

EFLM

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY
AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

01

January • February
2025

EuroLab News

THE EFLM BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



www.eflm.eu

Editorial Information

Newsletter Editor. Dr. Harjit Pal Bhattoa, Faculty of Medicine,
Dep of Laboratory Medicine, University of Debrecen Hungary

EFLM Executive Board:

M. Plebani, T. Ozben, T. Zima, S. Jovicic, K. Kohse,
P. Fernandez-Calle, D. Vitkus

To send your news or advertisement for publication on the newsletter write to: news@eflm.eu Contents may not be reproduced without the prior permission of the newsletter Editor. The EFLM Newsletter is published bi-monthly.

Foreword

First and foremost. Happy New Year!

The first issue of this year is inaugurated by the New Year Message from the EFLM President Mario Plebani. Snezana Jovicic, EFLM Executive Board Secretary, is extending the EFLM Executive Board's call for nomination for the EFLM Young Laboratory Medicine Professional Award – 2025 Edition. For the 2024 Edition, Vidali Matteo has been selected and will be awarded the EFLM Academy Award at the 26th IFCC-EFLM EuroMedLab Congress in Brussels. Silvia Cattaneo, from the EFLM Office, announces the EFLM call for 27 vacancies in various EFLM Committees. Hikmet Can Çubukçu, MD, EuSpLM, EFLM Committee: Accreditation and ISO/CEN standards, gives us a brief summary of the APS Calculator and its availability on an unrestricted website. Medine Alpdemir, Full Member of the C-BNOA, gives us an overview of the biomarkers of diagnosis and follow-up of Nitrous Oxide Abuse. Timo Kouri, Chair, EFLM Task and Finish Group Urinalysis, highlights the key achievements of the European Urinalysis Guideline 2023. Tara Rolic, Chair of the EFLM Task Group European Laboratory Day, gives her perspective on the success of the European Laboratory Day 2024. Tomris Ozben, Chair of the EFLM Committee "Green & Sustainable Laboratories", focuses on the four simple actions to be more sustainable and green in your laboratory. Josipa Raguž, EU SpLM, Croatia, shares her experience in Brussels as a bursaries' recipient in the EFLM LabX Program. Alessia Carere, EFLM Office, lists the latest EFLM Scientific papers. Tara Rolic, EFLM Executive Committee Member Communication Division, recaps the past EFLM Events and announces the forthcoming EFLM webinars and events. Under News from National Societies, the Spanish, the Serbian, the Georgian and the Balkan Societies are presenting their latest happenings. Under its regular column, the IFCC corner presents global perspectives in Laboratory Medicine. The Calendar of Events lists major happenings in the field of Laboratory Medicine.



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

Contents

Foreword	1	Past EFLM Events	15
New Year's Message from the EFLM President	2	Upcoming EFLM Events	16
The EFLM Executive Board Informs	3	News from EFLM National Societies	19
EFLM Office informs	5	IFCC News	27
News from the EFLM Functional Units	6	Calendar of EFLM Events and Events under EFLM Auspices	28
EFLMLabX Corner - Training Experience	13		
Updates on EFLM Publications	14		

Highlights



New Year's Message from the EFLM President



Dear All,

As we begin this new year, I would like to take the opportunity to reflect on the milestones we have achieved together and outline our ambitions for the future.

2024 was a year of growth, changes, commitment and significant accomplishments for our Federation, just to mention some: the EFLM Strategic Conference “A Vision to the future: value-based laboratory medicine” and the large number of EFLM Academy including around 5000 EuSpLM.

We also faced some challenges in changing the EFLM structure but with determination we succeeded in overcoming obstacles thanks to the dedication of each one of you. Every step forward has been possible thanks to your constant support and the passion we all share. As healthcare system redesign how they provide services by engaging patients, moving from a focus on volumes to value, creating equity, sustainability and improved clinical outcomes, clinical laboratories are in an ideal position to serve as catalysts for these changes. And we may promote “well care” as compared with the current model of “sick care” focusing our efforts on early disease detection, personalized medicine and prevention.

Looking ahead to 2025, we do so with renewed energy and the determination to continue growing, innovating and striving for excellence. This year, successful EFLM opportunities, such as the EFLM Research grants, the initiative “Invite an EFLM EB representative at your National Congress”, the EFLM Postgraduate Courses offered to our National Societies, the EFLM bursaries programme, the EFLMLabX activity (just to mention some) are proposed again to our National Societies as opportunities for their members to strength our community and to foster the collaboration. We will also continue to improve the EFLM Green Lab certification programme as well as the EFLM Continuous Professional Education Credit System.

The EuroMedLab 2025 Congress in May is approaching and promises to be an unmissable event for all laboratory medicine professionals. As ever, the focus will be on how the latest technologies and innovations are transforming the diagnostic and therapeutic landscape. EuroMedLab 2025 in Bruxelles would be an excellent opportunity to explore these innovations and discuss their impact on the future of laboratory medicine. The annual EFLM General Meeting is also scheduled on that occasion and our EFLM Full Members will be invited to elect the new Executive Board for the mandate 2026-2027.

After the success of the EFLM Strategic Conference 2024, I am excited to announce that we are organising the 7th EFLM Conference on Preanalytical Phase to be held in Padova on 12-13 December 2025 and am confident that this conference will be successful like the previous editions of this important EFLM initiative, the largest European event on this topic. Last but not least, with the continuing grow of the EFLM successful activities, I am delighted to announce the introduction of a new resource in the EFLM operational team: Alessia Carere who joined Silvia Cattaneo and Silvia Terragni in EFLM Office. This will help strengthen our team and enhance our services, a warm welcome to Alessia!

I encourage all of you to continue collaborating with the same spirit of dedication and to remain united as we face the challenges the new year will bring. With each of your contributions, I am sure that 2025 will be a year full of new opportunities, shared successes and, above all, a stronger commitment to reinforce the value of Laboratory Medicine in healthcare.

I wish you all a year filled with personal and professional growth, satisfaction, and achievements.

With appreciation and gratitude,

Mario Plebani,
EFLM President



THE EFLM EXECUTIVE BOARD INFORMS

The EFLM Young Laboratory Medicine Professional Award – 2025 Edition

Reported by **Snezana Jovicic**, EFLM Executive Board Secretary

The EFLM Young Laboratory Medicine Professional Award has been created to promote excellence and honor an extraordinary Young Scientist, who has made a substantial contribution to education or obtained a scientific achievement in Laboratory Medicine in Europe.

The award is granted annually from 2025 and is given alternately on the occasion of the EFLM Strategic Conference and the EuroMedLab congress. The young scientist (< 40 years of age) must be a leading author or editor or chair of an educational project within the past 5 years (eligible are various high quality educational materials, like educational papers, handbooks, books or book chapters, online educational resources, educational courses, workshops or webinars) OR a first author or corresponding author of a scientific publication within the past 5 years (original research article or review article) in an internationally recognized scientific journal (indexed in WoS) with an impact factor. Other scientific outputs, such as

patents, can be also considered where a substantial effort of the individual is declared. The nominated individual must be member of a NS/Association Full Member of EFLM as well as a member of the EFLM Academy at the time of the nomination. Applications and all supporting documents must be written in English and submitted electronically to the EFLM Office. The award winner will receive a trophy and, as a token of appreciation, the free registration to the EFLM event where the award is presented including the coverage of the travel (economy fare) and reasonable accommodation expenses to attend the event.

EFLM Full Members National Societies are invited
to send nominations within **15 March 2025**

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE LEAFLET](#)

The award winner will receive a trophy and the free registration to the EuroMedLab 2025 in Brussels including the coverage of the travel and reasonable accommodation expenses.

EFLM Academy Award 2024

Reported by **Daria Pasalic**, EFLM Education & Training Committee Chair

In order to demonstrate the importance of education in Laboratory Medicine and to foster activities in this field in Europe, the EFLM Executive Board has implemented the EFLM Academy Award. According to its definition, the award is given on annual basis to an EFLM Academy Member who have made a substantial contribution to the education in laboratory medicine in Europe. Although national and IFCC projects are considered, the most outstanding European projects receive the highest priority. The nominated individual must be the author of the most distinguished educational activity or a project in the past 5 years.

For the 2024 edition, the EFLM Office received from the Italian Society of Clinical Biochemistry and Clinical Molecular Biology (SIBioC) the nomination for Matteo Vidali who fulfils the formal requirements in educational activities and projects. The nomination was evaluated by a committee composed of the Chair of Committee on Education and Training (Daria Pašalić), the Chair of the EFLM Science Committee (Michel Langlois) and a representative of the EFLM Executive Board (Klaus Kohse) according to the criteria established by the Executive Board: active membership, publications, participation in Organizing/Scientific Committee for educational events, lectures at educational events and evaluator of poster abstracts, scientific project proposals (grants) and bursaries applications (max. 100 points for EFLM activities; max 50 points for IFCC or National activities).

The Award committee has greatly appreciated the distinguished educational activities, engagements and achievements of the nominee, and the committee's high scores confirmed Matteo Vidali as the winner of the EFLM Academy Award 2024.



About Matteo Vidali...

Dr. Vidali has actively contributed to the EFLM education programmes. He was scientific chair and active lecturer for the first EFLM online postgraduate course on "Biostatistics in Laboratory Medicine" during September and November 2021. Over the past 6 years, with the support of the hosting national societies, Dr. Vidali also delivered many in presence EFLM Postgraduate Courses in Biostatistics in different locations: Moscow (2019), Skopje (2022), Lisbon (2023), Valencia (2023), Helsinki (2024) and Tbilisi (2024).

Dr. Vidali also serves as a member of the Board of Directors of SIBioC (Regional delegate for Lombardy of SIBioC, coordinator of the Italian Working Group on "Statistics for the Laboratory" of SIBioC, and associated editor and statistical reviewer of *Biochimica Clinica* (official journal of SIBioC). He was also involved in many teaching activities at the University of East Piedmont "Amedeo Avogadro" Novara, Italy, including Clinical Pathology, Errors in Laboratory Medicine, Statistics for the Laboratory, and many other topics. Additionally, Dr. Vidali is an author of the chapter "The Role of Statistics in

Laboratory Medicine" of the book "Clinical and Laboratory Medicine Textbook" eds Ciaccio-Lippi, Springer.

