

# 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 REPRESENTS IFCC IN EUROPE

## Introduction of the EFLM President

by Sverre Sandberg, EFLM President

I am proud that EFLM is able to send you the first EuroLabNews, its new bi-monthly newsletter. This is a completely new newsletter with the aim to strengthen our communication with our members, especially the National Societies and their individual members. This is a part of the EFLM 2017 project of the restyling of the EFLM image, together with the issuing of the new website and a new logo that will be available soon. There is a lot of important information in this issue, and I would like to draw attention to the fact that the EC4 Foundation has now been dissolved. We think that by having the EC4 register and the tasks of the EC4 Foundation within EFLM, will strengthen the activities around these issues. We also launch a call for new positions in the Executive Board of EFLM. This is a good opportunity for those of you who want to participate in the work in EFLM and to influence the way EFLM should be moving forward. When we asked you about what strategies EFLM should have for the coming years, improving the contacts with National Societies came very high. For EFLM therefore this is top priority since our main aim is to focus on the needs of the National Societies and try to forward these on a European basis. The EuroLabNews will present news from EFLM working groups, committees and task and finish groups as well as news from the Executive Board of EFLM. The plan is to have six editions of the Newsletter each year. If you have ideas or questions about what we should present, please contact the editor of the Newsletter. The General Meeting of EFLM will be held in Athens on June 11<sup>th</sup> and I look forward to seeing you there, getting input from you and to have the possibility to discuss important matters. The elections of the EB 2018/19 will take place at the General Meeting.

### Editorial information:

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### EFLM Executive Board:

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

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## Foreword

by Harjit Pal Bhattoa, EFLM Newsletter Editor

As the editor of the EFLM EuroLabNews, it is an honor to present this first issue of our bi-monthly newsletter. I would first of all like to convey my gratitude to MariaStella Graziani, the Chairperson of the EFLM Communication Committee; she has invested tremendous energy in the realization of this Newsletter, and without her tireless efforts this venture would not have been feasible. My thanks also to the EFLM Executive Board for approving and encouraging this project. Our respected global readership will definitely benefit from news organized in regular columns, spanning from precious information from the EFLM Executive Board and Working Groups, Hot topics in Laboratory Medicine, Vacancies in EFLM functional Units, News from National Societies, Interviews, Industry News, Announcement of upcoming EFLM Events, Conferences and Webinars, Awards, Bursary programs, and updates on the EFLM publications.

Optimistically, the punctual bi-monthly distribution shall help promote and better exercise precious activities of the EFLM.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all regular and corresponding members of the EFLM WG Promotion & Publication and Silvia Cattaneo from the EFLM office for all their heroic efforts in realizing this newsletter.

The EFLM Newsletter is published bi-monthly

To send your news or advertisement for publication on the newsletter write to: [news@eflm.eu](mailto:news@eflm.eu)

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#### NEWS FROM EFLM COMMITTEES

## A new era dawns for achieving recognition of Specialists in Laboratory

by Gilbert Wieringa, Chair of the EFLM Profession Committee

Late in 2016 the European Community Confederation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EC4)'s Foundation Board dissolved the foundation with the support of its board of governors, the EU-based national societies affiliated to EFLM. The decision was widely welcomed as a way of strengthening the project to achieve recognition of Specialists in Laboratory Medicine (EUSpLM) under the EU Commission's Directive 2013/55/EU (The recognition of professional qualifications). The leadership for achieving recognition of specialist practice now transfers to EFLM, its key opportunity being the presentation of a Common Training Framework with 10 EU member states to the EU Commission. Achieving a Common Training Framework that reflects specialist practice not only opens the door to unhindered professional migration across European Community borders for specialists but also helps raise awareness of the contribution of laboratory medicine to better health and best care.

For the immediate future the incentive turns to adding weight to the case for recognition by increasing the numbers of specialists on the EC4 Register. This can happen in 2 ways:

1. By contributing to the work of EFLM's new Working Group "Register" which has been established under the Profession Committee. The new working group invites up to 3 holders of EUSpLM to join them as Full Member of the Working Group. Applications from

individuals able to support auto-registration (which has already been established in UK and the Netherlands) will be particularly welcomed. There is also an opportunity to continue to contribute to the work previously carried out by EC4's Register Commission by joining as a corresponding member. The application form can be obtained by contacting the office in Milan ([silvia.cattaneo@eflm.eu](mailto:silvia.cattaneo@eflm.eu)).

Applications must be received as national society nominations and should be submitted by **28<sup>th</sup> February 2017**.

2. By individual application from EU member states who are holders of 'Equivalence of Standards' that have previously been recognised by EC4. For further information on the process please contact the Registrar, Jean Philippe Brochet ([jp.brochet@exalab.fr](mailto:jp.brochet@exalab.fr)), Inez Anne Haagen ([i.a.haagen@olv.nl](mailto:i.a.haagen@olv.nl)) or Gilbert Wieringa ([gilbert.wieringa@boltonft.nhs.uk](mailto:gilbert.wieringa@boltonft.nhs.uk)).

