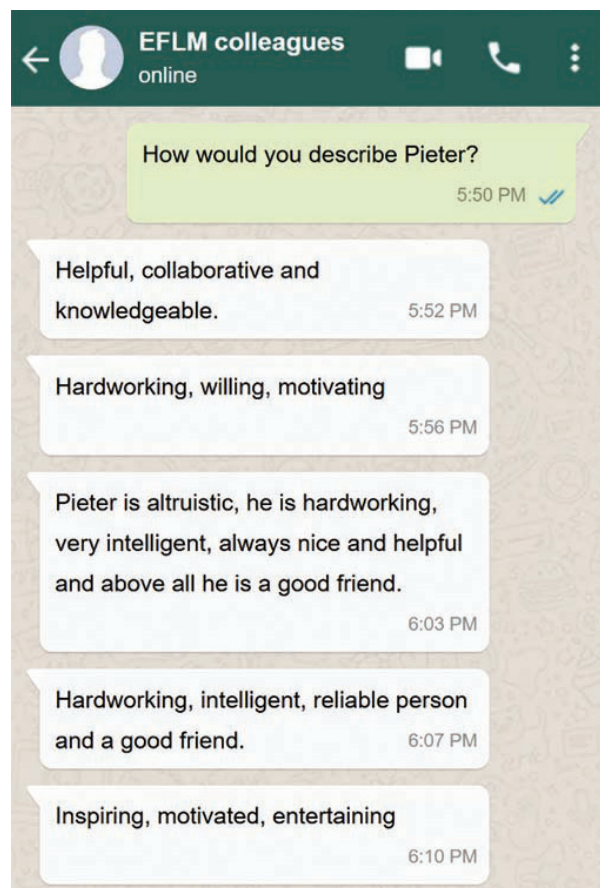
### What do you like most about EFLM?

The EFLM connects laboratory medicine professionals across Europe and provides unique opportunities to share scientific knowledge and collaborate to improve laboratory medicine in Europe. In addition, the EFLM plays an important role to ensure that our voice is heard at the European level for regulatory affairs such as the IVDR. As a member of different working groups, I had the honor and privilege to meet and collaborate with a number of distinguished colleagues including Ana-Maria Simundic, Guiseppe Lippi, and Ron H.N. Van Schaik. The EFLM Syllabus course, which was prepared in just one year, is also a great example of the advantages of European collaboration.

### How do you see EFLM in 10 years from today?

Efficient use of laboratory tests is becoming more and more important as the health costs in Europe are increasing faster than the economic growth. The EFLM could (and should in my opinion) play an important role in promoting efficient use of laboratory tests in Europe. I hope that in 10 years from now, there will be EFLM recommendations to avoid unnecessary and inadequate test requests (e.g. reflex testing) that are regularly updated and incorporated in algorithms that assist physicians during electronic laboratory test ordering.

Personalized medicine, the –omics revolution, and handling of the ever increasing amount of information (histology, biochemistry, hematology, microbiology, genetics) that is collected is another major challenge. I hope that in 10 years from now, laboratory



medicine professionals will play a central role in integrating the information and guiding tailored treatment. This will require new skills. The new EFLM syllabus course gave an impetus with a module on big data and artificial intelligence coordinated by Janne Cadamuro and lectures on different –omics technologies in other modules.

### What do you like about your current job?

I work as clinical pathologist at the Department of Laboratory Medicine of the University Hospitals in Leuven where I’m the head of the laboratory for special chemistry including the mass spectrometry platform. I’m also professor at the University of Leuven. My main clinical responsibility besides routine clinical chemistry is the laboratory diagnosis and follow-up of inborn errors of metabolism. We follow more than 1000 patients with inborn errors of metabolism in UZ Leuven. I like the combination of clinical expertise, technical expertise; and operational responsibilities. My current job also gives me the opportunity to collaborate with basic scientists and physicians on translational research projects.

### Do you have a role model? If you do, what makes this person so special?

I don’t have a specific role model, but admire and have been inspired by several of my former professors. Examples that come to mind include the leadership and research skills of Désiré Collen who developed tissue-type plasminogen activator (t-PA) from a laboratory concept to a life-saving drug and the clinical expertise of Jaak Jaeken who described the first patient with a congenital disorder of glycosylation.



### What are the qualities you appreciate most about people?

The qualities that I value most are honesty, responsibility, and cooperation. I also find it important that people keep promises.

### Do you have some hobbies? What are the things outside of your work that you are passionate about? How do you like to spend your free time?

I like cross country and alpine skiing and playing strategy board games. I normally go skiing twice per year playing board games every evening, but I haven't skied since February 2020 due to COVID-19. Unfortunately, I almost didn't play any board games either in the last 2 years due to the increased workload caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our department is the Belgian National Reference Center for SARS-CoV-2.

### What are your greatest challenges?

I find reconciling work and family life the hardest. I'm married and we have 4 kids aged 8 to 15 years old. In addition to my full-time work as a clinical pathologist, I also teach at the university and do translational research. Reconciling work and family has always been a balancing act, but the COVID-19 pandemic has turned this into a Sisyphean task. I hope that I will have more time for my family now that the COVID-19 pandemic appears to be receding.