Appreciating Dr. Matteo Vidali admirable contribution to education in his country and in Europe, the EFLM Executive Board with pleasure accepted the Award committee's conclusion. The EFLM Academy Award will be announced during the Opening Ceremony of the 26th IFCC-EFLM EuroMedLab Congress in Brussels next May 2025.

EFLM OFFICE INFORMS


Call for Vacancies: 27 open positions are available in EFLM Committees!

Reported by **Silvia Cattaneo**, EFLM Office

We wish to start the new year reminding the many vacancies as a result of the reorganization of EFLM functional units and warmly invite you to visit the dedicated page to obtain detailed information:

<https://www.eflm.eu/site/EFLM-open-positions>

We hope to receive many expressions of interests from EFLM National Societies!



Mark in your agenda the deadline of **16 February** and do not miss the opportunity to actively participate in the EFLM community.

Division "Science: Value-Based Laboratory Medicine"

- Committee "Postanalytical Phase" (C-POST) | 1 Full Member
- Committee "Preanalytical Phase" (C-PRE) | 1 Full Member
- Committee "Practical Guide to Implement Measurement Uncertainty" (C-PGIMU) | 1 Full Member + 1 Young Scientist Member
- Committee "Clinical and Analytical Performance Specifications" (C-CAPS) | 3 Full Members
- Committee "Integrative Diagnostics" (C-ID) | 1 Young Scientist Member
- Committee "Autoimmunity Testing" (C-AT) | 2 Full Members
- Committee "Biological Markers of Nitrous Oxide Abuse" (C-BNOA) | 1 Full Member
- Committee "Biomarkers of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury" (C-BMTBI) | 1 Full Member
- Committee "Chronic Kidney Disease" (C-CKD) | 1 Full Member + 1 Young Scientist Member
- Committee "Preparation of Labs for Emergencies" (C-PLE) | 2 Full Members + 1 Young Scientist Member
- Committee "Green & Sustainable Laboratories" (C-GSL) | 1 Young Scientist Member
- Committee "European Regulatory Affairs" (C-ERA) | 1 Full Member + 1 Young Scientist Member

Division "Education & Profession"

- Committee "Congresses and Postgraduate Education" (C-CPE) | 1 Young Scientist Member
- Committee "Distance Education and e-learning" (C-DE) | 2 Full Members
- Technical Committee "EFLMLabX" (TC-EFLMLabX) | 1 Full Member
- Committee "CPECS" (C-CPECS) | 1 Full Member + 1 Young Scientist Member

Division "Communication"

- Executive Committee | 1 Full Member
- Committee "Promotion and Publications" (C-PP) | 1 Full Member

Click on the above link to know more about the requirements and the evaluation procedure. The term of office will be for 2 years. The position could be renewable for other two more terms if the work for the Committee is deemed essential at that time. The work is mainly conducted by e-mail and teleconferencing, the Committee usually meets once per year. Procedure for applications: each National Societies Full Member of EFLM can submit one nomination using the dedicated form to be sent back to eflm@eflm.eu. A brief plan of the applicant's contribution to the aims and objectives of the relevant Committee must be included in the form. 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.

NEWS FROM EFLM FUNCTIONAL UNITS

APS Calculator: A Data-Driven Tool for Setting Outcome-Based Analytical Performance Specifications for Measurement Uncertainty Using Specific Clinical Requirements and Population Data

Reported by **Hikmet Can Çubukçu**, MD, EuSpLM, EFLM Committee: Accreditation and ISO/CEN standards

The increasing focus on patient-centered care in clinical laboratories has underscored the need for outcome-based analytical performance specifications (APS) that relate to intended clinical use and impact on patient care. To address this requirement, the EFLM Committee "Accreditation, ISO/CEN Standards" (C-A/ISO) has introduced a novel web application: the APS Calculator.

The APS Calculator was developed as a practical, user-friendly tool for laboratory professionals to determine APS for measurement uncertainty (MU) using their own agreement thresholds, clinical decision limits, and, most importantly, data of the population of interest to address actual clinical questions in specific scenarios. It provides laboratories with a data-driven approach to ensure their MU as analytically acceptable on the basis of the clinical decision uncertainty personalized by using local data which conform to their own clinical setting.

Why the APS Calculator?

Analytical performance specifications play a critical role in ensuring the reliability and accuracy of laboratory results. The outcome-based APS applies for measurands that have a central and well-defined role in the decision-making of a specific disease or clinical situation, and test results should be interpreted through established decision limits. Due to the limited number of outcome-based APS, laboratory professionals are however inclined to use APS based on biological variation or state-of-the-art even if the measurand of concern is suitable for outcome-based APS. The APS Calculator fills this gap by allowing laboratory professionals to derive APS based on indirect outcome.

The tool enables users to upload population-specific data, define clinical decision limits, and set acceptable agreement thresholds between original and simulated values. By simulating the effects of varying levels of MU, the APS Calculator identifies APS that minimize the risk of clinical misclassification.

In addition to setting APS, the APS Calculator provides a valuable tool for evaluating a laboratory's current performance and its impact on clinical outcomes. Laboratory professionals can begin by uploading their own data set to assess the classification performance with their current analytical performance by reviewing contour plots that represents the relationship between measurement uncertainty and agreement rate. These contour plots offer insights into how often results fall into incorrect clinical categories due to measurement uncertainty. This initial assessment helps laboratory professionals understand the real-world, indirect impact of their current performance on patient outcomes. If the current agreement rates are unacceptable, laboratory professionals can take steps to improve analytical performance and achieve acceptable classification rates.

How the APS Calculator Works?

The APS Calculator employs a three-step simulation process to determine APS:

1. **Categorization:** Original (uploaded) data are categorized according to the entered clinical decision limits.
2. **Simulation:** Measured values are simulated by introducing relative standard MU to the original values.
3. **Recategorization:** The simulated values are re-categorized based on clinical decision limits to assess the agreement between original and simulated results.

This simulation process is repeated across a range of MU values to identify minimum, desirable, and optimal APS levels that meet user-defined agreement thresholds.

Key Features and Functionality

The APS Calculator is designed to be accessible via any web browser from the following website:

<https://www.eflm.eu/aps-calculator.html>

Key features include:

- **Data Upload:** Users can upload data in Excel or CSV formats, allowing them to work with population-specific data that reflect their clinical setting.
- **Decision Limits and Agreement Thresholds:** Users specify clinical decision limits and acceptable agreement thresholds to tailor the APS determination to their specific needs.
- **Simulation Process:** The tool simulates the reanalysis of the same samples via generating measured values by introducing various degrees of MU and categorizes these values based on clinical decision limits.
- **Interactive Contour Plots:** The tool generates contour plots that visually represent the relationship between agreement rates and MU, helping users interpret the results.



Demonstration and Validation

To demonstrate its utility, the APS Calculator was tested using data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES). The tool successfully generated APS for six measurands, including blood total hemoglobin, plasma glucose, serum total and high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, triglycerides, and total folate. The results showed that the APS Calculator can reliably estimate APS for MU tailored to specific clinical settings and decision limits.

Practical Applications for Laboratory Professionals

The APS Calculator offers several practical benefits for laboratories:

- **Outcome-Based APS:** Laboratories can set APS that are indirectly linked to patient outcomes, ensuring that measurement uncertainty remains clinically acceptable.
- **Customization:** Users can tailor the APS determination to their specific population data and clinical needs, improving the relevance of the results.
- **Enhanced Quality Control:** The tool aids laboratories in identifying acceptable levels of measurement uncertainty, reducing the risk of clinical misclassification.
- **Impact of Performance Assessment:** Laboratories can use the tool to assess the impact of their current performance on classification rates to identify improvement opportunities.

Conclusion

The APS Calculator represents a significant advancement in setting analytical performance specifications based on indirect clinical outcomes by offering a flexible, data-driven approach. The tool is available for public use and can be accessed via <https://www.eflm.eu/aps-calculator.html>. Laboratories seeking to improve their quality should explore the APS Calculator.

NEWS FROM EFLM FUNCTIONAL UNITS

Biomarkers of Diagnosis and Follow-up of Nitrous Oxide Abuse, The EFLM Committee

Reported by **Medine Alpdemir**, Full Member of the C-BNOA

Nitrous oxide (N₂O), commonly known as laughing gas, is a colorless gas used in medical and industrial applications, but it is also susceptible to misuse for recreational purposes. The recreational consumption of N₂O leads to cardiovascular disorders and neurological, including subacute combined degeneration of the spinal cord. N₂O abuse has become a significant global public health issue. To provide early diagnosis, effective care, and follow-up for these patients, it is essential to detect and monitor N₂O abuse.

Routine and direct measurement of N₂O in biological fluids such as urine, saliva and serum is complex and difficult to interpret. Currently, patients actively abusing N₂O are monitored using biomarkers such as vitamin B12, homocysteine, and methylmalonic acid (which link the clinical symptoms of N₂O toxicity to the inactivation of vitamin B12). However, these biomarkers still lack specificity and sensitivity. Therefore, it is necessary to gain a better understanding of the underlying pathophysiology and identify new biomarkers, such as oxidative stress markers or other metabolites of the metabolism.

To ensure early diagnosis and effective treatment, it is crucial to enhance collaboration between medical biochemists/biologists and clinicians (neurologists and emergency physicians), encourage the management of patients with N₂O abuse, provide recommendations on biomarkers for diagnosing

and monitoring N₂O abuse, and present a scientific article and feedback report summarizing the key findings from the literature and related clinical studies. For this purpose, the EFLM Committee: Biomarkers of Diagnosis and Follow-up of Nitrous Oxide Abuse was established in 2023.

During this period, the group has held multiple online meetings as well as face-to-face meetings in Padua. Through literature reviews, a review article titled "nitrous oxide abuse direct measurement for diagnosis and follow-up: update on kinetics and impact on metabolic pathways" was published in Clin Chem Lab Med in 2023.