Building on legacy achievements such as a common syllabus for laboratory medicine, the Register of specialists, codes of conduct for registrants, a pro-active strategy to forge communication lines to the EU Commission requires the participation from individuals for whom raising awareness of laboratory medicines' contribution and creating opportunities for the current and the next generation of specialist practitioners is an imperative and an incentive. We look forward to hearing from as many individuals as possible.

#### THE EFLM EXECUTIVE BOARD INFORMS

## Call for nominations for the EFLM Executive Board 2018-2019

The EFLM President is delighted to advise that the recent proposed amendments to the EFLM Articles of Association have been agreed by EFLM Member Societies, hence the next election of the Executive Board Members will follow the new EFLM Articles of Association and the transitional provision will be applied, therefore Officers of the EFLM Executive Board 2018-2019 will be elected at the next EFLM General Assembly to be held in Athens (GR) on Sunday 11 June 2017 (14.00 to 18.15h CET) on the occasion of the 22nd IFCC-EFLM EuroMedLabCongress.

Nominations from National Societies are invited for the following positions to serve for the term of office 2018-2019:

- President-Elect  
(then to automatically serve as President for 2020-2021)
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Two Members-at-Large

Nominations have to be submitted electronically to the EFLM Office ([silvia.cattaneo@eflm.eu](mailto:silvia.cattaneo@eflm.eu)) using the form circulated to the National Society's representatives and accompanied by:

- Letter from the candidate explaining why she/he wants to take the position;
- Letter from the National Society listing the reason/s of the nomination;
- Curriculum vitae of the candidate (including relevant publications).

The deadline to submit nominations is **31 March 2017** (23.59 h CET).

The current EB officers (term ending on 31 December 2017) are:

- President: Prof. Sverre Sandberg (NO) to become Past-President on 1 Jan 2018
- President-Elect: Prof. Michael Neumaier (DE) to become President on 1 Jan 2018
- Past-President: Prof. Mauro Panteghini (IT) to retire on 31 Dec 2017
- Secretary: Prof. Ana-Maria Simundic (HR) 2<sup>nd</sup> term
- Treasurer: Dr. Huibert Storm (NL) 2<sup>nd</sup> term
- Member-at-Large: Prof. Grazyna Sypniewska (PL) 2<sup>nd</sup> term
- Member-at-Large: Prof. Tomáš Zima (CZ) 2<sup>nd</sup> term

According to the EFLM bylaws, any outgoing EB Members (except for the President positions) can be re-elected for the same position two further times (so 3 terms in total), provided they wish to continue along with the official nomination from their National Society.

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

# Vacancies in EFLM functional units

## New EFLM Working Group "Register" – deadline to send nominations: 28 February 2017

Following on from the integration in 2016 of EC4 into EFLM, a new Working Group "Register" of the Profession Committee has been formed under the chairmanship of Dr. Inez-Ann Haagen to take on many of the functions of EC4's Register Commission. Nominations are invited from EFLM National Society Members for 3 Specialists in Laboratory Medicine (EUSpLM), to act as Full Members and Corresponding Members.

The key priority for this group will be to grow the Register of specialists as a standard bearer of high quality practice hence we will welcome nominations for individuals who share ambitions to promote the Register and increase the number of registrants.

## EFLM Working Group "Congress and Postgraduate Education" – deadline to send nominations: 31 March 2017

The Committee of Education and Training (C-ET) plays the major role in development and support of educational activities in Laboratory Medicine for all members of EFLM. Throughout its working groups, C-ET provides many educational, teaching and consultative services and has general responsibility for the organisational aspects of scientific and educational events. Due to an internal reorganization of the Working Group on Congresses and Postgraduate Education, a vacancy arose and we are calling nominations for: 1 Full Member position.

## EFLM Working Group "Promotion and Publications" – deadline to send nominations: 31 March 2017

The EFLM Communication Committee has the main goal to establish and maintain efficient communication channels between EFLM and its member societies and other professional institutions, individuals and other targeted audience.

Due to the change of position of one member inside the Working Group Promotion & Publications, some vacancies arise and we are calling nominations for 1 Full Member and 1 Full Member-Young Scientist ( $\leq 35y$ ).

The terms of reference for each WG are available at [www.eflm.eu](http://www.eflm.eu). For all the above mentioned positions, the term of office will be for 2 years ending on 31 December 2018. The position could be renewable for other two more terms upon advice of the Committee Chair and continuing support from the National Society. The work is mainly conducted by e-mail and teleconferencing, the WG usually meets once per year.

Procedure for applications: each EFLM National Society Member in good standing with the membership fee can submit one nomination using the form circulated to the National Society's representatives to be sent back to [silvia.cattaneo@eflm.eu](mailto:silvia.cattaneo@eflm.eu). A brief plan of the applicant's contribution to the aims and objectives of the relevant Working Group has to be included in the form. Together with the application, a short CV should also be submitted underlining the qualifications and prior experience and publications in the relevant area. Candidates have to be officially recommended by their National Society through a formal letter of support. Applicants who are not selected as full members may be eligible for corresponding membership.