### Are you good at time management?

I think I am quite good at time management. I find it important to keep promises and rarely miss a deadline. Once I start with a specific task, I try to finish it as soon as possible because postponing or protracting work decreases efficiency.

### What do you value most about your country and its culture?

The quality of life is very good and Belgian food and beer are excellent. Belgium is at the crossroads of Germanic (Flemish) and Roman (French-speaking) cultures, combining some of the strengths of both. Due our complex political system, Belgian politicians excel in the art of the impossible compromise, an ability greatly appreciated in international politics. Our political system does, however, regularly give our politicians headaches and resulted in a Guinness book of records entry for "the longest time without a government in peacetime" after the elections in 2010 (541 days). Fortunately, this had no negative economic impact as Belgians are resilient people who can run their country without a government ☺.

### Do you have a pet?

I never had a pet.



Ski holiday with my wife



### Coffee with Tara Rolić

### When did you join EFLM? What is your current role in EFLM? What are the activities of the functional unit in which you work?



I decided to join EFLM in 2020 within the Communication Committee as a member of the Working Group: Promotion and Publications. All our activities are visible on

the EFLM website and official social media accounts. ☺ Our main goal is to communicate efficiently between the EFLM and its National member Societies and as well to promote all EFLM activities. Every two months we prepare and send the EuroLabNews to all our subscribers with the latest news and activities in laboratory medicine in Europe. I am especially proud that this Committee lunched the Young Scientist Task Group with excellent young people who are at the beginning of their professional careers. As a member of the YS-TG, I think it is important to support young colleagues around Europe. In 2022 I was appointed as Chair of the Task Group European Laboratory Day. Despite different educational backgrounds we all share the same aim. This is a big and extremely important EFLM project with enthusiastic members who will, for sure, give their best to promote laboratory medicine in Europe.

### What do you like most about EFLM?

People are the most valuable pillar of the EFLM. Young or experienced – all members share enthusiasm and offer their

valuable free time to help promote laboratory medicine for the next generations.

### How do you see EFLM in 10 years from today?

In 10 years, I see EFLM as a large professional organization that is going to be crucial for all laboratory professionals across Europe and is going to have an important international role in the world of laboratory medicine. In the future, EFLM will solidify its role in education and communication between professionals. People will have more access to knowledge and new experiences. Young professionals exchange programs will be recognized, accustomed and available to all interested members.

### What do you like about your current job?



My current job is at the University hospital Osijek at the Department of Clinical Laboratory Diagnostic. Additionally, I am an assistant at the Faculty of Medicine, Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek and beside in the EFLM I am an active member at the Croatian National

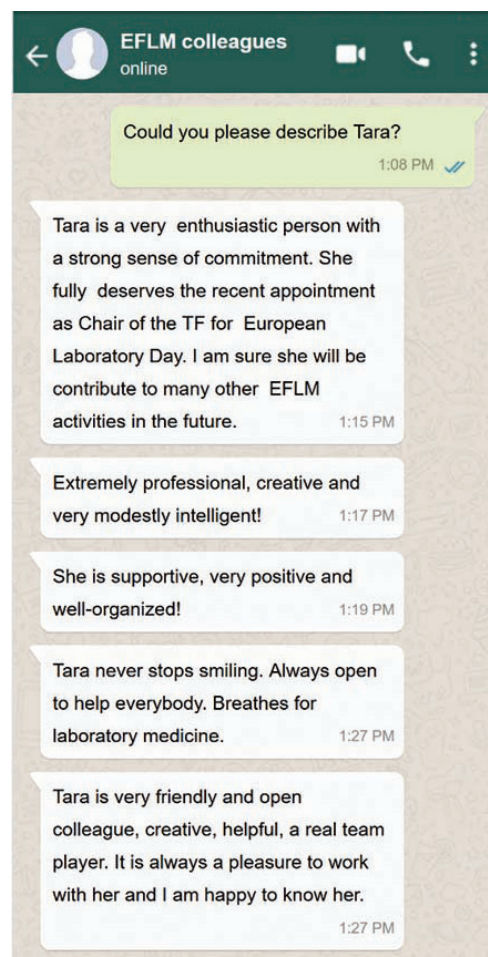
Society (CSMBLM) and Croatian Chamber of Medical Biochemists. Also, I am a PhD student at the Faculty of Medicine. And the day only has 24 hours ☺ So it can be challenging sometimes to manage all duties, but I am really in love with my job ☺ Whom I like the most are my team players Sanja and Iva ☺ Sometimes there are rough days, endless sleepless night shifts or deadlines. When these days come, we joke around at how it's even possible to share the same workspace and not "see" each other at all. Beauties of my job are new challenges, new technologies and improvements in daily practice. I like the possibility of growing, discovering and seeking, having constant support and encouragement in my working environment. Not even one day is the same as previous one. Sanja and Iva cheer me up and we always find a reason to laugh and push ourselves further.

### Do you have a role model? If you do, what makes this person so special?



I do not have a specific one. Many people left their footprints in my personal and professional path and because of all the good and the bad things I am here. ☺ If I need to point out role models that would be my parents (hello to Siniša and Nives ☺).

Trip and fun: zofice ❤ GP & OS



### What are the qualities you appreciate most about people?

Justice, consistency, persistence and respect for other people.