The EFLM Committee Biomarkers of Diagnosis and Follow-up of Nitrous Oxide Abuse aims to raise awareness about N₂O abuse through literature reviews, international surveys with multidisciplinary participation, and collaborative efforts. Moreover, the work of this committee is expected to strengthen collaboration between medical biochemists, neurologists, and emergency physicians, leading to a more effective approach for diagnosing and monitoring nitrous oxide abuse. This process is a crucial step in protecting public health and contributing to the diagnosis and treatment of N₂O abuse.

The Members and other information are available in the dedicated webpage on the EFLM website:

<https://www.eflm.eu/site/who-we-are/committee/science-division/fu/c-biological-markers-nitrous-oxide-abuse>



Free educational activity reserved to EFLM Academy Members.

[Click here to know more](#)



NEWS FROM EFLM FUNCTIONAL UNITS

EFLM Course: Meet the Expert 2025

Reported by **Dr Marielle Kaplan** (Israel), **Dr Zsuzsa Bagoly** (Hungary), Committee on Congresses and Postgraduate Education (C-CPE)

On behalf of the EFLM C-CPE we would like to share with you the ongoing 2024 activity as well as the schedule for 2025, of our EFLM course "Meet the Expert: Interpretation of Laboratory Results".

The aim of this course is to allow for discussion on specific topics that require expertise in the interpretation of laboratory tests results. The present course integrate expert and laboratory scientists in live meetings on specific subjects that require expertise on the interpretation of obtained results of laboratory tests.

The idea behind this initiative is to step out of the textbook to the reality and deal with grey-zone results. In order to address different groups of laboratory field, each session focus on a specific topic.

Each meeting includes a theoretical lecture for the background but most of the meeting is dedicated to discussion of real cases and scenarios that are sent by participants before the meeting, based on their own practice. The relevant expert is discussing the clinical scenarios relevant to the subject of the meeting, and followed an interactive Q&A session led by the moderator. Finally, participants are checking their knowledge by participating to a quiz at the end of the meeting.

Four sessions have already taken place in 2024 and Surveys conducted after the meetings in 2024 indicate a very positive feedback from the participants, enjoying the format presented in this course and emphasizing the possibility to address complex cases with the experts.

Four meetings are planned for 2025:

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF LABORATORY TESTING FOR ACUTE AND CHRONIC HEMATO-ONCOLOGY DISORDERS – EXPERT Prof. Zsuzsanna Hevessy (Hungary), Dept Laboratory Medicine, University of Debrecen - Moderator: Dr. Zsuzsa Bagoly (Hungary), 20/02/25

INTERPRETATION OF URINALYSIS TESTS– EXPERT Prof. Timo Kouri (Finland), Dept Clinical Chemistry, University of Helsinki - Moderator - Moderator: Dr. Marielle Kaplan (Israel), 6/03/25

NOVEL EQUATIONS FOR ESTIMATING LDL-CHOLESTEROL FROM THE STANDARD LIPID PROFILE – EXPERT Prof. Michel Langlois (Belgium), Chair of the EFLM Scientific Division, Dept. Laboratory Medicine, AZ St. Jan Hospital, Bruges - Moderator: Dr. Marielle Kaplan (Israel), 25/09/25

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF LABORATORY TESTING OF INHERITED TROMBOPHILIA – EXPERT Prof. Christelle Orlando (Belgium), Haematology Laboratory, Brussels University Hospital - Moderator: Dr. Zsuzsa Bagoly (Hungary), 20/11/25

We invite all laboratory professionals to submit their interesting cases and join us for this interactive webinar series. These webinars are CPECS accredited and 2 CPECS® credits are available for each session.

NEWS FROM EFLM FUNCTIONAL UNITS

The FINAL MEETING of the EFLM TFG Urinalysis in Munich 22-24 Nov 2024 Key achievements of the European Urinalysis Guideline 2023

Reported by **Timo Kouri**, Chair, EFLM Task and Finish Group Urinalysis

Despite a remarkable snowstorm in Western and Northern Europe resulting in numerous cancelled flights, six out of the eight members of the EFLM Task and Finish Group Urinalysis (TFG-U) convened for the final meeting of the Task and Finish Group in Munich on 22-24 November 2024. (Figure 1).

We discussed the key achievements of the updated EFLM European Urinalysis Guideline, accepted by the EFLM National Societies in 2023, and published in *Clin Chem Lab Med* in 2024;62(9): 1653–1786. It is an Open Access document at: <https://doi.org/10.1515/cclm-2024-0070>.

Some features of the Guideline were already summarised in the *EuroLabNews* 2024(04): 2-5.

Publicising activity for the EFLM European Guideline 2023 has already been remarkable by the EFLM President Mario Plebani, and by contents added into the EFLM website and e-mails sent by the EFLM Office. In addition, oral presentations and posters in the European congresses have been given by the members of the EFLM TFG Urinalysis, to increase awareness of the Urinalysis Guideline during 2021-2024.

Key achievements of the EFLM European Urinalysis Guideline 2023 were classified from the discussion of the TFG Urinalysis into three levels of implementation as follows:

1. Novelties written in the Sections of the EFLM Urinalysis Guideline 2023
2. Impact of the EFLM European Urinalysis Guideline 2023 on national guidelines
3. Other practical measures to be initiated around Europe

1. Novelties in the Sections of the EFLM European Urinalysis Guideline 2023

The following achievements in the Sections of the EFLM Urinalysis Guideline were pointed out:

Members and evidence-based laboratory medicine

As a starting point, the collection of members to the TFG Urinalysis is unique. Specialists of both clinical chemistry and clinical microbiology are equally represented and have been working together in a good spirit for a shared document based on the same urine specimen. Consequently, in this guideline urinalysis also includes urine bacterial cultures, and specific proteinuria measurements.

Introduction of the updated Guideline contains a novel classification of Levels of Evidence in laboratory medicine, followed by Strengths of Recommendations, as adopted from the GRADE principles. The EFLM Urinalysis Guideline presents a total of 65 graded Recommendations collected into the ends of the seven Sections.

Strategies of medical planning

Medical need of urinalysis tests is recommended to be analysed between medical laboratories and their clinical customers, separating patients with low and high risk for kidney disease, or uncomplicated and complicated urinary tract infections (UTI). Requisition of unnecessary urinalysis tests is challenged by recommending the ACSS (acute cystitis symptoms score) for symptomatic low-risk



Figure 1. Christmas market at the Munich International Airport met the members arriving in Munich in the middle of a cold and windy evening on Friday, 22nd of November.

women suspected of lower UTI, without any laboratory tests at all. Targeted requisition of specific proteinuria measurements remains important in defined diseases with high risk for kidney disease. Cost-effectiveness is a major requirement in most health care systems.

Specimen collection and transport

Collection of urine specimens is a major source of false results of urinalysis. The EFLM Urinalysis Guideline stresses the important interaction of professionals with patients, and documentation of details of specimen collection to improve contamination rates of specimens. A quality indicator of 15% for maximum allowable rate of polymicrobial growth at 104 CFU/mL (107 CFB/L) helps to improve quality of patient specimens, e.g., by choosing clinical units for laboratory consultation. In addition, urine concentration is recommended to be reported with chemical test strip results and urine particle counts, to assess the impact of diuresis to obtained concentrations. Specifications for specimen preservation are given for different tests, with detailed tables in the Annex of the document.

Analytical procedures

All examinations (including classification of uropathogens or counting urine particles) need the recommended reference procedures to ensure their performance in routine practice. Analytical performance specifications are suggested for albuminuria, urine particle counting, and results from urine bacterial cultures, based on clinical acceptability. The earlier reference procedure for urine particle counting, and a novel reference procedure for urine bacterial culture support verification of automated and manual procedures, to comply with the ISO 15189:2022 standard. Reference procedures also help to harmonise different urinalysis examinations at national level, with a target of similar results independently of the analysing laboratory.

Multiple test strips remain important in clinical screening and for low-risk level of kidney disease. Proteinuria differentiation remains

important in the diagnostic and prognostic assessment of patients with high risk for kidney diseases, in addition to GFR estimates from plasma measurements. New diagnostic markers are still needed for kidney diseases, as well as reagents applicable for automated instruments.

Bacteriology laboratories benefit from the suggested simplification of routine workflow, including leukocyturia as a new criterion for classification of significance of findings. Elimination of excessive ordinal scale quantities above 104 CFU/mL (equal to 107 CFB/L) makes quantitation with reference images easier. EUCAST recommendations for antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) are supported.

The reviewed new technologies include different types of urine particle analysers, MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry for bacterial identification, AST testing and automation in bacteriology laboratories.

Postanalytical interpretation

Simplified interpretation of urine culture results is suggested by using standardised statements, guiding the significance of findings and the use of antimicrobial treatments. For chemical measurements and particle counts, urine concentration is recommended to see the effect of diuresis on the obtained concentrations.

2. Impact at national level

In addition to presentations in European and international meetings, the authors of this Guideline have stimulated discussions on laboratory practices of urinalysis tests and urine bacterial cultures in their own countries (Belgium, France, Denmark, Italy, and Germany, and Finland).

A national survey in Belgium revealed the need to establish an EQA scheme for test strip measurements and particle counting (van Hoovels L, et al. Current urinalysis practices in Belgian laboratories towards the 2023 EFLM European urinalysis guideline, *Acta Clin Belgica* 2024;79: 294-302, DOI: 10.1080/17843286.2024.2414155). The suggested reference procedure for urine particle counting helps in harmonising the results between laboratories.

In France, the presentation given at the 25èmes Journées Nationales d'Infectiologie in June 2024 created intensive discussion to compare details of the national microbiology guideline (REMIC) against the EFLM guideline for Acute Cystitis Symptoms Score (ACSS)-based test request, specimen collection and urine bacterial cultures.

In Denmark, the EFLM Urinalysis Guideline supported helped Aarhus Microbiology laboratory to fulfil the accreditation requirements of the ISO 15189:2022 for urine bacterial cultures. In addition, several discussions have started on the Guideline contents as compared to the national practices. Details need still to be harmonised, despite efforts initiated with the previous European Urinalysis Guideline in 2000.

The Italian Society of Clinical Biochemistry (SIBioC) is publishing an article in the *Biochimica Clinica* issue 01/2025, comparing the EFLM Guideline to the national urinalysis guideline 2017. In addition, the region of Lombardy now requires transition to SI units also in urinalysis tests, to be applied gradually, and ceasing reports of obsolete strip test results.