## HOT TOPICS IN LABORATORY MEDICINE

# Transforming big data into collective knowledge



by Bernard GOUGET, President, Human Health Section Committee-COFRAC, Counsellor for Public Health FHF, IFCC, Chair Nominations Committee, General Secretary of the International Francophone Federation (FIFBCML)

Today, health and laboratory medicine are confronted with an important transformation, fed by the explosion of knowledge in biomedical science and by the increasing availability of technologies like gene sequencing. The data generated, collected and stored during the course of patient care

or, on occasion, their private life, are currently massive and increasing exponentially. The era of big data in health is well and truly underway. Coupled with progress made in information techniques, this evolution will become a revolution, key innovations are considerable, a boon for health research for which big data is an almost inexhaustible source of new knowledge, indispensable to innovation and medical progress for: companies, for-profit and nonprofit research organizations, scientists, physicians, industrialists, etc; Big Data involves a large number of players in the health world. Managing these data directly leads to the emergence of the medicine of the future: Predictive/Preventive, Personalized, Participatory, Pertinent, and with Precision:

- predictive medicine to identify patients at risk and better target preventative actions.
- personalized medicine to collect a large amount of data of various origins about a patient that will permit adopting the most appropriate treatment strategy, particularly through pharmacogenomics:
- participatory medicine: the patient becomes an actor for the production of their own health data by connected objects (quantified self) with the objectives of prevention, early detection, monitoring and so on.

- pertinent medicine for the most appropriate care. Big data will help decision making. Crossing multiple data points from various sources will be a tool for aiding decision-making on the appropriate therapy for the best cost-effectiveness and will permit optimizing the course of care by collecting data from payers and healthcare providers.

- precision medicine: Big Data will permit optimizing the search for targets from genomic sequencing and multiplying the possibilities for analysis of treatment combinations without necessarily resorting to long and costly clinical trials.

Thus, multidimensional data (medical administrative, genomic data, data from e-health) collected long term in large populations, will permit accessing a new classification of pathologies and identifying risk factors for certain chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes, asthma or even neurodegenerative diseases. These factors will then serve to construct prevention messages and set up programs aimed at at-risk populations.

Big Data will also permit the development of systems for aiding diagnosis, for personalization of treatment and verification of treatment efficacy. These systems are based on the processing of large masses of individual clinical data. In this vein, IBM's supercomputer, Watson, permits analyzing the results of cancer patient genomic sequencing in a few minutes, comparing the data obtained to those already available, and thus proposing a personalized strategy. Without this tool, the analysis would require several weeks.

Thanks to Big Data, we can have access to a large amount of information on the health status of individuals in a given region, permitting an increase in disease incidence or at-risk behaviors to





be identified, and alerting health authorities. Likewise, the analysis of long-term data from cohorts or health economic databases already permits identifying serious adverse events and alerting of some pandemic risks.

Moreover, the expected advantages for health guidance and the implementation of more precise and targeted medicine raises many technical and human challenges, and also poses ethical questions: should we keep all the data? Should we pool them? Who should manage them and under what conditions should they be shared? How do we reconcile collective interest and individual protection? How do we protect against any commercial or fraudulent use? How do we make sure that Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon do not appropriate any part of them? The stakes are significant: risk of disclosure of

private information and consequences for social life, loss of trust in public authorities and research confidentiality, etc. This is why it is vital to promote a multidiscipline approach to these questions with laboratory medicine specialists, clinicians, bioinformatics specialists and ethicists. A rich, open and fruitful reflection on these issues could be conducted thanks to the expertise present within the EFLM. Exchanging ideas and improving communication is also the challenge of this new e-EFLM newsletter. This newsletter seeks to support its membership as acting as a central resource on the full member activities and scientific and educational developments across the EFLM. We would like to congratulate the EFLM Communication Committee chaired by Maria Stella Graziani for this dynamic initiative and happy 2017!

#### EFLM EVENTS

**4<sup>th</sup> EFLM-BD  
European Conference on Preanalytical Phase**  
Improving quality in the preanalytical phase through innovation



The fourth meeting will be held on 24-25 March 2017 in Amsterdam. The conference is organized by the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) and sponsored by BD Life Sciences, Preanalytical Systems. Previously organized biannually in Parma, Zagreb and Porto, it is the largest conference in Europe with the focus on the preanalytical phase of clinical laboratory work. The Chair of the Conference Scientific and Organizing Committee is Prof. Dr. Ana-Maria Simundic who is also Chair of the EFLM WG-PRE (Working Group on the Preanalytical Phase). The conference offers an excellent programme with up-to-date topics on the quality of preanalytical phase to be presented by renowned speakers, promising an open

forum for interactive discussions in the field. For the detailed scientific programme visit: <http://www.preanalytical-phase.org/go/programme>. A poster area is foreseen during the event. The Conference Organizers have announced that two poster awards will be given during the conference, one by the decision of the Scientific Committee and the other voted by the audience. The award is a free registration for the next conference in 2019. Reduced registration fee is offered for young scientists (<35 years of age). Please save the date and don't miss this scientific event in Amsterdam. Check out the Conference website for further information: <http://www.preanalytical-phase.org/index/home>

#### EFLM AWARDS

## EFLM-Roche Scientific Award for Laboratory Medicine 2017



#### Announcement

This award has been created to honour an individual, who is a member of an EFLM National Society and has made unique contributions to the promotion and understanding of clinical chemistry throughout Europe or has made one or more contributions that have had a major impact on laboratory medicine.