### Do you have some hobbies? What are the things outside of your work that you are passionate about? How do you like to spend your free time?

Outside work, my family and friends are my best spend free time. I enjoy spending my free time at my hometown with my family and friends from childhood. Slavonija and people here are my second love and share the throne with colleagues from my student days. I am happy and proud that I am surrounded with so many wonderful people. Traveling is my passion and hobby. I have not yet discovered all the countries that interest me, so my bucket list is pretty long ☺ Most of the time I travel with my friends and there are always interesting stories to tell repeatedly. Even one spontaneous weekend can be marvelous.

### What are your greatest challenges?

To stay focused and not to unintentionally hurt people who



I love when I am tired or not in the good mood. To organize my day for maximum productivity.



## NEWS FROM EFLM FUNCTIONAL UNITS

# Updates on the status and activities of the EFLM Task Force "Green Labs"

Reported by Tomris Ozben, EFLM President,  
EFLM Task Force-Green Labs, Chair

### Are you good in time management?

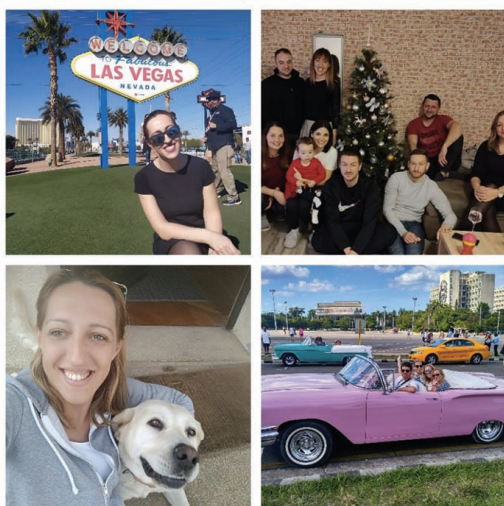
I could do better 😊 When I have short-term and long-term deadlines, I am better in time management. Then I am on velvet 😊

### What do you value most about your country and its culture?

The fact how Croatians are the best in everything 😊 Croatia is an admirable European country with beautiful people and magnificent nature. From flat Slavonija and Baranja to the capital town Zagreb and hills in the North Croatia via Istria and over 6 000 km of Dalmatian coastline plus Dubrovnik, Croatia has a lot to offer. With more than thousand islands, clear and bright Adriatic sea, green and rich forests, high mountains and more than 30 beautiful rivers, great gastronomy originated in tradition, tasty wines and beers, it is a top destination for many tourists. Many great inventors and also 3 Nobel prize winners were born in Croatia. Croatia has 8 breathtaking National parks and 12 Nature parks and is home to 28 UNESCO cultural heritage sites. Most of all, we have the best football team. What I value the most are warm, friendly and temperamental people with independent and proud attitude. Croatia is a small country for big things.

### Do you have a pet?

Unfortunately, not in Osijek, because I would not be able to take care of it as much as I would like to, but at my parents' house I have Nora and Bruna and the entire family adores these two Labradors.



...trip and fun 2, Nora, M ❤️

On behalf of the EFLM Task Force (TF)-Green Labs, I would like to give you information to update you what has been done since the establishment of the TF-Green Labs.

1. The official establishment of the EFLM Task Force Green Labs was announced to

-EFLM National societies,

-EFLM and IFCC newsletters,

-EFLM mailing list of 10000 contacts and announcement via socials.

2. EFLM National Societies were invited to name an officer acting as NS representative for the Task Force-Green Labs. The new initiative of EFLM "Green Labs" has been appreciated by the EFLM National Societies and they appointed 49 National Society Representatives in addition to the Task Force-Green Labs core members. You can see all the enthusiastic members of the Task Force Green Labs on the website of the EFLM connecting to the link below:  
<https://eflm.eu/site/page/a/1732>

3. The European Commission (EC) entitled "**European Green Deal (EGD)**" has been informed about the establishment of the EFLM Task Force-Green Labs. EC Commissioner EGD Executive Vice President and his cabinet are following our activities closely. They expressed their congratulations for the establishment of the EFLM Task Force-Green Labs. We will be in close contact with the EGD Commission in our further progresses.

4. MedTech Europe has been informed at the same time. They were interested with the EFLM initiative and appointed their Senior Manager on "**Environment & Sustainability**" to the EFLM TF-Green Labs as a Task Force member.

5. A session has been dedicated at the EFLM Strategic Conference.  
<http://www.eflm-strategic-conference.eu/>

6. TF-Green Labs core members are preparing Guidelines, checklists on key areas. The aim is to transform clinical laboratories into a safe and sustainable spaces by decreasing their deleterious environmental impact and implementing efficient everyday actions in laboratories, and taking steps to minimize energy, water, and hazardous chemical use, as well as waste generation without compromising the quality of healthcare.

7. TF-Green Labs Core Members will cooperate with the identified National Society Representatives who will act, after appropriate training, as EFLM Green Lab Delegates/Ambassadors in switching the medical laboratories to Green Labs within their countries/societies.
8. TF-Green Labs will start a close collaboration with the EFLM National Societies to implement sustainable practices in medical laboratories within their countries. Workshops/Conferences, Panels, and the Networking meetings will be organized with the EFLM National societies and their members to give them detailed information and application procedures to switch the laboratories to Green Labs and to receive EFLM Green Lab certificates.
9. All the educational informative meetings and Workshops will be accredited as CPECS® as the trademark of EFLM "Continuous Professional Education Crediting System".