In Germany, national multidisciplinary guidelines (Leitlinien) for kidney diseases and urinary tract infections have already included selected pieces of contents of the European Guideline followed by participation of the two members of this group (<https://www.awmf.org/leitlinien/>). In addition, *Infektion-Update* 2024 already quotes the EFLM European Guideline as taken by our pre-reviewer.

Implementation of the contents of the EFLM European Urinalysis Guideline has gradually occurred in Finland, because the Chair of the TFG-U is a member of the multidisciplinary working group for Current Care Guidelines for UTI (Finnish Medical Society Duodecim, <https://kaypahoito/en>) and has written articles into the electronic Finnish Medical Handbook (Duodecim) on this topic, including diagnostics

of UTI (update 2024), clinical use of strip tests and particle counting of urine specimens, and urine specimen collection. ACSS score has been adopted in the Finnish primary care.

Translation of the EFLM European Urinalysis Guideline 2023 to the national language has been requested from Ukraine, Spain and France. These countries are seen as good examples for national distribution of the European guideline, when the capability of reading professional English cannot be expected from many laboratory professionals.

3. Other practical measures

The members of the TFG-U (Figure 2) also discussed possibilities for condensed handouts for easier implementation of the EFLM European Urinalysis Guideline 2023 with 134 pages. These could follow the example of handouts in the updated KDIGO (Kidney Diseases Improving Global Outcomes) Clinical Practice Guideline for the Evaluation and Management of Chronic Kidney Disease. *Kidney Int* 2024; 105(Suppl 4S): S117–S314. Another possibility is to follow the German format of Questions and Answers, where the Answers essentially were taken from the 65 Recommendations of the EFLM Urinalysis Guideline. These thoughts are worth sharing with the new Division of Education and Profession of the EFLM organisation, starting in 2025.



Figure 2. Six members of the EFLM TFG Urinalysis in Munich, standing in front of the Roman god Neptune at the Residence of former Bavarian kings in Munich.

From the left: Walter Hofmann, Jan Berg Gertsen, Sören Schubert, Rosanna Falbo, Matthijs Oyaert and Timo Kouri.

Missing: Audrey Merens, Martine Pestel-Caron

NEWS FROM EFLM FUNCTIONAL UNITS

Reflecting on the Success of European Laboratory Day 2024

Reported by **Tara Rolic**, Chair of the EFLM Task Group European Laboratory Day

As we step into 2025, let us take a moment to reflect on and celebrate the resounding success of European Laboratory Day 2024. This milestone event was a true testament to the dedication, passion, and hard work of laboratory professionals across Europe.

With over 15 national societies actively participating, the day became a shining example of collaboration and innovation. From organizing laboratory open days to hosting insightful discussions and engaging activities, the contributions from our community highlighted the transformative impact of laboratory medicine on healthcare. European Laboratory Day 2024 truly became a landmark occasion for professionals and the wider community alike, fostering greater awareness of our field.

The event's success reached far beyond its immediate participants, capturing global attention with [193 pieces of media coverage](#) reaching an audience of 1.62 million. This amplified the importance of laboratory medicine in advancing healthcare. Moreover, EFLM's social media channels experienced an impressive 40% increase in engagement compared to last year's event, reflecting growing interest and support.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the European Commission and Tilly Metz, MEP, for their invaluable contributions to the day's proceedings. Their involvement not only elevated the discussions but also marked an important step forward in recognition of our profession. This acknowledgment highlights the growing awareness of the vital role laboratory medicine plays in healthcare and its significance to the general public.

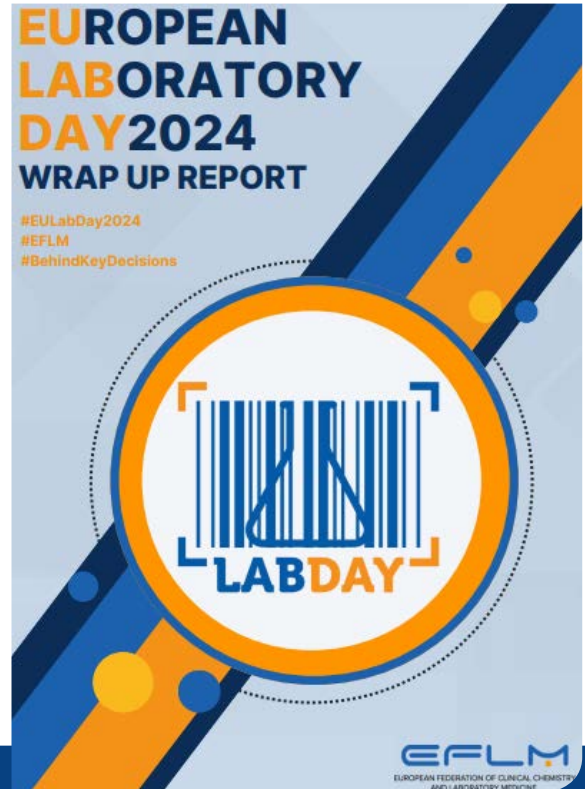
This success was driven by the unwavering enthusiasm and support of our members. Notably, the 2024 event marked the first time EFLM collaborated with a professional Public Relations agency EatMoreFruit, a milestone made possible through the EFLM Executive Board's backing. The EFLM Office played a crucial role in ensuring seamless coordination and communication, while the EFLM Communication Committee, under the leadership of Daniel Rajdl, provided steadfast support. Additionally, the active involvement of Young Scientists infused fresh energy into the initiative.

The activity of [Task Group EULabDay](#) members has been remarkable, brainstorming ideas and ensuring effective execution. The translation of the invitation video into 15 languages, along with many new and innovative ideas discussed, are already set to take shape in 2025.

Special thanks go to the EatMoreFruit team for their incredible support in creating high-quality content in record time.

Some of the celebration photos submitted by participants have been compiled into a commemorative [video](#) - thank you for sharing your moments with us.

We hope you enjoyed organizing EULabDay as much as we enjoyed seeing your contributions!



Help Us Build on This Success

At EFLM, we are committed to continuous improvement, and we value your input. We invite you to share your feedback by completing a short survey. Your insights will help us create an even more impactful event in the future.

Save the Date for 2025!

We're already looking forward to European Laboratory Day 2025, which will take place on 5th November 2025. Mark your calendars - we can't wait to celebrate with you again! Thank you once again for making European Laboratory Day 2024 an unforgettable celebration of our profession and its impact on healthcare.

FOUR SIMPLE ACTIONS TO BE MORE SUSTAINABLE AND GREEN IN YOUR LABORATORY!

Section "Chemicals Management"

Are there labels in waste rooms summarizing adequate procedures for chemical waste?

Have you installed timers on equipment that may delay work practices or take time to initialise when switched on?

Section "Energy Management"

Section "Waste Management"

Do you negotiate with cleaning services that they use environmentally friendly detergents?

Did you install water misers on sterilizers / autoclaves?

Section "Water Management"

In line with the goal of the [EFLM Committee "Green & Sustainable Laboratories"](#), I have the pleasure to continue the column: Four simple actions to be more sustainable and green in your laboratory!

In each issue of the newsletter, we will select 4 actions from each section of the checklist prepared by the EFLM TF-GSL members (Chemicals, Energy, Waste and Water) to start implementing the daily routine in your laboratories and getting familiar with the checklist.

The below actions are accompanied by a graphical leaflet that you can download and post in the notice board of your laboratory to be shared with your colleagues (in this case, please remember to use recycled paper).

[Click here to download the PDF](#)

NEWS FROM EFLM FUNCTIONAL UNITS

Four simple actions to be more sustainable and green in your laboratory!

Reported by Tomris Ozben, Chair of the EFLM Committee "Green & Sustainable Laboratories"

The selected actions of this issue are:

- Section "Hazardous Chemicals Management"**
ACTION: Are there labels in waste rooms summarizing adequate procedures for chemical waste?
- Section "Energy Management"**
ACTION: Have you installed timers on equipment that may delay work practices or take time to initialise when switched on?
- Section "Waste Management"**
ACTION: Do you negotiate with cleaning services that they use environmentally friendly detergents?
- Section "Water Management"**
ACTION: Did you install water misers on sterilizers / autoclaves?

I am delighted to inform you that there are currently 19 laboratories certified by EFLM as "Green & Sustainable Laboratory". The detailed list can be seen at the dedicated [website page](#).

Moreover, I have the pleasure to inform that an EFLM Green & Sustainable Laboratories workshop will be held this fall. Further details will follow in the next months.



THE EFLM LABORATORY
EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

EFLMLABX CORNER REPORTS FROM BURSARIES' RECIPIENTS

My Experience in the EFLM LabX Program

Reported by **Josipa Raguž**, EUSpLM, Croatia

My name is Josipa Raguž, and I am a young specialist in laboratory medicine from Croatia. I am a member of the Croatian society of medical biochemistry and laboratory medicine and the Croatian Chamber of Medical Biochemists, where I actively participate in several committees. I am also a member of the EFLM Task Group for EuLab Day. Additionally, I am part of the EFLM e-Academy, where I actively engage and utilize the available learning materials for professional development.



I had the honour and pleasure of being awarded the EFLM bursary to participate in the EFLMLabX exchange program, for which I am immensely grateful. This was an exciting and invaluable experience for me, both personally and professionally.

I participated in the EFLM LabX exchange program for one month, from October to November 2024, at the St. Luc Clinical Hospital in Brussels under the mentorship of Prof. Damien Gruson. Saint-Luc Clinical Hospital is the largest hospital in Brussels, known for its excellence in patient care and a strong partnership with the Université Catholique de Louvain. The hospital has achieved full AAHRPP accreditation, demonstrating its commitment to ethical standards in clinical research. The Clinical biochemistry department, headed by Professor Damien Gruson, specializes in hormone analysis and immunoassays, making it an ideal setting for my training. The entire biochemistry department impressed me with its organization and advanced equipment. They introduced me to their workflows and daily routines, which helped me better understand their approach to laboratory medicine.