The award consists of an amount of EUR 7.500 and will be presented at the 22<sup>nd</sup> IFCC-EFLM EuroMedLab Congress to be held in Athens (GR) from 11 to 15 June 2017.

#### Criteria

The nominee's contributions to promoting laboratory medicine at European level and/or promoting European laboratory medicine internationally should be well known and demonstrated by measurable outputs that made significant impact at scientific/clinical/educational/quality/organisational/policy/public level.

#### Application procedure

- The nominated individual must be from a National Society which is a member of EFLM who fulfils the criteria and purpose of this award.
- of the officers of the EFLM (i.e. members of the executive board and committee chairs) are eligible for the Award during their term of office.
- Nomination must be made

through a formal letter submitted by a National Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine Society which is a full member of EFLM. The EFLM Executive Board encourages nominations of individuals from a country different from that one of the nominating person.

- Applications must include a statement with the reasons for the nomination, highlighting the accomplishments of the candidate along the lines of the listed eligibility criteria.
- Each nomination must be accompanied by curriculum vitae of the nominee including a bibliography demonstrating the individual's scientific or professional achievements.
- The nominee needs not be aware that a nomination has been made.
- The nomination must contain a statement that the individual was not nominated in the same year for any other EFLM or IFCC award.

Nominations and all supporting documents must be in English and submitted electronically to the EFLM office ([eflm@eflm.eu](mailto:eflm@eflm.eu)) by **31 March 2017**. Applications will be assessed by a panel of independent judges appointed by the EFLM Executive Board. For any further information please contact the EFLM Office at [eflm@eflm.eu](mailto:eflm@eflm.eu)



# EFLM Bursary Programmes for Young Scientists

## EFLM Bursary Programme for Young Scientists attending the IFCC-EFLM European Congress in Athens

This is to inform you that EFLM is promoting a bursary program for young scientists attending the 22nd IFCC-EFLM European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine – EuroMedLab 2017 to be held in Athens on 11-15 June 2017 <http://www.athens2017.org/>

The bursaries will cover the cost of travel and 4-night accommodation for a maximum of EUR 900. EFLM Bursary recipients will also receive free congress registration, kindly offered by the Congress Organizer Committee, and a free on-line yearly subscription to the journal CCLM, kindly offered by Walter de Gruyter.

Eligible candidates must come from an EFLM Member Society and meet both the following criteria:

- Young participants ( $\leq 35$  years at the date of the conference);
- Having a poster abstract accepted as First Author (deadline for abstract submission Nov. 6, 2016).

Applications must be submitted through the proper application form (downloadable from [www.eflm.eu](http://www.eflm.eu) under EFLM Bursaries) and accompanied by the following documentation:

- Copy of government issued ID or passport;
  - Document proving the membership of the National Society;
  - Notification of poster acceptance (sent by the congress organizers).
- Applications have to be sent to [silvia.cattaneo@eflm.eu](mailto:silvia.cattaneo@eflm.eu) by **15 February 2017**.

## EFLM bursary programme for Young Scientists attending the 4<sup>th</sup> EFLM-BD Conference on Preanalytical Phase in Amsterdam

The EFLM bursaries programme to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> EFLM-BD Conference on Preanalytical Phase (Amsterdam, 24-25 March 2017) received the attention of a great number of Young Scientists.

31 applications were received from 11 different EFLM countries. 30 applications were eligible for selection according to the EFLM criteria for admission.

Application were evaluated by a dedicated internal panel of experts and the following 4 applicants have been selected to receive the EFLM support consisting in a free conference registration and the coverage of the travel and accommodation expenses:

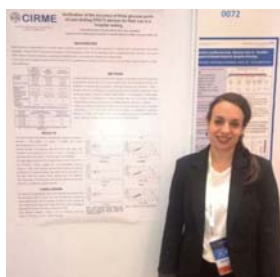
- Eline VAN DEN HAGEN from The Netherlands
- Sophie HEPBURN from UK
- Valery BRUNEL from France
- Ali YAMAN from Turkey

Bursary recipients will also received a free annual on-line subscription to the Journal "CCLM", kindly offered by W. de Gruyter.

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

## Reports from EFLM bursary recipients at the 4<sup>th</sup> EFLM-UEMS Congress "Laboratory Medicine at the Clinical Interface" - Warsaw, 21-24<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Report by Elena Aloisio, M.D., Clinical Pathology Unit, "L. Sacco" University Hospital, University of Milan, Italy



The 4<sup>th</sup> EFLM-UEMS Congress held in Warsaw from the 21-24<sup>th</sup> of September 2016, had as it's main focus, and as it's title suggests, the importance of collaboration between laboratory and clinical professionals in order to offer to the patient the best healthcare possible. Since in routine clinical practice this collaboration is often overlooked by both sides, it is really important,

from my point of view, that this topic is discussed in meetings of this kind.

Sessions and plenary lectures covered a really wide range of topics, all extremely interesting, and this sometimes rendered the choice of what to follow somewhat difficult (but this is a good thing!).