EFLM and its Member Societies will lead the laboratory medicine community for the shift to carbon neutrality in line with the European Green Deal (EGD) Investment Plan, also known as the Sustainable Europe Investment Plan, which is aimed at making Europe the world's first climate-neutral continent.

We are looking forward to a fruitful collaboration with the EFLM National Societies to achieve environment-friendly laboratories.

Best regards, Tomris Ozben, EFLM President, EFLM Task Force-Green Labs, Chair

## VACANCIES IN THE EFLM FUNCTIONAL UNITS

# Vacancies in functional units under the Profession Committee, the Science Committee and the EFLM Education & Training Committee

Reported by Silvia Cattaneo, EFLM Office

EFLM Full National Society Members are invited to send nominations for the following open positions:

- **WG "Register" (WG-R) - Deadline to send nominations: 10 April 2022**
  - o 1 Full Member
- **WG "Harmonisation" (WG-H) - Deadline to send nominations: 20 April 2022**
  - o 2 Full Members
  - o 1 Young Scientist Full Member ( $\leq 35$  years of age at the time of appointment)
- **WG "Distance Education and e-learning" (WG-DE) - Deadline to send nominations: 20 April 2022**
  - o 1 Young Scientist Full Member ( $\leq 35$  years of age at the time of appointment)
- **WG "Laboratory Medicine Credit Points" (WG-LMCP) - Deadline to send nominations: 20 April 2022**
  - o 1 Full Member
  - o 1 Young Scientist Full Member ( $\leq 35$  years of age at the time of appointment)

Click on the above links to know more about the requirements for the requested positions and the evaluation's procedure.

The term of office will be for 2 years, ending on 31 December 2023. 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 (COVID-19 permitting).

**Procedure for applications:** each EFLM Full 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 must 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 must 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 proving there is no another corresponding member from the same country.



## UPCOMING EFLM EVENTS

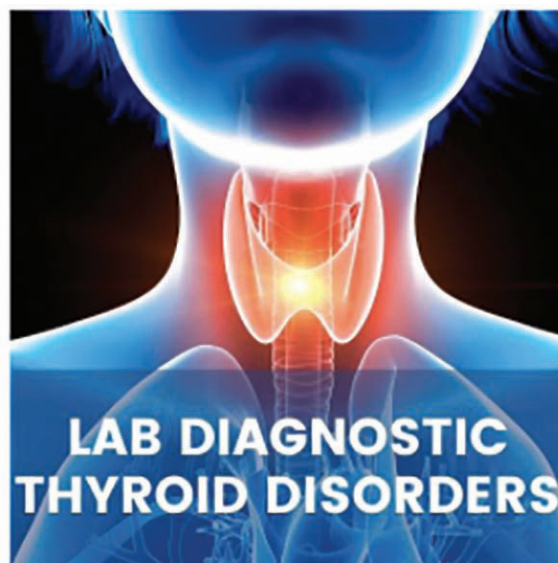
### EFLM Academy webinars: Laboratory diagnostic of thyroid diseases

**26th April 2022 at 18:00 CET time**

Speaker: Damien Gruson (Belgium) - Department of Laboratory Medicine, Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc et Université Catholique de Louvain, Woluwé-Saint-Lambert, Brussels, Belgium

Thyroid diseases are frequent conditions with possibly crushing health outcomes that influence all populations around the world and thyroid function tests (TFT) are frequently ordered for their diagnosis and monitoring. TFT, including thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH, or thyrotropin), thyroxine (T4), and triiodothyronine (T3) tests, are used in the initial evaluation and monitoring of thyroid disease. The value of TFT is also recognized for thyroid cancer management with the examples of thyroglobulin and calcitonin. Assay performances and appropriate test ordering are important points of focus to ensure best use of TFT.

More information at [EFLM e-learning platform](#).



## EFLM lessons in Immunochemistry

EFLM has the pleasure to announce a new EFLM educational activity for EFLM Academy Members – **EFLM lessons in immunochemistry**.

Each lesson will see the presence of a medical doctor presenting a specific disease and its diagnostic challenges. Specialists in Laboratory Medicine will present the related immunochemistry markers for particular disease focusing on analytical aspects and pre/postanalytical issues.

### **30 May 2022 - Lesson 2**

Vitamin D status: the role of laboratory

### **13 September 2022 - Lesson 3**

Heart Failure and NT-proBNP

### **24 November 2022 - Lesson 4**

Androgen excess or deficiency: the role of testosterone and free testosterone

More details in [EFLM eLearning platform](#).