The main focus of my project was the analytical verification of PIVKA-II on the Maglumi X6 immunoassay analyser (Snibe, Shenzhen, China). My work included evaluating precision, bias, and method linearity according to CLSI guidelines to ensure the




reliability and clinical applicability of this biomarker. Additionally, we performed a method comparison, analysing PIVKA-II results obtained on the Lumipulse and Maglumi X6 analyzers. Beyond the experimental work, my task was to review existing scientific literature on PIVKA-II and its application across various platforms. This allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of the analyte and its potential in diagnostics, especially in the context of liver diseases. For exchanging experiences and data, I reached out to assistant professor Sanja Stanković from Belgrade, who has also conducted research on the topic of PIVKA-II, enriching my work further.

I was honoured to be invited to attend lectures in clinical endocrinology led by Prof. Orsalia Alexopoulou and Prof. Damien Gruson. I was particularly inspired by a lecture given by Prof. Joseph Dewulf on metabolic diseases and neonatal screening in Belgium. After the lecture, I had the opportunity to visit the laboratory conducting these analyses, led by Dr. Sandrine Marie. Finally, the highlight of my stay in the EFLMLabX program was being invited by Prof. Gruson to attend the annual meeting of the Royal Belgian Society of Laboratory Medicine (RBSLM). At this event, the latest groundbreaking and significant achievements in both science and practice were presented, serving as an inspiration and motivation for my further professional development. Working in such a professional environment, under the mentorship of Prof. Gruson and with the support of the team from the St. Luc Clinical Hospital, was extremely inspiring. Their expertise and willingness to share knowledge motivated me to pursue further education and set the foundation for applying what I learned in my daily practice.

I would like to give my special thanks to the EFLM for this great opportunity, as well as to the Croatian society of medical biochemistry and laboratory medicine, headed by associate professor Ivana Čelap, for their support. I am especially grateful to Professor Damien Gruson and the entire team at Saint-Luc for their mentorship.

I find EFLM LabX exchange program as excellent opportunity, which provides young scientists with invaluable experiences and opportunities to advance in an international environment. I highly recommend such opportunities to everyone, as they not only shape careers but also broaden horizons.





New EFLM publications have been produced by EFLM functional units!

UPDATES ON EFLM PUBLICATIONS

New EFLM scientific papers have been published!

Reported by **Alessia Carere**, EFLM Office

The EFLM Office is happy to announce the most recently published EFLM paper:

EN ISO 15189 revision: EFLM Committee Accreditation and ISO/CEN standards (C: A/ISO) analysis and general remarks on the changes

Linko S, Boursier G, Bernabeu-Andreu F A, Dzneladze N, Vanstapel F, Mesko Brguljan P, Toshevskaja Trajkovska K, Mehay H, Panteghini M, Brugnoni D, Milinkovic N, Lohmander M, Sprongl L, Can Cubukcu H, Thelen M, on behalf of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry Committee "Accreditation and ISO/CEN standards" (C-A/ISO)

[Clin Chem Lab Med 2025](#)

Have a look at the other papers recently published:

Systematic review and meta-analysis of biological variation data of urine albumin, albumin to creatinine ratio and other markers in urine

Aslan B, Carobene A, Jonker N, Galior K, Boned B, Marqués-García F, Ricos C, Bartlett W, Coskun A, Diaz-Garzon J, Fernandez-Calle P, Gonzales-Lao E, Simon M, Sandberg S, Aarsand A K, on behalf of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry, Laboratory Medicine Task Group for the Biological Variation Database (TG-BVD)

[Clinica Chimica Acta 2024](#)

A comprehensive survey of artificial intelligence adoption in European laboratory medicine: current utilization and prospects

Cadamuro J, Carobene A, Cabitza F, Debeljak Z, De Bruyne S, van Doorn W, Johannes E, Frans G, Özdemir H, Perez S M, Rajdl D, Tolios A, Padoan A, on behalf of the EFLM Working Group on Artificial Intelligence (WG-AI)

[Clin Chem Lab Med 2024](#)



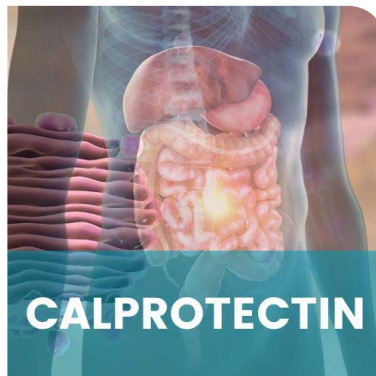
PAST EFLM EVENTS

Past EFLM webinars

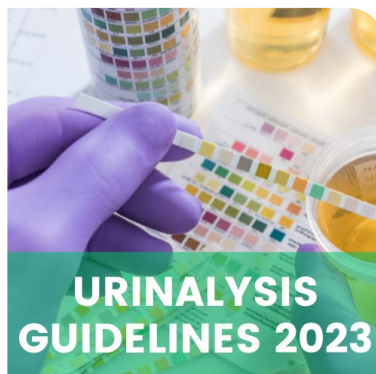
Reported by **Tara Rolic**, EFLM Executive Committee Member Communication Division



The last session of the Meet the Expert webinar series in 2024 featured Etienne Cavalier from Belgium, who presented on the interpretation of laboratory results for kidney function. This webinar provided insights into laboratory reporting for kidney function, highlighting methods for GFR measurement, including creatinine and cystatin, and emphasizing the appropriate combination of urine and blood tests for kidney function assessment.



In December a webinar on calprotectin was delivered by Lora Dukic and Daria Pašalić from Croatia. The session explored the diagnostic potential of calprotectin in various clinical contexts, optimal analytical methods for its measurement, and the role of micro RNAs and calprotectin in inflammatory diseases.



The 2025 webinar series began with Timo Kouri from Finland, who discussed the challenges to laboratories in the EFLM European Urinalysis Guideline 2023, addressing key updates and implications for laboratory practices.

These and all previous EFLM webinars are available on demand [here](#), so don't miss the opportunity to listen to them!



UPCOMING EFLM EVENTS

Forthcoming EFLM webinars

Reported by **Tara Rolic**, EFLM Executive Committee Member Communication Division



The role of energy conservation in achieving sustainability in medical laboratories

Date: 11th February 2025 at 18:00 CET time

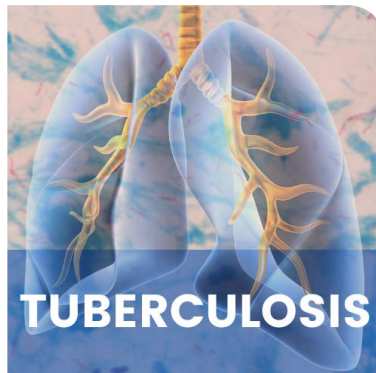
Speaker: Snezana Jovicic, Serbia



MEET THE EXPERT: Analysis and interpretation of laboratory testing for acute and chronic hemato-oncology disorders

Date: 20th February 2025 at 16:00 CET time

Speaker: Zsuzsanna Hevessy, Hungary



Tuberculosis: The Epidemiological Landscape, Laboratory Diagnosis, and the Narratives Behind the Numbers

Date: 25th February 2025 at 18:00 CET time

Speakers: Yelena Losev and Schwartz Orna, Israel

EFLM webinars are free for EFLM Academy members.

[Register here and enjoy live sessions.](#)

FROM **18 TO 22**
MAY **2025**

VENUE

Brussels Expo

**EUROMEDLAB
BRUSSELS 2025**

May 18-22, 2025



UPCOMING EFLM EVENTS

26th IFCC-EFLM EuroMedLab Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine

May 18-22, 2025 – Brussels

The most important EFLM Congress organized jointly with IFCC takes place in Brussels from May 18 to May 22, 2025, our host is the EFLM National Society "Royal Belgian Society of Laboratory Medicine".

We invite you to mark in your agenda the attendance at the symposia proposed by EFLM and included in the Scientific Programme, these are scheduled as follows:

May 19: EFLM SYM 1 – BioMedAlliance - Laboratory Medicine and the EU in the Era of Precision Medicine

May 20: EFLM SYM 2 – Value-Based Healthcare in Laboratory Medicine

May 21: EFLM SYM 3 – Integrated Diagnostics – Interdisciplinary Strategies and Approaches

Important for EFLM National Society Representatives

We remind EFLM National Society representatives to attend the **General Meeting on Sunday, May 18, from 14:00 to 16:00**. During this meeting, the election for the next **Executive Board** will take place, which will take office in January 2026. Your participation is crucial!

EFLM bursaries

In the frame of its annual scholarship programme, EFLM is promoting 15 bursaries to facilitate the participation at the EuroMedLab Congress next May in Brussels. Specifically, EFLM is offering:

- **10 bursaries** addressed to Young Scientists less than 40y of age as 1 Jan 2025
- **5 bursaries** addressed to selected EFLM National Society without age limit

The bursaries cover the travel and 4-night accommodation up to a limited amount while the Congress registration is kindly waived by the Congress Organizing Committee. The opportunity to apply to EFLM bursaries is reserved exclusively to members of EFLM National Societies who should be also registered at the EFLM Academy for 2025.

To consult the details of the entry criteria as well as the modality of application, we invite to download the related leaflets available by [clicking here](#).

Please make sure to save in your agenda the **deadline of March 1** to submit your application.

Last but not least... visit us at the EFLM Booth

We invite you to visit the EFLM booth located in the main hall, near the registration desks.

We look forward to meeting you and present the new EFLM activities and opportunities for EFLM Members!

Don't miss this key event for the future of Laboratory Medicine in Europe!

UPCOMING EFLM EVENTS

The EFLM Conference on Preanalytical Phase is back!