I really enjoyed the opening lecture by Professor Dennis Lo, "Plasma DNA: Driver of a revolution in molecular diagnostics for the clinic", since it treated about a topic that is exceptionally innovative and at the same time very popular and which may revolution, in the near future, pre-natal and cancer diagnostic algorithms.

The session more closely related to my line of work was the one titled "Point-of-care testing: methodology and quality". During this session, Professor Sverre Sandberg talked about how performance specifications for POC instruments should not necessarily be the same of those for laboratory instruments, but should be defined based on how the test is specifically used in the POCT setting, always in the perspective of improving patient outcome.

Then, professor Chris M. Florkowski talked about how it is important to have evidences of usefulness of POCT, before it's introduction in a clinical setting. Since POCT usually has a greater cost than routine laboratory testing and requires strict monitoring, in order to assure







an adequate quality of results, it is necessary to assess whether the implementation of such tests aids clinical decision making in at least a non inferior way than laboratory testing.

Finally, professor Ellis Jacobs talked about how recent advancements in Molecular Diagnostics technologies at the Point of Care will allow, in the immediate future, to take molecular tests outside specialty laboratories, bringing great advantages to patients that don't have easy access to quality healthcare.

Listening to this session benefited me greatly because in our hospital we are currently going through a radical reorganization of POCT, which has been completely put under the control of the central laboratory, so that now we have the direct responsibility of guaranteeing quality of POCT results. Both definition of performance specifications and assessment of usefulness, based on objective clinical evidence, have been major challenges during the whole reorganization process and lectures by professors Sandberg and Florkowski confirmed that our approach on these subjects is correct and, most likely, the one that benefits patients the most.

At the end of the session, I was given the opportunity to give a short presentation about my work and, in particular, I talked about the validation of hemoglobin and hematocrit measurements on the GEM Premier 4000 blood gas analyzer.

During the whole congress, a substantial number of young scientists were allowed to present their work in short oral presentations or during poster walks, and I would really like to thank the EFLM very much for all its efforts in this sense. Concluding, I really much enjoyed participating at this congress because it gave me the opportunity to learn about topics that aren't necessarily part of the every-day laboratory working routine, but at the same time to deepen my knowledge about classic laboratory medicine subjects.

I am very grateful to the EFLM for granting me with a bursary to participate to such an outstanding scientific event.

Report by Jorge Diaz -Garzon, Departments of Laboratory Medicine, Hematology and Hemotherapy and Microbiology, Genetics, University Hospital La Paz, Madrid, Spain

I had the chance to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> Joint EFLM-UEMS Congress 'Laboratory Medicine at the Clinical Interface' in Warsaw and learn about some of the fields such as cardiac markers, POCT quality assurance, harmonization, Lipids etc, fields in which I am really interested. Furthermore, I participated in the meeting of the Biological variation Working Group that took place at Hotel Boss on Wednesday, as a member of the Task and Finish Group on Biological Variation; in this meeting the group could introduce the new members, share our work progress, set new targets and last but not least have an enriching lunch with colleagues.

One of the sessions that caught my attention was 'Laboratory biomarkers of cardiovascular disease' that was very useful after my 3 month rotation with Dr. Fred Apple in Minneapolis in the cardiac biomarkers field, especially cardiac troponins. A meticulous revision was made by different experts in this topic; I try to sum it up below.

The first speaker (Dr. Marek Kozłowski) talked about the High sensitivity troponin (hs-Tn), showing the analytical characteristic of the current hs-Tn assays (precision, LoD etc), how to calculate the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile (study design: CV, population). He also explained that hs-Tn has a better diagnosis performance when compared with contemporary assay, basic algorithms that help us to know when to test the patient and how to interpret the result (adequate training and clinical experience are necessary).

Subsequently, Dr. Rudolf de Boer spoke about heart failure (HF) and the main and most useful biomarker for this pathology, the natriuretic peptides (NTPro-BNP and BNP). He showed some studies of the diagnostic accuracy. ESC and AHA states these biomarkers have potential usefulness for risk stratification but no treatment recommendations could be based on biomarkers levels.

He mentioned other potentially useful biomarkers for HF management, such

as Galectine-3, ST2, GDF-15, miRNA, renal markers etc. Finally, he commented what we should wait for the new HF Guidelines. The third in presenting was Maciej Kostrubiec. His topic was thromboembolic disease (TD) and the most useful marker to manage the TD is D-Dimer. He talked about cutoffs (different sensitive assays) and the decrease of the test sensitivity after anticoagulation (AG) treatment, exposing a study that uses the d-Dimer to monitor TD patients; When D-Dimer is normal no AG, when elevated randomize No AG or AG (VKA, INR 2-3). He concluded that D-Dimer is recommended to reduce the need for imaging and irradiation, preferably using a highly sensitive assay. Other proposals such as potential markers for risk stratification were the hs-Tn, and NTpro-BNP.

Finally, three short oral presentations were sustained; I am just going to mention the last one, as the speaker, Dr. Wouter Meijers, made a really good presentation based on an interesting topic - the biological variation of cardiac biomarkers on heart failure patients.

I would like to highlight the 'Should performance specifications be different for point-of-care instruments' session exposed by Dr. Sandberg who made a comprehensive review on how to select and what criteria we should use to set our performance specification in POCT, which was closely related with my Poster topic.