**30 May 2022**  
**EFLM LESSONS IN IMMUNOCHEMISTRY**  
Lesson n. 2  
**VITAMIN D STATUS:  
the role of laboratory**

Moderator: Etienne Cavalier (Belgium)

**Our Speakers:**

**ETIENNE CAVALIER**  
Dept. of Clinical Chemistry  
University of Liège  
CHU de Liège  
Liège, Belgium

**MARKUS HERRMANN**  
Clinical Institute of Medical  
and Chemical Lab. Diagnostics  
Medical University of Graz  
Graz, Austria

**ANNEMIEKE HEIJBOER**  
Endocrine Laboratory  
Amsterdam University Medical Center  
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

WHEN:  
**30 MAY 2022**  
at h. 16.00 CET

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

This EFLM activity is made  
possible thanks to the kind  
and unconditional support of

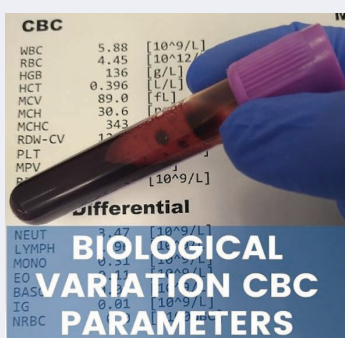
## PAST EFLM EVENTS

### EFLM Academy webinar:

In 2022, during February and March three great EFLM Academy webinars were held at the EFLM eLearning platform. Webinar participants could attend interesting lectures about the importance of communication of laboratory professionals directly with patients, as well as complete blood count individual reference intervals and liquid biopsy.

If you missed one of these amazing webinars, we strongly recommend you to visit [EFLM eLearning platform](#) and listen to on-demand webinar. If you are not EFLM Academy member sign up [here](#) (webinars are available only for EFLM Academy members).

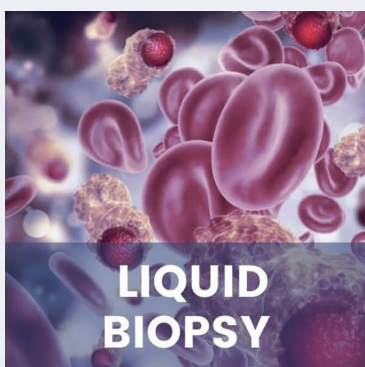
### EFLM Academy webinar: Biological variation of CBC parameters as a pointer towards individual reference intervals



On **February 22, 2022, at 18:00 CET Dr. Andrey Maynskiy (RU)** will hold a webinar with the title: **Biological variation of CBC parameters**. During his presentation, he pointed out the importance of personalized reference intervals. Reliable reference intervals guide to proper medical assessment and care, in fact, most analytes are individual or much less variable within

an individual than within a group of individuals. On the example of complete blood count parameters practical issues were discussed.

### EFLM Academy webinar: Liquid biopsy



On **March 29, 2022, at 18:00 CET Dr. Evi S. Lianidou (GR)** **Liquid biopsy** webinar was presented at the EFLM eLearning platform. Over the last decade, liquid biopsy has gained much attention as a powerful tool in personalized medicine, since it enables monitoring cancer evolution and follow-up of cancer patients in real-time. Through minimally invasive procedures,

liquid biopsy provides important information through the analysis of Circulating Tumor Cells (CTCs), and circulating tumor-derived material like circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA), circulating miRNAs (cfmiRNAs) and extracellular vesicles (EVs). CTCs and ctDNA analysis have already an important impact on the prognosis, detection of minimal residual disease (MRD), treatment selection and monitoring of cancer patients, while recent data also show its potential for early cancer diagnosis. Numerous clinical trials include a liquid biopsy arm, and functional studies mainly based on CTC derived cell-lines and CTC derived explants (CDx) provide important insight on the metastatic process. The recent findings in the field of liquid biopsy, benefits and main clinical applications of CTC and ctDNA analysis in solid tumors were summarized in this presentation.

### EFLM Academy webinar: Patient-focused laboratory medicine – how can we communicate directly with patients?



On **February 8, 2022, at 18:00 CET Dr. Snežana Jovičić (SR)** held a webinar and presented **Patient-focused laboratory medicine**. Speaker highlighted the importance of communication between specialists in laboratory medicine and patients, especially for patients to better understand laboratory reports and

avoid consulting the internet or various mobile apps about it, which are often unreliable, dubious or false. Through direct communication by providing personalized, understandable comments, laboratory professionals could also improve population awareness of laboratory medicine was concluded.

### EFLM lessons in Immunochemistry No 1 Hypertension: the role of laboratory in differential diagnosis

**24 February 2022**  
**EFLM LESSONS IN IMMUNOCHEMISTRY**

Lesson n. 1  
**HYPERTENSION:**  
the role of laboratory  
in differential diagnosis

Moderator: Damien Gruson (Belgium)

Our Speakers:

**DAMIEN GRUSON**  
Dept of Clinical Biochemistry, Cliniques Universitaires Saint Luc, Brussels, Belgium

**AH JAN DANSER**  
Internal Medicine  
Erasmus Medical Center  
Rotterdam, The Netherlands

**ALEXANDRE PERSU**  
Pole of Cardiovascular Research, Institut de Recherche Expérimentale et Clinique, Université Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium

WHEN:  
**24 FEBRUARY 2022**  
at h. 16.00 CET

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

This EFLM activity is made possible thanks to the kind and unconditional support of



## CHANGING OF THE GUARD IN THE EFLM NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Reported by Silvia Cattaneo, EFLM Office

**A warm welcome to the new incoming National Society officers and a great thank you to the outgoing EFLM National Representatives and National Society Presidents for the support to EFLM activities during their terms of office.**

### **Bulgarian Society Clinical Laboratory (BSCL)**

Prof. Milena Velizarova

(Dept of Clinical Laboratory, Medical University of Sofia and Alexander University Hospital, Sofia) is the new President of BSCL replacing Prof. Dobrin Svinarov. Prof. Velizarova will also act as EFLM National Representative for BSCL.