Save the date

12-13 December 2025 in Padova, Italy

CONFERENCE TOPICS:

- Sustainability and preanalytical phase
- The role of digitalization and AI in improving preanalytical phase
- Alternatives to classical venous blood collection
- Preanalytical challenges – past, present and today
- Interactive session: let us talk about preanalytics

ORGANIZING AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Mario Plebani, Italy - Chair
Giuseppe Lippi, Italy
Ana-Maria Simundic, Croatia
Alexander Von Meyer, Germany

7th EFLM CONFERENCE ON PREANALYTICAL PHASE

New insights in
preanalytical quality

12-13 DECEMBER 2025, PADOVA - IT



Since its first meeting in Parma in 2011, six editions of the EFLM Conference on Preanalytical Phase have been organized gathering more than 2500 participants in presence along the years. The 7th edition of the EFLM Conference on Preanalytical Phase is focused on the improvement of the preanalytical phase through innovation and sustainable solutions. The programme has been tailored by the scientific committee to update the knowledge in the field and to create an open forum for interactive discussion. In addition to formal lecturers, round tables and poster sessions will be organized. The guiding principle of this conference is to be different, pragmatic, practical and interactive, to address some most common preanalytical challenges, raise questions and offer answers and solutions.

Save the date! We do hope to see you in Padova!

Mario Plebani, Chair of the Organizing and Scientific Committee



CONGRESSI

Organizing Secretariat L.C. Congressi srl
Via Euganea 45 – 35141 Padova, Italy
+39 0498719922 – www.lccongressi.com
lc@lccongressi.com



Registration Secretariat MZ Events srl
Via Carlo Farini 81 – 20159 Milano, Italy
+39 02 66802323 (ext 917) - www.mzevents.it
patrizia.sirtori@mzevents.it

CONFERENCE VENUE
Padova Congress
Via C. Goldoni, 8 - 35131 Padova (Italy)

NEWS FROM EFLM NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The Role of Statistics in Laboratory Medicine: A Postgraduate Course on Biostatistics

Reported by **Dr. Maia Khutsishvili**, EFLM National Representative, Georgian Laboratory Medicine Association (GLMA)

Statistics is essential in laboratory medicine, as it enables professionals to handle variable data, organize information, summarize findings, and draw meaningful conclusions. The proper application of statistical methods is integral not only to validation research and verification protocols but also to the analysis of routine results and experimental data.

The EFLM Postgraduate Courses, organized by the EFLM Working Group on Congresses and Postgraduate Education (WG-CPE), are designed to introduce the fundamental concepts of statistics in laboratory settings.

In line with this mission, the Georgian Laboratory Medicine Association (GLMA) invited Matteo Vidal, a prominent figure in the field, to deliver a two-day course titled "Biostatistics in Laboratory Medicine" on September 12-13 in Tbilisi.

Matteo Vidal is a clinical pathologist at the Central Laboratory, Fondazione IRCCS Ca' Granda Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico, Milan, Italy. He is also the coordinator of the Italian Working Group "Statistics for the Laboratory" and serves as the statistical reviewer for *Biochimica Clinica*, the official journal of the Italian Society of Clinical Biochemistry and Clinical Molecular Biology (SIBioC).

The course offered a unique blend of theory and practice, providing valuable insights into the complexities of biostatistics in laboratory medicine. Given the specificity of the topic, the course was both challenging and engaging, and its practical approach helped participants navigate the intricacies of statistical analysis.

We believe that our colleagues left the course with a wealth of new knowledge, equipped to better apply statistical methods in their work.



International XXIII Serbian Congress of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine

Reported by **Neda Milinković**, Snežana Jovičić, Society of Medical Biochemist of Serbia

Constant professional development and continuous education is the basis of a successful profession of laboratory medicine. For this reason, the Serbian Congress of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine with international participation was organized for the 23rd time by the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia (SMBS) and the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade, Serbia. The congress was held September 16–18th, in Belgrade, Serbia, under the auspices of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC), European Federation for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM), and Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation (BCLF), as well as the Ministry of Education and Science and Technological Development, and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Serbia.

The distinguished guests of the Congress were Prof. Mario Plebani, the EFLM President, and Prof. Tomris Ozben, the IFCC President, who both addressed and greeted the delegates on behalf of EFLM and IFCC Executive Boards. Also, the Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade, Prof. Sladana Šobajić, and the President of the Alliance of Pharmaceutical Associations of Serbia, Prof. Dr. Branislava Miljković, joined the welcome address. During the opening ceremony, prof. Mario Plebani presented the EFLM's recognition to Prof. Nada Majkić-Singh, as sign of appreciation for her dedication to the development of laboratory medicine profession on national and international level. This recognition was awarded to Prof. Majkić-Singh being a long-year President of the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia, one of the founders of the Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation, and its past president. Also, Prof. Majkić-Singh actively took part in the EFLM activities as a member of several EFLM functional units and was the initiator of the Belgrade Symposium for Balkan Region, which was jointly organized annually from 2005 until 2018 by EFLM and the SMBS. Prof. Plebani said that her commitment to advancing medical biochemistry in Serbia and the Balkan region was widely recognized and will remain a significant milestone.

On the occasion of national congresses, the SMBS traditionally awards its Honorary Diploma, the highest recognition presented to foreign colleagues for promoting clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine in Europe and globally, and for significant contribution to the work and development of the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia. It was awarded so far to Prof. Victor Blaton (2010), Prof. Stoyan Danev (2012), Prof. Simone Zerah (2015), and to Prof. Mario Plebani (2017). This year's laureate of the Honorary Diploma of the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia was Prof. Dr. Tomris Ozben, current president of IFCC and past president of EFLM.

The SMBS also awarded an award of the "Magistra Milica Marković" Foundation to the most dedicated professional who contributed to the development and growth of laboratory medicine service in their institution. This year's laureate was Dr. Jon Čoban, a specialist in clinical biochemistry, Head of the Laboratory Diagnostics Service at the Vršac General Hospital, who recently retired.

The scientific program of the congress was dedicated to innovations

and trends that shape the future of laboratory diagnostics. It was opened with a plenary lecture by Prof. Abdurrahman Coskun entitled "Personalized reference intervals: the road to personalized laboratory medicine", and with the opening session on the practical application of artificial intelligence, delivered by Prof. Mario Plebani and the members of the EFLM Working Group on Artificial Intelligence – Prof. Andrea Padoan, Dr Anna Carobene, and Dr Salomón Martín Pérez. The program continued with the session dedicated to healthy aging with related talks about the methodological aspects of diagnosis and treatment of the post-COVID and chronic fatigue syndromes (Prof. Branislav Milovanović), the role of telomere length in predicting biological age and disease (Prof. Jelena Kotur Stevuljević), the aging process (Dr Danijela Drašković Radojković), and to the oxidative stress in cardiovascular disease (Prof. Milica Miljković Trailović).

The third session was dedicated to the role of senescence in disease pathogenesis. It was opened by a distinguished guest speaker, Prof. Vesna Garović from Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, USA, with the talk about the role of SASP in pathogenesis of pre-eclampsia. The lectures about the mechanisms and implications in physiology and pathology of senescence (by Prof. Tamara Gojković) and the evolutionary aspects of menopause (by Prof. Ljiljana Marina) followed. The session was closed with the lecture of another renowned speaker, Dr Maja Milanović from the Charité University of Medicine in Berlin, Germany, who presented her research on the role of senescence in tumor therapy.

The fourth session was dedicated to gene therapy and rare diseases, presenting the status of rare diseases in the Republic of Serbia (by Dr Bojana Miroslavljević), gene therapies for rare diseases (by Prof. Maja Stojiljković), the diagnostics and gene therapy of spinal muscular atrophy (by Prof. Miloš Brkušan), experiences from the Republic of Croatia in newborn screening (by Prof. Ksenija Fumić), and the significance of chitotriosidase in the diagnosis of certain rare diseases (by Prof. Zorica Šumarac).

The plenary lecture of the second day of the congress was presented by Prof. Tomris Ozben, entitled "Time for a sustainable transition within the medical laboratories". Session 5 followed with the discussion on the application of omics technologies in medical biochemistry. It covered topics on the application of next generation sequencing in prenatal diagnostics (by Dr Ivana Joksić), the analysis of HDL lipidome and proteome in pregnancy (by Prof. Jelena Vekić), microRNA as novel diagnostic and prognostic biomarkers in nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (by Prof. Ana Ninić), and on the application of multiomic approach in diagnosis of acute coronary syndrome (by Prof. Jelena Munjas).

The following, session 6 was dedicated to the biochemical aspects of dietary interventions, as an important aspect of the health of the common man. The talks dealt with the significance of personalized diet in achieving optimal nutritional status (by Ana Petrović), the influence of lifestyle changes to the level of adipocytokines in obese persons with disturbed glycoregulation (by Dr Margarita

Dodevska), the effect of highly processed food on the nutritional status (by Prof. Nevena Ivanović), and the immunometabolic divergence in plant-based and omnivorous diet adherents (by Marta Despotović).

Session 7 opened the third day of the congress, and it was dedicated to the risk management in medical laboratories, with the talks on the construction and interpretation of error grid for quantitative diagnostic assays (by Prof. Nataša Bogavac Stanjević), the risk management in the pre-analytical phase (by Sonja Šuput), the risk management in primary healthcare laboratories (by Danijela Ristovski Kornic), the importance of quality control plan in risk management (by Snežana Jovičić), and closing with the presentation on a more flexible approach to risk management based on ISO 15189:2022 (by Prof. Domagoj Marijančević).

The penultimate session was dedicated to the field of diagnosis and treatment of inflammatory bowel diseases, with the lectures on inflammatory bowel disease epidemiology, etiopathogenesis, clinical manifestation, and diagnostics (by Dr Nikola Panić), laboratory assessment (by Sanja Obradović), modern treatment (by Dr Zoran Milenković), and the development and implementation of laboratory monitoring of biological therapy (by Dr Iva Perović Blagojević).

The closing session presented the novelties related to the influence of microbiota on health and disease pathogenesis, with lectures covering the influence of microbiota on human health (by Prof. Brankica Filipić), probiotics as natural innovative and unique strategy for cell-aging deceleration (by Dr Nataša Golić), the antidepressant potential of postbiotics (by Dr Miroslav Dinić), and an approach of microbiota modification to the treatment of multiple sclerosis (by Dr Jelena Đokić).

Two workshop sessions were organized by companies Vivogen (distributor of Thermo Fisher Scientific) and Makler (distributor of Beckman Coulter) in Serbia.

Poster session gathered 32 poster presentations from Serbia and abroad, while many of them were the work of students and young scientists. Poster's vivid discussion closed the XXIII Serbian Congress of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine. The congress was successful, with up-to-date topics currently discussed in the scientific community, which have a significant impact on global health structures. The Congress attended over 200 participants mostly from Serbia, but also from neighbouring countries – Republic of Srpska and Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Croatia.