Poster walks were a great scenario to share knowledge about different interesting topics, such as the POCT field. Furthermore, there, I had the opportunity of explaining our experience to other colleagues within this activity.

I kindly appreciate the support of EFLM for giving me this bursary and the opportunity of attending the congress. I am deeply grateful to my Spanish colleagues for helping me to achieve this objective, especially to the Laboratory Director Dr. Antonio Buno, to my PhD supervisor and Quality Department Manager Dr. Pilar Fernández - Calle and to the POCT Coordinator Dr. Paloma Oliver, as well as to all La Paz University Hospital staff; I would also like to express my gratitude towards Dr. Sverre Sandberg and Silvia Cattaneo.

Report by Anna Wolska, Lipoprotein Metabolism Section, National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, NIH, Bethesda, USA

The report from "Dyslipidemia: new clinical concepts and diagnostic tools" session. The 4<sup>th</sup> Joint EFLM-UEMS Congress held in the capital of Poland -Warsaw- on the 21<sup>st</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> of September was a full success. The level of scientific and organizational side of this congress was very high. The scientific program covered a large range of medically important and scientifically innovative topics through plenary lectures, symposia, debates, workshops, and oral and poster presentations. Moreover, the social program was excellent and very much appreciated.

I was honored to present a short communication during the "Dyslipidemia: new clinical concepts and diagnostic tools" session (showed below on the copied picture from the Final Program of the Congress).

The first presentation was about the impact of triglycerides, remnant cholesterol and lipoprotein(a) on atherosclerosis stenosis, myocardial infarction and aortic valve stenosis. There is a strong suggestion that elevated results of triglyceride-rich lipoproteins and lipoprotein(a) represent causal risk factors for cardiovascular diseases. The next talk was about postprandial effects on altering lipid levels and their association with cardiovascular risk. It is recommended to use non-fasting lipid tests for routine clinical practice. Dr. Alan T. Remaley, my distinguished supervisor, presented his recent invention -apoC-II mimetic peptide- that may have utility beyond the treatment of apoC-II deficiency. He also discussed the different genetic causes of hypertriglyceridemia, their potential clinical

### Dyslipidemia: New clinical concepts and diagnostic tools

Chairs: *Michel Langlois (BE)*, *Grażyna - Odrowąż-Sypniewska (PL)*

08:30 - 09:00	Triglycerides, remnant cholesterol and lipoprotein(a) for cardiovascular risk prediction <i>Borge Nordestgaard (DK)</i>
09:00 - 09:30	Joint EFLM-EAS consensus on nonfasting dyslipidemia testing <i>Michel Langlois (BE)</i>
09:30 - 10:00	Apolipoprotein C-II: Recent clinical and basic findings <i>Alan Remaley (US)</i>
10:00 - 10:10	LDL and HDL subfractionation: new clinical concept in diagnosis of dyslipidemia in the Eastern Slovakian majority and Roma population <i>Beata Hubkova (SK)</i>
10:10 - 10:20	New and old formulas for the calculation of LDL-cholesterol: an evaluation <i>Tahir Pillay (ZA)</i>
10:20 - 10:30	NMR lipoprotein phenotyping for assessing cardiovascular disease risk <i>Anna Wolska (US/PL)</i>

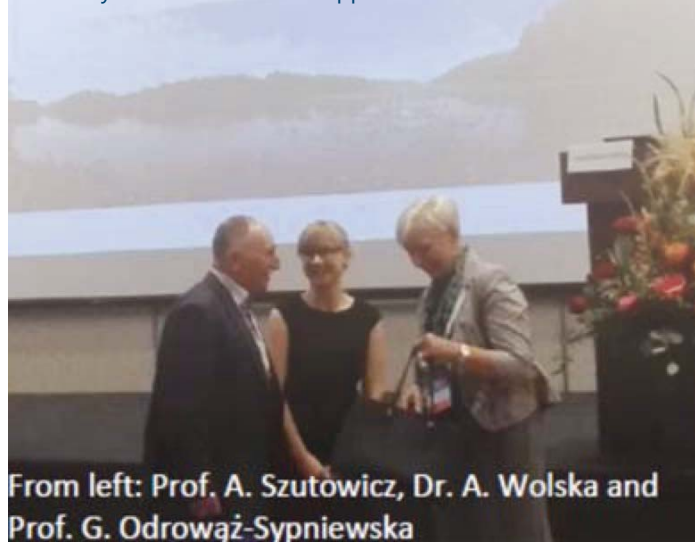
manifestations and laboratory methods of testing. The fourth presentation was about the effectiveness of LDL and HDL subfractionation in diagnosing dyslipidemia in Slovakian and Roman population. Both subfractionations are important in diagnosing dyslipidemia in clinical practice. Dr. Tahir Pillay showed that the Hattori formula is better than Friedewald, Chen and de Cordova formulae compared to the direct measurements of LDL cholesterol. The study was performed on 10,000 lipid profiles. I explained the lipoprotein nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectrometry and our novel method of lipoprotein phenotyping for assessing cardiovascular disease risk. HDL phenotyping and complete lipoprotein phenotyping by NMR, together with CT angiography, may be helpful prognostic tools for coronary artery disease.