### **SIBioC - Laboratory Medicine (The Italian Society of Clinical Biochemistry and Clinical Molecular Biology)**

Prof. Sergio Bernardini (Dept of Internal Medicine, University of Rome Tor Vergata, and Clinical Molecular Biology Unit, Tor Vergata University Hospital, Rome) is the new National Representative for SIBioC replacing Prof. Giuseppe Lippi.

### **German Society of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (DGKL)**

Prof. Harald Renz (Institute of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiochemistry, Molecular Diagnostics University Hospital Giessen and Marburg) is the new President of DGKL replacing Prof. Matthias Nauck.

## NEWS FROM EFLM NATIONAL SOCIETIES

### News from the Croatian Society of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine

Reported by Vanja Raščanec, CSMBLM, Committee for education, chair

Since December 2020, the Committee for education of the Croatian society of medical biochemistry and laboratory medicine has been operating in a new composition of six members, mostly young medical biochemists, mostly residents in medical biochemistry and laboratory medicine all over Croatia. During this period, 15 free educational webinars on various topics and with excellent attendance were held by excellent colleagues from the profession, as well as doctors and colleagues from other related professions. Topics covered several areas so that everyone had the opportunity to hear news related to routine laboratory work and the specialized area they deal with. They included laboratory informatization, point-of-care testing, calprotectin determination, effect of alcohol on laboratory tests, guidelines in pleural effusion analysis, new technologies in differential blood count analysis, molecular diagnostics in cancer diagnosis and treatment, and pharmacogenomics in personalized treatment of cardiovascular diseases. There were also invited lecturers who gave interesting lectures that were

not related to routine laboratory work, application of lasers in laboratory diagnostics, the importance of medical biochemistry and laboratory medicine in veterinary medicine, and a lecture on computer chemistry in biochemical research. Of course, as we are still in a global pandemic, COVID-19 was a current topic and we had the opportunity to hear how to manage the quality of laboratories during the pandemic, all about anticoagulant therapy and monitoring of COVID-19 patients, and how doctors recognize and treat chronic obstructive pulmonary disease at the time of the pandemic.

In the year when professional events are postponed and held virtually, two educational scholarships for EuroMedLab 2021 and six scholarships for EFLM Preanalytical Phase Conference were awarded.

In addition to activities in the Committee for education, members of the Committee also participate in other activities of the Society in favour of promoting education in medical biochemistry field and science.

## NEWS FROM THE SPANISH SOCIETY OF LABORATORY MEDICINE (SEQC<sup>ML</sup>)

### The Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQCML) renews Executive Board

**SEQC<sup>ML</sup>**  
Sociedad Española de Medicina de Laboratorio  
Work on strategies to provide better patient care, priority objective of the new executive board of the Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine

- Dr. Antonio Buño, head of the Clinical Analysis Service of the La Paz University Hospital in Madrid, assumes presidency of the Society
  - The new board expresses its commitment to work and carry out different activities in favor of improved patient care
  - Professional training, promoting the journal *Advances in Laboratory Medicine*, and a program of scholarships and grants for young professionals, as well as collaboration with other scientific societies in the clinical field, some of the areas of action of the Society
  - The SEQCML maintains a firm commitment to improving the quality of laboratories, for which it will work to expand external quality assurance programs and defend the mandatory accreditation of laboratories.
- Madrid, February 15, 2022 – The Spanish Society of Laboratory

Medicine (SEQCML) has renewed its executive board for the next three years. In this new stage, the objectives are focused on continuing to work to maintain the high standards of the Society, as well as identifying new opportunities and strategies that Laboratory Medicine can influence to provide improved patient care.

The new executive board will be as follows:

- President: Dr. Antonio Buño Soto
- Vice President: Dr. Mercè Ibarz Escuer
- Secretary: Dr. Francesca Canalias Reverter
- Treasurer: Dr. José Puzo Foncillas
- Members: Dr. Concepción González Rodríguez, Dra. Pastora Rodríguez Vázquez, Dr. Álvaro González Hernández, Dr. Goitzane Marcaida Benito, Dr. Josep Miquel Bauçà Rosselló

Many achievements have been made in recent years and this has made it possible to position the SEQCML as a leading Laboratory Medicine society in our country. All this has been possible thanks to the work carried out by Dr. Imma Caballé as previous president and the rest of the members who have been a part of the executive board, and the dedication of the more than 300 members who belong to the different committees, commissions, and working groups as well as the commitment of the secretarial staff", emphasizes Dr. Buño, in recognition of all the work done so far.

### Priority objectives of the Society

Among the priority objectives of this new stage, the president of the SEQCML highlights the merger of the Clinical Analysis and Clinical Biochemistry specialties "to help resolve the current difficulties in public health contracts and vacancies".