Prof. Vesna Garović, Mayo Clinic



Chairs and speakers of the Sessions



Students of University of Belgrade Faculty of Pharmacy, participants of the Poster Session



NEWS FROM EFLM NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The 24th Annual Scientific Conference in memory of Professor Ivan Berkeš

Reported by Neda Milinković, Nada Majkić-Singh, Society of Medical Biochemist of Serbia

The 24th Annual Scientific Conference »Professor Ivan Berkeš« was held in 2024 in memory and gratitude to Professor Ivan Berkeš, who established medical biochemistry as a scientific and healthcare discipline in Serbia. The conference is organized traditionally by the Society of Medical Biochemist of Serbia (SMBS), and this year it was co-organized and hosted by the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade. This traditional meeting of students and professors of the Faculty of Pharmacy, honouring the legacy of one of its most distinguished professors was held on 5 December 2024. Prof. Nada Majkić-Singh, the President of the Scientific Foundation »Professor Ivan Berkeš«, greeted the participants with her opening words and reminded audience of the history and the idea behind the scientific foundation, the significance of the conference, as well as of the life and work of Professor Ivan Berkeš, in whose honour it was established.

This year, chairs of the conference were Prof. Nada Majkić-Singh, Assistant Prof. Snežana Jovičić and Assistant Prof. Neda Milinković. After an opening address of Assistant Prof. Snežana Jovičić, the President of SMBS, followed by the welcoming address of the Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy, Prof. Nataša Bogavac Stanojević and the President of the Alliance of Pharmaceutical Associations of Serbia Prof. Branislava Miljković, Prof. Nada Majkić-Singh, presented annual awards of the Foundation. Diplomas and monetary awards were traditionally presented to the best graduate students of the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade, and this year's recipients were Jovana Jerotijević (Master of Pharmacy-Medical Biochemist) and Dušica Kušljević (Master of Pharmacy). Traditionally, the scientific part of the conference followed the award ceremony. It is consisted of presentations of selected results of Ph.D. thesis research presented by the Doctors of Medical Sciences-Pharmacy who defended their doctoral theses in the

previous academic year. The first lecture, entitled »HDL subclasses and the distribution of paraoxonase 1 activity in patients with ST-segment elevation acute myocardial infarction,« was presented by Dr Saška Đekić who received her doctorate at the Department of Medical Biochemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade. The second lecture, entitled »Analysis of antibiotic consumption and antimicrobial resistance in the Republic of Serbia: the immediate and long-term effect of COVID-19«, was presented by Dr Tanja Tomić, who received her doctorate at the Department of Social Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Legislation, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade. The third lecture, entitled »Effects of supplementation with gliadin complex with melon extract standardized to superoxide dismutase content on parameters of oxidative status and physical performance of categorized athletes«, was presented by Dr Olina Dudašova Petrovičova, who received her doctorate at the Department of Bromatology, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade. The closing lecture was held by Azra Guzonjić, who presented the results of her final thesis of the specialist academic studies, entitled »Economic evaluation of lipid scores in risk assessment for the development of cardiovascular diseases in patients with type 2 diabetes«, defended at the Department of Medical Biochemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade. The conference was closed after the discussion of presented results.

The continuity of this conference is based on respect for the past, but also on the awareness that young PhDs in the scientific field of medical biochemistry of the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade are the pillars of the future of pharmacy and medical biochemistry science in Serbia.



Chairs and speakers of the Sessions



Laureates of the 24th Scientific Conference in memory of Prof. Ivan Berkeš with Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy, President of the Alliance of Pharmaceutical Associations of Serbia and Conference Chairs

NEWS FROM EFLM NATIONAL SOCIETIES

World Diabetes Day and the XVIII National Congress of the Clinical Laboratory (LABCLIN 2024)

The main Clinical Laboratory Societies in Spain unite against metabolic syndrome under the motto, "Bilbao CardioHealthy, the laboratory takes care of your health"

- On November 19, an information tent was set up in the Plaza del Arenal to carry out glycemic and lipid profile analysis for interested citizens, with the collaboration of the Bilbao City Council and leading companies such as Roche and Novartis

- Metabolic syndrome increases the probability of developing type 2 diabetes by five times. Its evolution is, in many cases, silent and is not usually treated early by specialists, becoming a global public health challenge

- The LABCLIN 2024 Congress, which was held from November 20 to 22 in Bilbao, placed special emphasis on personalized and preventive medicine, key areas in addressing the epidemic of diabetes and cardiovascular diseases

Bilbao, November 13 – The Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQCML), the Spanish Association of Medical Biopathology (AEBM-ML) and the Spanish Association of Clinical Laboratories (AEFA) have joined forces in the fight against metabolic syndrome through the health promotion campaign, "Bilbao CardioHealthy, the laboratory takes care of your health"; within the framework of World Diabetes Day and the XVIII National Congress of Clinical Laboratories (LABCLIN 2024). With the collaboration of Bilbao City Council, the Galdakao hospital and leading companies such as Roche and Novartis, a health tent was set up on November 19 in the Plaza del Arenal, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., with the aim of raising awareness and preventing this condition that affects millions of people around the world.

Metabolic syndrome, characterized by disorders such as central obesity, dyslipidemia (including decreased HDL cholesterol and increased triglycerides), hypertension, and hyperglycemia, has been shown to be a crucial risk factor. According to Dr. Carmen Mar and Dr. Sira Iturrizaga, who are in charge of the laboratory at Galdakao Hospital, statistics show that it increases the probability of developing type 2 diabetes by five times and the probability of suffering from cardiovascular diseases by two to three times. "Despite its seriousness, its evolution is, in many cases, silent and is not usually treated early by specialists, becoming a global public health challenge."

On the occasion of this campaign, citizens who came to the tent were able to undergo a glycemic and lipid profile analysis, carried out by clinical laboratory professionals with cutting-edge analytical equipment. In addition, they say, personalized advice was offered to those who wished to review their health status, "detecting possible metabolic alterations early and providing recommendations to refer them to a specialist for treatment."

The initiative is part of the series of events related to the celebration of the LABCLIN 2024 Congress, which is positioned as the most important scientific event in Spain in the field of diagnosis, prognosis, and prevention of diseases. The event, organized by a scientific committee and an organizing committee made up of members of AEBM-ML, AEFA and SEQCML, had more than 1,200 participants in this edition, some 1,100 communications, as well as nine symposia, courses and workshops led by renowned speakers, experts recognized throughout the country.

This year, the experts put special emphasis on personalized and preventive medicine, key areas in facing the epidemic of diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. "With this initiative, Laboratory Medicine went out into the street to get closer to the population and reinforce the role of clinical laboratory specialists as true promoters of health," summarized Dr. Llopart, president of the organizing committee of the congress.



Bilbao CardioHealthy, the laboratory takes care of your health

NEWS FROM EFLM NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine is born The merger between the three current scientific associations of Laboratory Medicine-Clinical Laboratory in Spain, AEBM-ML, AEFA and SEQCML, creates a single representative association for the medical specialty.

Bilbao, November 22, 2024. As of today, there is a new medical society in Spain: the Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEMEDLAB). Its creation was approved at the XVIII National Congress of the Clinical Laboratory (LABCLIN 2024) held in Bilbao Euskalduna and organized by the three existing scientific societies of Laboratory Medicine in our country, AEBM-ML, AEFA and SEQCML, which after the unanimous agreement will be eliminated.

The Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine, with headquarters in Madrid, will be formally established on January 1, 2025 and the composition of the interim Board of Directors will be made up of the president Dr. Antonio Buño Soto; vice presidents Dr. María S. Pacheco and Iria Cebreiros; secretary Dr. Verónica Cámara; treasurer, Dr. José Puzo; and members: Drs. Daniel Pineda, Enrique Rodríguez, Eva Guillén, Pastora Rodríguez, Mercè Ibarz, Nerea Bastida, Laura Correa and Carla Ramírez.

The members of the former scientific societies will maintain their status as members of the new society, maintaining the seniority they had in the predecessor societies.

With this merger, the aim is to centralize the collaboration between experts, which will result in greater knowledge for laboratory professionals in our country; improve international projection, generate more organizational and financial synergies than under the previous societies, improve legal assistance to partners, and optimize continuing education courses, research, and the organization of scientific conferences.



31st BALKAN CLINICAL LABORATORY FEDERATION CONGRESS // 35th NATIONAL BIOCHEMISTRY CONGRESS

Reported by **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Oğuzhan Zengi** TBS General Secretary

The Turkish Biochemical Society (TBS) successfully hosted the 31st Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation (BCLF) Congress and the 35th National Biochemistry Congress from October 28 to November 1, 2024, at the Side Starlight Convention Congress Center, aligned with the celebration of Republic Day.

The congress welcomed over 900 participants across 36 sessions and 4 satellite symposia. A total of 201 academicians from Türkiye and abroad contributed to a rich environment of scientific exchange and discussion in the fields of biochemistry and clinical biochemistry through keynote lectures, symposia, and panels. The TBS congress was supported by EFLM, IFCC, FEBS, CPECS, and TUBITAK. It hosted 48 IVD companies, including 3 platinum sponsors (Roche, Sysmex, Snibe), 3 gold sponsors (Abbott, Dirui, Siemens), and 2 silver sponsors (BD, VacuSel), which also set up exhibition booths. Following Doğan Yücel's speech, Dobrin Svinarov, on behalf of the BCLF Executive Board, and IFCC President Tomris Özben delivered opening remarks, followed by EFLM President-Elect Tomáš Zima from Charles University, Czechia





On October 28, during the initial sessions, Tomris Özben presented "Current and Future Advances and Challenges in Laboratory Medicine," and Tomáš Zima delivered a lecture titled "Alcohol - Epidemiology, Metabolism, and its Clinical Consequences." The second day featured a session titled "Optimizing Analytical Accuracy: Integrating Biological Variation and Performance Specifications," with talks by Graham Jones from New England University, Australia, Mauro Panteghini from Nicolaus Copernicus University, Poland, and Marc Thelen from Radboud University, the Netherlands. Octavia M. Peck Palmer, ADLM President from the University of Pittsburgh, USA, delivered a keynote lecture. During a satellite symposium, Habib Özdemir presented on "Data and Digitalization in Laboratory Processes."