All presentations were very informative, interesting and inspiring. The session was very entertaining and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I have to give my sincere compliments to the speakers on the presented materials and their superb presentation skills. The work of moderators was excellent and I was very nicely surprised and grateful how wonderfully Prof. Grażyna Odrowąż-Sypniewska

presented me to the audience. It was my pleasure to personally met Prof. Grażyna Odrowąż-Sypniewska who is my authority in the academia. I was deeply moved and happy thanks to Prof. Andrzej Szutowicz, my great former supervisor, who came to listen to my speech at the session.

This congress has been valuable for me not only professionally but also personally. I have learned a lot and met many outstanding experts and made new colleagues.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine for awarding me with the EFLM bursary to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> Joint EFLM-UEMS Congress. I wish to sincerely thank Mrs. Silvia Cattaneo from EFLM office for all her tremendous help in organizing my coming to Warsaw. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Prof. Grażyna Odrowąż-Sypniewska, Prof. Andrzej Szutowicz and Dr. Alan T. Remaley for their continuous support.



From left: Prof. A. Szutowicz, Dr. A. Wolska and Prof. G. Odrowąż-Sypniewska

## Updates on EFLM Publications

By MariaStella Graziani, Chair of the EFLM Communications Committee

An interesting opinion paper has been published in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine recently.

### Could accreditation bodies facilitate the implementation of medical guidelines in laboratories?

Aakre KM, Oosterhuis WP, Misra S, Langlois MR, Watine J, Twomey PJ et al. from the EFLM WG on Guidelines. Clin Chem Lab 2016 DOI 10.1515/cclm-2016-0577

The paper, after examining the results of a survey conducted amongst the national societies for clinical chemistry in Europe regarding the development of laboratory-related guidelines,

concludes that implementation of the recommendations that are available needs improvement for a number of reasons that are reported. The recommendation of the EFLM WG is that "... the clinical relevance of the ISO standards would be strengthened by the inclusion of sections describing the different aspects of GL implementation by laboratories with respect to (national and international) medical guidelines providing recommendations on laboratory testing"

The full list of the EFLM publications is available on [www.eflm.eu](http://www.eflm.eu) under EFLM Publications

## Change of guard in EFLM National Societies

### Finnish Society of Clinical Chemistry

Dr Anna Linko-Parvinen (Dept of Clinical Chemistry, Haematology Laboratory, Tykslab – Turku Univ. Hospital) is the new President of the Finnish Society of Clinical Chemistry replacing Dr Petra Anttila. A warm welcome to Dr Linko-Parvinen and a thanks Dr Anttila for the collaboration during these past years.

### Portuguese Society of Clinical Chemistry, Genetics and Laboratory Medicine

Dr Henrique Reguengo (PharmD, MSc, EuSpLM - Clinical Chemistry Service, Centro Hospitalar, Porto) is the new President of the Portuguese Society of Clinical Chemistry, Genetics and Laboratory Medicine replacing Dr Tiago Guimarães. Dr Reguengo will continue to act also as EFLM National Representative. A thanks to Dr. Guimarães for the collaboration during these past years.





## NEWS FROM EFLM NATIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERS

# Celebration of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Hungarian Society of Laboratory Medicine

Imre Földesi, President of the HSLM58  
Éva Ajzner, President of HSLM

With more than 550 participants, the 58<sup>th</sup> National Conference of the Hungarian Society of Laboratory Medicine (HSLM58) was held in Szeged between 25-27 August 2016 under the auspices of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry (IFCC), the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) and the European Union of Medical Specialists (EUMS). This meeting gave a special opportunity for us to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Society as well. The venue of the Conference was the Attila József Teaching and Conference Centre of the University of Szeged, which is Hungary's first green conference centre in the heart of the city.

In total, 129 abstracts were accepted for presentation. Seventy-one presentations were orally delivered and 58 posters were displayed and also summarized briefly in short oral communications. All abstracts were published in the journal of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine in the October issue (DOI 10.1515/cclm-2016-0583, Clin Chem Lab Med 2016;54(10):eA157-eA211.) The lectures were presented in parallel sections including laboratory research, endocrinology, routine laboratory diagnostics, case presentations, hematology-hemostasis and a special Clinician-laboratory doctor Joint Section. In addition, separate sections were organized for young laboratory scientists (Youth forum

- "You have the X factor" competition) as well as for the Hungarian Society of Laboratory Professionals and for the national external quality control provider QualiCont that also celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016.

Special sections were designed to honour the Silver Jendrassik Award winner Prof. László Muszbek (University of Debrecen) and Silver Pándy Award winners Prof. Gábor L. Kovács (University of Pécs) and Prof. Andrea Rita Horváth (University of Sydney).

We were delighted that our international collaborators accepted our invitation to the conference, and Prof. Maurizio Ferrari, the president of the IFCC, received the International Jendrassik Award, while Prof. Sverre Sandberg, the president of the EFLM, was awarded by the Honorary Membership Award of HSLM.

The exhibition for laboratory instruments providers was organized with more than 25 (international) companies introducing their newest instruments and laboratory tests.