Likewise, he cites professional training, continuing to promote the journal *Advances in Laboratory Medicine*, the Society's important program of scholarships and grants aimed especially at young professionals, and the collaborations already established with other scientific societies in the clinical sector. "We believe that we can contribute our knowledge in multiple areas and that it can be reflected in the form of consensus documents, common projects, or cross-participation in our congresses, all for the benefit of patients".

Likewise, and in line with the SEQCML's firm commitment to improving laboratory quality, it will continue to strengthen, expand, and improve external quality assurance programs and defend the mandatory accreditation by ISO 15189 and 22870 standards together with the National Accreditation Entity (ENAC).

Tasks such as digital transformation and advanced data analysis, actions that favor the generational change that will take place in the coming years, improvement of communication with partners, with other entities, and with patients, and enhancing the visibility of the Society will also be points of focus in the coming years by the Society and that will be defined in the new Strategic Plan 2022-2024 that is being finalized. "In short, from the executive board we are committed to working and carrying out different actions in favor of improved care for our patients," concludes Dr. Buño.

For more information: [www.seqc.es](http://www.seqc.es)





## NEWS FROM THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE (DGKL)

### DGKL Award „Biochemical Analytics 2022“

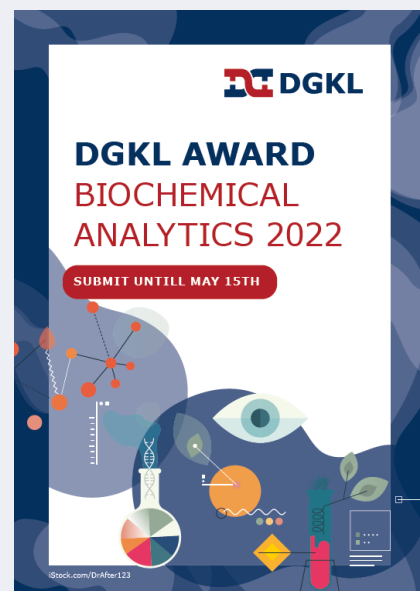
The German Society of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (DGKL) is the non-profit, scientific organization for clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine in Germany. We represent, promote and shape Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine in research, education and patient care.

The Biochemical Analytics award was established in 1970 and is awarded every two years to scientists who demonstrated outstanding achievements in research and analytical method development. Nominations are made by the Board of Directors of the DGKL, the Nominating Committee or by self-nominations.

The next award ceremony will be held at the Annual Conference of the DGKL from 13th to 14th of October in Mannheim, Germany. The award is sponsored by SARSTEDT AG & Co. KG and comprises an award sum of **EUR 50.000**. The award winner must be present at the prize giving ceremony.

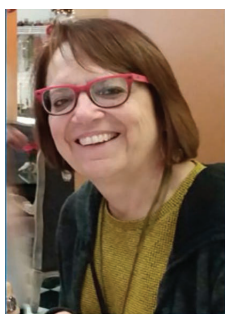
Valid applications shall encompass a scientific CV, a summary of scientific achievements and those papers the nomination is based on.

Please send the dossier no later than May 15th, 2022, by email to [BiochemAnalytik@dgkl.de](mailto:BiochemAnalytik@dgkl.de).



## IFCC NEWS

Reported by Dr Katherina Psarra, IFCC eNews Editor



Dear colleagues,

We are at the beginning of spring, but we don't yet see it, neither in the weather, although trees and wildflowers have already blossomed, nor in spirit as the war has prevented it.

But spring is here for the IFCC. The division chairs have met with the Board for the new strategic plan. A formidable, a springly plan full of activities, full of energy, has been prepared for IFCC and its members. Our president, Prof Khosrow Adeli, is introducing it to us in his message. The IFCC virtual platform, planned to be created, is also introduced in his message.

In this issue we learn about new and older IFCC Task Forces, Committees and WG: [Working Group on Flow Cytometry \(WG-FC\)](#), [Committee on Kidney Disease](#)

[\(C-KD\)](#), [Task Force on Outcome Studies in Laboratory Medicine \(TF-OSLM\)](#), [Working Group on Metabolomics \(WG-M\)](#), [Task Force on Ethics \(TF-E\)](#), [Task Force for Young Scientists \(TF-YS\)](#), introduce themselves and their members, and present their plans or their recent work. It is important to be in touch with them, as new opportunities and ideas and perhaps new collaborations may arise.

This issue is full of energy and photos. Welcome to the IFCC spring, dear colleagues!

[Click here](#) to read the full issue.

### Prof. Adeli, IFCC President's Message

Greetings to you all in the IFCC family. I hope everyone has had a successful start to the new year, and like myself, are looking forward to the year ahead, with many exciting activities planned for our community.

The **XXIV IFCC-EFLM EuroMedLab Congress** is fast-approaching, taking place in the beautiful city of Munich from April 10-14, 2022. I encourage you all to [register](#) and participate in the outstanding scientific program, featuring innovative and diverse educational opportunities that incorporate the best of clinical laboratory medicine and in vitro diagnostics. Over 900 novel abstracts have been

submitted, which will surely stimulate scientific exchange and advancements in the field of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine. In addition to outstanding symposia, poster presentations, and much more, attendees will also have the opportunity to take advantage of an excellent social program that incorporates many attractions in Munich. As previously mentioned, **IFCC Global Lab Medicine Week (GLMW)** will be formally launched during the EuroMedLab Congress, to celebrate the pivotal role of laboratory medicine and laboratory professionals in both public health and patient care. [Click here](#) to read the full message.