Marc Thelen gave another keynote talk, titled "How EQA Can Be Used to Study the Impact of Analytical Performance on Clinical Classification." The panel "Data Analytics and Digitalization in Clinical Laboratory" featured presentations by Vera Lukić from the Railway Health Institute of Serbia, Hikmet Can Çubukçu from the Turkish Ministry of Health, Deniz İlhan Topcu from Izmir City Hospital, and Anyla Bulu Kasneci from Mother Teresa University, Albania. Kristin Moberg Aakre from Bergen University, Norway, delivered a speech during the day's final satellite symposium. The panel "Improvement of Quality and Patient Experience in Clinical Laboratory Management" featured speakers Soycan Mizrak from Usak University, Merve Sibel Gungoren from Mamak State Hospital, Mihaela Ziei from the Regional Oncology Institute of Romania, and Verica Jakjimoska from Macedonia City Hospital. In celebration of the 101st anniversary of the Republic, the social program continued with Republic Day celebrations. On October 30, the day's program began with the "Diagnostic Techniques and Biomarkers in Hematology and Coagulation" panel, featuring Snezhana S. Stoencheva from Plovdiv University, Bulgaria; Milene Velizarova from Sofia University; Dobrin Svinarov; and Meltem Kilercik from Acibadem University, Türkiye. Henrik Poulsen from the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, gave the day's keynote lecture. Clare Weil, representing Sysmex Europa, presented during the satellite symposium. Later, IFCC President Tomris Özben and Sedat Abusoglu from Selçuk University delivered talks during another satellite symposium.

Mauro Panteghini gave a keynote lecture. The "Biomarkers and Metabolic Indicators" panel included presentations by Tanja Antunovic from Montenegro Clinical Center, Olivera Jordanova from the University Children's Hospital in North Macedonia, Jovana Stojic from Medicus Laboratory in Serbia, and Aleksandra Atanasova Boshku from Sts. Cyril and Methodius University, North Macedonia. During the "Clinical Laboratory Workup for Metabolic Assessment" session, speakers included Katerina Tosheska-Trajkovska from Sts.

Cyril and Methodius University, North Macedonia; Radivoj Jadrić from Sarajevo University, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Dragana Puhalo Sladoje from East Sarajevo University, Bosnia and Herzegovina; and Ana Ninic from Belgrade University, Serbia. The late sessions included the BCLF Executive Board Meeting and the panel "The Future of Medical Laboratory Services," featuring Ibrahim Karakuş from the Turkish Ministry of Health and numerous medical biochemistry specialists. On October 31, during the "Integrative Approaches in Clinical Laboratory Medicine" session, speakers included Adina Hutanu from the "George Emil Palade" University of Medicine, Romania; Tamer Bego from Sarajevo University, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Yana Bocheva from "St. Marina" University Hospital, Varna, Bulgaria; and Octavia M. Peck Palmer from the University of Pittsburgh, USA. Luciano Saso from Sapienza University of Rome, Italy, delivered a keynote lecture. A special preview session for international scientific and networking opportunities followed. Another panel featured Abdurrahman Coşkun from Acibadem University, Sedef Yenice from Florence Nightingale Hospital, Silva Tafaj from the National Tuberculosis Reference Laboratory in Albania, Helena Lame from Tirana University, and Christos Tsatsanis and Aikaterini Kalantidou from the University of Crete, Greece. The program concluded with Yağmur Azbazzdar from the University of California delivering her presentation as the winner of the 2023 Nazmi Özer Science Award. Awards, including the Nazmi Özer Science Award, FEBS Open Bio Poster Award, TJB Innovation Award, and BCLF2024 Poster Awards, were presented during the ceremony. Four workshops were held during the congress: "Measuring and Monitoring Analytical Performance: Verification of Analytical Procedures and Risk-Based Quality Control (Computer-Aided Course)," "Mass Spectrometer Use in Clinical Laboratory Practice - Basic Course," "Mass Spectrometer Use in Clinical Laboratory Practice - Advanced Course," and "Reference Ranges: Biological Variation."



All sessions, including keynotes, panels, satellite symposia, and forums, took place in the main hall. Simultaneously, oral presentations were conducted in two parallel halls. A total of 138 oral presentations and 124 posters were shared, fostering high interest and participation among researchers. Poster discussions and interactions allowed young scientists to present their work in detail and exchange ideas. Moreover, under the TBS Mentorship Program, board members met with scholarship students individually at various times to discuss academic career paths. Scientific activities in the congress were accredited by the EFLM Continuous Professional Education Credit System (CPECS). Our aim was to bring together experienced scientists, young researchers, specialists, and trainees from around the world to facilitate communication, advance scientific development, and foster progress. This year, our society continued to provide scholarships for doctoral, master's, and specialty students, offering registration or accommodation grants to over 70 young participants. The congress concluded with well wishes and farewells, looking forward to meeting again at the 2025 FEBS Congress.





IFCC News

Reported by **Katherina Psarra**,
Editor of IFCC eNews and Chair
eNews WG

We present here dr Psarra's December editorial as Editor of the IFCC eNews, marking the conclusion of her distinguished tenure after two terms. Over these years, Katherina has been the heart of the IFCC eNews. The EuroLab News readers have known her as the voice of the IFCC in this corner: she has been able to connect our truly global laboratory medicine family. We thank her for her dedication that has ensured consistency and warmth to IFCC communications. With gratitude, we thank Katherina for her commitment, and we invite you to enjoy her words in this special editorial.

The Women and Heart Program is not 'skipping a beat' on women's heart health

Recognizing that heart health and prevention are increasingly important, particularly for women who are often under recognized and undiagnosed, the Institute for Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation, Zagreb, Croatia, is empowering women's health. Utilizing high-sensitivity cardiac troponin I, assays this integrated clinical care team is successfully identifying individuals with formerly unknown coronary risk through screening while implementing follow up care for enhanced wellness.

www.UnivantsHCE.com

The IFCC welcomes a new affiliate member: Fundación Bioquímica Argentina (FBA)

The Fundación Bioquímica Argentina (FBA), a non-profit public organization, aims at translating the advances of the Biochemical Sciences into tangible actions for the benefit of the health of the population. www.fba.org.ar

www.fba.org.ar

Dear colleagues

This is my last editorial, as the eNews will have a new Editor from the beginning of 2025. It has been an honour and a real pleasure to serve as IFCC eNews Editor all these years. It has been a wonderful journey all over the world, thanks to all of you, who contributed in the eNews. I had the opportunity to learn about labs and congresses, about important people, about the profession progress, about achievements and fulfillments, about great successes. As I told you in one of my previous editorials a music from Kosmos (all the world) is sounding in my ears through your contributions to the eNews.

This eNews issue is a paradigm of this wonderful world of laboratory Medicine. In her message the IFCC President travels us in a lot of diverse congresses and places all over the world. Some of these really successful and with diverse main subjects, congresses are presented in detail in this issue. Voices from Greece, France, Jordan, Colombia, Pakistan, Argentina, Armenia, Tunisia and Spain are bringing before our eyes our colleagues, their views, their lectures, their discussions and their photos fill with colours and happy faces the eNews.

In addition, 4 VLP and 3 PSEP reports bring us in congresses and central labs in Philippines, Argentina and Colombia, in India, Japan, and Belgium and invite all colleagues to take advantage of these IFCC opportunities to visit and learn and make connections. And six young scientists from Guatemala, South Africa, Nepal, Mexico, Russia and Croatia introduce themselves and their national societies and share their dreams and hopes with us. The future of the profession looks really bright.

Finishing my editorial, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of you who share their thoughts in the eNews, to my colleagues in the EB of the Communications and Publications Division and especially to Prof. Tahir Pillay for his guidance through the years. I would like to thank the publishing companies we cooperated with, In Soft and DiGiWeDo, for their precious work. And last but not least and with all my heart I would like to thank Ms Silvia Colli Lanzi, who is really a treasure for the eNews. I wouldn't have accomplished anything, if it was not for her organized, careful, wonderful work.

Thank you very much, dear colleagues! Have great holidays and a Happy New Year!

Katherina

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



- EFLM Webinar
The role of energy conservation in achieving sustainability in medical laboratories
on-line, 11 February 2025
- EFLM Meet the Expert - Interpretation of Laboratory results
Analysis and interpretation of laboratory testing for acute and chronic hemato-oncology disorders
on-line, 20 February 2025
- EFLM Webinar
Tuberculosis: The Epidemiological Landscape, Laboratory Diagnosis, and the Narratives Behind the Numbers
on-line, 25 February 2025
- EFLM Webinar
It's time to talk about innovations in lab logistics
on-line, 04 March 2025
- EFLM Meet the Expert - Interpretation of Laboratory results
Interpretation of urinalysis tests
on-line, 06 March 2025
- EFLM Webinar
Challenges of DTCT (direct-to-consumer-testing)
on-line, 11 March 2025
- International Symposium on Laboratory Medicine
Warsaw (PL), 21 March 2025
- EFLM Webinar
From classical analytical approach to pheochromocytoma, towards new integrative approach
on-line, 25 March 2025
- EFLM Webinar
Value of faecal calprotectin in the management of Inflammatory Bowel Disease
on-line, 08 April 2025
- EFLM Webinar
Biochemical biomarkers in Multiple Sclerosis
on-line, 29 April 2025
- EuroMedLab 2025
26th European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine
49th Annual Meeting of the Royal Belgian Society of Laboratory Medicine
Brussels (BE), 18-22 May 2025
- EFLM Meet the Expert - Interpretation of Laboratory results
Novel equations for estimating LDL-cholesterol from the standard lipid profile
on-line, 25 September 2025
- EFLM Meet the Expert - Interpretation of Laboratory results
Analysis and interpretation of laboratory testing of inherited thrombophilia
on-line, 20 November 2025
- 7th EFLM Conference on Preanalytical Phase
Improving preanalytical phase through innovation and sustainable solutions
Padova, 12-13 December 2025