MAGYAR LABORATÓRIUMI  
DIAGNOSZTIKAI TÁRSASÁG  
ALAPÍTÁS ÉVE 1946



## NEWS FROM EFLM NATIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERS

# News from the Spanish Society of Clinical Biochemistry and Molecular Pathology (SEQC)

Report on X National Clinical Laboratory Congress

**SEQC<sup>ML</sup>**  
Sociedad Española de Medicina de Laboratorio

The 10<sup>th</sup> National Clinical Laboratory Congress brought over 1,500 experts together in Zaragoza from 19 to 21

October 2016. This is the most important scientific conference in Spain on in vitro diagnosis, where the key issues of the previous year are reviewed, organised jointly by the Spanish Society of Clinical Biochemistry and Molecular Pathology (SEQC) and the Spanish Medical Biopathology Association (AEBM) and the Spanish Association of Pharmaceutical Analysts (AEFA).

Over 900 scientific papers were presented at the event. The programme included 5 expert lunches, 10 symposia, 2 lectures (covering new developments in management, quality, hepatitis, arteriosclerosis, genetic diagnostic testing, neuro-degenerative diseases,



SEQC Team: J. Peña, S. Cuadrad, C. Merino and M. Ventura with the President I. Caballé.

the population status of iron deficiencies, intellectual disability and specialist training in the field of laboratory medicine), house-officer and tutor meetings and 4 practical pre-congress courses on haematological cytology, risk management in the lab, biochemical urine studies and onconeural antibodies. Also noteworthy was the industry sponsorship of 11 workshops, sessions that combined training and the companies' innovative proposals in cutting-edge issues.

Experts stress the importance of holding this conference every year due to the extraordinary contribution of clinical laboratories to medical diagnosis. "We are committed to advancing knowledge of new tests that increase sensitivity, specificity and positive and negative predictive values and reduce the cost-benefit ratio", stated Dr. Francisco A. Bernabeu, member of the SEQC and the Congress Steering Committee.

According to Dr. José Puzo Foncillas, member of the SEQC and the Local Congress Committee, "laboratory medicine represents the single highest volume clinical activity in health systems, covering both primary and specialist care, and is undoubtedly the fastest, safest and most accurate diagnostic system available in medicine".

"In fact", Dr. Bernabeu explained, "this has become a challenge: lab professionals must take on the role of clinical advisor and make full use of their knowledge. Analysts have to work closely with physicians in choosing the most appropriate tests and designing suitable profiles and protocols for each disorder. All without forgetting that the analyst's main mission is to provide reliable results. Thus, we consider the best way of guaranteeing this reliability is to obtain Standard UNE-EN ISO 15189 accreditation".



AEBM AEFA SEQC



# Report on EQALM Symposium 2016 Barcelona



The Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQC<sup>ML</sup>) together with the Spanish Society of Hematology and Hemotherapy (SEHH) have participated in the organization of the International Symposium 2016 that annually holds the European Organization for External Quality Assurance Providers in Laboratory Medicine (EQALM).

The symposium took place on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> October in the city of Barcelona and brought together more than 105 participants from 26 different countries.

This year's main theme has been *"The Road to Perfect EQA"*. The symposium has lasted for 2 days where different speakers have dealt with Traceability and Commutability issues in reference to the control material of EQA's.

In general the organization and the development of the symposium has been a success, leaving the board of EQALM very satisfied with the final result.



## 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, contact the EFLM Office at [silvia.cattaneo@eflm.eu](mailto:silvia.cattaneo@eflm.eu)

9-10 March 2017

**6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Vitamin D, Nutrition and Human Health**

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

[www.meaconferences.com](http://www.meaconferences.com)

10-11 June 2017

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

EuroMedLab2017 - Satellite Meeting

Athens, Greece

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

24-25 March 2017

**4<sup>th</sup> EFLM-BD European Conference on Preanalytical Phase**

Biannual Conference organized by the EFLM Working Group on "Preanalytical Phase" in collaboration with BD

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

<http://www.preanalytical-phase.org/>



11-15 June 2017

EuroMedLab 2017

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

Athens, Greece

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



30-31 March 2017

**XV Meeting of the SEQC Scientific Committee**

Madrid, Spain

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

15-16 June 2017

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

EuroMedLab2017 - Satellite Meeting

Sounio, Greece

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

10-13 May 2017

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

Timisoara, Romania

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

21-22 September 2017

**13<sup>th</sup> EFLM Symposium for Balkan Region**

Laboratory Medicine Management: Leadership skills for effective Laboratory

Belgrade, Serbia

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



11-13 May 2017

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

Riga, Latvia

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

5-6 October 2017

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

Prague, Czech Republic

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



30-31 May 2017

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

Barcelona, Spain

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

16-17 October 2017

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

Paris, France

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

10 June 2017

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

EuroMedLab2017 - Satellite Meeting

Athens, Greece

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

20-22 October 2017

**XIV International Congress of Pediatric Laboratory Medicine**

Durban, South Africa

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

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

The EFLM IVD partners are offered the possibility to advertise on EuroLabNews. The yearly price for a quarter A4 ads in six issues is Eur 1.500. Those companies interested in this opportunity can contact the EFLM Office at [silvia.cattaneo@eflm.eu](mailto:silvia.cattaneo@eflm.eu)