#### eJIFCC Vol 32 n°4 - December 2021 eJIFCC Vol 32 n° 4 is now available!

This issue begins with an interesting "Overview on the scientometric advancement of the eJIFCC" by prof J. Kappelmayer, eJIFCC Editor in Chief, Dr. HP. Bhattoa, Assistant Editor and prof GL. Kovács, past Editor in Chief. The history of the electronic Journal of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine dates back over 20 years. Browsing the [eJIFCC volumes](#) on the IFCC website, one can witness that the earliest issues date back to the previous millennium. The annually published page count has increased considerably in recent years. Is the increment in the number of publications and printed pages accompanied by enhanced recognition of the eJIFCC? The authors delineate the path that the eJIFCC has followed in the past years and the answer to the question is more than positive! [Click here](#) to read the latest issue of the eJIFCC.

## 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.**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Munich (DE), 10-14 April 2022<br><b>24th IFCC-EFLM European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine</b><br>EuroMedLab 2021<br><a href="#">Click here for information</a>                   | Helsinki (F), 20-21 April 2022<br><b>Labquality Days 2022: International Congress on Quality in Laboratory Medicine 2022</b><br><a href="#">Click here for information</a>  |
| 26 April 2022<br>EFLM Webinar: <b>Laboratory diagnostic of thyroid diseases</b><br>on-line<br><a href="#">Click here for information</a>  | 27-29 April 2022<br><b>VII Turkish in vitro Diagnostic (IVD) Symposium "Inflammation"</b><br>on-line<br><a href="#">Click here for information</a>  |
| 10 May 2022<br>EFLM Webinar: <b>Regulation of In Vitro Diagnostics in the EU: Lessons for diagnostic professionals</b><br>on-line<br><a href="#">Click here for information</a>                           | Santorini (GR), 23-26 May 2022<br><b>The 10th Santorini Conference "Systems medicine and personalised health &amp; therapy" - The odyssey from hope to practice: Patient first - Keeps Ithaca always in your mind</b><br><a href="#">Click here for information</a> |
| 24 May 2022<br>EFLM Webinar: <b>Laboratory diagnostic of prostate cancer</b><br>on-line<br><a href="#">Click here for information</a>   | 25-27 May 2022<br><b>3rd EFLM Strategic Conference - SMART and GREEN LABORATORIES - How to implement IVDR, emerging technologies and sustainable practices in medical laboratories?</b><br>on-line<br><a href="#">Click here for information</a>                    |
| 26 May 2022<br>EFLM Lessons in Immunochemistry: <b>Lesson n. 2 - Vitamin D status: the role of laboratory</b><br>on-line<br><a href="#">Click here for information</a>                                    | 21 June 2022<br>EFLM Webinar: <b>Molecular Immunology: new tricks of the innate immune system</b><br>on-line<br><a href="#">Click here for information</a>  |
| 28 June 2022<br>EFLM Webinar: <b>From IVD Directive to IVD Regulation: the changing landscape of Test Evaluation and Regulatory Requirements</b><br>on-line<br><a href="#">Click here for information</a> | 15 July 2022<br>EFLM Webinar: <b>Cardiac Markers</b><br>on-line<br><a href="#">Click here for information</a>   |



13 September 2022



EFLM Lessons in Immunochemistry: **Lesson n. 3 - Heart Failure and NT-proBNP**  
on-line [Click here for information](#)

24-29 September 2022

**XVI Baltic Congress in Laboratory Medicine**  
Tallinn (EE),

[Click here for information](#)

27 September 2022



EFLM Webinar: **Basic Semen Examination – WHO recommendations and new European ISO standard**  
on-line [Click here for information](#)

Zabreb (HR), 28 September - 1 October 2022

**10th Congress of the Croatian Society of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine with International Participation**

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11 October 2022



EFLM Webinar: **Challenges in POC testing**  
on-line

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8 November 2022



EFLM Webinar: **Monitoring the performance of a measurement system for its intended clinical use**  
on-line

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24 November 2022



EFLM Lessons in Immunochemistry: **Lesson n. 4 - Androgen excess or deficiency: the role of testosterone and free testosterone**  
on-line

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December 2022



EFLM Webinar: **Artificial Intelligence in laboratory medicine**  
on-line

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Izmir (TR), 4-9 October 2022

FEBS Advanced Course: **360-degree Lysosome; from structure to genomics, from function to disease-update**

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Belgrade (SRB), 12-14 September 2022

**XXII Serbian Congress of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine and 16th Belgrade Symposium for Balkan Region**

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22 November 2022



EFLM Webinar: **Atherogenic lipoproteins: which, when, and how to quantify**  
on-line

[Click here for information](#)

Milan (IT), November 2022 (date to be defined)

**14th CIRME International Scientific Meeting "Implementation of metrological traceability in laboratory medicine: where we are and what is missing"**

[Click here for information](#)

Rome (IT), 21-25 May 2023



**25th IFCC-EFLM European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine - EuroMedLab 2023**

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